

## **CHOIR NEWS - APRIL 2015**

I was watching Songs of Praise the other day when the presenter told a joke about the vicar who was dreaming he was giving a sermon and woke up to find that he was!

This set me thinking that there must be loads of jokes about choirs that I could use in my Choir News when there is nothing else to report and since Derek walked up a few hills in Argentina, or wherever, members of the choir have been rather quiet in their derring-do

Have you heard the one that goes: Why are all soprano jokes one-liners? Answer, so that the tenors can get them. Or: how do you get two tenors to sing in tune? Shoot one of them. Or: how can you tell when a tenor is really stupid? When the other tenors notice.

I pick on tenors because (a) I am one and self-deprecation is considered charmingly English by many and (b) tenors are used to being picked upon. Goodness knows why, but hardly a choir practice goes by without this small band of brave fellows getting the rap for something. OK, so maybe we don't understand about pitch or rhythm, or the difference between unison and harmony, but we try ever so hard. Believe me. So bad has it become that I have challenged one of our tormentors to give up the T word for Lent. So until Easter we are known as 'The Afflicted'. Have you seen the 2010 film of the same name? No, neither have I, but from the posters it looks gruesome. Mind you 'The Afflicted' would be a good name for a heavy metal band, I suppose, and then there would be no need for any singing ability. So we would be perfect.

If you think all this is a bit of a ramble you are right, but be pleased that I didn't use this space to share with you an exchange, on a serious tax forum, about whether the fees paid to choirs at weddings are taxable. The accountants chimed in en-masse. Fifteen of them wrote over 2000 words on the matter. It's a good thing that they weren't charging for their time.

And then there are the accountants who are also tenors. It doesn't bear thinking about.

### **WORCESTER**

And now a reminder that the choir will be singing Evensong at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday May 24. The canticles are a beautiful setting in the fauxbourdon style by the British composer and organist, Philip Moore. Worcester is the burial place of King John due to whose nastiness we got Magna Carta and thus the foundations of the freedom and justice that we enjoy in this country. And it is the 800th anniversary of its signing. Come along if you can. It is less than two hours away by road.

### **THE BLEDLLOW 100 CLUB**

I am delighted that we have 92 paid up members in the 2015 Bledlow 100 Club. Details of members, and winners will be found on the parish website. The prize in February went to Holly Nicholls who sometimes sings with us. Holly is not long out of university so the prize of £184 will be handy.

More news next month

**Mike Beattie**

**Lead Singer of The Afflicted, promoter of the Bledlow 100 Club, scribe and (sadly) accountant**

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