



St Bartholomew's News

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

February 2006

Parish Dinner

As most will already be aware, the Church building is in need of some major structural work

Amos originally voiced the idea of doing a fund raising dinner for St Bartholomew's in the run up to Christmas. When asked why, the reply was simple and humbling; "I want to give something back". Indeed, this sentiment is food for thought (no pun intended) for all concerned.

Father John McKay and his wife Rhona among the many friends and guests who joined regular parishioners.

Senator Mary Henry spoke for all present in praising those who had made the event so successful. Brian Molloy (of Christ Church Leeson Park), Charlie Smith and the Church Wardens all spoke in thanks.

I know I speak for all



over the next few years. To that end, significant amounts of fund raising will be necessary. The first event of many was a hugely successful dinner, which took place in the Knights of Malta Hall on Thursday, 16th February.

The event was the brain child of our superb chef-parishioner Amos McGrath.

The detail of the preparatory work can be clearly seen in the sculpted model of a choir, reproduced below, and a very detailed (and entirely true to life) replica of our Vicar!

Generous sponsorship of the wine, the excellent



and free service provided by the waiting staff, the superb food, and the musical entertainment all went to make for an over subscribed and delightful evening.

It was a particular pleasure to see former Vicar,

involved in the venture when I say that all chores and tasks were undertaken with a great sense of achievement and indeed enjoyment. A sincere thank you to everyone, but in particular to Amos for making this event a reality.

Kaye Marshall



Choir CD Update

The long overdue second choir CD is finally nearing completion. Andrew Mackriell has been working very hard with Darby Carroll, a sound engineer, to mix the original takes. In the last fortnight the first full edit has been completed and given to Malcolm Wisener for approval and comments.

When pressed on a release date, Andrew remarked "In a perfect world I would certainly expect it to be ready by Easter, but I can't anticipate what delays might arise in the schedule."

Richard Bannister

Changing Faces

Seven new choristers were welcomed into the choir at Evensong on Sunday, 5th February. They are Fergal Cooke, Adam Dargan, Edgar Henihan, Johnny Kehoe-Roche, Luke Kehoe-Roche, Liam Newman, and Douglas Smith. In the back row, James Kelly has recently stepped down from the Bass line citing personal reasons. He has been replaced by John King, who has been a regular attendee on Sundays for some time now.

Richard Bannister

Table Quiz and Auction

The now annual table quiz and auction, used to raise funds for the choir, will take place on Wednesday, 8th March in Merrion Cricket Club, starting promptly at 8:30pm. Tables cost €40, and the organisers would appreciate pre-booking. Please speak to Richard Bannister, Robin Heather, Niamh Harty, or to our parish administrator, on 01-6688522. Along similar lines, if you have

any raffle prizes or auction items available they would be very much appreciated. One of the questions asked on the night may or may not be to identify a nine letter word in the English language with just one syllable. At the time of printing, one of our choristers has been pondering this very question for a week, so advance preparation is suggested!

Richard Bannister

Letter from America

Greetings from the USA! I hope you're all well. Remember me? I'm the one who does all the choir money and sings like a girl (allegedly).

You may or may not know that I am currently living in Vermont for the winter and working as a ski instructor. I'm having a fantastic time, I really enjoy teaching skiing and I've made loads of great new friends over here. I've had two very minor accidents - I had a tooth chipped by an "unbalanced" (in more ways than one) lady's ski pole, and I got very slight whiplash from quite a dramatic tumble - but it's all

under control now (unlike the aforementioned lady)!

I was sorry to miss Christmas at St Bartholomew's, but I'm afraid these things just have to be done! I'll be back in time for Holy Week, Easter and the trip to London... That is, assuming I can still sing! I haven't really let out a note of note since the beginning of December; there was a karaoke night a few weeks ago but they didn't have "The Record of John" so I gave it a miss. In the meantime I'll be working and skiing away here and hopefully making a bit of a roadtrip before I come home.

Robert Hilliard

Easter Trip Update

Preparations for the choir trip to London in Easter Week, in conjunction with the choir of St Patrick's Cathedral, are coming along nicely. The choirs have performed together on occasion in both St. Patrick's Cathedral and in St. Bartholomew's Church, but this will be the first time that they will tour another country together. Whilst in London, the choirs will unite for three important engagements, the first, a Concert in the Church of St. Lawrence, Jewry on Wednesday, 19th April at 1:00pm. The proceeds from this Concert will be donated to the Armagh Cathedral Choir Fund Appeal. The programme will include a piece with a specific Armagh

connection, Charles Wood's rousing anthem "O thou the central Orb". Wood was born in Armagh, where his father was a Vicar Choral in the Cathedral. The main choral work in the programme will be William Byrd's setting of the Mass for five voices, and there will be organ interludes played on the new Klais organ.

The two choirs move south of the River Thames on Thursday, 20th April to sing Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral at 5:00pm. The music for this service will include the Second Service by William Byrd, and the motet "Cantique de Jean Racine" by Gabriel Fauré.

On Saturday, 22nd April the venue is the magnif-

icent Westminster Abbey. The choirs will sing Choral Evensong at 3:00pm. The service setting of Dyson in D, and the motet "Blessed be the God and Father" by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, will be sung by the united choir of some 30 boy choristers and 20 gentlemen.

In advance of the trip, the two choirs will combine for an evensong in St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, 12th March at 3:15pm. The service setting on this occasion will be as for the Southwark Evensong; Second Service by William Byrd and the motet "Cantique de Jean Racine" by Gabriel Fauré.

Robin Heather

Ash Wednesday Broadcast

The girls' choir has been asked to sing the Ash Wednesday service for RTE. It has been decided to pre-record the service, and this will take place on Saturday, 25th February at 3:00pm. The broadcast will go out at 8:00pm on Wednesday 1st March on Radio One (MW 567 and LW 252 only).

Richard Bannister

Bag Packing

All willing helpers would be much appreciated at Tesco Nutgrove on Saturday, April 8th, when members of the choir will be packing bags to raise money for the upcoming trip. Various shifts are available between 10:00am and 6:00pm; volunteers should contact Niamh Harty on 087 235 2927.

Richard Bannister

Dancing?

About 40 years ago a retired character actor, Desmond O'Neill (stage name Desmond Belshaw) arrived in our midst. He proceeded to introduce Morris Dancing classes for parishioners. Following a number of well-attended sessions the whole business ran out of steam. Pity, for we might have boasted a dancing team in addition to our fine choirs!

Bobby Barden

Funderland Trips

Starflyer was “fun but cold”, Wild Mouse was “scary and fun”, and Extreme was “so cool, I thought I was going to get sick!” These were some of the comments from the



members of the Girls' Choir when they visited Funderland in January. Thanks to a large number of free tickets arranged by Richard Bannister, the girls sampled lots of rides and seemed to like the scariest rides the best. Some

of the accompanying parents (especially me) were too terrified to even watch them.

And, as if that was not enough, Richard then managed to source one hundred more free ride tickets, which the Boys' Choir made the most of at Funderland a couple of days later. Yet again the children scared the parents by becoming complete dare devils – the faster the ride, the more they were

turned around and around and upside-down, the better.

Huge thanks to Richard for making these trips possible – all choir members are hoping it might be repeated again next year.

Niamh Harty



Address Book

Vicar: Michael Thompson (vicar@stbartholomews.ie)

12 Merlyn Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel 01-2694813.

Parish Administrator: Fergus McCullough (fergus@stbartholomews.ie)

Office hours are 10:30-3:30, Wednesday to Friday. Tel 01-6688522.

Organist and Choirmaster: Malcolm Wisener GRSM, FTCL, ARCO

122 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Tel 01-6683237.

Choir Secretary: Richard Bannister (choir.secretary@stbartholomews.ie)

186 Pembroke Square, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel: 076-6021712.

Choir Treasurer: Robert Hilliard (choir.treasurer@stbartholomews.ie)

21 Crannagh Road, Dublin 14. Tel 01-4908676.

Choir Events: Robin Heather (choir.events@stbartholomews.ie)

8 Seapoint, Dunbur Lower, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow. Tel 0404-62378.

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>.