

St. Bartholomew's Choir

<http://www.stbartholomews.ie/>

April 2003

Girls Choir Update

The Girls Choir sang their third evensong with the gentlemen of the choir on Sunday March 30. The service was Sung in A, with the anthem View me, Lord by Lloyd. The girls have been rehearsing with Malcolm Wisener on Wednesday nights since September, and the hard work involved was clearly in evidence.



The Girls are learning their own distinctive repertoire, consisting of works not performed

by the regular choir. The whole venture is an exciting

widening of our parish outreach.

Special thanks to Don

Cazzini, who took a number of publicity photographs of

the girls choir. These may be downloaded from the parish web site.

David Falconer

We are to lose David as our Assistant Organist from the end of June. David has been both living and teaching in the north for some time now and he feels that the time has come to concentrate his career there.

For many years now David has been a central

back-bone to our music, and as further evidence of his love and commitment to St Bartholomew's, he has given of his time as a member of our Select Vestry over the past term. David will continue his association with church music accompanying in St. Patrick's Cathedral,

Armagh.

David enjoyed the camaraderie of the choir and every member will be disappointed if we don't see him regularly back among us in Dublin. We wish David and his lovely wife Maeve every happiness in their future.

Web Site Report

Visitors to the parish web site have been increasing at a steady rate in the last few months. Most days we welcome more than 30 visitors per day, and some days we see as many as 75 visitors in a 24 hour period. Site statistics show that most of these visitors are exploring through different parts of the site to see what we have to offer.

Three Organ pieces were recorded for the parish web site during the month of March, performed by Malcolm Wisener, David Falconer, and Andrew Mackriell. The three tracks were recorded by Richard Bannister, and between them have seen over 300

downloads so far from over 20 different countries, including some you might expect (Ireland, Japan, USA), and many you might not (Peru, Iceland, Croatia, and the Dominican Republic).

Other recent additions include photographs of the Girls choir, some photographs of the choir wearing Mortarboards (c. 1900), a page about the Vale Psalter in use at St Bartholomew's, and a page about the Liturgy in St Bartholomew's. As always, if you have anything at all which could be contributed to the site, please speak to Richard Bannister or send an e-mail to richard@indigo.ie.

Trumpet Fanfare

Throughout the rebuild of the Organ, we have been very lucky to have Professor Gerard Gillen reporting to the vestry about the progress made. In his final report, Professor Gillen commented that our instrument was now one of the finest in the country. He felt, however, that the absolute icing on the cake would be the addition of a fanfare trumpet stop of some kind.

The vestry decided to follow the professor's advice. The total cost of the additional stop will be approximately 15,000 Euro. There is a certain amount of money remaining in the Organ fund, however it will be necessary to run some fund raising events to make up the balance. Any help and suggestions in this regard would be very welcome.

Chester Trip

The choir takes off on its journey to Chester on Tuesday April 22nd, returning very late in the evening on Sunday April 27th. As always we will be singing a full compliment of services during the week, with Evensong each day and of course the Eucharist on Sunday morning.

We have been invited to attend a Civic Reception on Thursday 24th in the Town Hall, where we will be received by the Lord Mayor of the City of Chester, Councillor Brian Crowe. St Bartholomew's Choir will carry with it a letter of greeting from the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Dermot Lacey.

AIB Choral Society

Following an extremely successful inaugural concert some time back, the AIB Choral Society will be performing a second concert in the church on Saturday June 7th. The society is run out of the AIB headquarters which are just around the corner from the church, and it is directed by former chorister Bruce Middleton.

Easter Vestry

The Easter Vestry takes place this year in the church on Sunday May 4th at 1:00pm. This annual meeting is very important in the life of the parish. The past year is reported on and a new select vestry is voted in to look after the church for the next year. Those who are recorded on the parish register are entitled to vote, and if they so wish, to be put forward for office.

Landmines Concert

St Bartholomew's Choir joined with the Choir of St Patrick's Cathedral, St Anne's, Dawson Street, Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Trinity College Singers, the Palestrina Choir, the Gaudete Singers, the Trinity College Chapel Choir, and the Mornington Singers to sing the Faure Requiem in a charity concert on Saturday 1st March.

The concert, given to a capacity crowd, was presented by Brian Dobson. The money raised from the event will finance the clearance of a minefield in Donji Vakuf, a village near Semestica in central Bosnia Herzegovina.

Tenor Upheaval

Ian Ellis, tenor in the choir, and choir member for over fifteen years, will be leaving us at the end of September for a one year postgraduate course in Information Systems at the London School of Economics. Ian has been on the Select Vestry this year and has been responsible for a substantial amount of work within the parish and a significant portion of the Parish Web Site. However, Bobby need not panic! We will be welcoming Des Ryan back to the tenor line. Des has been away for the last year studying at the Osgood Hall Law School in Toronto.

Summer Concert

We are planning a fund raising Summer Concert at the end of May, with a provisional date of Sunday May 25th at 7:00pm. This is a important occasion for the choir as it illustrates the progress made during the term and also helps to replenish the choir funds after our trip to Chester. Please put the date in your diary and watch for further news.

Chamber Choir

The St Patrick's Cathedral Chamber Choir gave a concert at 8:00pm on Friday 11th April at St Patrick's Cathedral. This choir is directed by Andrew J. Mackriell. Andrew has joined the parish choir on many tours over the last decade and was also the accompanist for several pieces on the choir CD, released in 1998. He has recently recorded Nimrod from the Enigma Variations by Elgar for the Organ section of the parish web site.

Rev. Dan Clarke

Some may remember Dan preaching in the church during a visit to Ireland in late 2001. Unfortunately he suffered a mild stroke at the end of last year, followed by a heart condition, and is at present in East Surrey Hospital, Reigate. His daughter tells us that he is making good progress and can't wait to get out of hospital. The Reverend Dan was our curate between 1941 and 1943, and Bobby reminded us some time ago that he (Dan) possessed a syrupy baritone voice. We send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Obituaries

We are saddened to record the passing of Mrs Doris Cornish, a long time parishioner who was a generous supporter of the choir. Many years ago Doris ran a coffee morning which raised IRL £300 to send the choir off on its first trip to an English Cathedral, Ripon, in 1989. A group of choir men sang at her requiem which was conducted by the Reverend John Mc Kay. May she rest in peace.

News reached us from Vancouver of the death of Michael Treacy on January 12th. Michael was a chorister with us from 1943 to 1950. We extend our deepest sympathy to his brother Des, also a former choirboy and living with his family in Vancouver. May Michael rest in peace.

Feis Ceoil 2003

The Organ competitions for Feis Ceoil 2003 took place in St Bartholomew's, with some 27 contestants taking part. The adjudicator, Margaret Phillips, was extremely impressed with our new instrument, as were the contestants.

Parish Administrator

Following the trend in many other parishes, the Select Vestry has decided to appoint an administrator to deal with the day to day affairs and housekeeping of our church. This will mean that there will be a presence at the church during the week, and it will be possible to have the building open for a number of hours on most days.

We have been extremely fortunate in being able to attract Mr Fergus McCullough to fill the position, and he will take up his role at the start of Holy Week. Many of you will know Mr McCullough following his many years running the APCK in Dawson Street.

Congratulations

Chorister Emmet Kiberd won the boy treble solo competition at the Inter-Schools Musical Festival at Wesley College in the beginning of March.

Services of Easter Week

Maundy Thursday (17th April)

8.00pm: Solemn Eucharist

Service: *Wood* in the Phrygian Mode
Motet: *Ubi Caritas (Durufle)*

Good Friday 18th April

12:00pm: Choral Matins

1:30pm: Liturgy of the Passion

Reproaches: Sanders
Agnus Dei: Byrd
Motet: *O vos omnes (Casals)*

Easter Saturday 19th April

9:00pm: Solemn Eucharist

Exultet: *Shepard*
Service: *Darke* in F
Motet: *Dum Transisset (Taverner)*

Easter Sunday 20th April

11:30am: Solemn Eucharist

Service: *Schubert* in G
Motet: *Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley)*

Choirmaster: Malcolm Wisener GRSM, FTCL, ARCO, 122 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Tel 01-6683237

Newsletter: Richard Bannister, 88 The Windmill, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6704213.

Secretary: Bobby Barden, Forgefield, Stocking Lane, Dublin 16. Tel 01-4945671.

Treasurer: Robert Hilliard, 21 Crannagh Road, Dublin 14. Tel 01-4908676.