



# St Bartholomew's News

<http://www.stbartholomews.ie>

June 2008

## Study Group

It may seem a little early at this stage to be thinking about what might take place in September, but it is hoped that we can begin a parish study group. It is also hoped that there will be a preliminary meeting at the end of August, to enable us to meet and get to know one another in a social setting. Study groups are an important part of parish life and our continuing Christian pilgrimage together, and I would like to encourage you to give it your consideration. The study group will meet in the parish room, one evening every month. This is not a huge commitment, but it is hoped that even in this small way we may be able to meet on an informal basis to explore our Christian faith together. If you are interested in being a part of the study group, please let me know as soon as possible.

*Andrew McCroskery*

## Institution

The Institution Service for our new Vicar, Fr Andrew McCroskery, took place on Monday May 19th. It was an honour to be a part of such an important occasion. It was a beautiful evening so everyone in the church was happy, and there were a lot of people

sound. We worked on the music with both Mr Parshall and Mr Wilson, so we were well prepared for it. I think we were very lucky to have Mr Parshall working with us before Mr Wilson was able to come to Dublin. He was fun, and made us feel confident. I'm



*The Archbishop with the new Vicar. [Photo: Don Cazzini]*

there. The Archbishop was leading the service, so it felt very special and solemn.

Both the Boys' choir and the Girls' choir were singing, which hardly ever happens except for concerts and was a great experience. We worked well together and we had a lot of fun, and I think we were making a really good

glad he hasn't left the choir entirely. We sang really nice music at the service; the Little Organ Mass (*Haydn*), which is one of my favourites, and View Me Lord (*Lloyd*). We also sang some great hymns and the congregation joined in with enthusiasm.

Members of the congregation and choir gave gifts

## Fundraising Concert

On Saturday May 24th the choir performed in a fundraising concert at Christ Church Rathgar. The concert was in aid of their Tenant Hall building fund and our fabric fund.

Luke Tobin and Gerard Boyle, a Spanish Guitar duo, played a lovely repertoire which included dances from around the world. The music we performed included the Little Organ Mass (*Haydn*), I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes (*Walker*), and The Lord is my Shepherd (*Goodall*), the latter being the theme

tune for the BBC television series, *The Vicar of Dibley*.

The concert was well supported and all in all it was a great success. There was a delicious post concert reception organised by the catering committee of Christ Church Rathgar and the cakes were devoured by both gentlemen and boys.

We extend our warmest thanks to the Rev Mary Hunter for inviting us, Wilma Ormiston who organised the event, and Tristan Russcher who played the organ.

*William Ormiston Doyle*

## Institution (cont'd)

to welcome the new Vicar. These people included Bobby Barden, Niamh Harty, Roisin Horan and myself. We gave them to the Archbishop and he passed them on to the Vicar. My gift was a silver plate. The other gifts included a chalice, a bible and vestments. Afterwards there was a reception next door at the Order of Malta Hall. The service was a great success, and I look forward to working with our new Vicar.

*Rupert Adams*

## Reverend Robert Jones

On Sunday June 15th, (City Outreach through Robert Jones was ordained Renewal and Evangelism) to the priesthood in Christ Church Cathedral by the Archbishop the Very Reverend Dr John Neill.

Robert was a chorister, then head boy under the musical director David Milne. Since his ordination as a deacon last year, he has been serving as Curate in CORE



which is based in St Catherine's Church in Thomas Street, Dublin. The Jones family have been parishioners in St Bartholomew's for many years. We are delighted for Robert and his extended family.

*Bobby Barden*

## Rev Bertram Walsh RIP

Rev Bertram Walsh was curate in St Bartholomew's under Rev Sydney Craig, between 1952 and 1955. We remember him as a warm vibrant priest who was responsible for the re-establishment of a Scout Troop, Guides, Cubs and Brownies in the parish where all these had lapsed several years before. A glowing tribute to him and his twenty-seven years in St Columba's College appeared in *The Irish Times* on Tuesday May 6th. He passed away in April.

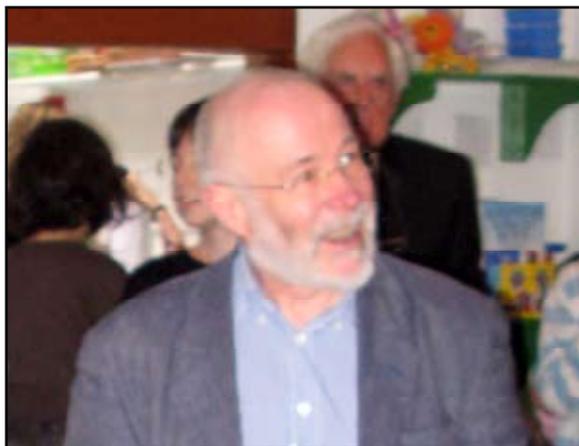
*Bobby Barden*

## Farewell to Martin Hilliard

It is rightly a source of pride for a parish when a vocation arises in its ranks. On Sunday June 8th we bade farewell to Martin Hilliard and his wife Marlyn, who have been parishioners for nearly thirty years. They migrated to us when John Neill was incumbent, and they and their three children — Elizabeth, Robert and Jane, all of whom grew up in the parish — have been prominent in our midst, not least in the musical sphere. The binding of the choir's sheet music was one of Martin's initiatives, and the blue and red folders that we see testify to his own deft work with needle and thread, and to his talents as a teacher of other amateur bookbinders. Martin was also for many years a member of the Vestry, and for some of them its secretary. He well knows the councils of the Church from the perspective of a layman. Of the latter species he was an impeccable exemplar: a man full of gentle common sense, but not averse to hastening matters to a needful conclusion.

Martin's was a late vocation, embraced after a long career spent teaching mathematics at the High School.

At a time when he might reasonably have contemplated retirement, he has embarked on a second career. The Divinity Hostel is behind him,



and Larne stands ready to welcome him as a curate.

Martin will be a good parson. He is a level-headed fellow, but not too solemn. Think of his characteristic laugh: tell him something that is funny, allow perhaps for a slightly delayed reaction, and be rewarded with a rippling mirthful explosion.

We shall miss Martin and Marlyn, but we can have no doubt that a force for good is at work in the course he is following. We shall wish him well in the seventh decade of his life as he embarks on his second career; and we will equally look forward to his return to us, in due course, upon his second retirement.

*Traudi Ferguson*

Martin Hilliard has been a regular worshipper in St. Bartholomew's since about 1979. His long association with St Bartholomew's comes to a formal end when he is ordained Deacon to serve in the parish of Larne with Rev. Stephen Ford, although we hope that he can fit in an occasional visit with us in the future. Martin contributed in many ways to life in St. Bartholomew's. He was for many years a member

of the Select Vestry, some of them in the capacity of Hon. Secretary. His contributions at vestry meetings were always succinct and relevant. He is a very caring and compassionate individual, and this was always evident in the sound advice which he imparted, often with a quirky sense of humour. He devoted significant time and energy to organising and binding the music used by our choir. And we must not forget his expertise at making mulled wine for our parish celebrations! Following thirty five years as a teacher, his three years in the Church of Ireland Training College, and now his advance into ministry brings a whole new meaning to the phrase 'career change'.

*Charlie Smith*

## Choir Year In Review

Despite the uncertainties which beset the parish in the Autumn of 2007, the choirs have thrown themselves into an assortment of activities this past academic year, making the very best of the less-than-ideal circumstances in which they found themselves.

Although the main task of the choirs is to provide music for the services at St Bartholomew's, much more has gone on besides. Since September 2007, the boys and gentlemen have sung on an RTÉ television broadcast, travelled to sing at Carnew and at Westport, sung at two concerts in Dublin as well as singing at nearly forty services in St Bartholomew's (I tried to count up the number of rehearsals they have attended in this time, but got lost...).

Not to be left out, the girls have sung at Choral Evensong once each month as well as singing Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral (the first time that anyone can remember a choir from St Bartholomew's singing there), and representing St Bartholomew's at the annual RSCM festival service in the chapel of Trinity College. Back at St Bartholomew's, the girls also sang at the Easter Vigil and at Corpus Christi, as



well as joining together with the boys and the gentlemen for the first time in singing at the annual Alan Stanford concert during the week before Christmas.

It hasn't been all hard work either, with bowling trips and outings to Funderland for both boys and girls. To cap it all, four of the senior boys recently achieved some of the highest marks in the country in their RSCM Voice for Life Bronze Medal Award examinations – an amazing achievement.

Considering our more limited resources this year, an awful lot has been achieved due to hard work and dedication on everyone's behalf. Special thanks are due to Eoghan Ward for his immense support of the musical life of the parish up until his departure at Christmas 2007, and to Alexandra Jobling for stepping so ably into the role of Organist in January 2008. We're all delighted that Alex will still be playing for us from time to time. Now that we are back to full strength, we look forward to new developments in the coming year. The future, as they say, might not be Orange, but it is certainly bright!

*Peter Parshall*

## Forthcoming Musical Events

A long and successful year for the church choirs will be brought to an end in suitably celebratory fashion on Sunday June 22nd, when the boys and



girls will join with the men to sing a special service of Choral Evensong at 6:00pm. They will sing music by Stanford, Dyson and Rutter, along with the wonderful hymn How shall I sing that Majesty. The choirs will be directed, and the organ played, by Peter Parshall, Alex Jobling and Fraser Wilson, all of whom have led the musical worship of St Bartholomew's at various times over the past year. The service will be followed by a party to thank the choirs for all the work they have done since September. Please do come along, and bring your friends and families.

There are a couple of exciting events coming up over the next few weeks. Firstly, on Wednesday July 2nd we

are delighted to be staging the Irish premiere of the earliest surviving Spanish-language opera! *Celos aun dei aire matan* is being brought to Ireland by the University of Sheffield and the world-famous early music expert, Andrew Lawrence-King. This promises to be a spectacular and thoroughly enjoyable event, and it would be superb to have a full church

for the evening. Tickets are available now (€12; concessions €10; under 16s €5) and can be booked from the parish office (see back page). Then, on Saturday July 5th, we welcome the excellent choir of Christ's College, Cambridge, to give a concert of choral music in our beautiful building (8.00pm). Ticket information will be available soon. We look forward to welcoming you to one or both of these exciting events - do see the web site for more.

Following the end of choir term, the Elgin Chorale begins its residency on Sunday June 29th. We look forward to welcoming singers

old and new into the Chorale. We rehearse at 10:15am for the 11:00am Sung Eucharist each Sunday morning in July.

Next choir term begins on Sunday August 24th, St Bartholomew's Day. We are always delighted to hear from prospective new singers for any of our choirs. We can offer a first-class musical education, expert tuition in all aspects of singing and church music, and the opportunity to be part of the church's diverse and exciting musical life. There are vacancies for boys aged 7-10 and girls aged 8 upwards; and for male altos,



tenors and basses of any age. Please pass this on to anyone you know who may be interested. For further information, or to arrange a short and informal audition, please do get in touch. Details as ever on the back page!

*Fraser Wilson*

## Upcoming Choir Events

Plans for the 2008-9 choir year are well advanced, and things are shaping up very nicely.

The boys and men will be making the choir's third trip to Hereford Cathedral directly after Easter. The last such trip was fourteen years ago, and only five of the people who made that trip are still members of the choir; three boys (Richard

Bannister, Brian Gageby, and Robert Hilliard) and two gentlemen (Bobby Barden and Tim Thurston).

The girls will sing a joint service with their counterparts from Christ Church Cathedral in November, as a precursor to a trip away in February to an exciting but as yet unconfirmed destination.

Also, we will be in-

roducing the Voice for Life scheme and re-structuring things slightly, and this will transform the standard that we can achieve. There will also be an increasing variety and number of concerts at St Bartholomew's, and we are planning a series of mini-festivals. All in all, exciting times are ahead!

*Fraser Wilson*

## Voice for Life

During the month of May all the senior boys - Rupert Adams, Adam Dargan, William Doyle and myself, Isaac Dempsey - entered the "Voice for Life Bronze Medal Award". The result was spectacular; three distinctions and a merit!

When the time came for me to sing, I felt a bit nervous, however Mr Parshall and Mr Wilson soon convinced me that it was going to be grand.

I sang Ave verum (*Elgar*), Psalm 91, and the hymn 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today' accompanied by Mr Wilson. It seemed strange to be singing just to Mr Barley (the examiner) without a congregation or any other boys,

but soon I got into it and began to enjoy it.

I have a few special memories of preparing for the exam. One was sitting in the



*[Photo: Richard Bannister]*

park in front of St Patrick's Cathedral with Mr Wilson, singing psalms while the local boys playing football looked on with horror! Another one was sitting in the car with

the rain pouring against the windscreen, being instructed by Mr Wilson about the sequence of the Ordinary of the Mass, while my mother and rather noisy baby brother chatted in the back.

I am very proud of getting the bronze medal award and I am looking forward to future awards in the future such as silver or maybe even gold.

I gratefully thank both Mr Parshall and Mr Wilson for entering me for the award and preparing me for it. And last but not least, I wish future boys good luck in the Bronze Medal Award.

*Isaac Dempsey*

## Vicarage Update

At long last the refurbishment of the vicarage is drawing to a conclusion. Its new resident has moved in and the premises have changed back from being a vacant house to being a home. To help to bring the house into the 21st century the 1985 kitchen was given a much needed coat of paint. Both the walls and the units were painted. As the old cupboard doors were very good quality wood, they cleaned up well. The replacement of the old handles put the finishing touches to the room.



Now that the noncompliant windows at the back of the house have gone, the

refurbished patio and path, together with the new windows, make the rear of the house a much more appealing and safe place in which

to relax. The part-tiled walls in the main bathroom and the ensuite, plus the new nonslip floor tiles, have rendered these rooms healthy and hopefully water tight.

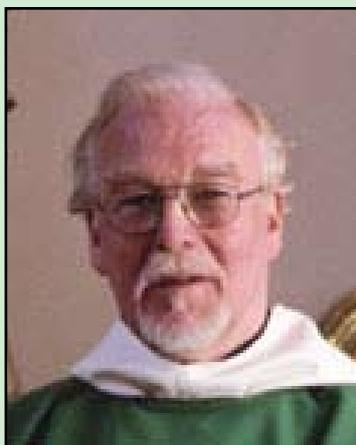
The new carpet in the reception rooms blends in well with the fireplaces and the existing curtains. It can now be said that the directives of the vacancy report have been carried out. The vicarage is now safe, comfortable and healthy.

*Judith Barden*

## John and Rhona McKay

Father John has taken most of the Sunday Eucharist services for the last six or seven months during the interregnum, together with many extra services over the Easter period and other special occasions. We are all extremely grateful to have had him at the helm looking after us, and keeping us on course in quite uncertain times. His constant presence was very re-assuring. His sermons were always thoughtful in his down-to-earth style, and sprinkled with a sense

of humour. Father John was always unassuming – for example, whenever we



thanked him for being here in St Bartholomew's, he always replied by saying he

was honoured to be with us. We thank God for sending him back to us at this time. And of course we are very grateful to his wife Rhona, who is also such a part of our community. She is always so welcoming and willing to help out, whether it is handing out leaflets or serving coffee, and all with a wonderful smile. We know that John and Rhona will not be far away, and want them to promise us to keep coming back often to see us.

*Niamh Harty*

## Corpus Christi Barbeque

Corpus Christi was our first chance to meet and greet our new Vicar, Fr Andrew McCroskery. It went well. We sang *Sumsion* in F and our anthem was *Panis Angelicus (Franck)*. After weeks of practice with our new choir-master, Mr Wilson, it was our chance to steal the show.

We arrived at 5:55 to get suited up and ready for practice. After some place shuffling, Roisin ended back on her original side, and we began by singing through *Panis Angelicus*. But, to Mr Wilson's dismay, we made the classic mistake; we sounded like Charlotte Church with a backing chorus! We carefully pared down our long notes in an attempt to sound like St Bartholomew's. There were

many groans as we were told to repeat a phrase over and over again, but we finally managed. A sigh of relief could be heard.

The service passed very quickly, prayers were said. We all prayed for world peace. Then we hurried back to the parish room to change and run for food! Compliments to all the chefs on their excellent dishes!

Although the boys did not sing for this service, a lot of them turned up anyway, and we were expected to eat as many burgers as they did. This did not go down well. The barbeque was handled by two of the very kind scouts from Rathfarnham, Mark Rogan and Hugh O'Marcaigh. Since they succeeded in not

giving anyone food poisoning, it turned to be a successful night. While adults were out in the cold, freezing to death, we took over the piano in the practice room. With renditions of 'My heart will go on' and 'Hallelujah' by Andrew Bannister, not to mention a few old dance tunes by Mr Don Cazzini, the night ended on a musical note, far better than it had begun!

We'd like to thank everyone who provided food for the occasion, attended the service, and most of all Mr Wilson, the men and Ms Jobling, without whom the singing could not have taken place.

*Cliona Rogan &  
Roisin Horan*

### Address Book

**Vicar: Rev Andrew McCroskery (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.

**Director of Music: Fraser Wilson (music@stbartholomews.ie)**  
27 Dodderview Cottages, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel 085-7628483.

**Assistant Director of Music: Peter Parshall (music@cccdub.ie)**  
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**Choir Secretary: Richard Bannister (choir.secretary@stbartholomews.ie)**  
186 Pembroke Square, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel: 076-6021712.

**Choir Treasurer: Robert Hilliard (roberthilliard@yahoo.com)**  
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>.*