



Westminster Abbey Old Choristers Association News.

Following the Federation's Centenary Festival at the Abbey in 2010, this year the Association opted for a simple and informal dinner in the spring, following our AGM, attended by the hardcore of Association supporters. Our annual dinner in 2012, however, will be back to normal when our guest speaker will be John Rutter. He had a particular connection with the Abbey last year as he did the orchestral arrangements for the Royal wedding in April, in addition to writing one of the anthems performed at the service.



New Silver Communion Flagon

The Association commissioned a silver Communion flagon by the leading silversmith Stuart Devlin to mark the 450th anniversary of the re-foundation of the Abbey by Queen Elizabeth I in 1560. The flagon is now in regular use during Holy Communion.

Purcell Club

The last year has been particularly successful for the Purcell Club, which is an offshoot of the Old Choristers Association. The Club conducts monthly tours of the Abbey for groups of up to 80 people at a time. The tours take place on Saturday evenings, by courtesy of the Dean and Chapter, when the Abbey is closed to the public.

A lecture on the Abbey's history and architecture is interspersed with music from the Purcell Club. The tours last about two hours and are booked up for several years ahead. With the agreement of the Abbey, the tours raise money for a variety of small charities of particular interest to members, which include various Abbey-related causes. The tours have been going now for more than 35 years. There is every indication that the Club will soon be improving its appeal to younger Old Choristers.