

St Bartholomew's Choir

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

August 2004

Greetings from the Falconers

Former Assistant Organist David Falconer and his wife, Maeve, send their best wishes to all in St Bartholomew's. They particularly enjoyed having some visitors from Clyde Road in recent weeks.

Dave continues to play the organ at Dromore. He has said how beneficial his training at St Bartholomew's has been, as he works on building up his choir there.

Maeve has won the female lead in the Carl Rosa Opera Company. She will shortly be taking off with them for an eight week tour of Australia and New Zealand in which they will be presenting a production of HMS Pinafore. In addition, it is likely that she will be starring in the Merry Widow production in London next spring.

Their son, James, will be going to Australia with

Maeve, and Dave will be spending a few weeks there also. Dave will also be finalising our new CD in September,

As a final note, Dave and Maeve used their departure gift from the parish to buy some garden furniture, which



Processing in for the Corpus Christi Service (Photo: AH)

and while the release date is not yet known, it will be ready as a gift to give to all your friends at Christmas.

has been well used in the recent good weather. We send our best wishes to the whole family.

Corpus Christi Barbeque

The annual Corpus Christi Barbeque took place on June 10th, following the Solemn Eucharist. For the first time in several years, the choir sang Mozart's Coronation Mass, with the anthem of

Laudate Dominum also by Mozart. The latter, incidentally, will be heard on the choir's new CD when it is launched later this year.

The Barbeque itself could not have happened

without the hard work of many people. Special thanks to David Jones for lending us the marquee and barbeque, and to all those who arrived early to help set things up.

Trumpet Fanfare

As first reported in our April 2003 newsletter, a Trumpet Fanfare stop is being added to our Organ following the advice of Professor Gerard Gillen. The fanfare stop is used in many of the works we sing, such as most of the Stanford evening services.

Trevor Crowe has much of the work already completed off site. The installation started in mid August and should be finished by early October. The Bombarde 8-foot stop will "Crown the Full Organ" and will also be very useful as a solo stop.

While we have a sum of money raised for this already, the choir will be doing additional fundraising to make up the balance. Any suggestions on how this should be achieved will be very welcome.

New Vicar

Thanks are due to the parochial nominators from both our churches for their hard work in appointing a new vicar. Their choice was the Rev Michael Thompson, and the following information about Michael is drawn from the Church of Ireland Notes in The Irish Times of Saturday 17th July:

He is 49, born in Armagh, educated and trained in Britain. A graduate of St Andrew's and Durham, he trained for the ministry in the Church of Wales at St Michael's College, Llandaff. Ordained in 1978 for the curacy of Aberavon. Michael has

been on the staff of Westminster Abbey, and was priest in charge of St Margaret's Westminster. He has been rector of Lowick (Peterborough) and priest in charge of Islip in London, which he combined with an honorary curacy in the City of London Church of St Bartholomew the Great, and vicar of Sneiton (St Alban's). For the last six years he has been rector of St Mary's Stamford in the diocese of Lincolnshire.

The institution will take place in Christ Church Leeson Park on Tuesday, October 26th.

Assistant Secretary

We are delighted that Richard Bannister has agreed to become Assistant Choir Secretary in support of Bobby, who feels we should have more new young blood coming through to take over these positions.

Richard already does an immense amount of work in the parish. This issue of the choir newsletter will be the twenty fifth compiled by Richard since he first took over the job in late 1997. He also maintains the parish web site, and has been on the Select Vestry since 2002.

Maryland State Boychoir Concert

The concert given by the Maryland State Boychoir in St Bartholomew's on Thursday 15th July was most enjoyable and was very well attended.

Forty boys arrived by coach from their previous

engagement in Kilkenny in a state of starvation, and were greatly relieved to find that Bobby Barden had arranged food and drink in the Parish Room. We were treated to a wonderful evening of enter-

tainment, musically and visually, ranging from a Magnificat by Stanford to African music and spirituals.

Many thanks to Bobby for all the work in making the occasion the success it was.

High Flyer

Whenever we take off on our annual post-Easter trips, or whenever we have a concert, there is someone consistently in our party. He is also with us on those quiet Sunday evenings when our numbers are smaller. As this article is being written he is mixing playing the organ and singing in St James Cathedral, Toronto with final training for his Private Pilot's License.

Andrew Mackriell's musical achievements, outside of an obvious clear love and dedication to St Bartholomew's Choir, are far too numerous to list here. He embarked on his musical career at an early age, with his first posting being Assistant Organist of Clifton Roman Catholic Cathedral, Bristol. Moving to Dublin in 1990, he was appointed a Lay Vicar Choral at St Patrick's Cathedral in 1992. This developed into a wide musical career around Dublin both in choral societies and in our

national cathedral, which included the forming of a Chamber Choir. In 1993, he became director of Dublin Boy Singers, taking them to many European Venues. More

harmony. Andrew combines his extensive church music work with teaching posts in St Killian's German School and the Royal Irish Academy of Music.



Andrew playing the Organ at Chester Cathedral (Photo: RB)

recently, he was responsible for forming the Dublin Girl Singers. Between 1994 and 1996, he was also director of the UCD Chamber Choir, in addition to being a tutor of

If Andrew puts the same dedication into his flying as he puts into his music, he might well be piloting us the next time we travel abroad as a choir!

Bill Fry

Bill Fry, Organist and Choirmaster from 1938-1946, is still in good health as he approaches the wonderful age of 90. Some time ago, reconstruction took place in the St Monica's Home,

Bristol where he lives. Bill finished up in a lovely new apartment, which has decking outside where he can look out over the countryside. Still active, he features in many a hard-fought cro-

quet match and plays the home's fine Willis organ. His niece tells us he values every Choir newsletter he receives. We send Bill our warmest greetings.

Girls Choir Concert

The Girls Choir, together with the Gentlemen of the Choir performed their first concert in St. Bartholomew's Church on Sunday 13th June. The Concert, aptly titled "Magnificat" allowed the appreciative audience to experience first hand the extent of the repertoire which the Girls have mastered in their first year. We asked Derek Maybury, who regularly attends our concerts and Evensongs where the girls have been singing, to let us have his brief report of this concert as a musician in the audience. Here is what he said:

St Bartholomew's Girls Choir together with the gentlemen of the choir gave a concert on Sunday June 13th in the church. The choice of music was interesting and required many changes of style and mood. The girls sang with great care and enthusiasm, both words and tonal

quality being of the highest order. A lovely summers evening and excellent music was appreciated by all present.

The concert was fol-

lowed by a reception in the Church grounds. The evening ended with a few words from Bobby Barden, who paid tribute to all the work that Malcolm Wisener had achieved over the year. Malcolm Wisener thanked all who contributed to making the Girls Choir a success, in particular, their parents who provided so much encouragement



Girls Choir Cantoris Side (Photo: AH)

lowed by a reception in the Church grounds. The evening ended with a few words from Bobby Barden, who paid tribute to all the work that Malcolm Wisener had

and support throughout the year. He made a special point of thanking Andrew Mackriell, who accompanied the concert and the many evensongs through the year.

Guild of Organists and Choristers

The newly formed Irish Guild of Organists and Choristers held their inaugural meeting in St Bartholomew's on July 21st,

following which they sang evensong. The group is based on the medieval concept of the Guild, and Robin Heather of our choir is a leading fig-

ure in this new body. Their web site may be viewed at http://www.geocities.com/irish_guild/.

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

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

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

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