

CHOIR NEWS MAY 2018

Canterbury Cathedral

I am writing this piece one day before the deadline (12th April) for submitting Choir News to the editor of the Messenger, which means that reporting on our visit to Canterbury Cathedral on 17th April will have to wait until the June edition, by which time it will no longer be news but history. However, I cannot resist mentioning that, with another choir, I actually sang there yesterday (Tuesday, 10th April) when we sang Evensong for a congregation of around three hundred, including a party of somewhat reluctant Italian school children. As we lined up to process to the choir stalls, the verger gave us some last minute instructions to accommodate the fact that the Archbishop himself was presiding. My goodness, I thought that I must have misheard. Here we were a bunch of twenty singers, average age of 60+ and only three hours rehearsal under our belts. This is surely a verger's idea of a joke that is played on unsuspecting visiting choirs from time to time. But no, his Grace the Archbishop joined us, spoke with us and joined us in the preservice prayer. My dear Mother would have been so proud to know about this. Fortunately, we sang well enough for the Archbishop to thank us all afterwards. Marvellous. Maybe he presides every Tuesday. I hope so.

But this is supposed to be about Bledlow Choir and what it is doing. Truth is that apart from working hard for **our** visit to Canterbury, there is not much new to tell this month. Our diary and details of what we are practising are all covered on the parish website.

The Bledlow 100 Club

We have eighty-eight members in the 100 Club this year, so down on last year's ninety-nine. Thank you all who have supported us again this year. May you all be winners, although sadly this isn't possible. The prizes each quarter are: First prize, £264; Second prize, £176 and third prize £88. You can still join the 100 Club if you wish, just get in touch with me-details at the end of this piece. The first draw was in March and the prize winners are all listed on the parish website.

Bill Morgan

I was personally very sad to learn this week of Bill's death. He was verger when I joined the choir in 2012 and we corresponded a little after he left the area to be nearer his family. I always thought of him a very dignified man and very well suited to the job of leading the choir and clergy out at services.

Finally, if you would like to get in touch with me over anything that appears in Choir News the best way is by email; bigmike.beattie@gmail.com

Mike Beattie

Tenor, scribe and promoter of the 100 Club