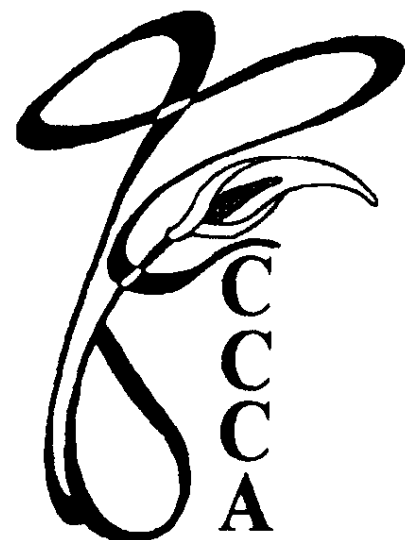




Chelmsford  
Cathedral

# *inQUIRE*



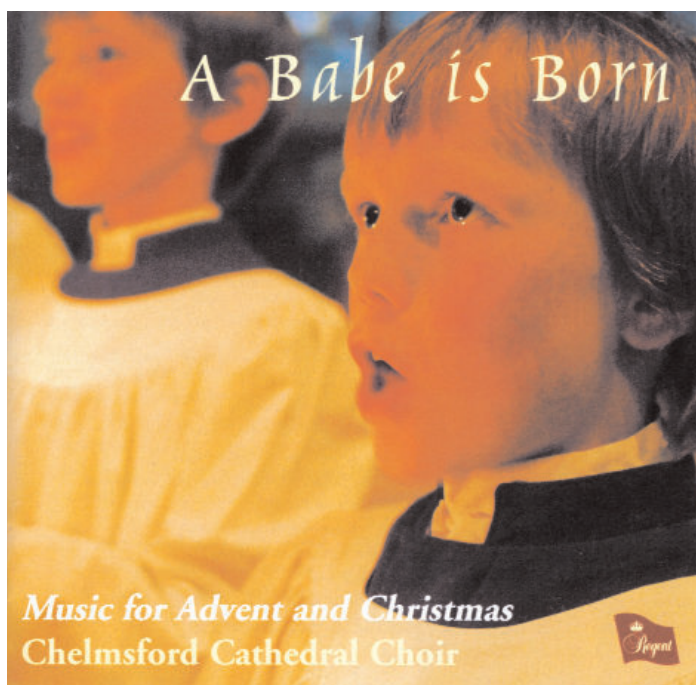
*The Newsletter for the Chelmsford Cathedral Choir Association*  
**Spring Term 2006**

## *The Director of Music writes...*

At the last AGM of the Choirs Association I, once again, took up the reins of the chairmanship. Over the past few years this task has been wonderfully fulfilled by Judith Houghton. We are thankful to her for all her work and I am particularly grateful to Judy for stepping in and chairing at a time when I needed the freedom to put energies in other directions. I have every faith that she and Graham will continue to support the work of the choirs in years to come.....but slightly less faith in my own abilities in the chair!

We have been busy of late with the Christmas launch of the CD "A babe is born", then the Consort's trip to Yorkshire and all this combined with the recruiting of new members. The consort is up to strength with twelve members and there are six new pre-probationers in the Cathedral choir. A seventh joins at Easter when his family moves to Chelmsford. We have already appointed an Organ Scholar for next year. He is Richard Brasier from Chelmsford and has had his sights set on the scholarship since he joined us for work experience nearly three years ago. You will, of course, read more of the Association's splendid work later in this newsletter.

Plans are well ahead for some exciting things before the next issue of *inQUIRE*. A BBC live TV broadcast on 4th June at 10am, a CD



recording of the Cathedral Consort, Jazz Mattins for the Festival and a number of trips to churches in the Diocese are all in the planning stages.

On Easter Day we are to perform Schubert's Mass in G with an orchestra. All the instrumental music parts have been paid for by a kind donation in memory of David Bentley, whose death last year saw the end of an era in the life of music in Chelmsford Cathedral. This musical depiction of resurrection on Easter morning must surely be a most fitting tribute to a lovely singer and musician.

*Peter Nardone*

## 'Celebrating Voice and Brass'

On Friday 27th May, prior to their very successful tour, the Cathedral Choir joined with the Salvation Army Band to give an exuberant and varied concert in the Cathedral.

The music covered a wide range, from Renaissance unaccompanied choral music to the first performances (both of them!) of Robert Poyser's *Behold now praise the Lord* for choir and band. This joyous piece provided a rousing start to the concert, unleashing high levels of energy interspersed with more contemplative passages, and it showed off both choir and band to good advantage. The audience had a welcome chance to hear it again just before the interval.

It is always a pleasure to hear the excellent ensemble of the Salvation Army Band, under their director, Simon Schultz. They played several groups of pieces, covering both their usual religious-based medleys as well as the secular talents of Andrew Lloyd-Webber. One particular highlight was the flawless cornet solo of David Wright, one of their past members who now plays with the Guards.

The Cathedral Choir seemed equally at ease in the Rodgers and Hammerstein Medley, with which they finished the concert, as they did in the *Cantique de Jean Racine* and 16th- and 17th-century pieces which form part of their normal repertoire. *A Spotless Rose* by Herbert Howells was particularly expressive and had an effective baritone solo from William Heyward.

A lively rendering of the Dubois *Toccata* by organ scholar, Oliver Walker complemented a most enjoyable evening.

The concert raised approximately £1400 towards the Choir Tour, and will, I hope, become a regular feature of the Cathedral Year.

*Philippa Penkett*

**New CD: "A babe is born"**

*Since the launch on Advent Sunday, the CD has been very popular. There are still some available, so do get yours for £10, or 3 for £25, by contacting the Cathedral Office on 01245 294480*

## Choir Trip to France

The choir trip to France in June seems a distant memory now bearing in mind that the clocks have changed again, and it feels like it has been raining forever. The memory, however, is a pleasurable one, filled with beautiful music, happy faces and lots of laughter.

The journey over was, it has to be said, long and hard-going, but several renditions of "Is this the way to Amarillo?" later, we arrived and settled into the basic, but adequate accommodation.

By day three of the trip, we had all nearly overdosed on hard baguettes, which we had at every meal - with jam for breakfast, with ham for lunch and again with the evening meal!

The concerts were well received, and comments were all favourable. The boys were all very well behaved, and I was very proud of them all.

Toni Panteli, Julia Wakeford, and myself were asked to prepare a lunch for approximately 45 people at Gilles' parents' house.

We were taken to a wonderful supermarket, where we did a 50 minute 'supermarket sweep'. The choices were absolutely amazing and the pastries to die for!

Lunch was laid out and Monsieur and Madame Gerrard, Gilles' parents, were wonderful hosts and very generous. They didn't speak much English, and we didn't speak much French, but we managed to point and gesture, and the table of food was fit for a king.

The food was quickly demolished by the hungry hordes and very little was left!

That evening, Toni and I prepared the packed lunches for the journey home. Nothing fancy, but we did make sandwiches with soft bread!

When the lunches were given out, the boys said "soft bread - thank goodness". Funny that such a simple thing could give so much pleasure.

The journey home didn't take quite such a long time, and we were all pleased to be home.

I don't think I'll ever get used to French toilets, particularly sharing them with a man. Quelle Horreur!!

*Julie Richmond*

## *Evensong at St. Laurence's, Barkingside*

On Saturday 15th October 2005 the Cathedral Choir made its way down to Barkingside - to St. Laurence's Church to sing Evensong. Nothing particularly special in this on the face of it as the choir regularly travels around the Diocese, supporting worship through music. However for one member of the choir this was a very special service. Graham Houghton was not only celebrating 40 years in the Cathedral Choir but also fulfilling a long held ambition to bring the Cathedral Choir to sing at St. Laurence's.

Graham was born in Barkingside and lived in Donington Avenue, close to St. Laurence's, and it was at this church that he began his career in church music as a young 10-year-old chorister.



The music was chosen by Graham, and the service began with the introit *Locus Iste* by Bruckner, with Herbert Howells' *Collegium Regale* Canticles, responses by Nardone and the anthem *O sacrum convivium* by Byrd. The service was well attended by members of St. Laurence as well as supporters from the Cathedral congregation.

And did any of those present spot anything different about the choir? Due to an oversight some of the cassocks were left in a car boot so three choristers were kitted out with blue cassocks from St. Laurence's choir instead of the usual purple. A great relief to learn this for those who noticed and thought perhaps their eyesight was failing them!

Before the service commenced the congregation of St. Laurence's presented Graham with a cake (pictured above) to mark the occasion.

*Paula Hiett*

## *Joining the Cathedral Consort*

As keen singers, when we heard about the Consort in Senior Choir at school we thought it sounded fun. As we wanted to do more singing, we decided to audition and were both offered places starting as soon as possible - on Ash Wednesday! Our first service was utterly surreal as, being totally unaccustomed to cathedral music and ritual, we were more than a little surprised to be given cassocks and have ash crosses daubed on our heads! We quickly got used to doing Evensongs (although our first set of canticles was slightly off-putting hand-written Blatchly) and eventually we learned about the Canticles, "I'm sure we've done these words before - but to a different tune." The Jamaican Canticles went down well and hopefully we'll do them again soon! Extreme Consort day was great fun, we did two services and had a great lunch, especially the gluten free chocolate fudge cake! All in all, we're very glad we joined Consort as we've learnt a lot that has improved our musicianship and have made new friends.

*Isobel Harris and Lizzie Bennett*

**Quiz Night 2006** - Friday 24th November at the Police Social Club, Springfield, Chelmsford.

We had another successful quiz night on 25th November 2005, and a good time was had by all. We have already booked this year's quiz night, so why not put the date in your diary now?



Graham Houghton with some of the choristers

## *Some words from our new Organ Scholar*

The first few weeks of being here were, I suppose, a shock in many ways. Although I have been away from home before, it was at boarding school in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, where the staff made sure we were up, fed and did the cleaning and laundry for us. Not now though - it's all down to me! It has been made easier in many ways by everyone being very friendly and welcoming to me - thank you! I live near Matlock in Derbyshire along with my parents, younger sister and several animals including a 6-month-old Springer Spaniel puppy and a tortoise, but it's not an easy day trip home.

I've found settling in to the position of organ scholar not too daunting and have so far enjoyed meeting and getting to know all the choristers and choir men and am looking forward to spending the remainder of the year here working with them, Peter and Robert and also working on improving my organ playing before going on to study music next September.



*Lizzie Hayward*

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## *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*

### **Fridays in Lent - 7.00pm**

*Compline Men's voices*

### **Saturday 11th March - 7.30pm**

*Cathedral Choir Concert at St Andrew's Church, Shalford Tickets £5 (children free) from Mrs Jo Crow 01371 850101*

### **Saturday 18th March - 7.30pm**

*Cathedral Choir Concert, St Helen & St Giles, Rainham*

*(Details: Parish Office 01708 552752)*

### **Saturday 25th March - 5.15pm**

*Annunciation Choral Eucharist (with incense)*

### **Saturday 25th March**

*A Murder Mystery evening will take place at the Chapter House. This brand new event to the Cathedral promises to be a very enjoyable and entertaining evening - so book your table without delay.*

*Tickets, which are £10 per head including food, are available from Philippa Penkett on **01245 351478***

### **Sunday 9th April - Palm Sunday**

10.30am *Combined Eucharist*

6.00pm *Readings & Music for Passiontide*

### **Holy Week (10th - 15th April)**

*Compline will be sung, Monday to*

*Wednesday at 7.45pm Men's voices*

### **13th April - Maundy Thursday**

7.45pm *Eucharist*

### **14th April - Good Friday**

2.00 - 3.00pm *The Liturgy of the Cross with Communion*

8.00pm *Stainer's Crucifixion* Voluntary Choir

### **16th April - Easter Day**

11.15am *Orchestral Mass (with incense)*

Full Choir & Consort

### **13th - 20th May**

*Chelmsford Cathedral Festival 2006*

[www.chelmsfordfestival.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordfestival.org.uk)

### **Sunday 28th May**

*The Voluntary Choir sings evensong at St Mary's Church, Burnham on Crouch*

### **Sunday 4th June - 10am**

*Live Broadcast on BBC Television for Pentecost*

### **Friday 24th November**

*Quiz Night*