



St Bartholomew's News

<http://www.stbartholomews.ie>

June 2007

Girls' Choir Trip to Cork

It is hard to believe at this point that St Bartholomew's Girls' Choir will be five years old in September.

The group made its first trip away from home to sing in Cashel Cathedral in 2005. This was followed up with a visit to St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny last year. This year, it was decided to organise a trip to St Fin Barre's Cathedral in Cork, to sing some joint services with the girls' choir there.

As with St Bartholomew's, the cathedral holds its Evensong at 7:00pm. Our commitment to sing thus had an unfortunate side effect, namely a very late arrival back into Dublin. This was clearly too late for the younger choristers, and for this reason only five out of fourteen were available to travel. They were joined by nine gentlemen, including former chorister and alto Nicholas McMurry, who now lives in Cork. Nick also sang for a while in St Fin Barre's choir, leaving him with a choice of which colour cassock to wear. We are pleased to note that he chose the green!

The trip started for

the girls at 9:00am on Saturday 19th May. It was a four hour journey to the Belvedere Lodge Guest House in Tivoli. The girls found their respective rooms, and then explored the impressive garden and pond which contained a rather

park: three young giraffes; a very small monkey; and two *oh-my-God-they-are-like-soooo-cute!* recently-born lemur cubs clinging on to their mothers for dear life. After several hours in the park, we adjourned to a superb Thai



Rehearsal for Evensong in the Cathedral [Photo: Albert Horan]

large white goldfish.

The weather had greatly improved by the time everyone had settled in. The girls visited the Fota Island Wildlife Park where they enjoyed a wonderful afternoon looking at the animals. Spring was certainly in the air, and the girls managed to see some of the newer arrivals in the

restaurant in Glanmire for an evening meal.

After dinner, the girls persuaded us to bring them to a nearby fairground, and they enjoyed the various stomach-turning machines which are probably not such a good idea after a large meal! Suitably tired out the girls returned to the Guest House, and had a

Girls' Choir Trip to Cork (continued)

good night's rest.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Gentlemen arrived down



The best caption suggestion for this photo will win a prize! [Photo: Albert Horan]

from Dublin, and relaxed over a few glasses of wine before retiring for the night.

On Sunday morning, after a respectable breakfast, the group crossed the city to St Fin Barre's Cathedral, a magnificent French Gothic revival

Cathedral dominate the skyline of the city of Cork, and it is regarded by many as one of the finest buildings in the country. It is also unique in being taller than it is long, and this makes for a particularly resonant acoustic, thus giving singers many benefits. The organ is also very interesting. Built by William Hill

in 1870, it was housed originally in the West Gallery obscuring a magnificent rose window. Thankfully, following many arguments, it was decided that this position did not work with the location of the Choir in the east end

of the building. In 1899, the local Cork firm, Megahy and Co, moved the organ to its current position in a pit fourteen feet deep in the north transept. The organ was enlarged by Walkers in 1965, and despite

its unusual position, it works very well for both Choir and Congregation.

The girls and gentlemen met in the Chapter Room for a brief rehearsal prior to the arrival of the Choristers from St Fin Barre's.

The two choirs have different traditions concerning the singing of psalms. St Bartholomew's use plainsong psalms, whereas the cathedral choir uses Anglican chant. Each choir had a considerable amount of fun learning the psalm style they were not ac-



The "like soooo cute!" lemurs and cubs basking in the afternoon sun. [Photo: Albert Horan]

customed to.

The morning eucharist featured the setting of Summation in F. It was unusual to share the cathedral with a third choir, in this case from an American university, who performed a number of motets during the communion including Jesus Christ the Apple Tree, a piece last used in St Bartholomew's some years ago (*hint! - RB*).



Feeding time! [Photo: Albert Horan]

building designed by William Burges, and completed in 1879. The three spires of the

Girls' Choir Trip to Cork (continued)

We were made feel very welcome by Colin Nicholls, Director of Music in Cork, and



Don't get too close; these things can spit!
[Photo: Albert Horan]

by The Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, who was delighted to welcome us to Cork, having spent three years as Curate to Fr. John McKay in St Barts in the 1980s.

After the service, the girls of both choirs introduced



A future chorister enjoying her first roller coaster. [Photo: Albert Horan]

themselves, and exchanged mobile numbers for the purpose of keeping in touch by

text. This was followed by a trip to Patrick Street for some extensive retail therapy.

A large number of restaurants in Cork city do not open on Sundays, but the gentlemen eventually found a Wagamama, that was open.

Shortly after 5:00pm we assembled back at the cathedral for rehearsal.

This was a chance to revise (*learn!* - RB) the Anglican chants by Goss and Atkins, and to have a final run through the evensong setting of Murrill in E, which we had learned for the occasion.

We were joined by the girls and men of St Fin Barre's Choir at 6:00pm, and rehearsed in the Cathedral for a further 45 minutes. Both choirs adjusted well to each others' ways of doing things, which resulted in a splendid

sound, the highlight being the anthem "Te lucis ante terminum" by Balfour Gardiner,

which our friends from Cork performed for the first time in Latin.

After the service, Colin Nicholls thanked us for making the day so enjoyable, and he complimented Malcolm Wisener on the high standard that he maintains in St Bartholomew's. Malcolm responded, thanking Colin for inviting us, and he stated that this was the first time that our Girls had joined forces



Testing to see how well dinner had settled...
[Photo: Albert Horan]

with another Girls Choir, and all agreed that it was a very worthwhile exercise. Malcolm also added his good wishes to Colin, as he prepares to retire as Organist and Director of Music in Cork.

The members of both choirs said their respective goodbyes, and shortly after 8:00pm we departed for Dublin.

Robin Heather

Bill Fry Visits

Bill Fry was at the 11.00am Sung Eucharist on Sunday April 29th. He travelled over from Bristol with his friend Anglican Benedictine, Dom Bruce de Walt (Elmore Priory).

Bill is remarkably sprightly given his 92 years of age. He declared himself absolutely delighted with the St Bartholomew's of today,

including the liturgy and the music. He was most warmly welcomed by everyone.

Edward Sampson Fry, to give him his formal names, was responsible for our music from 1938 to 1946 across the troublesome wartime years.

He auditioned and enrolled me into the choir in September 1942.

Bobby Barden

Choir Recruitment

The month of June marks the end of another busy year for both choirs, and as voices change, and some choristers move on to study or work outside the Dublin area, a number of places have come up for potential choristers starting in September 2007.

If you have a son or daughter, or know of anybody that would be interested in joining either choir, please contact Malcolm Wisener at St Bartholomew's Church, or at the number listed below, for further details.

Robin Heather

Organ Recital

Malcolm Proud, organist of St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny, will be giving an hour long recital on the St Bartholomew's Organ on Saturday June 9th at 6:00pm.



Tickets cost €10, and all proceeds are in aid of the Church Restoration Fund.

Malcolm started his distinguished musical career as a chorister in St Bartholomew's, and is now known internationally as Ireland's foremost harpsichordist. The recital will include pieces from J S Bach's 'Clavierübung' III.

Bobby Barden

Address Book

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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>.

