

St. Bartholomew's Choir

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

May 2003

New Organ Scholar

Our existing Organ Scholar, David Falconer, will be leaving us at the end of August. To that end, we will be welcoming a new person to the position.

He is Eoghan Ward, who was a former organ scholar at Trinity College. Eoghan has some familiarity with St Bartholomew's from when he sang with us some years ago, as a member of the Palestrina Choir.



The Boys on the historic City Walls of Chester

National Chamber Choir Recording

On Friday 16th May Ireland's only full time professional choir, the National Chamber Choir, made a recording in St. Bartholomew's especially for Gloria, Tim Thurston's regular Sunday evening programme of sacred music on Lyric FM. The Choir has been re-energised since the arrival of their new Brazilian conductor Celso Antunes. Tim was most impressed with what he heard. The results will feature on Gloria programmes during Summer Sunday evenings. The music will appear towards the end

of the programme - in other words it is contemporary rather than early music!

Our new administrator, Fergus McCullough, looked after the choir's needs very well - including turning off the bells. It will be marvellous if St. Bartholomew's becomes a musical centre for recorded as well as live music. And lets hope our wonderful new organ will be used next time.

Tim also tells us that the Gloria page is the most frequently visited page on the Lyric web site, www.lyricfm.ie.

Recruitment

Richard Bannister has prepared two separate leaflets this week; one seeking new members for the boys choir and the other to build up the numbers in the girls choir.

These leaflets are available at the back of the church or directly from Malcolm Wisener if you know of anyone who might be interested in one.

With Ian Ellis off to London for a year, Malcolm will also be looking for a replacement in the Tenor line.

Chester Visit - Comments of those on their first choir trip

Getting up so early was difficult. At first I didn't realise what day it was, then I remembered I was going on a trip. The morning was bright and we put our bags in the car. I was never on a ferry before and was a little nervous. Then I heard the other boys asking where was the arcade. The arcade was quiet at first but then all the boys discovered where it was. The College where we stayed was great especially the playing fields so close.

Ethan Conroy



The Cathedral Tour was inspiring and interesting. The lady guide told the story well. She answered the questions very honestly and did not make it up. The Benedictine Monks worked very hard and concentrated. The cloisters were used as a scriptorium for writing their manuscripts. They also kept fish.

I learned a lot about Chester from the Mayor.



He was very nice. He told us interesting details; not just dates.

Old Trafford was good. The stadium was excellent. I learned about the lives of players but being in front of the cameras was nerve wracking.

I really enjoyed everything and will definitely come again next year. It was better than I expected.

Tom Rosengrave

The Jodrell Bank Planetarium was really fun especially the whispering dishes. The show of the stars was amazing. All the games were good. Old Trafford was cool and I had never been there before.

Declan Doyle



Liked the trip a bit. Liked the football games and played striker, goalie, and defence.

I missed my parents.

Dominic Guilding



I liked the swimming best, deep diving in the three metres and almost touching the bottom. I thought the boat would be really small with no arcade, food or shop. I liked watching the boys playing cards and Richard's technology. He has toys for big boys. The Lord Mayor was really nice to us and his gold chain was cool. The chain was very heavy and shiny. He told us about his new Jaguar and his attendant told great stories.

Brian Horan



I thought the bunker would have a door through the ground. It was a weird house. It had loads of guns and a Café. There were dummies and I liked searching for the mice, playing with the typewriter and making morse code sounds. My favourite of the week was the trip on the boat. I missed my parents the first day.



Carl Adams

Chester Visit - Comments of seasoned campaigners!

This was the best of my three trips. Food in the College was very nice. I enjoyed so many visits. The pool was better than last year. Friday was the best day.



Emmet Kiberd

This was also the best of my three trips. The accommodation was very good. The visit to Old Trafford and the swimming were the best events.



Conor McDermott

This trip was way better than my previous choir trips. I rate this one a ten and Exeter seven and Cork five. It was never boring except in bed and the Psalms! The food, accommodation and Old Trafford were best.



Sebastian Adams

This trip was different because I am senior. Old Trafford, Johnny English, the Cathedral and accommodation were great. The bunker not so good and Jodrell OK.



Killian Rogan

Best of three trips. Having my own room was good. Old Trafford was excellent. The playing field in the College was good.



Killian Horan

Best trip of two. Old Trafford, swimming and the bunker were best in that order.



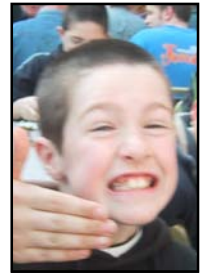
Calvin O'Broin

Old Trafford and bowling were best events.

Cian Kinsella



This was the best trip. The accommodation, City of Chester and Fridays events were great.



Mark Rogan

The was the best of my two choir trips. Manchester United and swimming were best.



Ray McDermott

Special thanks to Albert Horan for compiling this article.

Nearly 400 digital photographs were taken on the trip by Richard Bannister, Niamh Harty, and Albert Horan. Some of these are currently up at the back of the church. The remainder have been placed on a CD-ROM which is being circulated among choir members. If you wish to borrow this CD, please speak to Bobby Barden or Richard Bannister.

Visit of Edward S. Fry - Sunday May 18th

Edward "Bill" Fry, our Organist and Choirmaster from 1938 to 1946, returned to St Bartholomew's for the Eucharist on Sunday May 18th.

He was determined to hear his favourite organ now so wonderfully rebuilt, and to see the tributes to his parents in the Chapel of Memory. Bill was delighted to hear and then to play the organ himself. He congratulated Malcolm on the high standard of the choir.



A Princely Piece of Silver

Bobby Barden would like to thank everyone involved in the presentation of his very beautiful and ornate 1759 London silver waiter (a 7" three legged salver).

The gift was to celebrate his sixty years in the choir. While this was marked at last year's Dedication Festival, the very precious item was tracked down by Alan Fletcher only after several

visits to auctions around the province.

To Alan and to the great many who contributed so generously Bobby expresses his sincerest gratitude and is rushing to have the piece added to his insurance policy.

Richard Bannister has photographed this lovely piece of silver and the picture is now available for all to see on the parish web site.

Chester Musical Memento

We owe a big thanks to Richard Bannister, who compiled a private CD of some of the music performed by the choir in Chester Cathedral.

While not for public release, he produced a copy for every choir member who sang in Chester, carrying the whole cost himself.

Thanks Richard!

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