



Chelmsford Cathedral



inQUIRE

*The Newsletter for the Chelmsford Cathedral Choir Association
Summer Term 2002*

The Director of Music writes...

Most people reading this will know that a cathedral choir normally sings divided and in two halves that face each other across an ancient and gloomy Quire. The choir is primarily designed to sing the daily office for the (largely) unseen multitude - in our case the folk of Chelmsford in particular and the rest of the world in general. Producing and reproducing this offering day by day is, in itself, a labour of love for all associated. The next challenge for us is in creating a choir that can face its audience, hold its own music and perform in a concert situation.

Over the past few months we have had plenty of opportunity to learn about this, not least in our highly successful visit to Annonay but also in performing some of the sacred music of Duke Ellington during our Cathedral Festival in May. The choristers have risen to the challenge and as they get older they are increasingly fired up by the musical demands put upon them. They are a proud and enthusiastic team who deserve all the support that you, The Choir Association, offer throughout the year. Thank you for your continued interest and encouragement.

Peter Nardone

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*Rehearsing for a concert in Annonay
[Photo - Genny Tunbridge]*

My First Broadcast

Many of you will have heard the broadcast of Choral Evensong on Radio 3 on 6 March. The youngest Chorister on the broadcast, Patrick Aspbury, gives us his impression of the Broadcast...



“On the day before the broadcast, I was quite nervous. I remember on the day that the broadcast was due, I had to miss half a day of school. It was Wednesday and I missed the swimming gala as well. I was quite pleased about this.

The rehearsal was much longer than usual before Evensong. We made a few mistakes and we had to go over it several times. We had a break for a drink and a biscuit from Mrs. Orton. We were wearing our choir purple cassocks for the actual broadcast.

I was a bit scared during the broadcast because I was tempted to cough but I managed not to. I was a little nervous when the red light turned on at the beginning of the broadcast because this meant we were on the radio. There were two people recording the service.

We sang several psalms. Mr. Wellman played the organ and Mr. Nardone conducted us.

My Gran was taping the broadcast but she didn't notice that the tape she bought was not long enough to tape the whole broadcast.

I especially liked singing “Hail gladdening light”. There were more people than usual at evensong. I enjoyed the broadcast.”

Patrick Aspbury



Choir News - in brief

- The recent **Choral Spectacular** with James Bowman (pictured below) raised over £1700 to be divided between The Choir Association and The Choral Foundation. Warmest thanks to all who helped - in particular, James Bowman.

- In September 2002 we are to vary the pattern of sung services in the Cathedral. This is for a trial period and will involve the choristers singing Choral Evensong on Mondays at 5.15pm instead of Tuesdays.

- The Cathedral Choir played an important role in the service of thanks for the **Queen's Golden Jubilee** on 9th June. They sang, amongst other things, Handel's “Zadok the Priest” and Byrd's “O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen to rejoice in thy strength” - written, of course, for QE1!

- We are most grateful to the Friends of Chelmsford Cathedral for their generous grant of £200 towards the choir's trip to Annonay at Easter.



*James Bowman with the choir during the **Choral Spectacular**, 8th March.*

[Photo - Tony Allen]

The Choral Foundation

Peter Nardone has asked me to write a few lines about the finances of the Cathedral Foundation which exists to pay bursaries for the choristers, choral scholars, organ scholar, lay clerks and the members of the Cathedral Consort. The Foundation was the brainchild of the Provost John Moses and Dr Graham Elliott at the time of the organ appeal in the early 1990s with the intention that there should be a capital fund of £500,000 from the appeal to enable the bursaries to be paid. In the event, the Foundation started life at its first meeting in March 1996 with available funds of some £157,000.

Steady progress has been made in the intervening six years in raising finance for the Foundation and, at the end of 2001, the Capital Fund stood at £470,000 - within striking distance of the amount originally sought. I think it possible that the fund will reach the elusive £500,000 figure this year, thanks, in part, to a generous gift of **£15,000 from the Friends of Cathedral Music**. It seems to me to be fitting that an organisation, which, since 1956, has done so much to maintain, nurture and develop the unique English Cathedral choral tradition, should be responsible for the Choral Foundation reaching its original target.

It would be nice to think that the work which Peter Nardone and I do in trying to raise additional finance for the Foundation will cease when the capital fund reaches £500,000. Unfortunately this is not the case. Not only has the level of bursaries increased dramatically since the early 1990s but the number of choir members has also increased. In addition, rates of interest are at their lowest level for over forty years and the stock market has been in the doldrums for over two years. The result of all this is that the income from our

cash balances and investments is not enough to cover the cost of the bursaries and we are, therefore, reliant on donations to meet the difference as well as build up our capital fund.

However, I am pleased to be part of a team under Peter, which is furthering the development of the English Cathedral choral tradition here in Chelmsford without the benefits of a specific choir school and of extensive endowments.

John White
(Choral Foundation Treasurer)

Organ Scholar 2002-2003

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Hayward to the position of Organ Scholar for the next academic year. Paul comes from Nottingham and, like Daniel Soper our current Organ Scholar, is a highly skilled tuba player. He is currently Assistant Organist at the parish of St Leonard's, Wollaton and enjoys juggling, drama and bell ringing. He has been around since 1st July and has been learning the ropes from Daniel Soper.

The Friends of Cathedral Music



The Friends of Cathedral Music exists to maintain the English Cathedral choral tradition. They publish a free guide, "Singing in Cathedrals," which lists service times and details of concerts and festivals. Further information is available on their website: www.fcm.org.uk.

The new Choral and Organ Scholars' House

Shortly before I came to Chelmsford, it was agreed by the various Cathedral committees that a house suitable for three choral scholars and one organ scholar should be purchased. Thanks to a generous interest-free loan from an anonymous supporter, the dream became a reality in March of this year. Although the house has only had myself and Daniel Joy (Choral Scholar) living there this term, it is envisaged that in the Academic year 2002/2003 there will be four students resident there. Minor alterations have been made to create a fourth bedroom and we have been working hard on the garden to make it look less like a forest and more a garden.

The house is a couple of minutes from the Cathedral by bike and only 10 minutes walk, which is extremely convenient. I hope that we are the first of many scholars to live in such a comfortable and spacious home. Many thanks to all the people who have helped to make it possible.

Daniel Soper



The new house

If you have something worth saying to the Chelmsford Cathedral Choir Association then please send your articles or adverts for inclusion in *inquire* to Daniel Soper mail@djsoper.co.uk

Choir Gallery

For some time now I have been collecting photographs, from all sources, in order to compile an 'official' Choir Photographic Archive. These photographs are a sample of those from the earlier years with reference to the first four Organists and Masters of Music. Many thanks to those who have helped so far.

Graham Houghton



The choir in 1948 under Dr. Roland Middleton (1945 - 1949)



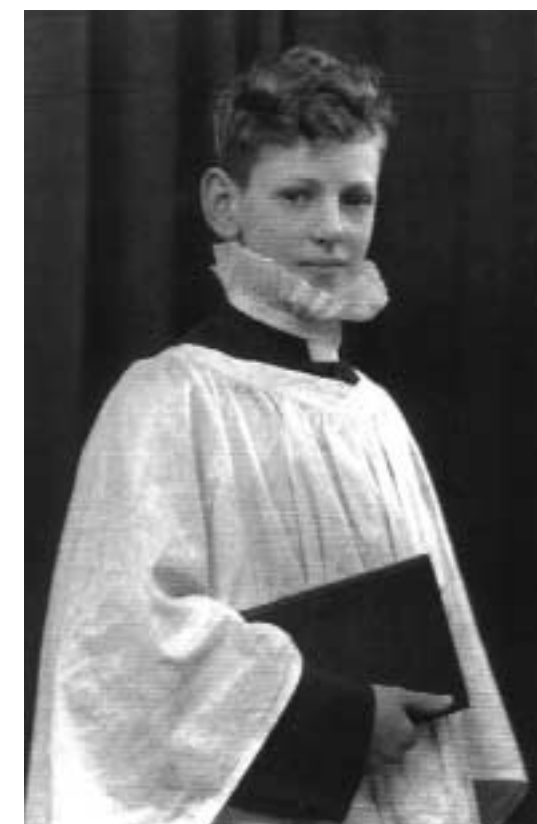
The earliest photograph we have shows the Cathedral and Choir in procession in the High Street (1922)



The choir in December 1957 under Derrick Cantrell (1953 - 1962)



Graham Gowers - chorister under Dr. Stanley Vann (1949 - 1953), amongst many!



Douglas Britton - chorister under Frederick Frye (1876 - 1942)

Choir Trip to Annonay

In the week after Easter, the choir went to Chelmsford's twin town, Annonay, to perform in two concerts and a service. Peter Wakeford, Decani Head Chorister, gives us his account of the week...

Tuesday 2nd April

I had been waiting for this day for ages now. I had packed a month in advance and had hardly got any sleep over the night, for today was the day we were going to Annonay. One of the reasons that I was so excited was that I had never flown before.

We arrived at Stansted airport, and waited for everyone else to turn up, although we were not first. When everyone was ready, we moved on to the metal detectors and waited in the waiting room for our Flight to be called. We all let out a cheer when we were told to go to our plane. We all watched the demonstration the air stewardess gave, and finally we were taxiing along the runway. Then the engines roared and we were flying.

I enjoyed my first flight but the thing that was most disappointing was the landing, as I was hoping that it would be rougher, but we just glided along the runway.

We arrived at the very posh looking Grenoble airport, and collected our bags from this very strange spinney thing (please bear with me, as this is all new to me!).

We then got on a coach and drove to G.O.L.A. where we were staying. It was a tatty looking building, but inside it was very different. We went to Dinner, which I thoroughly enjoyed and mainly consisted of French bread.

Wednesday 3rd April

Breakfast that morning was like none other I had had before. There was the choice of hot chocolate, tea or coffee to drink, which you filled yourself into a glass bowl that you drank from. Me being me had hot chocolate. Food was French bread and marmalade or jam.

Next was a choir practice, followed by a four course lunch, followed by another choir practice, this time followed by a tour of the town, which included the jails, in which I was locked up in a dark cell with a couple of other choristers. One of them said he felt something sharp digging into his back! Next we had a reception with the Mayor where we sung a few songs and had some food.

Another four course meal then followed this, then time for some fun! We played football for an hour and, exhausted, went to bed.

Thursday 4th April

Once again, breakfast was followed by another choir practice (I'm not complaining, honest!), once again followed by lunch, which was followed by another choir practice,



Peter Wakeford, Thomas King and Ellis Panteli in a cell of the old Jail. [Photo - John Kirvan]

followed by another four course dinner, which was this time followed by our first concert. We drove to the top of a high hill, and to give you a scale of how high it was, our ears were popping like they had on the plane! We got to the top, which had an old Catholic church, where we were singing. It was so cold that it had huge heaters, which we could hear droning while we rehearsed. It was a relief to us all when they were turned off for the concert.

I sat next to my Dad on the coach back to G.O.L.A.. It was dark and flashes puzzled us down in the valley, which turned out to be a thunderstorm.

Friday 5th April

We were all happy today, as this was our free day. We all thought that we were going swimming, until my Dad said we were walking up the nearest hill. He said that we were going to catch "the famous Annonay bear", but I think that was just a con to get us walking. I personally enjoyed it more than I would have done swimming. We named the hill C, P and M (choir, parents and Matron). We got back in time for lunch, which was followed by a trip to the local safari park. We all enjoyed this trip, especially the part where we drove around in the coach, and came literally metres from bears and ostriches. We had dinner, followed by a Quiz, which I think we all enjoyed.



Some boys at the Safari Park. [Photo - Genny Tunbridge]

Saturday 6th April

We all had the tour Eucharist after breakfast, followed by the packing of bags, then another choir rehearsal. We had lunch and said goodbye to the kitchen staff, as we were moving to the "Hotel du midi". We checked in and found our rooms. I was in a room with my Dad and my Brother, which I was pleased about. We had an excellent room that looked right over the town square. Then we had a rehearsal for the concert later that night. Then we went back to G.O.L.A. to have

dinner, followed by the second and final concert of our tour in the church just around the corner from the hotel. We then went back to the hotel. I really liked it in the hotel, as I have never been in one before.

Sunday 7th April

We had breakfast in the hotel and packed our bags. I had mixed feelings at that point because I wanted to get home to my mum, but wanted to stay at the hotel. There was a small prizegiving in which I received an award for helping at the table. Then we sang the morning Eucharist at the nearby church. Then we all got our bags and got onto the coach, some happy, some sad about leaving. We then stopped at a hypermarket to have lunch, before getting on the plane.

I only remembered that people drive on the other side of the road on the way back on the plane, as I looked out the window and saw a lorry having difficulty in getting around the roundabout.

We then said goodbye to everyone at arrivals and went home talking to my mum about the trip.

I really enjoyed my trip to Annonay and I would like to say thank you to Mr. Nardone, Mr. Wellman and Mr. Soper.

Peter Wakeford



*The Choir at the Basilica, La Louvesc
(Thursday's Concert).* [Photo - Genny Tunbridge]

Choir Association Committee

Ex-officio Members

Peter Nardone (Chairman)

Director of Music

Edward Wellman

Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Soper

Organ Scholar

Jane Orton

Choir Matron

Dr. Genny Tunbridge

Precentor

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Graham Houghton

Choral Scholars' / Lay Clerks' Representative

Richard Walley

Choristers' Parents' Representative

David Forfar

Co-opted member

Anne Slater

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Choral Services at the Cathedral

Tuesday (*changing to Monday next term*)

5.15pm Choral Evensong

Boys' Voices

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

5.15pm Choral Evensong

Sunday

11.15am Choral Eucharist

or Choral Mattins (2nd Sun. of month)

6pm Choral Evensong

Diary of Events

Friday 6th September 2002

Michaelmas Term commences

(first full service on Thurs 12th)

Saturday 21st September 2002

Barn Dance at St. Cedd's School Hall

Friday 27th September 2002

7.30pm *Choir Concert*

at Ascension Church, Chelmsford

Saturday 2nd November 2002

6pm *All Souls Day Service*

- "*Requiem*" by Duruflé

Sunday 1st December 2002

6pm *Advent Carols*

Tuesday 24th December 2002

6pm *Nine Lessons and Carols*

Friday 7th February 2003

7.30pm *Quiz Night*

(to be confirmed)

10th - 17th May 2003

Chelmsford Cathedral Festival

For further details about any of the above events please contact the Music Department.

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