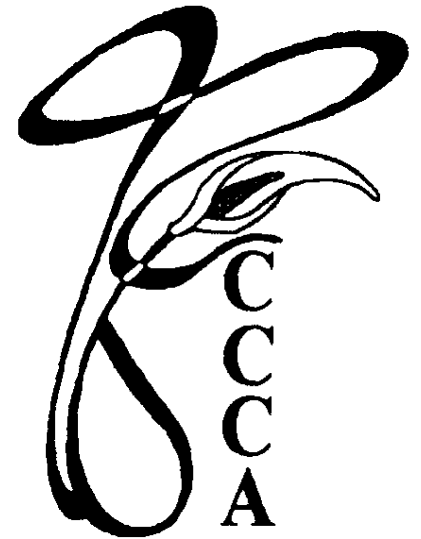




Chelmsford
Cathedral



inQUIRE

The Newsletter for the Chelmsford Cathedral Choir Association
Michaelmas Term 2004

The Director of Music writes...

Since the last edition of *inQUIRE* we have had yet another spell of exciting music making, services and concerts. During the half-term in May we visited Antwerp (more to come on that subject!) and also performed an afternoon concert in St.Alban's Church, Great Ilford; this has helped Father David Milne and the folk of his parish to raise over £1000 towards the restoration of their beautiful organ. We do try to get out and about in the Diocese during the year and already we have a booking to sing at St.Mary's, Bocking on Saturday 30 May 2005.

The Organ Scholar 2003/2004, Simon Williams, is now at Robinson College, Cambridge and his replacement, Oliver Walker from Gloucester, has been well and truly thrown in at the deep end since his arrival in September following the **breaking news.....!!** that I have been completely out of action since August. Thanks to three nasty broken bones and two operations on my left leg I have had to re-learn (very slowly) how to walk. In the meantime Robert Poyser and Oliver Walker have been gathering riches in heaven by making a fine job of running the music at the Cathedral. Robert has had barely a day off and I am

deeply grateful to both for their dedication and musicianship. I very much hope that by the time you read this I should be well on the way to recovery.

Peter Nardone



On the Ferry to Antwerp

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Choir tour to Antwerp

Here are two accounts of the Cathedral Choir's tour to Antwerp in June this year.

Antwerp - what an experience. As a parent helper I was given the privilege of seeing the choir working from the inside. The atmosphere was a happy, jolly, friendly one, which only went to enhance the choir's performances.

One of the things that amazed me about the boys was their ability of one minute charging around having fun and the next to be composed and focused for their rehearsals and performances. I was very impressed.

We travelled to several different venues and everybody we met was impressed and full of praise for the choir. They were very much appreciated and enjoyed.

We did have a little hiccup when the coach keys were locked in the coach, but Matron came to the rescue by miraculously producing a multi-tool from her bag of essentials.

The duties of the parent helper involved shopping, picnic making, general care of the boys and shower monitoring. To my surprise there was very little opposition from the boys to this, especially as it was a daily duty.

One of the concerts was in a monastery. It was an amazing building but the organ was rather decrepit. At one point in the performance there was a rhythmic "clanking". At first I thought there was someone hammering somewhere in the chapel until I realised the noise coincided with Robert's left foot on the organ pedals!



Concert in monastery at Leuven

I feel very privileged to have been a helper on the tour and to be allowed the insight as to how the choir works from within.

Julia Wakeford (Chorister Parent)



Playtime outside the Monastery

We all met outside Shire Hall. We travelled by coach to Dover, and after a short delay by ferry to Calais. The journey was uneventful. With a bit of luck we found our lodgings. There were several blocks of flats, and all the boys were in block C. The rooms were very simple and shared between two. After the first night some of us had been bitten by mosquitoes. The food was very nice-except the spinach soup! On the second day, after breakfast, we had a full choir practice in the chapel, and after lunch we were taken swimming, which was great. In the evening the men gave a recital whilst we had a 'quiet time'.

On the third day a few more people had been munched by the mosquitoes-even Mr. Nardone! We had another full choir practice after breakfast, followed by lunch. After changing into our choir uniform we went down to the coach to discover the driver had locked the keys inside! Mr. Nardone helped to dismantle a lock to open a window, and Thomas Barnes volunteered to climb through it and open the door. Then we had an uneventful journey to Kaiserberg Abbey in Leuven. We practised in the Abbey's chapel, and Mr. Poyser did not like the organ! After a very nice tea we performed a concert in the chapel to a medium sized audience, and it went well. Afterwards the abbot gave a reception where the men were given some of the Abbey's beer and we had fruit juice. By the time we got back to Antwerp it was very late.

On the fourth day we had a full practice after breakfast. Then we were taken into Antwerp for some sight-seeing and to buy some mementoes. After a packed lunch we had a practice in St. Paul's church, and returned to our lodgings for supper and to change into our uniforms for the evening concert at St. Paul's church. Mr. Poyser was able to play the church's organ, which was very impressive.

On the last day we packed after breakfast, and boarded the coach for the return journey back home.

I enjoyed the trip very much, and would like to thank everyone who contributed to the trip and made it such fun.

Iwan Williams (Chorister)

Official Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Seventeenth **Annual General Meeting** of the Chelmsford Cathedral Choir Association will take place in the Cathedral at 12.30pm on Sunday 21st November 2004. All members of the Association are warmly invited to attend. Nominations will be required for all officer posts, Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer, as well as representation from the Chorister Parents, Voluntary Choir, Gentlemen/Lay Scholars and the Consort. Papers for the meeting are included with this mailing. Nomination forms can also be obtained from the Hon. Secretary: Paula Hiatt, 15, Oaklea Avenue, Springfield, Chelmsford CM2 6BY or by email paula@15oaklea.freeserve.co.uk

News

Quiz Evening

A quiz was held on Friday 1st October at the Police Social Club in aid of the Cathedral Choir Association. About 65 people spent the evening puzzling over questions ranging from the impossibly erudite to the banal. (Could you name pictures of 27 characters from the Muppet show?) They were fortified by bread and a selection of cheeses at half-time, as well as by frequent trips to the bar. We would like to thank question master David Bird, ably assisted by his wife, Ruth, for a most entertaining evening. Approximately £300 was raised towards future choir tours.

A Word from the Consort

When I joined the Cathedral Consort three years ago, I had no idea what to expect. I had never sung with such a small group before or been relied upon to always attend every service: with sometimes only six of us singing, Peter sometimes had to remind us that every member is vital! However, now the time has come for me to leave Chelmsford to move on to University, I've had the time to reflect on my experiences and to realise how enjoyable the past few years have been.

Life as part of the Consort has always been fun, although at times quite pressured. Sometimes the six of us sing after only an hour's rehearsal time - however, most of the time we've managed to successfully complete the service!! Some highlights of my time here include singing Faure's "Requiem" at last year's opening night of the Cathedral Festival, our annual Ash Wednesday and Christmas midnight mass services and this year's ceremony for the inauguration of the new Bishop. However, even singing at the less well attended services has been fulfilling as it is always a pleasure performing with such an accomplished choir of men and girls. My sight-reading has improved, my repertoire expanded and I have also made a set of firm friends. Life in the Chelmsford Cathedral Consort has prepared me perfectly for my Choral Scholarship at Cambridge which I will be starting in October - but I hope to be coming back soon for guest appearances (if they'll have me!)

Annabel Lloyd

This term don't forget that the Cathedral Consort are adding to our regular pattern of Choral Evensongs and will be regularly singing every Tuesday evening at 5.15pm. Do come along and support them and the Music Department as they start out on this new venture.

Membership

May I remind you that membership fees are now £15 for a family and £10 for an individual? Thank you to those who have already adjusted your standing order, and would any others who pay by this method please advise your bank of the change as soon as possible? People who pay by cheque will shortly be receiving a letter to remind them that this year's fee is now due.

Philippa Penkett

Four Composers

It is not often that four composers all share the same event. In our case it was a Monday evening Evensong when virtually all the music was written for the occasion with Martin How, the former RSCM commissioner, present to encourage our three musicians. The Choir sung his anthem, "The Flower" as a tribute to his work. Our (then) organ scholar, 19 year old Simon Williams composed the music for Psalm 74 with great effect, especially the line about axes and hammers! Robert Poyser, the Assistant Director of Music, composed the canticles which we all appreciated (he is not the kind of composer who scribbles notes on a serviette in a café, he tells me). And the hymn, words and music, was challenging. "Father, Lord! We give you Adoration" was written by our own Director of Music, Peter Nardone. I trust we will hear the hymn again! The responses were in Plainsong and the whole service was a lovely devotional moment of spiritual "umph". Please repeat these gems, Peter!

from Cathedral News



Martin How with Peter, Robert and Simon

Regular Choral Services

Monday

5.15pm Choral Evensong (*Boys' Voices*)

Tuesday

5.15pm Choral Evensong (*Consort*)

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

5.15pm Choral Evensong

Sunday

11.15am Choral Eucharist
or Choral Mattins (2nd Sun. of month)
6pm Choral Evensong

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Diary of Events

Sunday 21st November - 12.30pm

Choir Association Annual General Meeting
See Page 3

Friday 26th November - 8.00pm

Elijah - Mendelssohn
St. Cecilia Choral Society and the
Cathedral Voluntary Choir. Tickets from
James Dace & Son Ltd (01245 352133),
choir members or the Cathedral Office
(01245 294481)

Sunday 28th November - 6.00pm

Advent Carol Service

Thursday 23rd December &

Friday 24th December - 6.00pm

Nine Lessons & Carols

We have two services this year to enable
us to fit everyone in that wishes to come.

Friday 24th December - 11.15pm

Midnight Eucharist

Sung by the Cathedral Consort

Saturday 25th December - 10.00am

Christmas Day Choral & Family Eucharist

Choral Foundation Schools

ST. CEDD'S SCHOOL

Friday 19th November - from 4.00pm

Chelmsford Festival of Music & Drama
at the school

Tuesday 23rd November - 5.15pm

Evensong at the Cathedral

THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Monday 15th November

The School Choir take part in the
Barnados Concert at the Royal Albert Hall

Thursday 9th December - 2.00pm

Carol Service

KING EDWARD VI GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Friday 19th November - 1.30pm

House Music Competition

Wednesday 1st December - 7.30pm

Grand Charity Orchestral Concert
Proceeds to Cystic Fibrosis Charity

Thursday 16th December - 2.15pm

Carol Service in the Cathedral