

CHOIR NEWS-DECEMBER 2014

I cannot do this Choir News without saying how deeply shocked all of us were to learn of Peter Stewart's untimely death. Our thoughts and prayers are with all his family as they come to terms with what has happened.

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One of the problems about writing choir notes is that they are needed so far in advance that future events are so distant that the detail is often still hazy, and past events are so far in the past that they are hardly 'news'. So although the 'news' is that we had a wonderful visit to Hereford on 31 October, Advent Carols have already been sung and we are now well into our Christmas preparations, I thought that I would relate two coincidences that have happened to me over recent months, both related to Bledlow.

Without wishing to drop names, in recent years I have become acquainted with the composer Cecilia McDowall. Our friendship began when I heard her composition 'Shipping Forecast' on Radio3 a few years ago. As a sometime sailor I wrote asking if it was available on CD. We exchanged emails and she kindly sent some samples of her music.

More recently I was in touch with her again about the possibility of commissioning some music and took the opportunity to tell her about the activities of our choir. Imagine my surprise when she replied: 'The first thing, which is rather special to me, is that we knew Harold Edwards (if I have the right Holy Trinity and the right Bledlow!) who was the rector of Holy Trinity Church and we used to visit him in his rather splendid vicarage in Bledlow. He and his wife, Ann (and John was a little boy at the time of our visits) were just delightful friends of the family. Harold was the vicar of our local church in Tooting (also Holy Trinity!) How lovely to be reminded of him and of Bledlow'.

Then in early October I spent a few days in Wirksworth, Derbyshire. It has a beautiful old church and while I was looking round the vicar came over to introduce himself. 'Where are you from?' he asked. 'Near High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire' was the reply. 'I know it well, as I was vicar of Bledlow. How do you do, my name is Bob Rhodes?' He sends his regards to all those who knew him and his wife Jill.

So a couple of names from the past, quite by chance.

THE BLEDLOW 100 CLUB

The winner of the October draw was Nick Saunders who won £154. Nick bought the last ticket we sold this year, so well done to him.

The choir greatly appreciates the support of all the members of the 100 Club. Please, please renew your membership for 2015 and encourage others to join.

More next month and in the meantime, Happy Christmas

Mike Beattie
12 November 2014