

St. Bartholomew's Choir

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February 2000

Fr. John Departs

Fr. John McKay and Rhona McKay departed from the parish at the end of January.

At a Parish Lunch following the Sung Eucharist on Sunday, January 23rd, the Vicar was presented with a Dublin Crystal bowl and a cheque. Rhona received a silver celtic design brooch and flowers.

The bowl was suitably engraved "From the people of St. Bartholomew's Church to Father John McKay with gratitude and affection on the occasion of his retirement, 23rd of January 2000."

Sebastian Woods presented Rhona with a brooch from the choirboys in recognition of her contribution as "Robes Person."

The choir wish both Fr. John and Rhona the best of luck in the future.

Luncheon Party

The senior gentlemen entertained Malcolm Wisener in Roly's Bistro on Sunday 6th of February to celebrate his birthday. Malcolm shares his birthday with Pat Barden, who was also present.

Bill Fry

Congratulations to Edward S. Fry, a former Organist and Choirmaster, who celebrated his 85th birthday on January 25th.

Bill lives in a lovely Tudor style home, St. Monica's, outside Bristol. He is fortunate that the chapel in St. Monica's has a Willis organ which is at his disposal.

New Year's Eve

How did you welcome the New Year? Well, six of us (Bobby and Pat Barden, Grainne Cooney, Alan Fletcher, Kester Heaslip, and Malcolm Wisener) climbed up into the belfry at 11:45 pm to ring out the old year - and, following the striking of 12:00 - to ring in the new one. Before the hour, the bells played Auld Lang Syne - and after the hour, the "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's 9th Symphony was played. It was especially appropriate when one remembers that this peal of bells has now sounded in three separate centuries - having turned the grand age of 119 this year.

Organ Fund

The launch of the fund for the Organ Restoration takes place on Monday, February 28th, at 6:30 pm in St. Bartholomew's. Our contractor, Trevor Crowe, will speak about the rebuild that he will be undertaking for us. Malcolm Wisener will then demonstrate some of the organ's current problems, and the choir will present some short pieces from their repertoire. We hope to welcome as many choir friends and former choristers as possible to this event.

Transfers

On Sunday, January 16th, two of our Trebles - Robert Dempsey and Ben Doherty - graduated to the alto line. Robert was an excellent Head Boy, and we must particularly mention how beautifully he took the main solos. His last treble solo was just before Christmas when he sang the Benedictus from the Haydn Little Organ Mass. Sebastian Woods is the new head boy and we wish him well.

The Rose Tattoo and The Pike Theatre

The Irish Times Book of the Century reminded us of May 1957 when Alan Simpson, as a founder member of the Pike Theatre, was imprisoned for producing the Tennessee Williams play "The Rose Tattoo." The late Alan was of course the very talented son of the then Vicar of St. Bartholomew's, Canon Walter Simpson.

Bobby Barden can remember Alan regularly

visiting the Vicarage (which is now the Knights of Malta headquarters) on his army motorcycle (an M20).

Alan was an Army Captain and he always had friendly words for the choir-boys, who obviously took far more interest in his motorcycle than in him. Alan is greatly revered in theatrical circles to this day for his talents and for his courage at that time.

Come sing the Fauré Requiem

The first of our fund raising activities for the Organ Restoration is a chance to sing the Fauré Requiem with the choir. This takes place on Sunday 12th of March at 7:00 pm in Christ Church, Leeson Park. There will be a rehearsal beforehand so you can practice!

We have circulated leaflets to all the choral societies, and as such we hope to have a large number of people attending.

Christ Church, Leeson Park is being used instead of St. Barts because it can hold more than twice the number of people.

Desmond Latimer

The choir extends its deepest sympathy to our member Alan Latimer on the sad loss of his father immediately after Christmas.

The funeral took place in St. Ann's Church on Dawson Street and was attended by most of the gentlemen.

Patience Staples

Patience Staples passed away on Sunday, January 2nd. She was one of the "longest term" parishioners, having grown up on Clyde Road, across the road from the church. She always showed a great interest in the choir, and her support will be missed.

Carols with Alan Stanford

As per usual, our annual concert with Alan Stanford was a complete sell out. The choir owe a great debt of gratitude to Alan Stanford, who, we understand, flew home specially from abroad to fulfil this engagement.

Andrew Dempsey deserves a special "Well Done" for his beautiful rendition of the two solo verses in Jesus Christ the Appletree.

The concert raised a total of £1200 which has gone into the Organ fund.

Alfred S. Burrowes

On Monday, January 7th, Alfie Burrowes passed away.

He was the Organist and Choirmaster in St. Bartholomew's from 1946 to 1956. He was also a chorister from 1932 to 1939. He moved to Northern Ireland over 30 years ago and was the Irish Times Music Critic for many years. Mervyn Percival, his brother Charlie, and Bobby Barden attended his funeral in a packed Ballywalter Church. Among the lovely music was our St. Bartholomew's hymn, King of Saints.

Go-Karting

Shortly after Christmas, the young(er) gentlemen were delighted to attend an afternoon of festivities organised once again by Bobby Barden.

We were particularly glad to welcome back former choristers Danny and Patrick Groenland for this event.

After the more competitive among us had pitted their furious dri-

ving skills against one another on the go-karting tracks - with some stagger-

Bobby's home. As well as sampling many culinary delights, they greatly

enjoyed music and conversation, with Alan Fletcher providing much entertainment as the evening drew to a close.

The gentlemen of the choir are very grateful to both Mr. and Mrs.

Barden for their great kindness and hospitality.

<u>Who</u>	<u>Laps</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Avg. Lap</u>	<u>Best Lap</u>
Stephen Kerr	35	54	25.64	23.86
Richard Bannister	34	54	25.73	24.18
David Kerr	33	52	26.84	23.85
Kevin O'Connor	32	51	27.15	24.89
Patrick Groenland	31	50	27.86	24.97
Graham Kerr	31	49	28.03	25.43
Sean O'Connor	30	49	28.52	25.71
Gillen Motherway	30	47	29.70	26.13
Bobby Barden	30	47	29.73	24.94
Robert Hilliard	28	44	31.67	27.44
Danny Groenland	27	44	31.38	26.67
Dominic Thurston	27	43	32.30	21.72

ing results - the group was cordially welcomed to

Kevin O'Connor

Kevin, one of our alto line, recently starred in Gonzaga's operetta, "Mine is the Kingdom," by teacher Gerry Murphy. He was cast as the Director of

Intelligence or Spymaster. The operetta was set in the Baltic states. Kevin was an impressive figure dressed in a German Panzer uniform. While he wasn't intended to

be the lead he stole the show with a strong baritone voice he'd been cultivating outside the alto line in St. Bartholomew's. Congratulations Kevin!

Mother Catherine Margaret SSJE

We extend our sympathy to the community in St. Mary's Home on the death of Mother Catherine Margaret on Thursday, January 13th. May she rest in peace.

Doug Entertains (again!)

In early January, Doug Poynton gave a lovely party for the gentlemen of the choir. Fr. John and Mrs. McKay were also present.

The food and drink was so delicious and so plentiful that quite a number of

the Gentlemen didn't leave until 2 am (and we were told we were leaving too early!).

A special thanks to Doug for once again organising this event. We're already looking forward to the party next year!

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.
Newsletter: Richard Bannister, 76 Stillorgan Wood, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Tel 01-2780940.