



# eNotes



## Following in Hadrian's footsteps



The Abbey Choir, walkers from George's Trust, family and friends outside Carlisle Cathedral

We enjoyed a successful week singing at services in Newcastle Cathedral, Hexham Abbey and Carlisle Cathedral at the end of August. Our tour complemented a fund-raising walk along Hadrian's Wall organised by George's Trust.

Singing in different buildings provided some interesting contrasts. Hexham Abbey is similar in size and age to Romsey Abbey, yet quite different inside. It is split in two by a screen on which its modern Phelps organ sits – and its east end feels a lot darker than our Abbey. Carlisle Cathedral was different again. Although only its east end remained, with a high ceiling and spacious acoustic, it was a memorable building in which to sing.

At services, we sang a range of music from the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. A high point was our first performance on Saturday 28 August of Herbert Sumsion's anthem *They that go down to the sea in ships*, a vivid depiction of mariners riding out a storm at sea. In the same service, Matthew Culley sang poignant

solos in George Dyson's sublime *Magnificat* in F.

At the final dinner on the Sunday evening, Joe O'Brien explained how much this walk had meant to him and his family: 'George had wanted to do it in memory of his grandfather, who had died from

prostate cancer. Emotionally, as the walk wore on, it actually got more difficult for us.'

Summing up at the end of the evening, Robert Fielding said that Maurice Duruflé's motet *Ubi caritas* encapsulated the whole experience: '*where charity and love is, God is there*'.

## Robert Fielding writes...

It's already a month since we got back from Hadrian's Wall and the summer seems to be a fast receding memory! What memories, though. We had some great times up there together and the singing was very good. The combination of the walkers battling away every day and the challenge of the choral services gave the trip a real purpose. Our meetings with the walkers in all weathers strengthened the bond between the two groups.

Movements in the ranks were made as soon as we returned. We said farewell to Christopher Williams who had far outgrown even the adult cassocks! Simon Grant moved

from Decani Head Chorister to Decani Bass, which meant vacancies for junior choristers to fill. Matthew Culley succeeded Simon as Head Chorister and Barnaby Taylor, Nicholas (Nicko) Newman, James Garland and Joshua Hillier were made Senior Choristers.

New Probationers this term are Nathaniel Taylor (brother of Barnaby) and Christopher Clothier (brother of Alexander). Straight in as a chorister is Jake Berry. Until recently a Quirister at Winchester College, he has brought valuable experience with him – and lots of books about aeroplanes!

We now have seven choral scholars. Financially supported

by George's Trust, these young men are learning quickly to sing alto, tenor and bass parts and contribute well to the sound of the back rows. It is good to see their continuing love of our choral repertoire.

We have been fortunate in having David Coram play the organ for us during this time when we have been without an Assistant Organist. Sunday mornings see me running from pillar to post and the choir have been singing *a cappella* quite a bit. However, we have just appointed Mr Paul Hayward to

the post of Assistant Organist. Currently playing at churches in central Nottingham, Paul will be starting work here in January. You will hear much more about him in due course.

As ever, there is much to rehearse, learn and look forward to. We have much potential in the junior choristers and we will be admitting our older probationers as full members of the choir very soon. They are a great bunch of lads to work with and, on relatively limited rehearsal time, they produce excellent results.

## Celebrating St. Peter at St. Peter's

On Sunday 27 June, we visited St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth, to sing Evensong with its Choir on the feast of Saint Peter. Built in the Nineteenth Century, its interior is extravagantly painted and gilded in Victorian gothic style – quite unlike Romsey Abbey.

The music comprised Herbert Brewer's cheerful Evening Service in D and as a contemplative anthem, *Save us, O Lord*, by Edward Bairstow. He was organist for over 30 years at York Minster, also dedicated to St. Peter. Psalm 63, *O God, thou art my God*, was sung to a haunting chant by Herbert Howells and the Responses were by Bernard Rose.

After the service Bournemouth Choir mums kindly served tea, during which Robert Fielding proposed a vote of thanks and invited the Choir of St. Peter's to pay a return visit in due course. Meanwhile, Choral Evensong back at the Abbey was ably sung by the Abbey Girls' Choir. Their music included Sumsion in G and Responses by Malcolm Archer.

*Above right: St. Peter's spire, a prominent Bournemouth landmark.*



## Girls sing for Elizabeth and Luke's big day

*Daphne Lindsay writes*

Whilst the men and boys were away on the choir holiday, the girls enjoyed singing at a wedding. The choir sang *The Lord bless you and keep you* by Rutter, with Deputy Head Chorister Grace Ibbott, singing the opening solo, her debut as a soloist with the choir. Head chorister Maddy Brown then gave a wonderful rendition of *Ave Maria* – Bach/Gounod.

The wedding of Elizabeth Hammond and Luke Preslove

## Dates for your diary

### Important services

10 Oct	5pm	Deanery Praise service – 10.10.10
24 Oct	6.30pm	Choral Evensong St. Ethelflaeda
2 Nov	7.30pm	Feast of All Souls Bereavement Service
14 Nov	11.30am	Civic Service of Remembrance
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong ('home') with the Choir of Sherborne Abbey
20 Nov	5.30pm	Choral Evensong at Winchester Cathedral
28 Nov	10am	Sung Eucharist for Florence Nightingale
	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service
Date and time	TBC	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
24 Dec	11.45pm	Midnight Eucharist
25 Dec	10am	Christmas Day Eucharist

### Social events

17 Oct	8pm	FORAC AGM
12 Nov	7pm	Quiz (venue tbc)
11 Dec	12pm	Pizza & ice-skating in Winchester
17 Dec	tbc	Carols in the Park for George's Trust
8 Jan	7pm	Epiphany Supper
14 Jan	7pm	Boys visit to the panto, Plaza Theatre

on 25 August was very special, as Elizabeth was my first Head Chorister when I took over the choir more than nine years ago. The girls sang Mozart's *Laudate Dominum* with the difficult solo sung beautifully by Head Chorister Georgia Wyatt, who as an eight year old had been a member of the choir when Elizabeth was Head Chorister.

We then sang Rutter's *Gaelic Blessing*. Afterwards, we enjoyed cream teas in the South Garth with the bridal party and guests.