

CHOIR NEWS – JUNE 2015

As I write this on 7 May (General Election Day), I have been reflecting on how, for some, the election has been an experience akin to purgatory. Readers who were born after April 2007 (very few I imagine) when the Pope abolished it, may have been blissfully unaware that purgatory ever existed, but by way of a secular analogy, purgatory was a place between heaven and hell where those who had not been perfect in life, but who had not been wholly evil either, did a bit of time before they were allowed into heaven (it must have been a very crowded place). So in the election sense it is where we are looking down into the fiery red or up to the celestial blue while we await the outcome of voting- my editorial guidelines do not forbid tongue in cheek, political references! By the time you read this, it will be over-hooray!

Choir practice is always purgatorial. We choristers are mostly well intentioned but imperfect. Practice is our purgatory where we seek the sublime (aka a faultless performance). I suppose the imperfection we so consistently achieve is why we have to keep doing more purgatory practice or expanding the secular analogy above into the colloquial, porridge.

Which, in what may seem like a vague link, nay even a total non-sequitur, brings me to Bob Uglow. Bob and his wife Mary are two of our best supporters, turning up in far flung places to hear us sing. As many will know he recently celebrated a significant birthday and some of the choir entertained him and his guests after lunch. I had intended to be there too, but one of my children got engaged that week and we had a celebratory lunch of our own, which on balance I felt obliged to attend. ☺

So where does purgatory come into this? Well I first got to know Bob when we had adjoining seats in the stand at Adams Park to watch Wasps. It would be fair to describe both Bob and me as men of substantial physique. To say it was uncomfortable for us to sit side by side is mincing words. Eventually we developed a routine whereby he leant forward and I sat back during the first half and we reversed our positions in the second. It was some kind of purgatory, but did keep us warm and was made bearable by Bob's unfailing good cheer and Wasps' supremacy over all-comers in that era. Happy Birthday Bob, from us all.

WORCESTER

I was going to write a final reminder that we are singing in Worcester Cathedral on Sunday May 24, covering both Communion and Evensong. Some of us, who aspire to sing in Jeff's new choir, Cantemus cum Spiritu, will also sing there on Saturday May 23. Those not going to Worcester will be in Bledlow that day to sing at the wedding of Jason Lewis & Bernice Handley.

But then I realised that it would be all over by the time the Messenger is published. The new Mr and Mrs Lewis will presumably be on honeymoon and we choristers will have started on something new. So this will all be history rather than news, except of course for those born after April 2007 who will have found it all on the web! Who am I kidding?

THE BLEDLLOW 100 CLUB

The April draw was held in the Lions on 23 April. The winner, Chris Day, has received a cheque for the prize of £186. The next draw is on 21 May just before our weekend in Worcester and the one after that on June 18. Good luck .

More news next month

Mike Beattie

Tenor, scribe and promotor of the Bledlow 100 Club

7 May 2015

