



Chelmsford
Cathedral



inQUIRE

The Newsletter for the Chelmsford Cathedral Choir Association
Summer Term 2003

The Director of Music writes....

The coming season heralds a number of changes in the Music Department in the Cathedral. It is with great sadness that we lose our Assistant Director of Music Edward Wellman. Our loss will be the great gain of St Peter's Church, Hammersmith where Edward is to be Director of Music. He is also hoping to follow a Freelance career as a Musician and we wish him every happiness and good fortune in his new life. Edward's replacement is to be Robert Poyser who is currently Acting Assistant Organist at York Minster. Robert will join us in August and the new Organ Scholar Simon Williams, from St Mary's Church Nottingham, will join us at the beginning of the academic year 2003.

Can I thank those of you who have already donated towards the Choir's trip to Tuscany; unfortunately this has had to be postponed until a later date but your money is safely in the Choir Association bank account and earmarked for the Choir's trip. On a similar note the



The choir and clergy on Easter Day

Gentlemen of the Choir are to visit some beautiful churches in the North of France and sing some of the less well-explored repertoire for Alto, Tenor and Bass. This trip will be taking place between 29th July and the 3rd August.

Congratulations!

To David Latham who recently celebrated 10 years as Choir Librarian. David devotes an immense amount of time and talent to this job, computer setting music that I have written and also organising all of the Special Service booklets which have music inserts. David is a tireless worker and I cannot imagine the Cathedral Choir functioning as efficiently without his input. We all owe a great debt of gratitude and hope that the next ten years are as productive for David and the Cathedral as the last ten years have

been. Congratulations are also due to his long suffering wife Mary who, when the going gets tough, just pops down to Essex County Cricket Ground to get away from all of David's quavers and semi-quavers!

Peter Nardone

In this edition of inQUIRE...

Pages 2-3 **A Choral Scholar's Story**

Tim Salisbury

The Royal Visit

Edward Slater

Page 4 **Choristers' Outing to Frinton**

Luke Richmond

Going for a Voice Trial

William Hiatt

Diary of Events &

Contact Details

A Choral Scholar's Story

I think it was about this time last year when I was beginning to prepare for my gap year selection. Press-ups, sit ups, long cycle rides to improve stamina and a good dose of current affairs. Long train journeys to obscure locations, big dinners and interviews were pretty much standard a year ago. This was because initially for my gap year I had intended to join the army as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Armoured Corps. I went through the entire military selection process all the way up to the first part of the final selection board, which, despite some rather nasty 10 foot high walls, I managed to pass quite well. However I was already having a few doubts about this course of action, mainly based on the hostility I felt towards my music which were expressed very bluntly by a female Major in the Royal Logistics Corps. "You're not really a soldier are you? You're a musician." (I said she was blunt!).

So I found myself a few weeks after Easter looking for something to do for a year. I looked at some overseas projects, at music-assistant posts at a number of well known public schools (one post in South Africa which I was eventually offered... in early December! Thanks, but it's bit late guys!), but eventually I stumbled across the idea of doing a choral scholarship somewhere. I applied for a few, but I just didn't have the right experience for one and the other mislaid my application, only to find it again after having appointed a choral scholar. Chelmsford was a stroke of luck really. I was away on the Eton Choral Course

when my Grandparents found the advert placed in the Church Times in June. They gave it to my parents who applied for the scholarship in my absence, I visited the town to audition and here I am!

I am now very proud to be a gentleman of Chelmsford Cathedral Choir as I believe are all it's members, men and boys. Singing the sheer volume of music that we do is a totally new concept to me. Previously I had never been involved with Cathedral music making, generally preparing a work so thoroughly I could write it let alone sing it! Now, I pick up the music on Wednesday to prepare the music (the majority of it totally unfamiliar) set for Thursday and Friday's evensong. I often find myself the only Bass on my side, which is a surprisingly enjoyable position to be in, if a little hard work. The only part of the job which I seem to consistently have difficulties with is Psalm singing. For some reason I can't quite sing a Psalm using the correct words, so when you are at evensong and here an extra 's', 'ness' or even just a completely wrong word, it's probably me. Sorry!

The other aspects of Choral Scholar life are pretty good. I have a nice job at Dace's selling sheet music. I find the time (and the train fare!) to sing with the Bach Choir under David Hill in London on Mondays. Also I need to mention that as a choral scholar one receives lessons with Peter Nardone, which, whilst occasionally a little difficult to schedule, are excellent and I feel he has helped me to make such improvements in my singing this year. I am also a privileged tenant of the Neo-Georgian splendour that is 87 Rainsford Lane, with panoramic views of a car park and the



Angus Forfar, Patrick Aspbury and Peter Wakeford lighting an advent candle

Fundraising Event

Hog Roast - Saturday 21st June

6.30 for 7pm, arranged by the Choir Association, with thanks to John and Yvonne Spence for the use of their garden.

Tickets from Philippa Penkett - £10 for adults, £5 for children under 16 years.

For more details please phone
01245 351478.

All funds raised will go to support the choir tour to Italy in 2004.

Fire station. It might look like a Channel 4 documentary (the 1970's house) but to be fair it is a good base for me and I do generally enjoy the business of feeding myself (500g of mince and a jar of Dolmio keeps me going for most of the week!) not to mention the freedom one has when living on ones own.

This is certainly not the action packed gap-year that I envisaged myself having, nor is Berkshire to Essex the trans-global shift that so many of my peers are making. Interestingly though, I do feel very privileged not to be one of thousands doing the 'individual' thing and travelling the world in their gap year, but one of only about twenty or so in the country taking gap year Cathedral Scholarships. I feel that I have learnt so much already this year ranging right the way from reading plainsong to unblocking sinks and ordering sheet music. This has been such a worthwhile year in my opinion and I look forward to my remaining time here in Chelmsford.

Tim Salisbury

The Royal Visit

I was very excited when I looked at the term's calendar and saw that The Queen would be visiting on the 31st January. There was to be a special service to commemorate the 1953 Canvey Island floods. Two weeks before the service I got the upsetting news that The Queen would not be able to come. At first I was really disappointed but I soon got over it and

learned that The Earl and Countess of Wessex would be attending instead. We had a lot of preparation for the service. It was to be



Processing round the Cathedral before the service

broadcast on BBC Essex live. As it got nearer to the anniversary of the floods there were several television programmes about them and I began to realise how awful it must have been for the people affected and why the service would be so important. On the night before the royal visit it snowed heavily. I was really happy to find that my school was to be closed on Friday because of the weather but worried that it would also cause the service to be cancelled. It wasn't although I had to walk to the cathedral. We started rehearsing at 10.30 am. I felt really excited and wanted the service to begin. As well as the National Anthem and hymns we were singing Psalm 93, Benedicite by Sumsion and My Beloved Spake by Patrick Hadley. The Earl and Countess of Wessex were delayed partly by the weather but also because they were being photographed. There was a written message from Her Majesty The Queen left on every seat in the cathedral which was totally full. It was a moving service especially when I realised that many of the congregation would have been a similar age as me at the time of the floods. I'm really pleased that I have had the opportunity to sing at a royal service. I didn't get to meet the Earl and Countess of Wessex but I did get to see them as they were right at the front of the Cathedral sitting on two of the song school chairs. After getting out of my choir robes I went home for a snowball fight.

Edward Slater

12-year-old Chorister

Choristers outing to Frinton

April 16th 2003

It was a lovely sunny day when I woke up. The weather forecast had been right the day before and I put on my beach gear. I had my breakfast, picked up my packed lunch and mum took me to choir practise at 9 o'clock. After practise we all walked down to the car park at Guy Harlings and piled into the cars. I was in Iwan's car with his sister and Edward Slater. It didn't take long to get to Frinton. The tide was in, it was boiling hot and we soon got soaked by the waves. We went to the beach hut and dried ourselves off. Dr Orton was cooking sausages which we all tucked into.

After lunch the tide had gone out and we played on the sand. We made a huge lake of water with little canals leading to the sea. We worked extremely hard trying to stop them from overflowing. After a while Mrs. Orton said it was time to go home. On the way home we listened to "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy". We were all tired, wet, sandy but happy. It was a good day out.

Luke Richmond
10-year-old Chorister

Going for a Voice Trial

It was one Saturday afternoon and we had to wait in the Cathedral until it was time to go into the Song School. I was very nervous at the time but when I started actually singing I didn't feel nervous anymore. I had to sing a couple of songs and Mr Nardone had to check your voice. Mr. Nardone asked me to read from a hymn book and then to sing some notes. He gave me a mark for everything and I peeked at it when he put the board down. I thought that I had done quite well. Mr. Nardone was testing other boys so I didn't find out if I got into the choir straightaway. It was a few days later that I heard that I had been chosen to join the choir.

William Hiatt
8-year-old Probationer



Diary of Events

Sunday 8th June - 6.00pm

*Bishop John's Farewell Service,
for his retirement*

Saturday 21st June - 6.30 for 7.00pm

Hog Roast (see page3 for details)

Sunday 22nd June - 11.15am

Civic Service

Monday 23rd June - 6.45-7.45pm

*Sustainable Communities Concert -
open to general admission, part of a
one day conference: "A Journey
through English Choral Music"
Tickets £6 from the Civic Theatre Box
Office - 01245 606505 or Chancellor Hall.*

Sunday 13th July - 11.15am

Choral Matins & Choir Prizегiving

Saturday 12th July - 5.00pm

*Choral Evensong at St Peter's Chapel,
Bradwell-on-Sea*

Sunday 14th September - 6.00pm

Installation of Choral & Organ Scholars

Sunday 9th November - 6.00pm

*Remembrance Sunday -
Requiem (Durufle)*

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Regular Choral Services

Monday

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

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