

# St. Bartholomew's Choir

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

December 2003

## Bowling

Over twenty choir members descended on Leisureplex Stillorgan after the Eucharist on November 9th for a game of Bowling, followed by a meal.

Bumpers were in use for the games, which allowed even impressively bad shots to score good points, and at least one person clocked up three successive strikes.

Special thanks to Malcolm Wisener for organising this event, and thanks are also due to the parents who provided transportation to Leisureplex for the group.



Strike!

## Advent Carols

The Procession and Carols of Advent, a particularly moving Sunday evening service, takes place this year on Sunday November 30th at 7:00pm.

Some of the carols in use this year have not been sung by the choir before.

With the approach of the Christmas events this act of worship sometimes fails to get the attendance it deserves, so do come along.

## Concert of Carols and Festive Readings

Our annual concert with Alan Stanford is always a highlight of the choir's Christmas, with the proceeds being contributed to different worthy charities each year.

We are very grateful to Alan Stanford for taking time out of his busy schedule for our concert.

This year's concert takes place on Sunday December 14th at 7:00pm, and the proceeds will be given to Musik Makers. Tickets are available from now at the back of the church or from any choir member. Please note that even with tickets it is advisable to arrive

early to get favourable seating.

Musik Makers is run by Brother Tom Phelan S.J. in St Francis Xaviers Church, Gardiner Street. It aims to teach children from the inner city to play all kinds of musical instruments. As you can imagine, they are invariably in need of funds to buy the equipment and the music.

Some years ago we sang at a Saturday evening mass in St Francis Xaviers Church, and we hope to have opportunity to do this again in 2004. The church is very beautiful with a fine gallery organ and lovely acoustics.

## **Glory of Christmas**

Once again the boys have been invited to sing in the Glory of Christmas concerts in the National Concert Hall, presented by Raymond Gubbay Ltd. There are three concerts this year; December 22nd at 8:00pm, and December 23rd at 3:15pm and 8:00pm respectively.

These concerts are a great opportunity for the boys to experience what it is like to

sing to a packed audience in our National Concert Hall and to sing with an orchestra. The choir earns a fee, which helps as we seek funds for our post Easter Paris trip.

Unfortunately we get no complimentary tickets, so those wishing to attend should contact the NCH Booking Office on (01) 417 0000. Tickets range from €17 to €36.50.

## **Organ Marathon**

"Pipeworks", formerly known as the Dublin International Organ and Choir Festival, will be holding a marathon session on the St Bartholomew's Organ from 10:00am until 5:00pm on Saturday November 29th. we understand that our organ will be used for a major recital by one of the panel of international jurors in June 2004.

You are likely to be

approached by many participants for sponsorship. The writer has already been approached by choir member Robin Heather, and he was not aware that Robin could play the Organ. No doubt he'll play it with gusto; you'll need to be present to find out whether the Organ wins or loses! Be assured nevertheless that you will hear many of Dublin's top organists on the 29th.

## **Airfield Trust Concert**

We have close links with at least two of the musicians in this concert, which takes place on Saturday November 29th at 8:00pm. Malachy Robinson (Violone) started his musical career as a choir-boy in St Bartholomew's, and

David Adams is father of three of our current choristers. The other two musicians are Jenny Robinson (Recorder) and Anita Vedres (Baroque Violin). The programme will include works by Purcell, Telemann, Corelli, and

## **Girls Choir Update**

We are delighted to welcome ten new choristers to the ranks of the Girls Choir.

They are Sarah Caldwell-Kenny, Dawn Clinton, Anna Crass, Clara Despard, Caitlin Haskins, Roisin Horan, Isabelle Hyland, Sonia Machesney, Alyda O'Callaghan, and Roisin White.

This is most encouraging as Malcolm only embarked on the concept of having a girls choir in June 2002.

## **Des Ryan**

Des Ryan has been awarded a place in Trinity College Singers.

He follows a long list of present and past choristers in Singers, including in recent years Brian Gageby, Nicholas McMurry, and Stuart Kinsella.

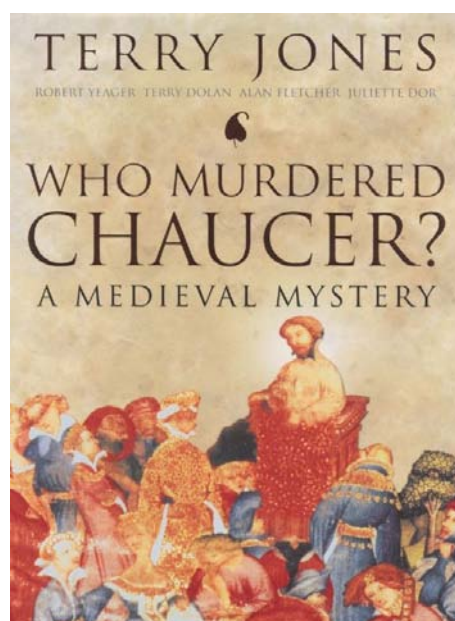
Handel. Admission is €8, with concessions €5.

Airfield Trust is on the Upper Kilmacud Road, above Dundrum (the former home of the Overend family).

## And now for something completely different...

Remember The Life of Brian? Or Monty Python and the Holy Grail? Or just plain old Monty Python's Flying Circus, the TV series where all the madness started? Well, you may not know it but **Alan Fletcher**, tenor on cantoris side - who says he's a bit mad himself, so what you're about to hear is appropriate - has teamed up with Terry Jones and friends to write a medieval murder mystery. (In case your memory needs a kick start, or you're simply not long enough in the tooth to know, Terry, a founder Python, was the squawking Mandy, mother of Brian, in the aforesaid film, and co-director of the Holy Grail with Terry Gilliam.) Alan has an interest in medieval history, and so does Terry. The result: a collaboration that's in the shops now. 'Every home should have one, and certainly no later than Christmas', Alan says, 'so buy it!' Why should you want to? Basically, says Alan, it's because it's an exciting read (well, he would say that, wouldn't he?). Seriously, folks, all human life is here. We get to see a ruthless Archbishop of Canterbury

who just can't wait to burn heretics; we get an inside track on the machinations of the upstart King Henry IV, who bumped off his predecessor in miserable circumstances so that he could grab the throne; and of course, as a backdrop to this, we peer into the glittering court of King Richard II, the internationally



famous centre of sophistication and luxury, but where being a member was like swimming in a tank of sharks. And at the middle of it all, Geoffrey Chaucer, Father of English Poetry, caught up in a turmoil of deadly politics. Most people have thought of Chaucer as a benign, harmless old poet who spent his sunset years polishing up his master

work, The Canterbury Tales, and pottering round his lovely little garden in the sanctuary of Westminster Abbey, watering his flowers. Tosh, argues Who Murdered Chaucer? What if this medieval megastar and one-time spy was murdered because he had backed the wrong side? In the violent regime change that was happening - funny, isn't it, that this took place near the time when we know Chaucer died - Chaucer would have known where all the closeted skeletons were. It's never safe knowing too much, is it? So, if a tale of dastardly deeds in high places takes your fancy, you could do worse than read Who Murdered Chaucer? And if you don't believe the case we make, says Alan, just sit back, relax, and enjoy the pictures (which sounds like a Ryanair announcement). There are 65 of these, in glorious technicolour, so we hope you'll feel you've got your money's worth.

There are plans for Terry to be in Dublin in January to give a public lecture in Trinity College on Who Murdered Chaucer? Watch this space for details.

AJF

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