

St Bartholomew's Choir

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

January 2005

Girls' Choir

Upcoming Events

The Girls' Choir will be singing an Epiphany Carol Service on Sunday, 23rd January at 7:00pm.

They will also be singing a Solemn Eucharist for Candlemas Eve on Tuesday, 1st February at 8:00pm. The setting will be *Sumsion* in F, and the anthem will be *Nunc Dimittis* (Dyson).

Please come along to support them if you can.

Crib Figures

A very beautiful set of crib figures was presented to the parish by the Sisters at St Mary's Convent. The Vicar has positioned them in the North Transept.

Near these figures, one can now light a candle. This seems particularly relevant in light of recent events in Asia, when people can find themselves lost for words.

Information about this facility has been placed on the Clyde Road gate notice board.

Recent Concerts

The annual Concert of Carols and Festive Readings with Alan Stanford took place in a full church on Sunday, December 12th. We are very grateful, as always, to Alan Stanford for giving so generously of his time.

There were three new additions to the music this year: The Wexford Carol, The Cherry Tree Carol, and Hymne à la Vierge.

A cheque for half of the proceeds, €1500, was presented to the Chancellor of the Order of Malta, Mr Kevin Cunnane KM, for the Order's Bethlehem Hos-

pital Project. The balance went towards diminishing the outstanding account for the completed organ restoration.

Ten days later, the Boys took part in the Glory of Christmas concerts at the National Concert Hall. The writer managed to secure a cancelled ticket for one of these concerts and overheard a group of people talking about their favourite part of the concert, and - yes - it was when the boys were singing on their own. Well done to all concerned, and special thanks to those who assisted behind the scenes.

Christmas Services

The Girls' Choir sang with the Gentlemen at the Midnight Mass this year, the first time in a number of years that this service has not been Men's Voices only. The service setting of *Sumsion* in F had been learnt by the girls especially for the occasion. Later on Christmas morning, despite hints of a white Christmas outside, another

large congregation assembled for the Solemn Eucharist, sung by the full choir with setting of Schubert in G. The Vicar's admission of his acute dislike of Bing Crosby received only a marginally smaller cheer than a separate announcement that he had hidden Gold and Silver covered chocolate coins throughout the Church for all to enjoy.

Annual Karting Challenge

Some of the younger gentlemen and two of the Head Boys paid a visit to Kylemore Karting on Monday, January 3rd.

For the fourth year in succession the time sheet was topped by Stephen Kerr. For a change, however, the Kerr family didn't take all three steps on the podium, with Graham back in third and David all the way in seventh. The writer anticipates that a certain amount of off-season practising will take place over the next year to ensure the return of the status quo.

Notwithstanding the change in the top order, the overall lap times have seen a significant reduction this year. The winning average last year was 28.64 seconds, nearly a full second slower than what was achieved this year.

An honourable men-

tion should go to Sebastian, who managed to knock eight seconds off his best lap time

was driving a smaller kart than the rest of us yet still managed an impressive time.



The entire group, exhausted...
(Photograph: Colin Rogan)

from last year. He would have done even better were it not for an unfortunate encounter with a tyre barrier. Emmet

Special thanks are due once again to Bobby Barden for both organising and funding this event.

Name	Average	Best	Speed	Laps	2004
Stephen	27.72	26.40	49	32	1
Richard	28.40	27.20	48	31	5
Graham	28.63	27.20	48	31	2
Andrew	29.90	28.16	46	28	6
Ian	30.42	28.32	45	28	9
Killian	31.09	29.60	44	28	7
David	31.37	28.00	44	27	3
Emmet	41.79	36.00	33	21	n/a
Sebastian	48.30	35.04	28	17	11

Overall Karting Times 2005

Web Site Update

Two new Organ works were added to the music download section on the Parish Web Site on Christmas Eve. They are "Sportive Fauns" by Antalfy-Zsiross, and "Concerto in A minor, 3rd movement" by Bach. Both are performed by David Adams.

Bowling

A large group of the boy choristers descended on the Leisureplex in Stillorgan after the Solemn Eucharist on Sunday, November 21st, for some bowling, followed by a gourmet meal (they wish!).

This outing is always a good opportunity for the boys to get to know one another, especially the new boys. The competition was fierce, and there were several spectacular strikes and spares on each of the four lanes. After an hour of healthy exercise, it was time to tuck in to the not so healthy chips, burgers, nuggets and Coke.

The time flew by, and before we knew it, parents started arriving to bring the

boys home. Sincere thanks are due to the various parents

to Mr Wisener for organising this event. Maybe he will



Sebastian demonstrating his prowess at air hockey
(Photograph: Richard Bannister)

(and the Vicar) who provided transportation, and, as always,

take part himself next year?
Niamh Harty



Organised Chaos
(Photograph: Richard Bannister)

Barden Bags

The traditional Christmas Sacks provided for the choir boys every year were once again prepared by Bobby Barden, who with Malcolm Wisener carried the costs.

Additional items were provided for this year's mix by Ann Thurston, Ian Meldon, James Kelly, and Richard Bannister.

In Memoriam

Phyllis Craig, the widow of former Vicar Robert Norman Sydney Craig (1951-1957) passed away in New Hampshire, USA on October 30th at the age of 88.

Betty Reeves, the wife of former chorister George Reeves, passed away unexpectedly on the 29th of December. Betty was a founder member of the Green Party, and also secretary and founder member of the Vegetarian Society of Ireland. We extend our sympathies to George and his family, and also to Valerie Houlden, one of her sisters.

Ian Lewis died towards the end of November. During a distinguished international cricketing career he captained Ireland on several occasions. Ian was a choirboy in St Bartholomew's from 1945 to 1951. Our sympathies to the family.

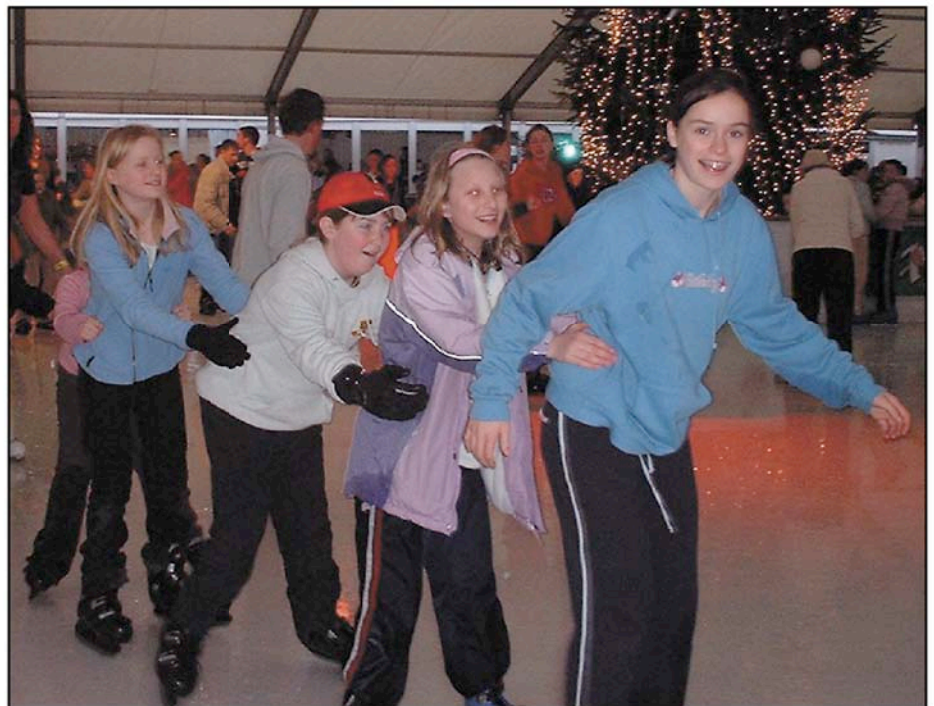
RWB

Ice Skating

Thirteen of the girl choristers went ice skating in the RDS on Thursday, January 6th, and had a wonderful time. Some girls had been ice skating before, and were immediately able to skate around in the centre of the rink. Others were a bit more cautious at the start, but soon were skating

like professionals! The mild weather meant that there was a bit of water on the ice, so a fall meant a bit of a drenching. Of the very many wet people on the rink, hardly any were St Barts' girls! Thank you to Mr Wisener for organising this social event for the girls.

Niamh Harty



Ice Skating
(Photograph: Niamh Harty)

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