

† Saint Bartholomew's Church

Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

August 6th 1991.

Friends of St. Bartholomew's Choir

Dear Choir Friend,

St. Bartholomew's Choir continues to maintain a high standard and to perform a wide repertoire in these days when boys choirs are steadily disappearing.

It is a tribute to all our former choirmasters - and particularly now to Malcolm Wisener that the choir continues to exist in a parish where, like so many other city parishes congregations have fallen. The choir were invited to sing in Ripon Cathedral in 1989 and this year had the distinction of replacing the choir at Hereford Cathedral in the week following Easter (see music list). However, it is now time for a fresh recruitment drive and to consolidate what we have.

Some other parishes, who I don't think approach the standard achieved in St. Bartholomew's, are able through their own educational endowment resources, to offer substantial inducements. St. Bartholomew's small congregation provide around £2000 each year to support the choir (this is outside the organists fees). Twice this amount is needed as a minimum to ensure that the boy/mens choir can continue and prosper.

The main purpose of this letter is to appeal to all former choristers and other interested parties to help and where possible to help on a regular basis. If we get 33 subscriptions of £5 per month, for example, then Malcolm will be able to offer ten scholarship subsidies for £200 per annum. We enclose a bankers order and hope that as many as possible will enter a monthly contribution and sign it.

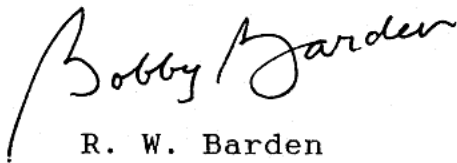
You may not however wish to make this commitment and if so any contribution you might like to give will be very much welcomed.

You might like to make your contribution in memory of a deceased parent or friend - maybe someone who was instrumental in introducing you to the choir. The parish would acknowledge this by placing the name in the Chapel of Memory. To this day all those whose names are recorded are remembered on the Sunday closest to their anniversary every year.

Now, please pencil into your diary, Sunday October 6th and come along at 7.00pm to Evensong of the Dedication Festival. The Vicar has agreed that we can have a choir re-union each year on this occasion. It will be an inaugural 'get together' of 'The Friends of St. Bartholomew's Choir'. We will encourage attendance of as many as possible former organists, choristers and choir friends. Evensong will be followed by a reception in the Parish Room.

I know that a great number of people like myself were helped 'along the road' through membership of St. Bartholomew's Choir. I feel that all who are able will want to ensure that the choir continues it's unique role in the Church of Ireland.

Yours very sincerely,



R. W. Barden

NOTES:

Friends of St. Bartholomew's Choir Committee :

Mildred Beresford, Neville Beresford, The Vicar,
Malcolm Wisener, Bobby Barden.

Kindly return any Bankers Orders and other contributions to :

Bobby Barden
Forgefield
Stocking Lane
Dublin 16

Our list of former choristers is very incomplete so any help you can give by ensuring your immediate associates are listed will be very much appreciated.

Any other enquiries to

Bobby Barden

Tel: 945671