



St Bartholomew's News

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

October 2005

Dedication Festival

On Sunday 2nd October, we celebrated our Dedication Festival at the 11:00 Solemn Eucharist. The choir led the worship with *Schubert* in G, copies of which were donated by Fr John McKay as a parting gift to the choir when he moved on from St Bartholomew's Church.

At a reception following the Eucharist, we paid tribute to Bernard and Anita Woods, and offered our thanks to Bernard for all his help and support through two interregnum periods. The Vicar presented a token of gratitude on

behalf of the Parishioners and Select Vestry. Bernard made a brief address, which is reproduced in full on page three of this newsletter.

We also said farewell to Father Kevin Moroney, who is moving to Philadelphia to continue his ministry.

At Evensong, we remembered past choristers and members of the congregation in our prayers. The service setting of *Sunsion* in G was followed by the motet *I was Glad* (*Parry*).

Robin Heather

Handing Over

I have decided to step down as Choir Secretary after rather a long time. I am however very pleased to say that Richard Bannister has agreed to become the new secretary, and Robin Heather will take on a new role of Events/PR. What with concerts and regular trips this was a position that really needed to be filled, and as it was Robin was already covering most of this activity.

Bobby Barden

91.5 and still going strong!

Among those who attended the Dedication Festival even-song was Derick Leach, who

sang as a choirboy from October 1925 to June 1930. A few of the choirboys found it difficult to understand Bobby Barden's claim to have sung with Derick's father, but it was the truth; a photograph has been unearthed!

Bobby was an eleven year old, and Derick's father, Fred Leach was a wonderful tenor in his early

sixties who came over to St Bartholomews from Bristol. (*Bobby has now taken on the role of Fred Leach, although we understand that Bobby will be celebrating his fiftieth birthday (again!) later this year - Ed*).

Fred was an uncle of film star Cary Grant, which makes Derick a first cousin of the film star. Fred Leach is remembered with great affection.

Bobby Barden



Bobby Barden and Fred Leach, c. 1945

John Paterson, Priest

It seemed incredible to those who saw John Paterson at the Patronal Festival Eucharist and Party that he should so soon be found among our friends in closer union with Our Lord. He and Pat were in such evident good



John Paterson

form that it is easy to forget the determined spirit of the one and the sacrificial care of the other which meant that John lived out the gift of this life to the fullest and to the end. We rejoice that he found such a companion at the crown of his earthly life. His many gifts enriched our parishes, cathedrals and the Irish and international ecclesiasti-

cal scene. We can only extend our profound sympathy to Pat, to his step-children, family and friends; our thanks to Almighty God for his life and gifts; and assert our continued communion with him at the altar and in prayer. 'Let all creation join in one'. Requiescat in pacem.

Michael Thompson

Knights of Malta

We have long enjoyed the friendliest of relations with the Knights of Malta who are based in the former parsonage house along from the Church. We have enjoyed frequent use of their Hall and now are delighted to be able to offer them the use of our Church for their Liturgies from time

to time throughout the year. After discussion the Vestry voted unanimously to ask the Church Wardens to request the canonical permissions from the Archbishop. His Grace has complied. Orate ad invincem.

Michael Thompson

Patronal Festival

We were blessed with the presence of many friends at the Solemn Eucharist and honoured by the attendance of the Archbishop and Mrs Neill. Newly returned from their summer break a slightly reduced choir proved themselves more than equal to the claims of the Haydn Little Organ Mass. Canon Forward, Precentor of Liverpool reminded us in a most engaging

way that the Deposit of Faith and the Christian Tradition are to be lived and handed on and not hijacked or conserved. Father Godfrey of the Romanian Orthodox Parish of the Holy Cross at Christ Church Leeson Park was robed and in quire. A happy party in the churchyard concluded the celebrations for our saint.

Michael Thompson

Frank Thomas

It is sad to record the passing of Frank, who died Tuesday August 23rd. Joining the choir in August 1929 under William Henry Vipond Barry he had the distinction of singing under three different organists and choirmasters; WH Vipond Barry, Edward S Fry and Alfred S Burrows. He left in 1953.

Even after departing, he retained his love for St Bartholomew's Choir, and contributed generously as a Friend of the Choir right up to and including this year. North Strand Church was full to capacity for his funeral.

Bobby Barden

Departure of Bernard Woods

The following is the full text of the address made by Bernard Woods following the Eucharist on Sunday 2nd October.

As I thought about what I could say in this undeserved situation, I came across a short prayer that helps me to put some meaning into your most thoughtful and generous attitude towards 'the Woods'.



Bernard Woods

'I thank you, Lord, for knowing me better than I know myself, and letting me know myself better than others know me. Make me, I pray, better, and forgive me for what they do not know.'

The experience of being among you has been so joyful that adequate words are difficult to find. Our joyful thoughts go back to Damien Robinson, who delivered to our home some literature about St. Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road. His encouragement endured. May he enjoy his eternal reward in heaven; together with all those other parishioners who became our friends and who are now there, too.

To our friend since early years, Father Kenneth Reeves,

a priest of the Church of England, who has always given us his loving and prayerful support. Ken came with me to my first Holy Eucharist here.

To Father John McKay, who welcomed us into the Parish, and became our pastor; so encouraging and supportive in all things spiritual. To Father William Ritchie, who became our pastor the entire of his ministry at St. Bartholomew's and Christ Church, Leeson Park. Caring and sharing are words that come easily to mind! To Father Michael Thompson, who accepted us from our first meeting at the very beginning of his ministry here. The generosity of his liturgical sharing with the unworthy has been unforgettable.

To Malcolm, the Organists, the gentlemen, boys and girls of the Choirs, (with apologies for me being out of tune - not so with Anita, who has a beautiful voice);

To the members of the Select Vestry, past and present; and to you all, dear friends, too numerous to mention (and to expect to hold your attention today), we offer our warmest thoughts and thanks for such wonderful experiences among you over the past eleven or so years. Anita and I ask for your continued

prayers, for which we offer our most grateful thanks.

In conclusion, to the relief of all who have endured me on previous occasions, I would like to say what is already in all our hearts and minds:

'Let us sow everywhere the good seed, and whether we reap the harvest, or some other hand gather it, it will make no difference; sower and reaper shall rejoice together.'

May God richly bless you all for your loving friendship.

Bernard Woods

Icons

Two Icons, one of Our Lord and one of Our Lady, generous gifts from the Romanian Orthodox community, stand as a testimony to our growing co-operation, our unity in Christ and our communion with the saints living and departed. The work of a Romanian icon painter they are also welcome representations in our church of that vigorous spirituality brought to our shores by so many Christians from overseas.

Michael Thompson

Concert by the Choir of King's College London

We have to thank Fr. Michael's London connections for a most enjoyable choral concert given by the choir of King's College London in St Bartholomew's on a lovely summer's evening in July.



Outside the Parish Room before the concert

I'd known of this choir through a recording of music of Alonso Lobo, a late 16th century Spanish composer who worked in Seville Cathedral, (whose mass setting they sang at the Eucharist the fol-

lowing morning). The choir's director, David Trendell, has a particular feeling for this repertoire and, following two works by William Byrd, the choir sang two substantial motets by Sebastian de Vivanco - who also served in Seville.

I wasn't surprised to hear that a majority of the choir members were reading music - there was a most musical sense to the performances and the quality of the voices was particularly beautiful and well-blended, especially in the soprano and tenor ranks - (Bobby Barden agreed that we should kidnap one particularly strong yet sweet-toned tenor). Any slight weakness in alto and bass lines

- endemic I think in student choirs - mattered much less in three charming works by Peter Cornelius which ended the first half - he's best renowned for his Epiphany carol, the Three Kings - and in a really lovely reading of the gorgeous Rheinberger Cantus Missae which formed the second half. Again this was a very musical performance - these young singers sang the lovely arching phrases most beautifully.

The King's College concert was a most enjoyable foretaste of more choral delights in Ireland this summer - and, I hope, more concerts in our lovely acoustic.

Perhaps in the future visitors might be asked to include the organ more in the programme.

Tim Thurston

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About

St Bartholomew's News is edited and typeset by Richard Bannister. Submissions for future issues and all enquiries about advertising should be sent to the address on the left. The newsletter is available by post for a nominal charge; for further details, contact the Parish Administrator.

A full schedule of services and events is available on the diary page of the parish web site, located at <http://www.stbartholomews.ie/services.htm>.