



Music @ Saint Bartholomew's

<http://www.stbartholomews.ie>

January 2015



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Choir trip to Hildesheim

On October 24th 2014 the boys and men of Saint Bartholomew's Choir travelled to Hildesheim in Germany.

When we arrived at the airport for our flight to Hannover the excitement was overwhelming, especially for the boys. A busy schedule had been organised for us, and once we arrived the boys were brought to their host families and the adults to their hotel.

On the second day we went on a tour of Hildesheim. It is a beautiful old city full of preserved buildings. This was followed by shopping, *Tiger* being the favourite shop because there were tons of gadgets the boys liked.

In the afternoon we headed off to Saint Michael's

Church for Evensong. The church was very different to Saint Bartholomew's as it's very open and had a big echo. A huge number of people came to hear us and the singing was great. We were joined by the Hildesheim choir which was really nice.

The following day Sunday we headed off to the bowling centre. This was a huge success. Some of the men joined us for the bowling and this was great fun.

Later in the afternoon we travelled to Saint Nicolai Church in Sarstedt by train. We rehearsed before going to the church for the main concert on Sunday afternoon. The church was smaller than Saint Michael's but it was really nice.

The church was full and we got a great response. After the concert we had a lovely buffet with cakes, breads, cheeses and soup, and this was enjoyed by all. A great day for everyone.

On our final day we said goodbye to our host families and travelled to Hamburg Airport. This was a long bus journey but we had fun and saw lots of interesting scenery. We arrived back in Dublin at five and were greeted by our families.

This was my first away trip with the choir and I enjoyed it a lot. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed meeting our new friends, tasting a little of Germany and having great fun all around. Can't wait for the next one!

William Kinsella



Internationaler Klang in Sankt Nicolai: Chöre aus Hildesheim und Dublin.

Foto: Matz

Musik kann Menschen und Länder verbinden

Eindrucksvolles gemeinsames Benefizkonzert des Knabenchores aus Hildesheim und seines irischen Partnerchores in Sankt Nicolai

VON JÜRGEN MATZ

SARSTEDT. Ein beeindruckendes Benefizkonzert des Knabenchores Hildesheim und seines irischen Partnerchores der Gemeinde St. Bartholomew's aus Dublin erlebten zahlreiche Zuhörer am Sonntagabend in der Sankt-Nicolai-Kirche.

Pastor Matthias Fricke-Ziesemil verleiht in seiner Begrüßungsansprache seiner Hoffnung Ausdruck, dass derartige Veranstaltungen „ein Weg zu einem friedlichen und vereinten Europa“ sein könnten. Musik könne die Menschen und Länder verbinden. Am Ende des Konzertes wurden Spenden für die Stiftung „Eine Chance für Kinder“ gesammelt.

Prof. Dr. Adolf Windorf, Gründer und Kuratoriums-Vorsitzender, wies darauf hin, dass ein hoher Prozessschutz an Kindern in einer Umgebung aufwächst, die zur Kindervernachslässigung und -missbehandlung befreit. Ihnen müsse geholfen werden. Die Stiftung setzt sich für Familienbeziehungen ein, die junge Mütter und Familien in schwierigen sozialen und psychosozialen Lebenssituationen begleitet. (Nähere Infos unter: www.eine-chance-fuer-kinder.de)

Das die beiden Chöre „auf der persönlichen und musikalischen Ebene“ harmonisierten, wie angekündigt worden war, wurde sehr schnell deutlich: Sie sangen etliche Lieder gemeinsam, obwohl – bedingt durch die Entfernung – die zeitlichen Möglichkeiten, Stücke gemeinsam einzuüben, natürlich sehr begrenzt sind. Die erwachsenen Mitglieder des irischen Chores sangen dann sogar bei Stücken mit, die im Programm als solche des Hildesheimer Chores angekündigt worden waren. An der Orgel begleitete David Leigh aus Irland die musikalischen Darbietungen.

Das Spektrum reichte von Liedern von Bach, Schütz, Bruckner und Haydn bis hin zu Melodien von Goodall, Joubert, Ives, Byrd, Lloyd und Statton. Das Finale sangen beide Chöre gemeinsam: „Hallelujah chorus from Messiah“ aus Hildesheim.

In their own words (1)

Gina Lenehan sat down with our choristers in Hamburg Airport to ask them what their favourite moments of the trip were.



My favourite bit was the bowling – I won! The very first dinner was very nice. You made your own meal. On my tray I had salami, cheese, mushrooms and sausage and I put the tray under a grill on the table and it cooked. My family was really nice. Birca and Tomas were the mum and dad, Jasper and Martin sang in the choir and Bjork was older. I really enjoyed singing in Saint Michael's on Saturday and all the food afterwards.



The bowling was the best fun. I got two spares and one strike. My host family was really nice; they had a trampoline in the back yard and we watched Johnny English. I liked singing in Saint Nikolai's on Sunday and Saturday was good as well when we ran around outside the church after Evensong and we ate lots of cake.



The trip was great because I got to buy lots of things in *Tiger* and I got a remote control helicopter from Mamma in a big toy store. I liked the street market and all the goodies they had. I got a great big sausage. The best bit was being with Mamma.



I loved the house I stayed in. They had a lovely garden, swings and they grew potatoes and apples. I had a cool bedroom with a really soft pillow and I slept very well. I liked the singing, but on Sunday I got something stuck in my eye; it was good up to then! The bowling was really fun as well. Me, Daniel, Páidí, Oisín and Luke were playing against each other. I got a strike.



The concert on Sunday in Saint Nikolai's was my highlight. I sang three solos – 'The Heavens are telling', 'The Lord is my Shepherd' and 'Teach me, O Lord'. I was very nervous before the concert but was fine

once I started singing. The bowling was fun. I got two strikes. My braces broke during bowling. My host family was really nice. The *Tiger* shop we went to on Saturday was good; we all bought squishy balls, bubblegum and pink goo.



I really liked my family. Finn stayed with us in Dublin. We played Minecraft and football. We had lots of dinners in their house. I liked the singing. It was fun. I liked the Evensong in Saint Michael's and running around outside the church afterwards.



The first night staying with our family we had lovely food. It tasted really good. I had a tray with meat, tomatoes and cheese. I put the tray under a grill on the table and it all cooked and melted and then I ate it. It was fun and yummy. I stayed with Birca, Tomas, Jasper and Martin. Cian and his mum Cheryl stayed with me as well. Birca has bees and gave us honey to bring home. I liked singing in Saint Michael's and run-

In their own words (2)

ning around afterwards with the boys from the Hildesheim choir; this was lots of fun.



Bowling was fun. I played really well. Mark, Matthew, William and Cian played with me. I liked running around after the bowling. I won a toy out of the claw machine. I liked the singing and Sunday in Saint Nikolai's was my first concert and I wasn't nervous. I stayed with Paul who sings in the Hildesheim Choir and we played lots.



I sang in a trio; it was 'Listen sweet dove'. I was very nervous. I liked my family; I stayed with William and my Mum and we played table tennis and watched movies with Lasse and Soren who sing in the Knabenchor Hildesheim. The food was really nice. We had cheese, ham, mushrooms and sweet corn and you heat it under a grill and it is yummy. I won two Batman toys in the claw machine at the bowling centre and I gave one to Luke.



The bowling was great fun and the arcade games were interesting. My host family was really nice. We were very lucky that the weather was very nice the whole way through the trip. The concert in Saint Nikolai's was very good and we loved the atmosphere in the church.



I liked the squishy balls we got in the *Tiger* shop on Saturday. The air hockey at the bowling centre was fun. I played air hockey with Mark and William. I liked my family – Jacob and Moritz let me play their PS2. Moritz sings in the Hildesheim Choir.



I loved staying with Finn's family. When we arrived it was his Dad's birthday and we stayed up really late and had a great night. Spending time playing with Finn was the best part of the trip – he has a cool door bell for his bedroom – I want one of those to keep my brothers out!

David Greal

At the start of term we bid a sad *auf wiedersehen* to our Assistant Director of Music and Organist, David Greal, who has moved to Cologne, Germany in order to study for a Masters degree in Arts and Music.

Our men enjoyed toasting him at a meal at *Al Boschetto* in Ballsbridge shortly before his departure, and clubbed together to buy a complete set of the Organ works of J.S.Bach, something every organist should have!

David's world class organ playing was a huge asset to Saint Bartholomew's, and his assistance at weekly practices will be greatly missed. We very much hope that he will remain a friend of Saint Bartholomew's in the years to come and we wish him the very best for the future.

We caught up with him briefly during our trip to Hildesheim where his newly developed language skills came in particularly handy!

Tristan Russcher

Carols and Festive Readings (1)

The choir's annual Concert of Carols and Festive Readings took place in the church on Sunday December 14th to a capacity crowd.

Our guest presenter this year was Tim Thurston from Lyric FM, himself a former member of our choir and a long term friend of our parish. Tim presented our concert for the first time last year and we were delighted he was able to be with us again.

The night opened with the now traditional *Hodie Christus natus est*, a staple of the con-

cert since 2009. This was followed by *Once in royal David's city* – the first verse sung as an unaccompanied solo by Daniel Coady, the second verse by the choir, and the remainder by the entire audience – our choristers augmenting the final verse with a rousing descant.

After the first set of readings we were treated to *In the bleak midwinter* with solos sung by Luke O'Reilly and Des Ryan – followed by an extract from Handel's *Messiah* sung by the girls and men and *Good King Wenceslas* sung as an audi-

ence carol.

Another set of readings was followed by an arrangement of *Silent Night* sung in English, German, and then Irish – the latter being particularly entertaining to rehearse when our Australian Director of Music started trying to correct some pronunciation before apologizing profusely. Chilcott's jazzed-up arrangement of *Away in a Manger* followed, the second verse sung for us by Kiah Ronaldson. Next, the boys and men took on the *Sussex Carol*, last sung



Carols and Festive Readings (2)

at Saint Bartholomew's all the way back in 2005 when just five of our adult singers and none of our trebles were members of the choir.

After another set of readings we decided to tackle something a little different – Gerald Finzi's *In Terra Pax*. This work was subtitled "Christmas Scene" by its composer, who explained that "the Nativity becomes a vision seen by a wanderer on a dark and frosty Christmas Eve in our own fa-

miliar landscape". The two substantial solo parts were sung for us by Padraig O'Rourke and Isabelle McGeough.

After a fourth set of readings we launched into the old favourites we have to sing every year whether we want to or not – *We Three Kings*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, and *The Twelve Days of Christmas* interspersed with letters written by John Julius Norwich. The concert concluded with the much loved/loathed *O Holy Night*

and an encore of *Have yourself a merry little Christmas*.

For the third consecutive year the majority of our ticket sales were handled online, with just under three hundred tickets being sold that way. Having said that, we have taken on board feedback that some of our parishioners may not wish to pay via credit card or via the Internet – and we will investigate the possibility of alternatives for next year.

Richard Bannister

A Medieval Rhythm (1)

While many offices of the church which were designed to be said throughout the hours of the day have long since disappeared from both memory and use, the combined offices of Vespers and Compline that make up Choral Evensong have survived. Yet even this office is slowly disappearing today in many of our churches and I must confess that I would be very sorry to see it disappear entirely.

Choral Evensong is a curious relic of the past, and yet it provides a space of comfort and peace in our modern and hectic world. The congregation is asked to do little by way of

participation other than allow the rhythm of the office and its music to waft over them – to be soaked inwardly. It gathers up our thoughts and our prayers at the close of the day and after its closing organ voluntary we can rest in its peaceful calm. Its beauty, rhythm and simplicity have not gone unnoticed through the ages. Many people to this day still say evening prayer even when they are in their house on their own as part of their private devotions. Many casually and occasionally drop in to local cathedrals to soak up the ethereal quality of its peace. Cardinal Newman found the draw of Choral Even-

song such that he would visit the back row of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin regularly, and the noted atheist Michael Tippett knew of the value of its round and wrote canticle settings for it that are still used.

Here in Saint Bartholomew's Church we have endeavoured to keep the tradition alive with Choral Evensong throughout the year except for choir holidays just after Christmas and Easter and during the summer months. It provides us with a space of peacefulness in the middle of a busy city, where the hustle and bustle comes to a silent rest, broken by the beauty of the human voice in

A Medieval Rhythm (2)

song. This medieval office has come down to us through the ages as a rhythmic guide: outlining the changes in the year; the liturgical calendar; and the thoughts of the casual visitor, the curious and the prayerful. Some gather with us during the cold nights of winter as they always do on a dark Sunday evening and others come to be with us just once in a while as they feel the need, knowing that the round of prayer continues, as it always has.

Choral Evensong is a beautiful service and we are very grateful to the members of the choir who give of their time to come and sing the office and to be with us. All members

of the choir sing at Evensong throughout the year at some point: the girls choir, the boys choir and of course the men of the back row, who faithfully carry its rhythms throughout the whole of the year. For many this service can become an anchor where the sounds of the choir echo in their own lives and thoughts and prayers; their hopes and dreams and worries, to bring the internal tick of the inner pendulum back into its peaceful balance once again. Both believers and unbelievers alike have written of its value and merit. I hope and trust that many will continue to proclaim its value into the future to see this beautiful and yet simple

office survive; for its calm is a balm in our modern world of incessant restlessness and its peace is a salve on the wound of unease.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choral Evensong takes place in Saint Bartholomew's Church each Sunday evening at 6:00pm, with a short break after Christmas and Easter and during the months of July and August.

Andrew McCroskery

Voice for Life Success

We had a bumper crop of Voice for Life award successes this term, with our biggest submission of chorister entries yet! No less than twelve of our choristers were entered for their Bronze and Silver awards this term and all passed with flying colours. Bronze awards went to Sarah Cairney, Eleanor Hartnett, Emma Lohan, Paris Moran, Anna Nakonechna, and Aisling Spratt; Sil-

ver awards went to Daniel Coady, Mark Connor, Niamh Corcoran, Páidí Kinlay, Lily Magahy and Aisling Wright. Anna achieved the highest result with 82 marks for her Bronze exam. Many congratulations go to all the choristers for passing these difficult and prestigious exams, which test choristers on all aspects of church music including singing, aural skills, theory, sight-reading, knowledge of

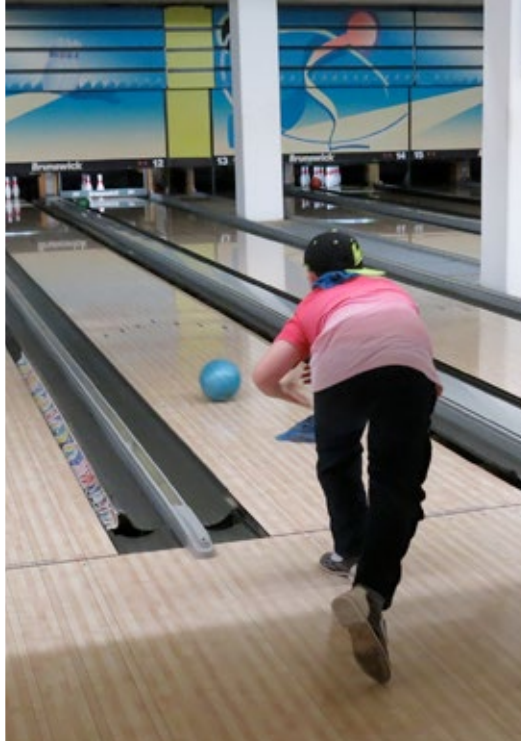
the composers of the music we sing and detailed information on the Church's year and liturgies. Special thanks go to our vocal coach, Lucy Champion, who provides her expertise behind the scenes each week to train choristers individually, and to the Vicar for teaching the choristers all they needed to know about the liturgy!

Tristan Russcher













Come and Sing

The regular Come and Sing event was held in Saint Bartholomew's again this year. Held on the eve of the feast of All Souls (2 November) we decided to perform Fauré's *Requiem*. We were delighted to welcome singers from all over Dublin and beyond, including both RSCM members and non-members. It was good to see some new faces and some familiar ones who support the event on a regular basis.

Joined by some of the choristers from the boys choir, the singers were directed by

Tristan Russcher and the organ was played by Andrew Johnstone. Robin Heather provided the baritone solos and Luke O'Reilly sang the *Pie Jesu*. We are grateful to both of them for taking the time to come and take part.

Everyone enjoyed the event and it was good to welcome a small congregation to listen to the performance which took place at 4:00pm. We will continue to run this type of event for as long as people want us to. Keep an eye on the RSCM Ireland website

(www.rscmireland.com) for details of our future events.

On a separate note, once again the number of Saint Bartholomew's candidates who successfully completed their Voice for Life exams at all levels (bronze, silver and gold) is to be commended. It is hoped that we will have some kind of awards service to recognise these candidates officially in the New Year. Details will be made available when they are finalised.

Mark Bowyer



New Choristers

We have been fortunate to welcome a number of new choristers to the choir this term.

Sarah Colgan, Erasmus Dempsey, Aislinn Kelly, Milan Moran, Ben O'Brien and Jessica Spratt have all achieved the "Light Blue" award of the Voice for Life programme and have thus been admitted to the choir as full choristers. We are delighted to welcome

them and their families to Saint Bartholomew's and hope they enjoy singing in the choir for many years to come.

We will be recruiting new members for the boys' and girls' choirs in January 2015. If you know of any potential choristers who would like to join either of the choirs please get in touch.

Tristan Russcher

Screaming and Singing

For the last few years we've brought our choristers on a group outing to Funderland to thank them for their hard work over the course of the Christmas period. The cost of these outings has been met by the choir fund, aided considerably by a generous discount.

Funderland has become more family friendly in recent years, adding an Ice Rink and a Circus to go with the more traditional amusement rides. In keeping with the new image we were asked if we could provide a choir for their opening night – and while that date wasn't possible for Tristan, the evening of Saturday 20th December proved suitable for everyone.

The choristers began their singing to the side of the

main Simmons court hall and began working through a programme of festive favourites, interrupted only occasionally by the sounds of the *Wacky Worm* roller coaster. At the mid-point they moved outdoors next to the Giant Wheel, having been given mittens and scarves to keep them warm.

When the singing came to an end everyone was given an unlimited ride wristband. Very light crowds meant that most rides had no queue, and our choristers made the most of this; several could be seen repeat-riding their favourite attractions over and over again.

The choir would like to thank Don Bird of Funderland and everyone else who made this evening possible.

Richard Bannister

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Submissions

Submissions for future issues of this magazine and all enquiries about advertising should be sent to the editor.

Friends of the Choir

This magazine is sent by post to friends of the choir; for further details, contact the Administrator, Mark Bowyer on 01-6688522 or admin@stbartholomews.ie.

Future events

A full schedule of services and events is available on the diary page of the parish web site, located at <http://www.stbartholomews.ie/>.

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