

St. Bartholomew's Choir

November 1997

All Saints, Carnew, Co. Wicklow 150th Anniversary of Consecration Friday October 31, 1997

The choir travelled to Carnew on Friday evening and gave a concert as part of the anniversary celebrations of this very fine church. The people of the parish and their rector, the Reverend Paula Halliday, gave us a very warm welcome followed by substantial refreshments. The boys

were commended for giving up their usual Hallowe'en activities to entertain our 'country cousins'. Someone did however produce paint and powder for their faces and the graveyard proved an appropriate setting for some after-concert 'high-jinks'. We thank the people of Carnew for their hospitality.

Graham Jones

Former chorister Graham sacrificed his holidays to join a Health Action overseas team as a volunteer to work in Romania. He found it a most harrowing experience to see the state of these unfortunate children and the conditions they exist in. Thanks to expeditions like his and the work of the many aid groups, the children's circumstances are now much improved but there is still a long way to go. Graham is to be commended for what he undertook. A transcript of an address he gave to us can be found in the Servers Circular, Issue 4 (available at the church door).

Choir CD

Firm plans are now in hand for making a CD of the choir. Recording and production will take place in the first few months of 1998. We expect that it will be ready for launching some time in the middle of May at the latest. For the benefit of choir members, here are the dates for recording:-

Sat, January 31st
Sat, February 14th
Sat, February 28th

The recording sessions will go from 3:45pm to approximately 6:00pm.

Dick Quin (1924-1997)

A number of our choir friends will remember Dick Quin, who was a member of the choir for a time between 1935 and 1939. He left the choir when he joined the RAF, where in a distinguished career he flew Lancasters. After the war, he became a leading Aer Lingus pilot, flying Boeing 707's across the Atlantic. In particular, he became known for leaving the flight deck from time to time to entertain the passengers by playing his tin whistle. In later years he lived in Gloucestershire and flew planes for GPA. His sister told me how he always spoke lovingly about his time as a choirboy in St. Barts. Indeed it was very fitting that his funeral took place in St. Bartholomew's, Redmarlier, D'Abitot. He was buried in St Patrick's Church, Powerscourt, Enniskerry. We extend our sympathies to his family and to his brother Neville and his sister Daphne.

Forthcoming Events

As Advent and the Christmas Season approach, choir activities are really building up. Here are the main events to come:

- Sun, November 30th - Advent Sunday. We have our traditional Advent Carol Service in the evening with the full choir.

- Sun, December 7th - Now an annual event, a Concert of Carols and Festive Readings with Alan Stanford. This year part of the proceeds go to the Samaritans. The concert is at 7:00pm and tickets are on sale now at choir or from Anne Cazzini.

- Sat, December 13th - Culwick Choral Society concert in the National Concert Hall. Once again the choir boys have been invited to take part in their Christmas concert.

- Sun, December 14th - Raymond Gubbay Presentation, 'The Glory of Christmas' at the Waterfront in Belfast. This will be a very exciting experience for the boys to sing at this prestigious location. It is certainly a tribute to the excellent standard they have now reached.

- Fri, December 19th - Hugh Lane Gallery, Parnell Square. An invitation has been received for the full choir to sing a concert for the friends of the gallery between 7 and 8pm.

- Mon/Tue, December 22nd & 23rd - Raymond Gubbay Presentation. 'The Glory of Christmas' in the National Concert Hall, Dublin. This will be a repeat of the Belfast event in Dublin.

New Members

The choir welcomed six new boys over the past weeks. These are Niall Murtagh, Joshua Cashman-Edge, Sam Cogan, Shaun Nicol, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Mark Cummins.

There are also two new additions to the back row. Welcome to Niall Meyler and Dominic Thurston.

Paris Program

The flights for our Paris trip have now been booked with Ryanair. The following four engagements have now been confirmed.

- Chartres Cathedral (a concert)
- St. Georges Anglican Church (a concert)
- La Madeleine (at a Saturday Mass)
- St. Sulpice (at a Sunday morning mass).

The Organ

The restoration and cleaning of the organ is now in the churches plans. It also includes the installation of a new solid state piston mechanism. It is hoped that the work might be tackled over the summer.

Apprentice Scribe

The current secretary of the choir is delighted to have taken on a "apprentice" - Richard Bannister - who printed and laid out this Newsletter.

Choirmaster: Malcolm Wisener GRSM, FTCL, ARCO, 122 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Tel 01-6683237
Treasurer: Neville Beresford, 1 Linden Vale, Proby Square, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Tel 01-2885693
Secretary: Bobby Barden, Forgefield, Stocking Lane, Dublin 16. Tel 01-4945671