

CHOIR NEWS- JUNE 2014

It has been pointed out to me that whilst I date my pieces in the month that I write them, they go out in the Messenger in the following month- this one will appear in July. So over the summer break I intend to imitate Pope Gregory and change my calendar. The superstitious may feel that they have lost a month of my scribblings, but most will breathe a sigh of relief. As there is no Messenger in August, my next notes will be dated September- wake up at the back!

YORK

We sang all the services at York Minster over the weekend of May 31 and June 1 and because some of our singers couldn't make it due to half term, we were supported by friends from other choirs, to whom we send our thanks.

Many of us travelled up the M1 on Friday. It was a bad decision as the 220 miles took about seven hours and was not the start we needed. Sensible people went by train or did the journey by road in half the time on Saturday morning. York itself, whilst a delightful place, is apparently the hen-party capital of the world. Or so it seemed to me as I lay awake still at 3am on Saturday listening to late revellers making their way home. A brief sleep was then abruptly interrupted by the council emptying bins and washing down the street outside my hotel at 6am. Things could only improve.

And they did. Jeff worked us hard throughout Saturday. We rehearsed from 11 until lunch, then all afternoon, sang Evensong then we rehearsed again, finally finishing around 7pm. Getting back to the office on Monday was beginning to look attractive. On Sunday we rehearsed at 9 am, sang Eucharist at 10 and 11.30, had lunch then sang Evensong at 4pm, and departed at around 6. Fortunately the M1 was blissfully clear this time and it was still almost light when I had my first G&T at home.

But the hard work paid off and we have wonderful memories of a great weekend. How privileged we are to sing in such a place. For me the high lights were Kerri singing the Benedictus from Haydn's Little Organ Mass; seeing the folks from Bledlow who had made the trek north to support us; the fun of being with all those nice people in the choir and meeting up with old friends who joined us for the weekend either as choristers or supporters - including my mother-in-law (I promised her a mention here)

Not that everything went without a hitch. Twice we were announced as the choir from Bledlow Ridge (no problem to me as I live there) and we had one false start but recovered quickly enough for most not to have noticed.

Our collective thanks to Jeff and to Cynthia for preparing us so well

We are in Paris in July to sing at the American Cathedral

And finally.....

THE BLEDLow 100 CLUB

The winner of the May draw was Jennifer Madden who won £154.

Our next draw will be on 19th June in the Lions at about 9.30pm. As there is no choir in August we will do the July and August together, next month

Back in September-enjoy the summer

Mike Beattie
6 June 2014