

## CHOIR NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2015

Choir news, written in July before I go away; due with the editor on August 9<sup>th</sup> when I will be on a French beach in my bikini; and to be published in September, by which time we may be turning up the thermostat at home. It is complicated, sometimes

### **ROSIE BYRNE**

Yesterday, Rosie, daughter of soprano Kerri and her husband Lee, was christened. Sadly not all of the choir, me included, could attend but by all accounts it was a lovely service with some favourite hymns. Rosie has attended a number of our choir practices where her attention span and interest in the proceedings has been compared favourably by some to those of the choir. We send our congratulations to her and to her family.

One of the hymns had the lines;

*Guide these parents through the years; Help them answer children's questions, and cope with teenage storms and tears*

Lovely and true

### **WORCESTER CATHEDRAL AND STUART KING**

When I reported in July on our visit to Worcester Cathedral, I forgot to mention that at the Sunday evensong we sang the psalm to a chant written by SLH King or Stuart King another of our talented tenors and my apologies to him for leaving this out. Stuart is one of those who does much more than his fair share to keep liturgical music alive in this area. Not only does he sing with us, but he is also choirmaster and organist at St Mary's in Risborough, and I know that he also plays for St Dunstan's in Monks Risborough. Until he retired very recently, his work took him abroad very frequently. How he packed it all in, I do not know; a top class man.

### **OXFORD, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

The music has been chosen and we are well underway with practice for our visit on 25<sup>th</sup> of August. Although Jeff our choirmaster has said it is easy, quite a few of us are being challenged by James MacMillan's, A New Song, an anthem based on the text of psalm 96. MacMillan is a living Scottish composer; once a Marxist, and always a Roman Catholic, he is rightly famous for his prolific output of liturgical music.

Other music includes the Mag and Nunc by another living composer, Philip Moore. Moore was born in Kent where he attended Maidstone Grammar School and later was assistant organist at Canterbury Cathedral. His Mag and Nunc suggest the chant of monks or nuns to me.

### **WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

Although it feels like name dropping to mention Winchester after Worcester and Oxford, the reality is that by early September, when the Messenger is published, we will be only weeks or so from covering services at Winchester on 24/25 October. As I mentioned in my March piece this visit conflicts with the semi-final weekend of the Rugby world cup, a real dilemma for me as I have tickets for one of the games. Perhaps Jeff will let me off for once.

### **THE BLEDLOW 100 CLUB**

We drew the July and August prizes on 16<sup>th</sup> July after choir practice. July was won by William Avery (one of our basses) and the August by Kenneth Folly (winner for a second time) both of whom are now £186 to the good.

More news in October

**Mike Beattie**

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

20 July 2015