



Inquire



The Director of Music writes . . .

I can report a season of change and growth. In the back rows of the choir we have lost two faithful singers; Graham Houghton is now on the deputy list having moved to Great Bentley near Colchester, I wish him and Judy a long and happy retirement in their lovely new home. Richard Walley, for some years a Choral Scholar then Lay Clerk has gone about as far as it is possible to go. He has set up a new life in New Zealand with his wife Olivia. I wish

them great prosperity and happiness in their lives.

Bright young choristers and consort girls flood in helping to keep our spirits up and we now have news of a new Precentor who should help to keep us all on track.

In this half of the year we are aiming towards the FCOCA weekend (7-9 July). Former organist, Phillip Ledger, will be present and we hope that many of the old choristers will join with us in Widor's Mass for two choirs and two organs on the Sunday morning.

The committee of the CCCA has been busy in the background by supporting our events and helping to raise money for the special treats we all need from time to time. I am deeply grateful to those who have continued the work at some of the meetings where I have not been able to be present. The spirit is willing and, in most cases, the flesh is up to it.

PETER NARDONE
Chairman & Director of Music



Charlie Palatoi inducted as Head Chorister

IN THIS ISSUE

The Director of Music writes . . .	1
Consort tour to Beverly	2
Christmas outing to Megabowl	2
The Worldes' Joie'	2
FCOCA Festival 2007	3
Chelmsford and Portsmouth	3
An alternative view of the Consort	4
The BBC at Chelmsford Cathedral	4
A note from the Organ Scholar	4
Musical Events from Foundation Schools	4



William Hiatt made Ouseley Chorister



New choristers: Joseph Izatt, William Foster, Joseph Hammett, Thomas Mitt



New Choristers Thomas Yiangou and Henry Allen with Charlie and William

Consort tour to Beverly

We left the Cathedral on Friday 17th February at about nine o'clock. This meant an early morning start, but that didn't matter because I was excited as I had never been on a choir tour before. We had been learning the music for some time before the tour and I liked most of it, especially 'Ne Irascaris Domine' by Byrd. We had a long coach journey up to Beverley in Yorkshire, which is a few miles north of Hull.

After being water-bombed (!) on our way through Beverley, we arrived at the youth hostel where we would be staying. We dropped our stuff off and then went to the Minster to practise. I'm not sure I've ever been in a building so big! It is certainly bigger than Chelmsford Cathedral! After our practise we went for a meal at the youth hostel (which we had to wash-up after!), and then we were allowed to walk around the town. We didn't get much time because we needed to be back at the Minster for our first concert pretty soon. The concert went well, and both of the big pieces we did, 'Vox dicentis' (Naylor) and 'Blessed city' (Bairstow), sounded really good in the huge building.

The next day we practised in the morning, and had a chance to rectify the things that went wrong in the concert the night before. After

that we were able to have a proper look around the town, and had to find our own lunch as well. In the afternoon we left for our second concert venue, Lastingham, which



Caption to follow

is where St. Cedd, one of the patron saints of Chelmsford Cathedral, is buried in the crypt. We didn't get very far because there was a low bridge which our bus couldn't get under, and our driver spent about fifteen minutes trying to turn us around. Then the GPS took us towards another Lastingham, so we ended up taking quite a long detour. When we eventually arrived it was freezing, but we had been warned that the heating system had broken. We didn't have as much practise time as we had hoped for because of the troubles we had had on the road, but we had a buffet meal in the parish hall, which was nice, especially the

cake! Poor Mr. Poyser had cheese. Nothing else, just cheese, because he is a coeliac.

The concert went well again, and we sang our first piece from inside the crypt. Some of the men ran for the pub immediately after the concert, which meant that we were waiting for some time before we could leave!

On Sunday we sang the morning service at the Minster. Some of the men complained that we woke them up (from above their room!) at five o'clock in the morning with our hairdryers! The service was very well attended and we sang 'O Sacrum Convivium' by Tallis as a motet, which we delivered from a side transept.

We then had a meal provided for us in the hall, which was either chilli con carne or chicken curry.

Then we had another long journey back in which many of us played "The Name Game", which lasted for about two hours, and the men sang a lot of 'Bax', whilst we sang 'Lift Thine Eyes' quite a few times!

BECCI GOWLER
Member of the Consort

Choristers Christmas Outing to Megabowl

On the 18th of December the choir boys from Chelmsford Cathedral visited the Chelmsford Bowling Centre (Megabowl) for their Christmas outing.

When we arrived most of the boys headed for the arcade games - the overall favourite was the rifle range game! We ordered food from the restaurant and when we had finished we finally played bowling! We had three lanes: 'Seniors', 'Probationers' & 'Choristers' and two games each. Some of the games were very close and very exciting! Just before our parents arrived we all ate sweets from the candy counter and lounged around on the benches!

Thank you for taking us, we had a great time.

THOMAS MITTY *Chorister*

This Worldes' Joie'

Perhaps this year's most exciting project for the Consort was the recording of 'This Worldes' Joie' last Summer. This is a disc of choral and organ music from a variety of composers ranging from Bax to Byrd and Mendelssohn amongst others. We were fortunate to obtain the services of an expert team to produce the disc in Joel Moors (you can hear Joel on BBC Radio Stoke!) as engineer and Stephen Tilton as producer. Their exacting standards and the choir's dedication through some long and very hot evenings in the Cathedral enabled a quality CD to emerge. This was one of the last occasions that the Consort sang together before the holiday and five

of its members left for University.

After the Summer break, we started with almost a new choir and I was delighted how quickly they came together. This was especially the case when we went to sing at St Gabriel's Church, Aldersbrook where the Rev'd Peter Smith made us extremely welcome. Peter has also been helping us out as a cantor at evensong occasionally since Genny left in November.

As ever, the Consort is always expanding its repertoire and we look forward to an exciting year ahead - and lots of CD sales!

ROBERT POYSER
Assistant Director of Music



Dancing, drinking and general merriment was had by the 80 people in attendance on Saturday March 17th to celebrate St Patricks Day in the North Springfield Community Centre. The five piece Celidh band "Io" provided us with music with which we could dance the "Lady Gudiver", "Stripping the Willow" and a variety of other traditional Celidh dances. We all had fun trying to master dance moves such as "Wringing out the DishCloth", "Ladies Chain" and swinging your partner round and round. Traditional Irish grub in the form of Beef and Guinness Stew was consumed along with a variety of

desserts all cooked by members of the CCCA committee. A bucket load of Guinness was drunk by all in attendance so much so the bar had to go out 3 times to source some more from the local shops. In addition to ticket sales a raffle was held and "roll a pound for a bottle of Irish Whiskey" was welcomed by men and women alike. These brought the funds raised for the CCCA to approx £400, which is being matched by Michelle Yule's employer Barclays Capital as part of their charity matching scheme - making the total raised for the CCCA approx £800.

MICHELLE, ????

Chelmsford and Portsmouth

Two gap years!? Why? That was certainly a common question asked of me over the summer. Many people said that if you enjoy a place it is very difficult to try and replicate it elsewhere. I had really enjoyed my time at Portsmouth and it did slowly begin to dawn on me that perhaps my high expectations on the following year were to be in vain. To be fair, settling in was tough at first but it's fair to say that my fears were put to rest upon arrival at Chelmsford.

What makes a place is the atmosphere and both Portsmouth and Chelmsford share the distinction of being smaller, closer cathedral communities. They both have an immediate warmth about them which is harder to find in some of the larger cathedrals. My move has also been made incredibly easy by ending up working with Chelmsford Cathedral's music department. Again, it is the wonderful closeness between everyone and the wonderful energy of the department that makes

Chelmsford as good as Portsmouth. I arrived to a well established choir with its own traditions and style. I was amazed to hear that most of the back row is made up of a dedicated team of volunteers. Despite this the choir still demonstrates a sense of structure and stability and maintains a high level of music making.

Chelmsford has produced its own challenges as well. Ending up singing by myself for most services has been a very rewarding experience. Realising that there is no-one but yourself to sing your part is daunting but is a big way to improve several aspects of your singing. Perhaps a big confidence booster has been the opportunity of being Cantor at a few services a week during the absence of a Precentor. These have been great opportunities that I have really enjoyed and they have developed my singing enormously.

The similarities between the two Cathedrals have made moving on from Portsmouth a much easier

FCOCA Festival 2007

Each year the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations holds an AGM and Festival Weekend in a different cathedral within Great Britain. Chelmsford hosted the 1999 AGM and this year we are pleased to host the Festival in July.

It is expected that around 140 delegates will descend upon Chelmsford during Friday July 6th to attend the Festival, to enable many who have sung as choristers in cathedrals, together with wives and partners, to hear the voices of our Cathedral Choirs as well as to enjoy getting together over various events arranged during the weekend. On the Saturday a banquet is to be held which marks the main event of the Festival.

There will be various ways by which Association members will be able to help over the weekend in some way, either with stewarding or giving assistance with refreshments for example. Please let a member of the committee know if you can possibly help over this weekend.

For some time consideration has been given towards the establishment of a formal Old or Former Choristers' Association in Chelmsford, as has been set up in many other cathedrals. It therefore seems an appropriate occasion to launch such an association, and many invitations will be sent to former choristers inviting them to the Saturday evening event.

MICHAEL LAKE, *Federation Representative for Chelmsford*

task. Being able to participate in high standards of music making has been great. Both Portsmouth and Chelmsford have offered me great musical experiences and I can only thank everyone for their friendliness. In particular, I extend my gratitude to the two Directors of Music for having appointed me. Thank you!

TOM LEWIS, *Choral Scholar*

An Alternative View of the Consort!

We furst herd about consort from isabella. she sed that they wanted ppl 2 sing and we fort well thats wicked wear well good at that.. we wanted two join cos it soundid like fun and we herd u cood do bishops korrresta nd get sum bling. The audition was hard bt we got in – we wer well safe mon. are furst serviss was gr8 we sang lots ov songs and wore cassox. We wantid burberry cassox but suml sed they dont mak em. we got wite scarf fins but we dint no wot 2 do wiv em cos dey wer odd but Isabella told us wot 2 do, its like a cravatt, innit



Now that were used 2 wot we do its all sorted and we jst go nd sing. Were goin on tor soon 2 sum place I fink its in scottland. We wont 2 get a nice burberry car like this 1 cos if we did a few trips wed get evryl their in the end. We had 2 stop smokin cos it was bad four are voices and we had 2 find nursery places 4 charmaine and britney. uvva than that it was well cool nd easy nd we can almost reed moosic now

THE UMSCI PAIR (IZI AND LIZZIE!)
(Variation on the article published in a previous edition of 'Inquire' Ed.)

The BBC at Chelmsford Cathedral

When I heard that the BBC was coming to Chelmsford I was really excited and anticipated a really enjoyable and unusual experience. On Saturday 3rd June we spent the whole day rehearsing at the Cathedral with the BBC. The next day was Pentecost and it was LIVE! We were joined by the choir of Brentwood Cathedral and it was really good to sing on TV on such a special day in the church calendar. It was a normal length service but it seemed to go quickly and our hour of fame was over before we knew it. Lots of my friends saw me on T.V. which was a real surprise! Although none of it was negative feedback it was a surprise how many watched the live Sunday service.

The following evening, Monday 5th June, we assembled in the Cathedral armed with bottles of water and prepared for 3 hours of singing. We couldn't see the conductor because he was in one of the ambos but Mr Poyser stood at the end of Decani and we were conducted by him the whole 3 hours. Mr Nardone was the organist. We did all the classics and a lot more! The hymns we sang that night were recorded for two Songs of Praise programmes: the Harvest edition aired in September 2006, and a second one to be shown on April 28th this year. It was very enjoyable and we all learned from the experience.

CHARLIE PALATOI, Head Chorister

A note from the Organ Scholar

Since completing my work experience at the Cathedral three years ago, it had always been an ambition of mine to apply for the organ scholarship. To some applying to Chelmsford may have seemed a strange choice seeing as I live in Galleywood, only a ten minute drive from the Cathedral! But now having done so I have no regrets, and have had no problems settling into the position of organ scholar. This is due to all of the wonderful people I have met and all the support I have received from Peter and Robert.

So far I have accompanied many services and have taken part in two concerts with the Cathedral Consort. Because of all of these opportunities I feel that my skills as an organist have improved greatly. One thing that has impressed me is the family atmosphere, which seems to be present not only within the music department, but also within the cathedral congregation.

I am looking forward to spending the rest of my time here assisting with the musical life of the cathedral and improving my playing even further before I begin studying for a degree at the Royal Academy of Music in September.

RICHARD BRASIER, Organ Scholar

LOOKING AHEAD

The Annual Quiz this year will take place on Friday 2nd November 2007 at our usual venue, the Essex Police Sports and Social Club. Teams of 6-8 people will pit their wits against the challenging questions of our quiz master David Bird to win the coveted Choir Association Quiz Trophy. I hope that many of you will join us at this event. Put this date in your diaries now.

PAULA HIETT
Secretary, Choir Association

Musical Events from Foundation Schools

8 th May	Evensong sung by St Cedd's School, 5.15pm
16 th May	KEGS Young Musicians Evening
19 th May	Chelmsford Festival of Music (including St Cedd's School)
23 rd May	Summer Music Concert at the Cathedral School
24 th May	St Cedd's School Years 3-5 Concert
9 th June	Hospice Concert (St Cedd's School), Chelmsford Cathedral
20 th June	Evensong sung by St Cedd's School
27 th June	Chelmsford Junior Music Festival (including St Cedd's School and the Cathedral School)
27 -29 th June	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (St Cedd's School)
28 th June:	KEGS Summer Concert
10-12 th July	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (The Cathedral School at St Peter's College)

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