

St. Bartholomew's Choir

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

June 2002

Recent Concerts

The choir gave a concert to a capacity crowd in Nun's Cross Church, Killiskey, on Saturday May 18th. Before the concert, the boys were brought on a tour of Wicklow's historic Gaol. Despite our best efforts to the contrary, we were not allowed to leave them there!

Three of the boys sang solos, all of which went down very well. Andrew Dempsey sang in "Hear my Prayer" by Mendelssohn; Emmet Kiberd sang in "The Lord is my Shepherd" by Howard Goodall; and

Killian Horan sang a verse of the negro spiritual "Were you there?". Tim Thurston read a number of appropriate readings, and even managed a passable impression of a Scottish accent for one of them. Following the concert we were treated to a wonderful supper by the ladies of the parish. Overall the trip was a great success and we owe Robin Heather our thanks for arranging it. Nearly €1000 was raised by this concert overall, with the funds split between the Killiskey Building Fund and

the St. Patrick's Cathedral Armagh Choir Fund.

A week later, on Sunday May 26th, the choir gave their Summer Concert in St. Bartholomew's. The programme was fairly similar, although a few items were added which would not have been possible in Killiskey with their smaller organ. Andrew and Emmet repeated their solos. Attendance was good, helping us to replenish our choir funds, which had fallen following our Exeter Trip.

Girl's Choir

Recruiting for the Girl's Choir is currently in progress.

Richard Bannister and Ian Ellis produced a brochure for the choir which Malcolm Wisener has been distributing to potential candidates.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, copies are available at the back of the church (or on the choir web site).

Corpus Christi

This year's Corpus Christi service was held on Thursday 30th May. The setting was Schubert in G. This is the first occasion that the choir has sung the complete Benedictus - an abridgement has always been used in the past. Andrew and Fran Dempsey were joined by Robin Heather for the trio. As far as we know, this is the first time that Andrew and Fran have sung solo together.

A barbecue was held afterwards, organised by Ian Ellis, with assistance from David Jones, Gillian Davidson, and Adrian Doak. The cost of the wine was donated anonymously. This was a much needed parish get-together, and hopefully things like this can be done more often.

Photographs will be available on the web site shortly.

Organ Recitals

Malcolm Wisener gave an early evening organ recital in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday May 29th. When introducing Malcolm, Peter Barley pointed out to the audience that Malcolm knew the organ possibly better than anyone else around, due to his many years in St. Patrick's. His programme was made up of works by Guilmant, Vierne, Dupré and Langlais. This was a masterly performance, which was enthusiastically received.

Less than a week later, on Tuesday June 4th,

Malcolm gave an initial lunchtime recital on our own wonderful instrument. Works by Bach, Bonnet, Vierne and Elgar made up the programme. There was an attendance of about 35, and it is hoped that this will only be a start to encouraging people in the local business community to come along to see our beautiful church and experience some lovely music. The second of these recitals, by Ronan Murray, Organist of Glasthule parish, took place at 1:15pm on the 18th of June.

Select Vestry

At the Easter vestry in April, several choir members were elected on to the parish Select Vestry. These are Richard Bannister, Bobby Barden, Ian Ellis, David Falconer, and Alan Fletcher.

The other members of the Select Vestry this year are Mildred Beresford, Norah Bedlow, Patrick Freyer, David Jones, Traudi Ferguson, Don Cazzini, Kay Marshall, Adrian Doak, Martin Hilliard, Gillian Davidson, and Liam Keaveney.

Recordings

Malcolm Wisener has given permission for a number of previously unheard recordings of the choir to be added to the Web Site. These will be made available over the coming months.

For those that don't already know, the choir web site may be visited at <http://www.bannister.org/choir/>. Feedback (and suggestions for the site) may be sent by e-mail to Richard Bannister, at richard@indigo.ie.

Julian Dawson

Julian Dawson sang in the men's section between 1950 and 1954. He will be visiting Dublin at the end of this month. He is staying with Bobby Barden. Having retired from Illinois State University where he was Professor of Piano, he is now enjoying a more pleasurable role as chorus master of the Chicago Opera.

Brother

Michael Fisher

Brother Michael Fisher, writing from Cambridge recalls happy memories of the mission he gave in 1954 in St Bartholomew's. He is now in his eighties and went on to be Assistant Bishop of Ely. There will be some who will remember his stirring preaching as he strode up and down the aisle in his flowing brown robes. Bobby Barden remembers joining a pilgrimage he led through Northumbria, chanting and performing the plays of St Francis along the way. He is hospitalised at present, and asks for our prayers.

Tea and Coffee

We owe credit to Alan Fletcher for first of all putting forward the idea of refreshments after every Sunday Eucharist, but then also, for arranging a rota of good people to make it all happen.

It is clearly proving very successful and there is already clear evidence of newcomers becoming regulars and the next step could be to becoming parishioners!

Townley Hall

The choir were invited to sing at the Art in Action festival organised by John Scottus School in Townley Hall on Sunday June 2nd.

A small subset of the choir took part, with six boys and six of the men. The programme was quite short - only about twenty minutes in all - but was very much appreciated by those present. Solos were sung by Andrew Dempsey and Emmet Kiberd.

Those that took part can proudly claim to their peers that they sung in a concert in Slane!

Organ Rebuild

Our organ rebuild is nearing completion. Thanks to the diligent work of Trevor Crowe, we are already hearing many very beautiful new sounds which pour into both the chancel, and now, the north transept also.

A number of other stops remain to be added particularly in the pedal section. Plans are being put together for the event which will be held in October to launch the new Organ. Further details will be available closer to the time.

Des Ryan

Des will be travelling to Toronto in late August together with his brother Ray to advance their law studies in the Osgoode Hall Law School. Then, on top of this, he has been accepted into the Royal Toronto Conservatory to study piano under Stephen Satory, head of keyboard studies. We all wish Des and Ray great success.

As if this wasn't enough, both Des and Ray have been awarded scholarship at Trinity College. Congratulations to both.

David Falconer

David Falconer was married to Maeve Morris on Saturday June 15th in St Bartholomew's. The choir sang the anthem "Greater Love" by Ireland, and Ubi Caritas by Duruflé.

A drinks reception was held afterwards in the grounds of the church to which the happy couple invited the whole parish. Congratulations to David and Maeve and we wish them many years of happiness together.

Oscar Wilde Evening

Some months ago, Alan Stanford generously offered to do an Oscar Wilde evening as a special fund raising event, with money going towards the Organ fund.

This event is expected to go ahead on Sunday 29th September 2002 in the Masonic Hall in Molesworth Street. Tickets will cost €25.

Further details will be available closer to the time.

Peter Shannon

Peter Shannon conducts the National Symphony Orchestra in a lunch-time concert in the NCH on Thursday July 16th. Peter joined our choir following some years as a boy chorister in St Finbarre's Cathedral, Cork. He is currently the Director of the Orchestra of the University of Heidelberg.

Aubrey Fogarty

Aubrey Fogarty passed away on June 1st. Aubrey was a bass in the choir around 1945, and was also an enthusiastic supporter up to recent times. He was also a prominent member of the Culwick Choir. May he rest in peace.

Tony Constable

Tony Constable died suddenly on Monday June 17th. May he rest in peace. His many friends from the 40s will be deeply saddened.

Nicholas McMurry

Former choir member Nicholas McMurry was a candidate in the General Election. Nick stood in the Cork North Central constituency as a candidate for the Green Party. He polled some 1329 votes in total by the time he was eliminated in the third round.

Colm Carey

Colm Carey, past-chorister and son of our former vicar Reverend Maurice Carey will play the Poulenc Organ Concerto in G minor with the National Symphony Orchestra in the NCH on Tuesday June 25th at 1:05pm. Colm holds the unique position of Organist of the Chapel in the Tower of London.

Welcome

Dominic Guilding has become the newest recruit in the treble line. Dominic's father is a former alto Lay Vicar of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Robert Hilliard

Robert Hilliard has agreed to take over the role of choir treasurer from Neville Beresford, who has held the post for many years.

Next Term

Here are some important dates for the next term.

- St. Bartholomew's Day has been moved to Sunday 25th August this year. Normal Sunday morning.

- Full practice, Friday August 23rd. Choirboys at 6:00pm; Men at 6:30pm.

- Inauguration of new organ, Sunday October 6th - 5:00 to 6:00pm, recital by Professor Gerard Gillen, Titular Organist of The Pro-Cathedral, followed by refreshments. 7:00pm, Choral Evensong sung by the combined forces of St. Patrick's Cathedral and St Bartholomew's Church choirs. The setting will be Dyson in D, which has not been sung in St. Bartholomew's before.

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