

CHOIR NEWS – MARCH 2014

Writing Choir Notes the first time, last month, was actually quite straightforward. But the monthly deadline has come round rather quickly, more quickly than I had imagined it would. But the lack of comment (with one ecclesiastical exception) tells me that I got it about right....or is anyone reading them at all? Keep me in the dark on this please, it's probably best.

Congratulations this month to choir member and all round good egg Stephen Bartlett-Jones and his wife Caroline on the birth of their first child, a son. I have seen a picture; he has chubby cheeks just like his Dad! Head wetting eagerly anticipated.

Don't forget that the choir is open to all and there are no auditions. Basically if you want to sing, you are in. That's not to say that we don't work hard and strive for the best sound that we can make, which leads me onto.....

RADIO 3

Some of the choir makes a point of attending the broadcast sung evensong (Radio 3 on Wednesday afternoon, repeated the following Sunday) when it is sung locally as at St George's Chapel, Windsor or an Oxford College. It's our chance to join in a hymn with all those listening around the world. Last time we were at Magdalen College, Oxford we sung along with The Sixteen and although I asked politely afterwards Harry Christophers didn't have a vacancy in his line up, at the time.

But not to be outdone, and as Radio 3 has a Meet My Choir slot at about 4.30pm on Sunday afternoon, we are sending in a recording in the hope that it will be broadcast. As the R3 website says *'we want you hear all about you and about your choir. What inspires you to sing? And what makes your choral comrades special? If there's something you're simply bursting to tell us about your local group, why not make us a recording, and we'll do the rest!'* We think that Bledlow Choir has a story worth telling. Watch this space.

By the way I lifted the quote from the BBC website, word for word, just in case you thought otherwise.....

CATHEDRAL VISIT TO YORK

York is coming up fast, 31 May/ 1 June to be precise, and having made much last month of the fact that we would be singing Martin How's Westminster Service, an infinitely greater musician (IGM) than me has decided that we will save that for Hereford to give more time to perfect what is a difficult piece. The How is a real challenge and if not sung well could be a disaster. Instead we are preparing Stanford in C, which, if York approves, we will sing instead. It is a majestic work.

The IGM sends his best wishes from Germany.

THE BLEDLLOW 100 CLUB

The Bledlow 100 Club got off to a good start raising £2500 for choir running costs. It's not too late to join. Membership forms can be found at the back of the church or by following the links on the choir pages of the church website.

The winner in February was Julie Sinclair. Congratulations to her. The next draw will be on 20 March, in the Lions at 9.30pm. And as we have successfully recruited more members, the prize will be at least £152 (the more that join, the bigger the prize)

If you can support us, please do.

More, again, next month

Mike Beattie
6 March 2014