

St. Bartholomew's Choir

27 November 1996

Dear Choir Friends,

With Christmas fast approaching the choir has a very busy schedule ahead but 'what's new', because we've been busy since resuming in September. Here then is what's been happening and what's to come !

Presentation to Malcolm Wisener We presented Malcolm with an engraved tankard and a nice "largish" cheque thanks to the generous contribution's from a very wide circle of the parishioners, choir and choir friends. Malcolm has asked me to thank everyone for this very kind expression.

Maharajahs Children On Monday November 18 eight of the choirboys became film stars. They appeared as small Indian sons of the Maharajah in a Lord Lucan film. The act was staged in Newman House and the boys with faces, arms, etc., suitably darkened, sang "There'll Always be an England" from a winding staircase to the guests at a banquet. They were, of course, dressed in appropriate costumes. I understand they were not very pleased with the amount of "waiting-around" involved. Oh! and the producer limited the choir to those under 5 foot, so some seniors lost out.

History of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Recently a very important volume in this series was published by the Four Courts Press covering the "goings-on" in the cathedral between 1337 and 1346. The Account Rolls make fascinating reading about life in Dublin at this time but the significance for us is that the largest part of the Introduction was written by our Cantoris lead tenor, Alan Fletcher who is Lecturer in English in UCD. Congratulations Alan and I am sorry you get none of the £25 which the book is retailing at. Two entries from the Account Roll -

Saturday. In oysters for the Prior, seneschal, and cellarer, in the cellar at dinner 1d. in wine 3d. Total 5s.

Sunday. Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. In salted eels bought for the Prior 8d. ; in 2 plovers bought 2d.

and so on ! Poor man, the Prior dined well !

Liam Lyons We hear that Liam has settled in very well at Exeter Cathedral but misses his mothers cooking. Apart from cathedral life he has weekly voice and flute tuition. There will be a special TV broadcast from Exeter entitled "Christmas Card from the West Country" on Sunday December 22 at 5.55pm, but check !

Carol Concert with Festive Reading's Sunday December 8 at 7.00pm

Tickets are on sale and as you know we usually have a full house - please come early, even with tickets, to get reasonable seats and avoid disappointment. Part of the proceeds are for the Irish School of Ecumenics.

US Thanksgiving Service Wednesday November 27. The Embassy are holding their annual Thanksgiving Service in St. Bartholomew's Church with an attendance to include the US Ambassador, Embassy staff and representation from the wide American interests around the city. The boys are singing and in the repertoire are - The Battle Hymn of the Republic, America, America ! and Rutter's "Gaelic Blessing".

Advent Carols with Procession This very lovely annual service takes place Sunday, December 1st at 7.00pm. It is a particularly beautiful expression of worship and the appropriate way to move towards Christmas.

Culwick Christmas The Boys of St. Bartholomew's Choir will be singing at this year's Culwick Choral Society's Concert on Thursday December 12, under Malcolm Wisener's direction. Malcolm is of course the Culwick's chorus master. Move soon if you want to book tickets as it is always very popular.

Royal Hospital, Kilmmainham - "City Jet" function Saturday December 14. The boys have been invited to sing carols at this important event. City-jet which operate a service between Dublin and London City Airport is much in the news lately so there should be a high profile attendance from Dublin's commercial life to enjoy their singing.

St. Francis Xaviers Church, Gardiner Street Last year the choir sang a program of carols in this lovely and very large church and got a really warm welcome from the Jesuit Community there. This time we are delighted to have been invited to sing at a Saturday Evening 7.00pm Mass on January 25 which is the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and within the Unity Octave. I think this may be a "first" for a Church of Ireland Choir and we look forward to it.

Lichfield Cathedral We were delighted to receive an invitation to sing the post-Easter services in this lovely three-spired Cathedral. Lichfield is some miles north of Birmingham. Our priority will now be to start fund-raising for the trip.

Cashel Cathedral The Very Reverend Philip Knowles, Dean of Cashel has invited the choir to visit Cashel some time later in February. We will sing the services on Sunday and hope a "Lichfield Funds" concert will be arranged for the preceding Saturday.

The Organ It is many, many years now since our fine organ received any attention. It is then great to hear that the Select Vestry have a restoration of the organ as a priority for 1997.

Moves within the Choir One new man, one new boy. We welcome Thomas Collins to the boys choir and a new bass, Robert Grealley to the men. Robert sings in the U. C. D. Chamber Choir and comes from Roscommon.

Bobby Barden