

Choir Notes 1: A View From The Stalls

'Would you like to be Liaison Officer, Nick?', 'Yes, O.K.' I said, (I will do anything for a title ever since being appointed Assistant to the Milk Monitor at prep school, but you have to be careful), 'of what?' I wisely added. Between the choir and the Parish Messenger so that the congregation can get to know what you are doing. Could you do an article?'. 'How long should it be?' 'Oh, about half a page should do it'. So here we are and here I hope we will stay.

In this monthly column I aim to tell you a little about what, when, why and where.

The main purpose of the choir is to add to the meaning and understanding of the services. We have one coming up on Sunday 13th March, which will have been and gone by the time you read this. The Anthem is "Wash Me Thoroughly", yes that is the correct spelling! by Samuel Wesley and it is all about acknowledging your sins. The rehearsals begin with individual note bashing for the four disciplines, Alto, Tenor, Bass and Soprano and then once the notes have become familiar (some weeks later!) Jeff explains to us the meaning and reasons for the piece so as to put it into its religious setting. 'Think of your sins', he said, 'not the little ones, the big juicy lot', so we did and it helped!

High spots this year are a concert in the early Summer, the date yet to be fixed, more of that for a future edition, and three Cathedral trips. We are in Salisbury Cathedral for Evensong on Friday 15th April, Southwell Minster on 3rd/4th September and York Minster on 31st December and 1st January. If you could note them in your diary it would be wonderful to see some of you there. The Cathedral services are always an utter privilege to be part of and also humbling. We often have the 'Bledlow faithful' who come and support us and somehow that always makes the services that little bit richer. More of the Cathedrals next month, I am well over half a page!

Nick Symondson.