



St Bartholomew's Choir

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

February 2005

Christ Church Leeson Park

News that our sister church is due to close on Ascension Day came as a shock to most. It was no secret that their numbers had been dwindling over the past few years, but there were hopes that the inevitable closure might not happen for another year or so.

Plans are being explored by the Archbishop, the RCB Officers, our Vicar and representatives of both the Leeson Park vestry and our own vestry. It is believed that the building will continue to be a place of worship but it is likely that this will not be within the Church of Ireland.

St Bartholomew's will be extending a warm welcome to the Leeson Park worshippers to join us, and the parish will continue to be known as St Bartholomews with Christ Church, Leeson Park.

Table Quiz / Auction

In order to raise funds for last year's trip to Paris, a Table Quiz / Auction was organised. The evening was a great success, raising just under €4000. Since no good deed ever goes unpunished, the powers that be decreed that the event should take place again before Easter.

The quiz will be held in Merrion Cricket Club on Wednesday 9th March. Doors open at 8:00 pm, with the quiz beginning at 8:30 pm (immediately after choir practice). Parking is available on site.

It goes without saying that we need as many tables as possible at this quiz to maximise the success of the occasion. Up to four adults may share a table, which are available for €20. Pre-booking would be appreciated to give an idea of numbers, though tables will also be available on the night. You can pre-book by contacting any of the people involved; Richard Bannister, Tony Conroy, Niamh Harty, Robin Heather, or the parish administrator Fergus McCullough (01-6688522). Alternatively, you can send an e-mail to quiz@stbartholomews.ie.

Most of the preparations are well in hand. However, we are currently looking for donated items: large items for the auction; small items for the raffle; and prizes for the winning teams. Some of those who sponsored items last year have come on board again, but more would be very welcome. If you can help, please contact any of the people listed above.

Just to keep things interesting, two small hints are being provided here to give an advantage to those who have read this far. Students of geography may gain a small advantage from familiarity with the Island of Sodor. Those who study comedy might do well to research the name of the First Minister of Wales.

Following widespread indignation last year, the writer promises not to ask for a dictionary definition of a seventeen letter word again. He nevertheless maintains that the question was a fair one, especially since one of the choir boys answered it correctly!

But enough of this rambling. See you there!

Last heard in 1705

Former chorister, Nicholas McMurry, edited a work by Venetian Composer, Marc Antonio Ziani, when working under Dr Paul Everett in UCC. The score, a Sepolcri, was first performed on Good Friday in the year 1705. It will get what may well be its second performance on Wednesday of Holy Week in the Catholic Cathedral in Cardiff. Sepolcri were similar to Oratorios, but did not take their texts from the Bible. After 1705 they became unfashionable and were most likely never performed again.

Nicholas, who is currently Alto Lay Clerk in Ely Cathedral, will be returning to Ireland to sing David in Handel's oratorio, *Saul*, with the East Cork Choral Society. This takes place in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork on Saturday April 16th.

Robert Hilliard

Robert arrived at Red Mountain, Vancouver on January 7th, and since then has been skiing, skiing and skiing. This is, we're told, what one has to do to qualify as a Ski Instructor. His regular e-mail reports tell of his love for powder snow and how he is building up his fitness. Earlier he suggested that he couldn't wait for his days off, but no longer.

He has been in action for a full ten days now without a break and is just commencing some cross-country work which will be very taxing. For his relaxation there is ice hockey, the cinema and - typical Robert - as much food as he can eat.

Everyone in the choir looks forward to welcoming him home again on Good Friday, and for the trip to Wells.

What makes comedy work?

Alan Fletcher travelled to England recently to work with Terry Jones (of Monty Python fame) on the making of three programmes under the title of "Kington's Anatomy of Comedy", to be transmitted on BBC4 in March. The programmes will explore the history of Egyptian jokes up to the present day.

Some will remember

Alan giving the 1999 Lord Mayor's Annual Lecture in the Mansion House on the subject of Street Entertainment in Medieval and Renaissance Dublin.

The provisional broadcast dates are March 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Interested readers should confirm these dates (and the time of broadcast) in early March.

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