



St Bartholomew's Choir

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

November 2004

Welcome to New Vicar

A large congregation gathered at St Bartholomew's Church for the Solemn Eucharist of All Saints on Sunday 31st October. Many came to witness history as the twelfth Vicar of our parish began his ministry amongst us. As the hour of 11:30 approached, the Choir gathered in silence at the back of the Church eagerly awaiting the chimes on the Church Clock to strike, the organ sounded out, and the Choir processed singing the hymn "Who are these like stars appearing?"

Fr. Michael in his first sermon thanked the parishioners for the warm welcome that he received at his institution service. He advised us that his move to our Parish was still ongoing, and that he has yet to find his feet

and refer to the Vicarage as "Home". He also made reference to a house in France where he goes to find peace

as a way forward for the common good, and although we have many traditions as a parish, we must be prepared to



Michael with Archbishop John Neill and the Churchwardens
(Photograph: Richard Bannister)

and to gather his thoughts. He asked us to look to the future, and to embrace change

move on, rather than remaining fixed in our "old ways".

Concert of Carols and Festive Readings

The annual concert with Alan Stanford takes place this year on Sunday December 12th at 7:00 pm. The church is invariably filled to capacity, so if you want a good seat you should arrive early. The concert will be followed

by a reception with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in the Order of Malta Hall next door. We are acknowledging this generosity by donating half the concert proceeds to the Order of Malta, Holy Family Hospital, Bethle-

hem; the other half will go to our Organ Fund. Tickets will be available shortly for €10 (€5 concessions).

As ever, we are indebted to Alan Stanford who slots us into his very busy Christmas schedule each year.

Wedding in Kilkenny

The choir sang at the wedding for the Sullivan and Koste families on October 16th in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny. The family, the cler-

cious lunch in Langton's. The wedding itself began at 3:30 and featured three pieces from the choir; two from our regular repertoire (Cantique de Jean

the Choir CD. The following is an extract from the note:

Just a note to thank you, your choir, Mr. Proud and Mr. Wisener. I was a guest at a wedding in Kilkenny last week for Kathryn and Neal Sullivan. I must say on behalf of the hundreds of guests and myself, the music was absolutely divine. I overheard many people saying how astounding it was to hear different languages enunciated so well. Others were charmed by the young people who have dedicated themselves to such an extraordinary ministry. I for one was most impressed by the spirit of love and peace that was ushered in by your music. It truly set the stage for a perfect wedding.

John Gibson Berry

No doubt a few copies of the new choir CD will be going to the United States when it is available.

RB



Colm and Brian demonstrating their table manners!

(Photograph: Tony Conroy)

gy, and the majority of the guests, had travelled to Ireland from Colorado and New Jersey in the United States.

Leaving St Bartholomew's at 9:30 am in the morning, we had a rehearsal in the Cathedral followed by a deli-

Racine and Ubi Caritas), and one we had learnt specifically on request from the couple; the Bridal March (Wagner).

One of the wedding guests sent an e-mail to the writer a few days after the event, requesting a copy of

Cassocks and Surplices

We have three complete sets of Choir Robes: for the Boys; the Men, and the Girls - and they have to be maintained. Unfortunately, they don't automatically shorten or length-

en themselves, or repair and stitch on their own buttons. We would like to thank both Anne Cazzini and Marlyn Hilliard, who for many years now have attended to these matters.

AIB Choral

Former chorister, Bruce Middleton, is a member of the AIB Choral Society, which will be performing in the church on Tuesday December 14th at 8:00 pm.

Lunchtime Organ Recitals

The inaugural series of recitals on our newly rebuilt Organ took place during the month of October.

I was asked to turn pages for David Bremner, the first recitalist, on October 7th. Some of the music being performed, in particular "Largo Agitato", by David himself, was sufficiently difficult that it was quite a challenge to follow the score. It is not easy to cope with a page turn every ten seconds on a large pile of photocopied sheets which are not joined in any fashion.

David Adams' performance the following week was attended by a compliment of his students from DIT, who were there to criticise the performance. It is highly improb-

able that they found anything at all to complain about. This was the first time the new Bombarde section of the Organ (previously referred to as the Trumpet Fanfare) has been used in a public performance, and from sitting in the audience I can say with conviction that the investment has been well worthwhile.

Our assistant organist, Eoghan Ward, demonstrated the huge variety of different stops on the organ in his performance on October 21st; a rare opportunity to hear the full range of what the organ is capable of in one performance. His finale, the Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV 565 (Bach) was appreciated by all. Much to my amusement, I

discovered that Eoghan's sister had been a teacher (of Irish, no less) in my old school; I'd never made the connection.

The final recital, given by Malcolm Wisener, featured a mixture of works, some of which he has used as Organ voluntaries after the Sunday services, and others which have not been used in St Bartholomew's before.

The writer has never been much of a fan of instrument recitals, but was nonetheless blown away by the calibre of the performances. Of particular note, all of the recitals had at least three dozen people in attendance. It is hoped that further performances will be organised in the new year.

RB

Tim Thurston

Tim Thurston, of our Bass line, has spent the last six weeks going through the trying time of having a new hip joint installed.

We were delighted to see him back in church, both at Malcolm's Organ Recital and at the Solemn Eucharist on All Saints Sunday. He aims to return to the choir stalls at the start of Advent.

The Glory of Christmas

The boys have once again been invited to take part in the Raymond Gubbay Ltd "Glory of Christmas" concerts in the National Concert Hall. There are three performances this year, at 8:00 pm on Wednesday 22nd December and at 3:15 pm and 8:00 pm on Thursday 23rd December.

The fees we earn will go towards the choir's trip to Wells Cathedral in 2005.

We do not receive complimentary tickets, so if you wish to attend, please contact the NCH Box Office directly on 01-4170000, or via their website, <http://www.nch.ie/>. Tickets cost from €18 to €38.

New Choirboys Admitted

Six new choirboys (Robert Cooke, William Doyle, Samuel Killeen, Hugo Temperley, Patrick Temperley, and Daniel Tatlow-Devally) were admitted to the choir at Evensong on Sunday November 7th. The music sung was Dyson in D, with the Clucas responses and the anthem "Blessed City Heavenly Salem" by Bairstow.

At the conclusion of

the service, the Vicar told the boys that when they were elderly and horizontally challenged, they might think of all the sermons they had heard and remember none of them (!), but that the beautiful music they sing would stay with them always.

A reception for the parents and boys took place in the Parish Room afterwards.

Ian Ellis

Ian Ellis, for many years a member of the Tenor line, has recently graduated from the London School of Economics with an M.Sc in Analysis, Design and Management of Information Systems. He received a distinction (over 70%) on his exams and masters thesis.

The thesis in question looked at a failed IT project in the Irish League of Credit Unions. Although the class

was composed of 130 people from 38 different countries (there were only two other Irish candidates), just eight people were awarded distinctions. Ian is hoping to publish his thesis in the near future.

He is now working as an associate in Technology Business Development for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter's London office, after working as an intern for them over the summer.

From the Parish

The Vicar has asked that the Cross be on the High Altar during the Solemn Eucharist, a sight to gladden the heart of Canon Simpson whose dream that was – but to remain throughout the week on the stand as a witness both to history and to ingenuity.

He would also like to hear from anyone exploring the possibility of confirmation.

Contact details may be found below.

Brian Draper

Brian Draper, a member of our choir from 1940 to 1945, recently passed away at his home in Toronto. May he rest in peace.

Choirmaster:

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Secretary:

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Assistant Secretary (w/Newsletter):

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Treasurer:

Robert Hilliard, 21 Crannagh Road, D14. Tel 01-4908676; roberthilliard@yahoo.com.

Vicar:

Michael Thompson, 12 Merlyn Road, Donnybrook, D4. Tel 01-2694813; vicar@stbartholomews.ie.