

## **CHOIR NEWS – JULY 2015**

For once the coincidence of my penning these notes, their publication in Messenger and an event is such that there is some News to tell you.

But first

### **WORCESTER**

Our visit to Worcester went really well and our thanks to all those of you who came to support us. On Sunday morning we sang an unaccompanied mass by Rachmaninov, and the much maligned tenors had a very exposed role in the Agnus Dei. By all accounts we sang it well. I have to ask myself if this is because we have taken so much stick that we no longer care, when you no longer care you relax, and when you relax you sing better. Or could it be that in a subliminal spirit of defiance we are bonding together to defeat our tormentors and becoming competent? Does it matter?

For Evensong we sang a Mag and Nunc by Philip Moore and a bracing anthem by Antonio Salieri, Confirma hoc Deus.

The day before some of us had sung evensong with Jeff Stewart's new choir, Cantemus cum Spiritu. The music included the beautifully haunting 'All the Ends of the World' by William Boyce. If ever there was something worth hearing again, this is it. Sadly, so far as I can determine, there is no published recording of it. If anyone knows otherwise, please let me know.

Cantemus cum Spiritu is a new choir drawing on singers from around the country who will cover at Cathedrals when needed. There will be an annual summer school in 2016 at Winchester and in 2017 at York. 2015 is its first year and we have already sung at Southwark and now Worcester and later in the year we sing at Coventry. Singers have to arrive having learnt the music beforehand and the time we spend in rehearsal is all about the finer points and expressing the music with passion. I'm loving it.

### **AND NOW THE NEWS**

For what is probably the very first time since I took on the role of scribe I can tell you in advance about something. This is so new in fact that, as I write, the Choir Dairy page of our wonderful website doesn't list it. We will be singing Evensong at Christ Church in Oxford on 25<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm. Although it was before my time, this is where our cathedral visits began at Easter in 2007. My (no doubt) much missed predecessor, Nick Symondson, wrote about it in Choir Notes at the time. You can still read Nick's account of the visit on the website.

Our normal parish duties, the visit to Oxford and the preparations that we will soon begin for covering the weekend services at Winchester in October mean that we will be having choir practices throughout July and August. So its full steam ahead again with ne'er a break until Christmas, I'll bet. Still we do it because we love it, so who's complaining?

### **THE BLEDLow 100 CLUB**

The May draw winner was Louise Bushell who says that she intends to treat her family to a meal out with her winnings of £186. The next draw is scheduled for June 18. Good luck .

More news next month

**Mike Beattie**

**Tenor, scribe and promotor of the Bledlow 100 Club**

5 June 2015

