

St. Bartholomew's Choir

<http://www.bannister.org/choir/>

September 2000

Former Choristers and Friends of the Choir Evensong

The annual Friends of the Choir Evensong coincides, once again, with our Dedication Festival on Sunday, October 1st at 7:00pm.

We are hoping for a particularly good attendance this year. As the organ is cur-

rently being rebuilt, you will have an opportunity to see inside the vacant organ chamber.

Also, of course, this is an opportunity for those of you who have not met our new Vicar, Fr. William Ritchie, to do so.

Choir Trip Easter 2001

We must be the most travelled choir in Ireland. In the past ten years alone, the choir has visited Gloucester, Worcester, St. David's, Paris, Lichfield, Exeter, Hereford (twice), and Ripon, not to mention a catalogue of other cathedrals and churches in Ireland.

With the huge task of funding the organ rebuild we have decided that a visit to a cathedral within Ireland makes better financial sense for this year.

The cost of taking the choir abroad is pretty substantial. We couldn't possibly expect parents to contribute even close to the full transport, accommodation, food, and outing costs.

We are very fortunate that our "Friends of the Choir" - including many former choristers - contribute generously to fund such trips. To make up the balance, we run a series of concerts and other fund raising events.

The adults always fully meet their own costs.

Organ Update

We never cease to marvel at the generosity of many, which has left us over two-thirds of the way to the total of around £200,000 needed to pay for our Organ Restoration.

We've gotten this far thanks to a few very large and very generous contributions - but the remaining £60-£70,000 will have to come from our worthy parishioners and friends.

Everyone warns that this sum will be the hardest to get in, so we appeal to all those who have not yet made a commitment to help.

Donations can be given through the Vicar, Fr. William Ritchie, Malcolm

Wisener or any organ committee member.

At present all that can be seen in the church is the empty organ chamber - but be assured that work is progressing on schedule at Trevor Crowe's premises.

The organ chamber needs a new roof, not to mention general insulation all round, and this is currently in progress.

When the work is complete, probably in the beginning of the New Year, St. Bartholomew's Church will have one of the finest organs in Dublin, which will help to ensure that St. Bartholomew's high musical tradition is secure for the future.

New Choir Boys

It's that time of the year again when we welcome an influx of new boys. We look forward to seeing nine new faces some time in early November. In alphabetical order they are:

Eli Caldwell
Peter Collins
David Flaherty
Eoin Flaherty
Emmet Kilberd
Ray McDermott
Calvin O'Brien
Robbie O'Brien
Mark Rogan

While it will be a few weeks before they appear in the choir stalls, they are already getting their initial training, having joined the rehearsals on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Unfortunately, we've also lost Patrick Arnold, whose voice has broken. Having said that, several of the gentlemen have noticed that he was starting to sound like a very promising alto so we hope we will see him back in the not too distant future.

Congratulations

We congratulate our 'trainee tenor' Des Ryan who achieved 600 points (the maximum available) in this year's Leaving Certificate. He achieved A1s in English, Irish, French, History, Home Economics, and Music. Des plans to study English and Music in Trinity College.

Close behind was his brother, Ray, who got 585 points and intends to study Law in Trinity.

Peter Shannon (Conductor)

Congratulations to a former member, Peter Shannon, who conducted the RTE Concert Orchestra in the National Concert Hall on Friday August 18th, in a program of Strauss, Mozart and Liszt (Summer in the City series).

Peter joined our men's section after singing as a boy in St. Finbarr's Cathedral Cork. He then moved to Leipzig, where he has been studying conducting.

Peter's performance earned an excellent review by Douglas Sealy in *The Irish Times*.

Peter Mellon Memorial Recitals

David Lee, Organ Professor at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, and our former organist, thought up a unique way of remembering our former colleague and friend, while at the same time raising money for the Organ Fund.

The first recital in the chapel of Trinity College took place on August 11th. Five of David Lee's 'star' pupils performed a variety of organ works and the programme was hugely appreciated. Our thanks go to these fine musicians, some of whom travelled half way

across the country to perform. They were Charles Montague, Anna Mulhall, Charles O'Connor, Aengus Kerrin, and Michael Quinn, the organist of Trinity College Chapel, who put in tremendous work in the arrangements.

There was an attendance of around sixty and a sum of £510 was raised - quite something, bearing in mind that most of St. Bartholomew's Choir were away on holiday.

We thank David Lee, who has plans for another event in a few months time.

All Saints Grangeorman

The Patronal Festival at All Saints takes place at 8:00pm on Wednesday, November 1st. Some will remember that very close links existed between All Saints and St. Bartholomews in the days of Canon Simpson and

Archdeacon Jenkins. There were many similarities between our two traditions.

The founder of the Guinness Choir, Victor Leeson, was organist in All Saints for many years, and was very supportive of the

music in our parish, having made a most generous bequest to us. It would be nice to support this important inner-city parish and its Vicar, Reverend Canon David Pierpoint.

Reverend Charles Mullen

We are delighted to hear of Charles' appointment as Deans Vicar in St. Patricks Cathedral. Charles is a great friend of the choir having travelled away with us on several of our trips. St. Patricks are lucky to get him as he is a most accomplished musician with a fine tenor voice. His installation takes place on Sunday, October 1st, at 3:15pm.

Phyllis Craig

Phyllis Craig, widow of Reverend Sydney Craig (our Vicar from 1951 to 1957) dropped a letter to Bobby Barden very recently asking to be remembered by her friends in St. Bartholomew's.

She always speaks with great warmth about her time in the parish. Unfortunately she has been unwell so we send her our best wishes for a full and speedy return to full health.

Tony Constable

Tony Constable, a choir member from 1939 to 1943, made a reappearance at St. Bartholomew's in July. Tony was one of the senior boys when Bobby Barden joined the choir, so a warm reunion took place. Tony has since forwarded a most interesting choir photo, dated circa 1939, reproduced overleaf. Among the clergy are the Archbishop Arthur Barton, and also three former curates:

- George Otto Simms (1935/38), later Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of

All Ireland.

- Roddy Coote (1938/41), later Bishop of Gambia and the Rio Pongas. Returning to Britain he was made Bishop of Fulham.

- Noel Waring (1925/32), later Warden of the Church's Ministry of Healing.

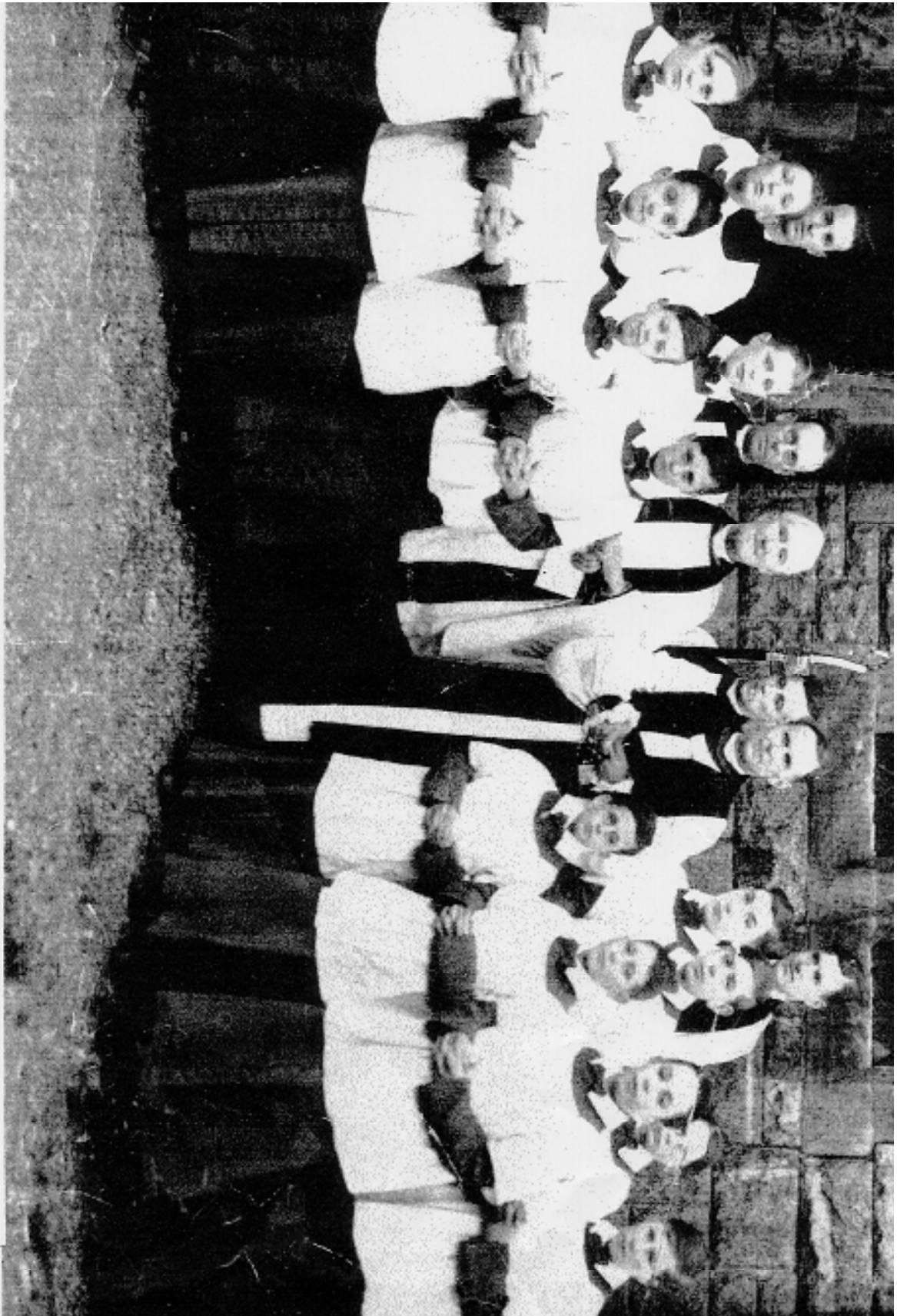
Two other choir boys who we often see back at St. Bartholomew's also appear in the photograph: Noel Houlden and George Reeves.

Get Well Soon

In July, Mervyn Percival underwent a heart operation, which we are glad to say was a great success.

He has made a speedy recovery but at the same time is wisely taking it easy. We hope to have him back during October.





Back Row :-

Mr.E.S.Fry (Organist/Choirmaster)

Canon Noel Waring

Canon Walter S.Simpson

(Vicar)

Rev.George Simms

Rt.Rev. Arthur Barton

(Curate)

Rev.Roderick Coote

Chairboys :-

Middle Row :- Gerry Smith

Roy Alexander

George Reeves

Jim Maguire

Stanley Reamsbottom

Sammy Cate

Front Row :- Tony Constable

George Reeves

Geoffrey Mahon

Noel Houlden

Brian Draper

Ian Bailey

Jimmy Balbraine

Leonard Henry

Choirmaster: Malcolm Wisener GRSM, FTCL,ARCO, 122 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Tel 01-6683237
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Secretary: Bobby Barden, Forgefield, Stocking Lane, Dublin 16. Tel 01-4945671.
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