

CHOIR NEWS- MARCH 2015

For the first time in months the choir is able to draw breath. Since last autumn we have been flat out learning and singing new pieces. All this came to a halt at the end of January with two consecutive performances of Martin How's Lenten Cantata- 'The Way, which we sang first in Hayes and then in Princes Risborough on the weekend that January became February.

Now we are on a fairly relaxed programme in preparation for upcoming services in the parish and our visit to Worcester to sing evensong on 24 May. The last time that I was in Worcester was to watch Worcester at home to Wasps (Rugby Union, in case you don't know). I have a recollection of a pretty dull Friday evening game which ended 3-3 (that's one penalty each). In those days Worcester was in the top draw of English rugby but has since been relegated, although they currently top the English championship table.

This memory of Worcester set me thinking of how we might make our cathedral visits even more interesting for some (well me, anyway) by linking them with sporting events and with some research, it would also identify some missed opportunities in the past, and some worrying clashes in the future.

I need to get this off my chest.

My main worry comes later this year when our singing at Winchester clashes with the World Cup (Rugby Union that is). The tickets were bought nearly a year ago before Winchester came into view. What a dilemma. Suggestions as to how to resolve this that don't involve me giving my tickets to you, your brother, your best friend or anyone else for that matter, **might** be welcome. It is the semi-final weekend after all. My hope is that one of my readers has a helicopter that he will put at my disposal for the weekend; it can't cost as much as the tickets, surely?

So where might we sing and watch sport over the same weekend? It would have to be in a cathedral city at the weekend and generally not in term time. How about a day at the Edgbaston Test, England v Australia the third Ashes test of the summer on Saturday, followed by singing at Birmingham, Coventry, or my personal favourite, Lichfield Cathedral on Sunday? Or just a week later at Trent Bridge followed by a Sunday at Southwell Minster. Both Lichfield and Southwell are pretty places with lots of historical interest so even if it rains there will be something to do.

Somewhat easier might be to twin football and rugby games with cathedral weekends. Ladies, you might have alternative ideas!

Whatever, I am hoping that our choir master Jeff, reads this and adds this idea to his planning criteria. To help him, the best idea to my email address before the end of March will be rewarded with a bottle of Tesco champagne left over from Christmas.

THE BLEDLOW 100 CLUB

I am delighted that we have 93 paid up members in the 2015 Bledlow 100 Club. Details of members, and winners will be found on the parish website.

More news next month

Mike Beattie

Tenor, promoter of the Bledlow 100 Club and scribe. Email mike.beattie@jmbt.co.uk

9 February 2015