

# SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

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## Friends of the Choir

Dear Choir Friend,

9th September 1993

The choir returned to its 'routine' last Sunday September 5th after the summer break and not only are they sounding good but now sporting their lovely dark green cassocks, thanks to our very generous benefactor.

Past Choristers Reunion Do come along this year to our Evensong followed by Reception in the Parish Room. The date is elsewhere in this letter.

Boys Annual Camp Once again the boys had a very enjoyable few days with Father John McKay on Clare Island and in Newport in July. This is probably the boys' most looked forward to 'Perk'.

Choir Boys are more clever Three of our senior chorister (junior men) sat the leaving and each came through with floods of honours. One, who we will not name, achieved eight honours which was a school best. Congratulations lads!

Young Scientist of the Year Earlier in the year another senior chorister, Ian Ellis, was a winner of a group award in this Aer Lingus sponsored competition. In November we will be short one bass as Ian travels to Dresden as part of the Irish Group Entry for the European Contest for Young Scientists.

Recruitment Voices break and new boys are always needed. Today we are back to nine and we hope to welcome another two inside the next few weeks. We need to have 12 to 14 choirboys so please try to help our recruitment. The quality of the musical and disciplinary education which our boys receive is not possible to match. Please phone Malcolm Wisener (H. 6683237) or Bobby Barden (H. 945671) if you can introduce a new boy (7 to 11 years of age)

Weddings Our boys are more and more in demand to sing at weddings. During the past few months they have sung at five weddings. Perhaps the most unusual was the Stewart/Cook wedding in Blessington - this arrangement resulted from our Parish Auction when the choir were auctioned to sing at a wedding, a requiem or other event. Following the wedding the boys had a party in Bobby Barden's garden. Here are the results of the Motor Mower Grand Prix around the garden, together with times.

★	1st	Patrick Grunlands	2.31 mins
★	2nd	Robert Hilliard	2.32 mins
★	3rd	Kevin O'Connor	2.33 mins

Ronnie Fleming visits We were delighted to welcome former chorister Ronnie to St Barths on Sunday July 4th. He was also very involved when we had a scout troop in the parish. Ronnie now lives just outside London.

Rev Nigel Dunne St Barth's loss is Taney's gain. We said farewell to Fr Nigel on Sunday July 25 with a reception and presentation in the Knights of Malta Hall. He played a leading role in encouraging our youth and it is thanks to him that we have an enthusiastic group, though small in number. Unfortunately it is unlikely that we will have a curate again in the foreseeable future so we must give Fr John our fullest support.

Robert McBride or Bertie as we called him visited the church during August with his family and left greetings through a couple of parishioners he met. He lives in Oxford - if anyone has an address let us know. Remember, his father did a painstaking repair of the Vale psalters about four decades ago!

Kilkenny The Choir have accepted an invitation to sing in beautiful St. Canices Cathedral on Sunday October 25th. This is the more interesting, as former St Barths Chorister and Irelands leading exponent of the harpsichord, Malcolm Proud is the organist there.

Dean Richard Clark Our former curate who has been the rector of Bandon for some years was instituted as Dean of Cork on Wednesday September 8th. Richard follows in the steps of former Vicar, Dean Maurice Carey. Everyone will wish him well in this important appointment.

### Obituary

Neville Wilson died Wednesday July 21st age 58 years. It came as a very great shock to hear of the sudden death of Neville at his home in Evesham. Neville had corresponded with Bobby Barden only days before his untimely death and had an Irish holiday planned. Our sympathy goes to his wife Lesley and his children. Bobby Barden travelled over for the funeral.

Ann Luke We were all very sad to hear of Ann's passing and our deepest sympathy is extended to Robin and Peter his son. There were many of Robin's St. Barths friends at the funeral in Taney.

Sammy Cole The ashes of Sammy who passed away in January in the Virgin Islands were laid to rest in Mount Jerome on Friday May 14th. Among the small gathering in Harolds Cross Parish Church were Jimmie Balbirnie, George Reeves and Bobby Barden.

Funding for the Choir Each boy receives a financial grant towards education expenses, paid on a twice yearly basis. These bursaries cost our choir fund between £800 & £1,000 per annum. Occasionally essential music is purchased also - you may have seen the beautiful new anthem books.

The church covers the cost of the choirmaster & sub-organists fees. Additionally the church pays pocket money to the young men and choir boys on a regular basis.

The choir fund income, so generously donated by a small band of past choristers and friends, does not presently cover the £810 per year so it can be seen that our small capital is being eroded. We would like to be able to increase the level of grant to each boy but while this is difficult it will be impossible when numbers increase in the future.

Parish funds, with continuous fabric problems are unable to contribute more, so, if anyone else is able to help us, either by a regular contribution or a one-off donation, please contact our choir treasurer, Neville Beresford, 1 Linden Vale, Proby Square, Blackrock, Co Dublin Tel: 01-2885693.



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