



# St Bartholomew's News

<http://www.stbartholomews.ie>

March 2008

## New Vicar

The Reverend Andrew McCroskery (b. 1974) has been appointed as the new Vicar of St Bartholomew's. His institution will take place on Monday 19th May at 8:00pm.



Reverend McCroskery holds a BD from Glasgow University, and an M. Phil from Trinity College Dublin. His previous parishes include St Mark's Newtownards (Curate), St Fin Barre's Cathedral (Dean's Vicar), and Youghal Union (Incumbent).

## Evensong in the Cathedral

The Girls' choir sang Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday 24th February, the first time a choir from St Bartholomew's has appeared there in living memory.

The setting was *Darke* in F, a challenging work that

century composer Richard Farrant, which received its first outing at this service.

The choir was thanked by the Cathedral's Precentor, Reverend Professor Adrian Empey and it to be hoped that a collaboration with the Girls'



*The Girls' Choir in the Cathedral [Photo: Paolo Cordone]*

has nothing whatsoever in common with the communion service by the same composer. Nevertheless the choir handled it with ease, also distinguishing themselves in their singing of the (very long) psalm appointed for the service, and in the anthem, *Call to Remembrance* by the 16th

choir at the cathedral might be effected in the near future.

While we were in Christ Church the Cathedral choir was using St Bartholomew's to record a CD of the music of Herbert Howells, which will be released later this year on the Signum label.

## Stanford Concert

History was made in St Bartholomew's on December 16th, when both Boys' and Girls' choirs joined forces with the Gentlemen for the annual concert with Alan Stanford.

The Girls' Choir has a somewhat different repertoire to the boys, and this meant a number of new carols being sung in our church for the first time. The highlight was surely *Gaudete*, with our accompanist Eoghan Ward swapping his usual instrument for the bodhrán. A number of less well known works made an appearance, including *Quem Pastores Laudaverunt* (Rutter) and *I sing of a maiden* (Berkeley).

Not to be outdone, the boys also learned two new carols for the occasion: *The Angel Gabriel* (Pettman) and a special arrangement of *The Wexford Carol* put together by Peter Parshall.

## Funderland Trips

The choristers were brought on their now annual trips to Funderland in early January. This year all were faced with



*Some of the girls enjoying the Wild Mouse roller coaster [Photo: Richard Bannister]*

twenty-two articulated trucks. It was a bit much for many of the group, but four gentlemen, half a dozen of the girls, two of the boys, and one choir parent were brave enough to give it a go – and they all appeared to enjoy themselves!

The more timid were well catered for also, with a series of more sedate attractions. As usual the Dodgems proved the most enduring for both groups, with a number of choristers going back for a second try.

## Assistant Organist Changes

Our assistant organist Eoghan Ward stepped down from his position at the end of December in order to put more time into his family business. He had been with us since September 2003.

Peter Parshall will be taking over as Assistant Director of Music when our new Director of Music arrives. Until then, the role is being filled by Alexandra Jobling. Alex comes to us with a wealth of experience, having been Organ Scholar at

Christ's College in the University of Cambridge. She recently completed a Masters in Arts' Management at UCD and is currently working on the Graduate training scheme operated by Marks and Spencer. She has also initiated and continues to run a new children's choir at the Church of the Assumption in Milltown. Alex is busy also as a singer, performing as a member of the Mornington Singers and as a deputy in the choir of Christ Church Cathedral.

### Choristers on Television

The Boys and Men appeared in a televised service of the word to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday 27th January. This is the third time the choir has appeared on national television, and the first time in many years.

The music was recorded a week before the rest of the service, which made for some quite interesting camera work. Nevertheless RTÉ engineers managed to lip sync the studio audience with the recording made of the Choir,

and the result was entirely convincing. The preacher was the Reverend Canon Albert



*The choir on national television. [Photo courtesy of RTÉ]*

The group received special thanks from the Producer, Valerie Kennedy and from Roger Childs, the newly-appointed Editor of Religious Programmes for RTÉ Radio and Television, himself a former chorister in the UK. All who took part are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and professionalism in maintaining concentration and good humour in what can be quite challenging circum-

Ogle, who was curate in St Bar-  
 tholomew's in 1980. stances.

### Table Quiz and Auction

The choir's annual fundraiser has been scheduled for Wednesday April 16th in Merrion Cricket Club, beginning at 8:30pm sharp. Tables of four adults and up to two children cost €40.

In order for this event to be successful we need as many tables as possible. To that end, *everyone* reading this is expected to attend, bringing at least one friend along. We would greatly appreciate pre-booking if possible so we can gauge numbers; to do this please contact Fergus in the Parish Office on 01-6688522.

### Mervyn Percival

A large congregation gathered just after Christmas in St. Andrew's Church, Malahide to celebrate the life of our good friend Mervyn Percival. The small church was filled to capacity with many braving the elements outside in order to pay their respects to his family.



Mervyn's love of music was acknowledged

by many in the course of the service. It was a fitting tribute that members of St. Bartholomew's Choir together with St Andrew's Church Choir, The Strollers, and the Clef Club all gathered in his honour. Following the service

Mervyn was laid to rest in the adjoining churchyard. May he rest in peace.

## Trip to Carnew

On Sunday 6th January, the Boys and Gentlemen of the Choir travelled to All Saints Church, Carnew, Co. Wicklow to sing at a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for the feast of Epiphany.

This was our fourth visit to Carnew in the last

decade, and as usual we were given a wonderful welcome by the local parishioners, who provided us with much needed and delicious refreshments before and after the Service.

We would also like to record our grateful thanks for the donation of €400 to the

Choir Fund from the Vestry of All Saints Church, and take this opportunity to congratulate their Rector, The Venerable Dermot Dunne on his Appointment as the new Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

## Voice for Life

The boy choristers in St Bartholomew's all follow the Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life training scheme.

This programme provides a framework for choral singers to develop their vocal skills, their musical understanding, and their knowledge of repertoire. As a structured guide to vocal training, the scheme is based on graded targets with informal assess-

ment. Each target achieved is marked by the presentation of a medal with an appropriately coloured ribbon.

During Advent, five choristers moved up a level: Adam Dargan and Isaac Dempsey from Dark Blue to Red; and Edgar Henihan, Liam Newman and Douglas Smyth from Light Blue to Dark Blue.

Voice for Life is fully compatible with the RSCM's

internationally-recognized Bronze, Silver & Gold awards, which are examined externally. It is our intention, once Fraser Wilson arrives, to extend our use of Voice for Life by entering boys for the external exams, in addition to the introduction of Voice for Life for the girl choristers. This is all part of the valuable and free musical training that the parish is committed to offering to all choir members.

### Address Book

**Vicar:** *Currently vacant. Enquiries should be addressed to the Rural Dean.*  
Revd Canon Neil McEndoo. Tel: 01-4971797.

**Parish Administrator:** **Fergus McCullough** ([fergus@stbartholomews.ie](mailto:fergus@stbartholomews.ie))  
*Office hours are 10:30-3:30, Wednesday to Friday.* Tel 01-6688522.

**Acting Organist and Choirmaster:** **Peter Parshall** ([music@cccdub.ie](mailto:music@cccdub.ie))  
Enquiries should be addressed to the Parish Administrator.

**Choir Secretary:** **Richard Bannister** ([choir.secretary@stbartholomews.ie](mailto:choir.secretary@stbartholomews.ie))  
186 Pembroke Square, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel: 076-6021712.

**Choir Treasurer:** **Robert Hilliard** ([roberthilliard@yahoo.com](mailto:roberthilliard@yahoo.com))  
21 Crannagh Road, Dublin 14. Tel 01-4908676.

**Choir Events:** **Robin Heather** ([choir.events@stbartholomews.ie](mailto: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>.*