

Choir Llandaff Trip Update

Preparations are well in hand for the upcoming choir trip to Llandaff Cathedral.

The trip will start in the early hours of Tuesday 10th April, when we will meet at St Bartholomew's at the wonderful hour of 5:30am. It is a two hour drive to Rosslare, from where we will board the MV Stena Europe to Fishguard. We arrive in Wales in time for Lunch and another two hour drive to the Holiday Inn in Cardiff, which is about two miles from Llandaff Cathedral.

The work begins in earnest on Wednesday morning

with the first morning rehearsal, and preparation for Choral Evensong, which takes place at 5:30pm. The choir will sing evensong from Wednesday to Saturday.

On Sunday, we lead the worship at the two main services; Sung Eucharist at 11:00, and Choral Evensong at 3:30. The later time for evensong makes it impossible to catch a return ferry afterwards, so we will spend a final night in Cardiff, returning on the 2:30pm sailing to Rosslare on Monday 16th. Choristers will be brought home, with expected arrival in Dublin

around 8:00pm traffic permitting.

The yearly trips have always included some elements of fun for the choristers, and this year is no exception. There will be a trip to a theme park as well as other attractions in the general area of Cardiff.

The customary "driver pack" containing boat tickets, suggested AA route and other items of note is currently a "work in progress" and I will finalise all this once tickets have been issued by Stena Line.

Robin Heather

Funderland Trips

The choristers were brought to Funderland in the first week of January. This year's show had a particularly good selection of attractions, with plenty of things to do for the timid and the thrill seeker alike.

First to visit were the girls, who were lucky enough to visit on a quiet evening. Those who wanted to had time to ride every ride in the place, and quite a few did. Others preferred to marathon on the *Waltzer*, with one group (presumably with

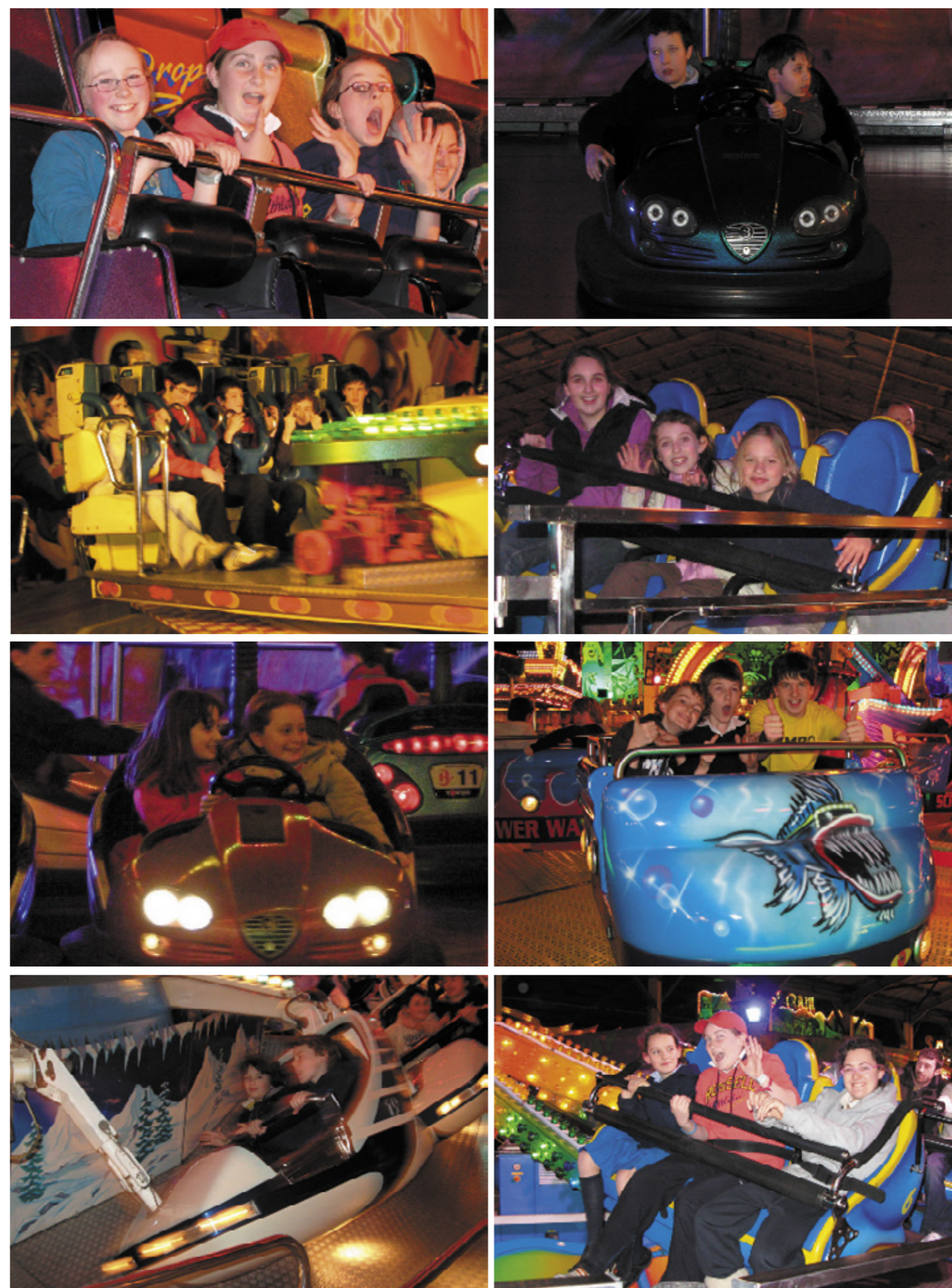
kevlar-reinforced stomachs) managing four consecutive rides!

High winds closed down the outdoor roller coaster for the boys' visit, but there were more than enough indoor attractions to keep people going. The favourite this year was clearly the *Extreme*, a powerful spin ride that definitely lives up to its name.

There were a number of spare ride tickets remaining following the boys' visit. Rather than let them go to

waste, a hardy few decided to expend as many as possible on the *Free Fall*, a fifty metre drop ride imported from Germany. The writer did his utmost to encourage all parents present to participate, but was largely unsuccessful. There was one notable exception, however; choir parent and renowned organist Mr David Adams decided to experience things first hand, and by all accounts enjoyed himself. Who will be first to volunteer next year?

Richard Bannister



The choristers making the most of Funderland. [Photos: Richard Bannister, Paolo Cordone]

Kenya Visit

Bobby Barden recently took a weekend off choir to visit his 97-year-old cousin Loreto Sister Hyacinth in Nairobi.

He tells us this was a very moving few days visiting the wonderful work which the Loreto community engage in. This includes their Loreto College at Msongari, their spiritual seminars at the Mary Ward Centre, and the caring for over 100 HIV Positive children at the Diagnostic Centre at Nyumbani.

Bobby has promised to do a report on his visit which I will put up on the parish web site in due course. Speaking of the parish web site, if anyone else is willing to contribute to it please speak to me.

Richard Bannister

Parish Pump (continued from front)

and the residents of St Mary's and the Molyneux. Although he will no longer be attached here and will have a new placement in the near future we very much hope that he will retain his links with us.

To the great pleasure of us all Jason McCann has fully returned to the parishes as our Reader; we had none since we lost the valued assistance of Bernard Woods. Jason has transferred from



the CITC and the Ordination centred B.Th to the academically more rigorous B.A. in Theology at TCD. None is in doubt as to Jason's many gifts and this will be a better route for him. Equally it is clear that Jason has much to offer not only our communities but the wider Church. The fuller university course also affords him fresh time to consider his vocational future and the context in which it may find exercise. We, in the mean time, are the beneficiaries. The Vicar wishes to record his sincere thanks to Stephen Farrell, as also to Martin Hillard and to the Reader, Jason McCann, believing himself to have been well blessed to date in the clerics associated with his ministry here.

Michael Thompson

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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>.



St Bartholomew's News

<http://www.stbartholomews.ie>

February 2007

Parish Pump

News that a former curate of the Benefice, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, had been appointed Dean of Cork was a most welcome Epiphany gift to us all. We send our warmest congratulations to him, the Cathedral and the Parish of St Fin Barre.

January saw us welcome back Canon Albert Ogle, formerly a curate in the benefice, as celebrant of the Solemn Eucharist. On study leave in Dublin this year we much hope to renew and develop our contacts with Fr

Ogle. Archdeacon Linney will be with us twice in the present season when the Vicar is on study leave.

We have a new Server! Fergal has joined the team. Having served as a chorister his voice is changing and, at least in the interim, he is fulfilling another role. The other servers are highly impressed by his aptitude in the sanctuary. He joins Alex, Barry, Ferdinand, Fred, Heather, Mark, Sebastian and Theo.

The departure of Martin Hilliard to his placement

at St George's and St. Thomas's also saw the arrival of Stephen Farrell on placement with us. Happily Martin has still been able to give valued assistance here from time to time due to his kindness and the characteristic generosity of spirit shown by the Rector of his placement parish.

Stephen has been a great help in the parish and his assistance in the liturgical and pastoral round has been valued by many in our two churches, by the Sisters

Continued on back page.

Choir Fund-raising

The choir will be running its usual two fund-raisers during the next two months in order to raise funds for the upcoming trip to Llandaff Cathedral.

First up is a bag packing session, for which we need as many choristers, parents, family members, friends, relatives, and next door neighbours as possible. Niamh has had a lot of trouble booking a day to do this with the supermarkets, and at the time of writing has

only been able to confirm availability on St Patrick's Day. We are obviously doing our best to change this; a bulletin will be circulated as soon as there is news.

Richard and Robin will also be running their fourth annual table quiz and auction on Wednesday 28th March in Merrion Cricket Club, starting at 8:30pm sharp. Tables are available for €40, and pre-booking, though not essential, would be very much appreciated.

We are currently seeking sponsorship for items which can be auctioned or raffled on the night. If anyone can help in this regard please get in touch..

Finally, we have traditionally revealed one possible question before the quiz each year. On this occasion, we may or may not ask to a) give the official name of the park within Merrion Square, and b) correctly name all of Disney's Seven Dwarfs.

Richard Bannister