

CHOIR NEWS – MAY 2015

Oh joy of joys; we have two weeks off rehearsals. It seems as though we have been going full tilt since last autumn, so it's very welcome. Mind you, we have been given homework and I don't doubt that we will be collectively assessed on whether or not we have done enough of it when we meet next on 23 April.

WORCESTER

We are singing at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday May 24 covering both Communion and Evensong.

The anthem will be 'If you love me' by Thomas Tallis and edited by Peter le Huray a Cambridge scholar and organist. It was said that Peter (le Huray) had a fierce intransigence where music was concerned, and did not think well of any one who left his seat at a service before the concluding voluntary was complete. There are many who would agree with this and I remember well how at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, at the end of Evensong, the clergy and choir waited until the voluntary had ended before processing. It was a very dignified way to end the service.

Peter le Huray went to St Catharine's College in 1948. He took a double first in the Music Tripos and his PhD was on the English Anthem. Subsequently, and under his guidance, St Catharine's became a college of the highest musical repute.

He was also much involved in making Cambridge University Press a major publisher of books on music. His own output was prolific and he wrote many scholarly works, notably *Music and the Reformation in England*, a standard work for students. To this day he is acknowledged in ABRSM exam workbooks. The Royal Musical Association annual conference includes a Peter le Huray Lecture.

But Dr Le Huray was more than a crusty academic. As a young man in 1961 he had performed Bach at the Proms and went on to record the complete organ works of Liszt. It was said that with his wife Bridget, he had an uncanny knack of finding those musicians in Cambridge who were on their own at Christmas'.

'If you love me' is a sublime piece of music and I hope that we will do it justice.

Sadly Peter le Huray was only 62 when he died in 1992. His wife, who now lives in Chinnor, mid-way between her children as she tells me, sings with us.

THE BLEDLOW 100 CLUB

The 100 Club is presently the only source of income that the choir has to fund its activities. The website gives a list of members. In my view it is something of a roll of honour and the choir is grateful to all those who support us through it. The winner of the March prize was the team at my office. They buy a ticket each year at Christmas rather than a present for me.

More news next month

Mike Beattie

Tenor, scribe and promotor of the Bledlow 100 Club

9 April 2015

