

CHOIR NEWS JULY 2018

.....it feels strange to be drafting the Choir News for July when we have only just begun June (it is the 4th as I write) but this is the timetable that I have to adhere to, in order not to fall foul of the editor.

NEWS

Hurrah, there is some news to report from Bledlow Choir. We have new members in all voice parts except the basses. And indeed the tenors could number eight if we all turned up at the same time, which we never do. The result would be quite a squash in the choir stalls as some of us are of substantial size (I speak only of myself, lest a fellow tenor is considering an action for defamation). Still it is encouraging. And the altos too, are bigger in number now than at any time since I joined the choir in 2012.

OUR VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM

On Saturday June 9th Bledlow choir is singing evensong at Birmingham Cathedral which is a beautiful building in which to sing. Why this should be I don't know, but I've noticed that the plainer (and this is plain) the inside of a building, the better the sound, by and large. The cathedral dates from 1751 and was formerly the parish church and dedicated to St Philip in deference to the Phillips family who gave the land on which it stands. In 1905 it became a cathedral to save the expense of a new building. The music includes the hauntingly beautiful 'Prayer of King Henry VI'. I just love it. This is in Latin. And as if to test our linguistic abilities we will also sing the Cantique de Jean Racine, in French of course. It will be important to remember that 'qui' sounds different in the Latin (where it is 'kwee') from French (where it is 'key')

And the cathedral is just a few steps from Snowhill Station so really easy to get to. In case you are wondering, I have bought a new Senior Citizen railcard, and if you don't know what this is about, see the previous issue of the Messenger

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH (Well for some of us)

Or so says a report in the Daily Telegraph on 28 May. Apparently an article in the British Journal of Psychiatry explains that singing speeds the recovery of mothers with post-natal depression. Those attending weekly workshops 'learning and singing songs with their babies' improved considerably faster than a control group-with more than half being completely recovered within a couple of months.

AND FINALLY

The observant reader will have noticed that I now sign off and give my email address. This is in the hope that someone will contact me with a view to correcting, disagreeing with or offering support for my scribbles. I had been tempted to report that after many barren months, three people had just done so. I thought that it would just be a little mischievous fun, but a well-respected parishioner described it as cynical. So I haven't. But if you have anything to say....

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