

St. Bartholomew's Choir

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

May 2004

Vicar Departs

St Bartholomew's bid its official farewell to Father William Ritchie after the Easter Sunday Eucharist on April 11th.

Churchwarden Charlie Smith presented the Vicar with an inscribed cut glass bowl and a cheque on behalf of the parish. He followed this with a speech expressing the parish's heartfelt appreciation of his ministry amongst us. Charlie wished him fulfilment and best wishes for his work in his new parishes in Co. Carlow.

Father William took his leave of us in the latter half of the week commencing April 19th.

During the vacancy, the 11:30 Eucharist will be cele-

brated by the Reverend John Challender until the end of May, and Canon Billy

normally be directed to the Vicar may be directed to the parish administrator, Fergus



Marshall will be taking over from the start of June.

Inquiries which would

McCullough, on 01-6688522, or by e-mail to fergus@stbartholomews.ie.

Upcoming Concerts

The choir will be performing a concert on Sunday May 30th at 7:00 pm. The highlight of this year's concert will be a performance of the Vierge Messe Solennelle; in addition to being a dramatic choral work for the choir to sing, it illustrates what a wonderful instrument the St Bartholomew's organ now is. The programme will include

the Mendelssohn, 'Hear my prayer' and the other pieces that the choir performed on the Northern France tour. Tickets are available at the door and cost €7.

The newly formed girls' choir will give their first concert on Sunday June 13th at 7:00 pm. The programme will include all the music they have sung in their

first year: some four settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and the various anthems. The girls are joined by the gentlemen of the choir for these evensongs and of course for the concert. Tickets are available at the door and cost €5.

Please encourage as many as possible to come to both these concerts.

Paris through the eyes of the younger ones



Space Mountain in Disneyland Paris was really fun, I had nine trips on it. Next was the trip up the Eiffel Tower. My worst moment was almost losing my mobile phone.

Eoin Keenan



Space Mountain was really good because it was so dark you couldn't see where it was going next. I was lucky as I was just 2cm above the minimum height limit. The Eiffel Tower had an extremely good view and it was my birthday.

Devin O'Shea-Farren



Space Mountain was class, it was so dark I didn't know what was happening. The Eiffel Tower was one of the highest I have ever been on.

Sebastian O'Shea-Farren



If I had the money I would buy Space Mountain.

Eoin Meldon



I was overwhelmed by the speed of the paddle steamer and the G forces when it turned hard a port. La Madeleine was awe-inspiring and provided the best organ and acoustics. It was a great experience and privilege to be with the group.

Ian Meldon



When you see green on the corkscrew and purple meteors in the corner of your eye Space Mountain impresses. In the loop I could barely lift my hand and the top was really scary. It was great trying to put the green, red and yellow gear wheels into motion at the Cite de Science. The Arc de Triomphe impressed by the vision through the trees and inscriptions on the walls. The height of the Eiffel Tower was scary, my nerves wouldn't allow me to look down. Tony held my hand. Gerry, Eamonn and Agnes were with me on the climb to the second floor. The first concert was best then the second and finally the third. I liked the trains and the Metro because I found them really relaxing. The plane was not so relax-

ing. We played games on the coach to Chartres. Brian and I bought HITMAN 2 for Hugh and Eoin. At night sometimes it was hard to sleep and sometimes very easy to sleep.

Kevin Clancy



The corkscrew was really good, I had never been on a roller coaster before. It was so cool I made two trips. The Eiffel Tower was great. There were so many activities in the science museum especially playing in the big room. The coach trip lulls you to sleep and you look out the window and enjoy all the conversations. The trip itself was amazing. It was great to see all the sights.

Brian Clancy



Space Mountain was my favourite. It was so dark I never knew what was going to happen next. It was really nice and warm in the hostel, sometimes too warm. I liked breakfast especially the hot chocolate.

Jack Garvey

Paris through the eyes of the younger ones (continued)



Indiana Jones was scary and cool going backwards. I did 3 runs. The loop was petrifying. I liked Chartres and the music which I had never heard before. Finally I enjoyed the shopping with mum.

Roisin Horan
(party member)



I loved the trip it was really fun. We went to the Pompidou Centre on my new crutches. I liked the

colour coding at the centre. My big bump was really sore and I wanted to scream! At the hospital I was X-rayed. I felt like bubbles were running through me. I will definitely come again. I felt proud when I could sing at La Madeleine with my sore hip and without crutches.

Isaac Dempsey



I liked Space Mountain because it was in the dark with lots of turns and Indiana Jones because of the loop. Arc de Triomphe was not so good a view but the Eiffel Tower was

such a good view. "Insanae" is really cool. It was a great trip and I hope I go again.

Denis Casey



The trip was really good. We got to do a lot of stuff. It was a very great honour to sing in the Cathedrals. My favourite was Chartres. It was really really big with nice stained glass windows. We had loads of fun at Disneyland Paris. I bought nice souvenirs and I had 11 rides. I loved going up the Eiffel Tower.

Alexis Fitzgerald

Reception at the Embassy

Our whole party were received by His Excellency, Pdraig Mac Kernan the Ambassador, together with the Counsellor, Darach Mac Fhionnbhairr in the beautiful 18th century building that houses the Irish embassy in Paris.

Re-facaded in 1894 for the Marquis de Bretevil, the Irish Government purchased it for our embassy in 1954. While having all the charm of a mansion over a century old, it is nonetheless equipped with all the facilities that a modern embassy

must have.

The Ambassador gave the choir a warm welcome stressing that we, as Irish citizens, should feel completely at home there. A specially nice touch was the miniature birthday cake presented to Devin O'Shea-Farren accompanied by a rendering of "Happy Birthday" by all present.

The ambassador declared that he was a regular listener to Lyric FM's "Gloria" and was delighted to meet Tim Thurston in person.

The arrangements for this reception were made by a member of the Ambassador's team, Nicola Dunand.

Later at our concert in La Madeleine we had a contingent of people from the embassy in the audience, including the Counsellor Darach Mac Fhionnbhairr. Several members of staff from the German Embassy were also spotted in the audience, including the current German ambassador to France and former parishioner, Wolfgang Seiwert.

An invited guest

When Malcolm originally phoned me to see if I was available for the Paris trip, I jumped at the chance. Having been employed as a deputy singer before at St Bartholomew's, I knew that there would be plenty of good craic and splendid singing.

Arriving in Paris, we were met by a gentleman who appeared to have a tattoo of a bulldog on the back of his shaven head. However, Malcolm's linguistic prowess and communication skills established that this man was to be our coach driver for the forthcoming trip.

Arriving in Paris, the gentlemen of the choir dined quite splendidly in a restaurant in the Place de la Nation. For me, this was a "get to know you session" with the other chaps. The ice was quickly broken through a heady mix of wine, food, ecclesiastical limericks (don't ask) and medical anecdotes from Hugh.

The next day, we were whisked off to Chartres Cathedral to perform in a concert. This was now a chance to use Robin Heather's French phrasebook to its maximum potential. However, this notion of entente cordiale fell flat on its face when all I received was strange looks from locals who

could not understand my County Antrim tones speaking French.

On the steps of the magnificent cathedral we were met by a local who gave us a rendition of "He's got the whole world in his hands". Maybe he knew that St Bartholomew's Choir were in town and was attempting to audition.

Incidentally, the Revd Charles Mullen was delighted to have found a postcard of a Massey Ferguson tractor in a local gift shop in Chartres. This led to a long conversation between himself and the shopkeeper in French about Charles's idyllic past on the farm.

Before the concert in



Alan Fletcher outside Chartres

Chartres, Dr Alan Fletcher gave us a magnificent tour of the Cathedral, providing some wonderful insights into the world famous stained glass. Many thanks to Alan!

One of the events



Singing in the embassy

arranged for the choir was a visit to Irish Embassy on the Avenue Foch. The Ambassador, Pdraig McKernon provided us with refreshment in return for a quick blast of Durufle's Ubi Caritas. A fair deal if you ask me....

Back in Paris, the next concert was at La Madeleine. We performed to a large and receptive audience. The boys and the men certainly had no difficulty in filling the building with sound. The Kyrie of the Vierge Messe Solennelle finished the concert in rousing fashion.

Our "rest" day was spent strutting around the vast boulevards of Paris, taking in the Louvre and ambling

An invited guest (continued)

around various churches, admiring the architecture. In case you are thinking that this was a very virtuous way to spend time in Paris, don't be fooled! The familiar cry of "Vin Ordinaire S'il Vous Plait!", was to be heard at regular intervals.

Saturday and Sunday were spent singing in St George's Anglican Church, just off the Champs Elysees. What it lacks in architectural merit, it certainly makes up for in terms of churchmanship and quality of worship. It was remarked by various people in the choir (and I tend to

agree) that despite the lack of aesthetic merit to the building, it was the most satisfying place where we sang.



Beauvais "Airport"

On Sunday we proceeded back to Beauvais "Garden Shed" Airport through a torrential rain-storm. It was a shame that the

weather did not stay pleasant as it had done throughout the trip.

Overall, it was a wonderful trip, brilliantly organised. It was a complete privilege, as a deputy singer to be brought along on this wonderful trip, with such great travelling companions. Many, sincere thanks to all the other gentlemen of the choir, choir parents and choristers for the warm wel-

come that you all gave me. I hope to see and hear you all soon.

*Paul Arbuthnot
St Patrick's Cathedral Choir*

Pre-Trip Fundraising

Our trip to Paris would not have been possible without the substantial fundraising efforts that went on during the month of March.

A total of €2084.20 was raised by a day packing bags in Tesco Nutgrove, organised by Niamh Harty. This was more than adequate to cover the full costs of taking the boys to Disneyland Paris.

Separately, the table quiz and auction on Wednesday 31st March raised

a total of €939.40 after expenses. The evening was presented by Robin Heather



Counting the takings after bag packing

with Richard Bannister responsible for setting the

questions and marking the answer sheets. Of course the evening could not have been a success without the many people who donated auction items and other prizes, not to mention the others involved in organising the night, and our thanks go out to them once again.

In addition, a very special thanks is needed for Eddie Lewis of Merrion Cricket Club, who provided us with a venue for the quiz at a very reasonable rent.

Another perspective

This year's trip to Paris marked my tenth post-Easter trip with the choir. Things have changed dramatically even in the six years since the previous Paris trip, with just two of those that were in the boys' section at the time still in the choir. Both are now in the Alto line (Graham Kerr and Andrew Dempsey).

Rather than write an essay about the entire week, which has already been done by Paul Arbuthnot, I'd just like to touch briefly on what were - for me at least - the highlights.

Singing in La Madeleine on Thursday evening was the musical high point of the trip and something I wish I could enjoy more often. There is something truly special about singing a note and hearing the echo continue to resonate for

only encourages you to concentrate properly. The standard of the singing was evident by the fact that we had



Pyramid

nearly five hundred people in the audience for a concert which took place in the middle of the afternoon. In particular, the Messe Solennelle Kyrie at the end of the concert made the hairs stand up on the back of my neck!

On a somewhat lighter note, a little over half the group spent two hours in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower on Friday afternoon, and quite a bit of that time was spent with Roisin Horan enthusiastically directing assembly of human pyramids. The only truly successful pyramid was the one pictured above, though there

are some photos of a (failed) larger effort featuring five people on the bottom row: Graham Kerr, Cian Kinsella, Ian Meldon, Killian Rogan, and myself.

There are many other amusing anecdotes I could go into (Walking into a restaurant at 9:30 pm and asking for - and receiving - a table for eighteen; the O'Shea-Farren brothers listing off their singularly impressive collection of middle names; the "experience" of a large group of boys on the Paris metro; Clive Hope-Ross discovering that his hostel room had been sold to somebody else; most of us getting lost on the way back to St Georges ten minutes before the concert; etc) but I'd like to conclude by mentioning what was, for me at least, the greatest reward of the trip: seeing the sheer joy on the boys' faces and hearing all the excited chatter as we travelled back to Paris on the RER after a day in Disneyland Paris.

I would like to thank all those involved in making the trip such a success, but especially Malcolm Wisener for his continued dedication to the choir. If you had asked me twelve years ago when I first joined the choir, if I'd still want to be involved in 2004, I'd have laughed at you. I got that one wrong.

Richard Bannister



Singing in La Madeleine

nearly four seconds. Of course this isn't true when you sing a wrong note (guilty!) but making a mistake like that

View from the Outside

I had never been on a choir trip before - leaving that pleasure to Tim and Dominic, but this time I wanted to travel they were singing away with gusto. It was very clear that they had bonded on the trip and were a real community by the end.



Alan Fletcher with Mrs. Wisener

with Tim and share the joy of Paris in the Spring!

We were somewhat removed, staying quite a distance away in the Centre Culturel Irlandais, but it was nevertheless a great pleasure to come out of the Cathedral in Chartres and see the green jerseys making their way up.

I thought I would get slightly weary of hearing the same concert three times but the human interest kept me going. On the first outing certain small boys were either too tired or too over-awed by their surroundings to sing too much (I decided that they were taking it in turns to sing!) but by the final day

amusing to walk into the Madeleine and see lots of familiar faces so even the 'extras' felt we played a role as cheer-leaders!

Having observed how hard the choir worked during Holy Week, I felt they really



Feeding Time

deserved their trip away and the boys were given a wonderful time.

My unbounded admiration goes to their 'minders'!!

Anne Thurston

Select Vestry

The Select Vestry for the year 2004-2005 was elected at the Easter Vestry after the service on Sunday 25th April.

This year they are Alan Fletcher, Malcolm Wisener, David Jones, Traudi Ferguson, Richard Bannister, Martin Hilliard, Bobby Barden, Mildred Beresford, and Robin Heather. The secretary is Niamh Harty, and the treasurer is Albert Horan.

The Churchwardens are Don Cazzini and Charlie Smith, and the Glebewardens are Patrick Freyer and Kaye Marshall.

Autumn Organ Recitals

A series of lunchtime organ recitals is being planned for the coming Autumn. While everyone is invited it is hoped that we can encourage attendance from around the Ballsbridge business community. They will take place at 1:00pm and will last 45 minutes, so that people can fit in the music and their snack lunch in the hour.

More details will be revealed nearer the time.

Colm Carey

Former chorister Colm was recently appointed Belfast City Organist and performed with the Ulster Orchestra in the Ulster Hall.

The concert featured well known works by Stanford, Haydn, and Rheinberger, as well as the specially commissioned arrangement of Irish Airs and Dances by Andrew Johnstone.

The review in the Irish Times said that the Mulholland Organ "sparkled in Carey's hands".

Colm Carey was of course the son of late Reverend Maurice Carey, a former Vicar of St Bartholomew's.

Alan Fletcher

Dr Alan Fletcher, from our tenor line, has been elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy. We are very proud to have an MRIA in our midst and extend our congratulations to Alan.

Special Services

Two extra Solemn Eucharists are coming up over the next few weeks. Both take place at 8:00 pm and feature the boys' choir.

Thursday 20th May marks Ascension Day; the setting will be Ireland in C and the anthem is "God is Gone Up" by Finzi.

The Corpus Christi festival will be celebrated on Thursday 10th June, and will be followed by a parish barbeque.

If you can provide any assistance in the organisation of the barbeque, please speak to any member of the Select Vestry.



David Jones at the 2002 Barbeque



Disneyland Paris

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