

CHOIR NEWS JANUARY 2018

After a two year break, the baton has been passed to me again to keep the Choir in the News via the Messenger. So the relief at handing the work to Rob Hill is over and I am back in the saddle. To continue the analogy, it's a bit like the Madison in bike racing, you get a rest but know full well that your turn is coming up again soon. For those who were glad to see me go in 2015, this is the time to stop reading.

I must start by thanking Rob for his work in the last two years. I for one have enjoyed his whimsical style and self-deprecating humour. Alas I don't have his gift with the written word.

This piece is being written just after the Advent Carol service in Saunderton, but Christmas will be behind us by the time it is read, so much of the Christmas singing is still to come. And how well that Advent service went. The church was full, and the choir virtually at full strength. Whoever chose the music deserves a pat on the back. There was something for everyone and my son Tom was humming away well into the evening, although that might be connected to the red wine he drank after the service. What a pity though that we couldn't share the music with the residents of Cherry Trees Nursing Home just across the way. Can we not relay the service to the residents? We need an enterprising and technical person to step forward and set this up for next year. Any volunteers?

For the first time since 2012 when I joined the choir, I have washed and ironed my surplice. Not an earth shattering event you will think, but as one who (sadly) enjoys ironing I was amazed how difficult this proved to be. The sleeves in particular proved a challenge. Unlike a shirt, for example, they are much, much wider at the cuff end than the shoulder. However I tried, I found it impossible to eliminate the creases. I can only imagine that as the problem is not widely discussed, my fellow choristers are washing their robes as infrequently as me. Ah well, another problem to be overcome. Thoughts and suggestions welcome from whatever source.

As we head into 2018 I will be donning my other hat as Promoter of the 100 Club. We so very nearly got 100 members in 2017 and I am hoping that we will do so in the coming year. The change to a quarterly draw with three prize winners each time has made my life easier, and means that we have first, second and third prizes each time. The 100 Club provides the finances for us to afford the incomparable Cynthia as our organist. She with Jeff, our ever resourceful and inspirational choir master, push us to ever greater things, not least of which is to sing at St Paul's Cathedral. Little did I think that as I turned up for my first practice – it had been cancelled, but I didn't know it- that one day I would sing in such a place? My goodness, what a challenge, what a thrill.

I think that's it for this month. I hope that it's not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year

Mike Beattie
Tenor, 100 Club Promoter and Scribe

PS don't be afraid to contact me if you have something to say related to Choir News. The best way is by email: bigmike.beattie@gmail.com