

# St. Bartholomew's Choir

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

April 2002

## Exeter Trip - Day by Day

The choir made its second trip to Exeter this year, after a previous trip in 1996. Clearly the best people to report on the trip are the boys themselves. We are very grateful to Fran Dempsey for extracting these revealing thoughts from them.

### Tuesday 2nd April

We left Rosslare Harbour on the ferry Stena Europe at 9am and were at sea for about three hours. It was great fun on the boat. We played video games, and wandered all around. There was a lot to see. The journey from Fishguard to Exeter took almost five hours. We stopped at a Service area after one hundred and forty-four miles and had a Wimpy and chips!

*Hugh Clancy*

### Wednesday 3rd April

After morning choir practice we headed for the underground caves at Romangate.

There was a fifteen-minute wait before it opened, but we were treated to sweets and ice cream, which made the wait worthwhile.

There were lots of passages, and one had to duck one's head a lot. After twenty-five minutes we had gone as far underground as we could go. At this point we were given the choice of either crawling through a very low passage (so low we had to travel on hands and knees) or making our way back the way we came. The boys decided to crawl, leaving the men to make their way back the ordinary way! It was great except that we got covered in mud - but towels were provided so we were soon clean again. The tour guide showed us the skeletons of two French schoolboys who obviously got lost because they hadn't stayed with their party! - scary!

*Sam Cogan*

### Thursday 4th April

At eleven thirty a.m. we

gathered in the council chamber of the Exeter Guildhall. The Lord Mayor was introduced and he officially welcomed us to the city. He presented us with a letter and a painting of the city for the Lord Mayor of Dublin. I was called upon to read a letter, (which we had brought with us from our own Lord Mayor) and then Mr Wisener presented the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress with some gifts. The choir then sang Ubi Caritas by Duruflé for the gathering.

During refreshments afterwards we were invited to explore the Guildhall, and we found some interested things. We saw the sword of King Henry VII, which, in keeping with tradition, will be touched by Queen Elizabeth II when she visits Exeter on May 1st this year. The council chamber was used as a courtroom in olden days and there are cells in the basement to this day. Charles Dickens, whose parents lived in a small cottage in Exeter, was a regional correspondent for a London

## Exeter Trip - Day by Day (continued)

newspaper and used to write reports on the interesting court cases happening in Exeter. In his spare time he wrote The Pickwick Papers from his lodgings, which were next door to the Guildhall.

*Andrew Dempsey*

### Friday 5th April

When we first arrived at Crealy Adventure Park it didn't look very good at all, the Roller coaster was tiny. When we went on it however, it wasn't that bad! We split up into different groups and sort of wandered around. A sign at the entrance said "Beware - Free Range Children and Animals!"

The playground was very good; there were a couple of slides and a 'free fall' - a slide with a sheer vertical drop. We then crossed a river which had about eight bridges - designed especially so that if one wasn't careful - one fell into the water! However, none of us got our feet wet!

Then we all met up again and went to the adventure playground where there were more sheer drops, a

corkscrew slide, slides with ramps and a big ball (tied by a rope to the ceiling) on which one sat - and swung across to the other side - like Tarzan!

*Killian Rogan*

### Saturday 6th April

At eleven a.m. we all piled into the John Scottus School bus, and a couple of cars, and took the road towards Plymouth, heading for Dartmoor. Our destination was Haytor Rocks, a large rocky mound (which looked like a foot with some very large toes) on top of a steep grassy hill (or small mountain actually). It was quite an easy climb but it started to get very windy as we neared the top, and it was very cold. Most of the lads climbed to the top but I didn't - I thought I'd be blown away!

*Sebastian Adams*

After Evensong, which was early (at 3 O'Clock) because it was a Saturday, we all set off for the Odeon Cinema. The film we saw was called 'Ice Age', and it was pretty good. It was about a Mammoth and another weird

character and a sabretoothed tiger and a baby got lost and they were bringing the baby home to its dad. And their adventures along the way!

We had lots of popcorn and some people had Seven-Up - Niamh had given instructions that No One was allowed to have Dr Pepper or Coke (because it prevents us from having a good night's sleep!). When we came home we watched a video called 'Twister', before we went to bed. What a busy day!

*Killian Horan*

### Sunday 7th April

We had lots of singing to do on Sunday! Sung Eucharist at 9.45, which finished at five to eleven, when we were invited to join the congregation for orange and biscuits (the adults had tea and coffee) and then we went straight back to sing Matins at 11.15 a.m.

Back to the Cathedral Choir School (where we were staying) for a little lunch and some playtime in the yard. Then we had a practice at 2 o'clock in time for Evensong at 3pm.

## Exeter Trip - Day by Day (continued)

With all the singing over we headed for the Riverside Swimming Pool for a swim! It was a twenty-five-metre pool and was two meters at the deep end and only one metre at the shallow end. We played 'capsizing boats' (floats) a lot and we had great fun.

After that we went to Pizza Hut, which was the best part. I had a stuffed-crust Marguerita pizza and then a deep-pan Marguerita - I was very hungry! After that we were allowed unlimited ice cream, and I had two bowls, one with chocolate sauce, caramel sauce, Smarties and Gummy Bears!

We got Niamh (Harty) a card and a present. Andrew presented her with the card, and Niall gave her the present. She was delighted.

We walked home and then watched a video, but I fell asleep before it was over!

*Calvin O'Broin*

### Summary

Dean Paterson, who was attending a conference of Anglican Deans in Portsmouth, met the Dean of

Exeter and was told "how well things had gone".

The Vicar received a letter from a former choir member who attended two of the evensongs, The Rev. Paddy Mc Kee, Vicar of Ryhall, Rutland wrote:

"the choir is a credit to St Barts and to the Church of Ireland in general. I came away on Thursday (after attending two evensongs) realizing that it is St Bart's Choir that I miss most through no longer living in Dublin."

Special thanks is due to the brave parents who supported the trip. Niamh Harty coordinated everything at the Choir School acting as House Mother and she was well supported by Sinead Ni Broin, Alan Howley, Fran Dempsey, Albert Horan and John Cogan.

*Albert Horan, Niamh Harty, Mark Rogan, and Richard Bannister took over 400 digital photos during the trip. A CD-ROM containing these may be borrowed from Richard Bannister. (A small selection is available on the choir web site).*

## Des Ryan

In association with the Dublin University Music Society, Des Ryan, one of our Tenors, will be giving a Lunchtime Piano Recital. This takes place on Friday 3rd May at 1:05 pm in the Boydell Recital Room, situated on the top floor of House 5, Front Square TCD.

Tickets, the proceeds of which go to the Music Society, are priced at € (€1 for members of TCD Music Society) and will be available from the door.

## Girls Choir?

At the Easter Vestry it was announced that Malcolm Wisener was exploring the possibility of forming a separate choir for girls.

Most of the cathedrals across England have separate choirs for girls and recently our own St Patrick's Cathedral formed one. Why shouldn't girls have the opportunity of experiencing the anglican tradition of music?

It will all depend on the response Malcolm gets, but little will happen before the Summer is over. If you are interested, you should let him know.

## Summer Concert

Following our highly successful week in Exeter, the choir funds are considerably diminished.

In order to replenish our funds, therefore, we will be giving a concert in St. Bartholomew's on Sunday May 26th at 7:00pm.

Tickets will be on sale at the start of May.

## Organ Recitals

As our Organ approaches the completion of its restoration, it is time to announce some initial lunchtime recitals. These take place at 1:00pm, and the first two are as follows:

Tuesday June 4th  
Malcolm Wisener

Tuesday June 11th  
Ronan Murray  
(*Organist of Glashule*)

In addition to these recitals, Malcolm Wisener will be giving a recital in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 6:30pm on May 29th. Tickets are €6, and are available at the door.

## Neville Beresford

After over ten years taking responsibility as Choir Treasurer, Neville Beresford has decided to hand over the task to another.

Neville was extremely popular with the boys and that was not just because he was handing out their pocket money; he had a great way with all of them. His

role also covered keeping the finances relating to the many choir trips.

Neville came to Exeter with us, and acted as banker for the boys, as well as attending to all the group finances.

The choir are most grateful for all Neville has contributed over so many years.

## Mrs Vi Thurston

Tim's mother and Dominic's grandmother passed away at the age of 93 on Friday April 5th.

News was received while the choir was in Exeter and Tim left for Cambridge together with Liam Lyons. Tim would like

me to record his sincerest thanks to Liam who, together with Lucy and Dominic sang at the funeral which was in the Cambridge church of St Edward, King and Martyr, Cambridge. The choir extend their sincerest sympathies.

## Choir Concert in Killiskey Church

The Reverend Canon John Clarke, who is Rector of the Wicklow Group of Parishes, has invited the choir to give a concert in Killiskey Church. This will take place on Saturday 18th May at 7:30pm. The church is at Nun's Cross, on the

Glendalough Road, one mile west of Ashford.

Admission is €10 and concessions. Proceeds are in aid of the Nun's Cross Parish Restoration Fund and the St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh Choir Appeal Fund.

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