

CHOIR PROGRESS

Truly I think we can claim a renaissance in the musical health of the choir. I find it hard to remember how things were when I began in post with seven trebles, supported by sopranos and a small but committed ATB choir. It feels like a different age now—so much has happened and there is so much energy for music

We are now singing choral evensong on alternate weeks approximately. The pattern does get disturbed by long months, special festivals and school holidays, so please check the web site if you are thinking of coming to hear us.

We have just completed the first cycle of what we hope will be the pattern for the future, with choral evensong sung by girl trebles alternating with boy trebles and a rejuvenated back row! We now have 21 girl trebles and 19 boy trebles in training and a substantial contingent of tenors and basses in the 16 to 30

age range. On 13th March we sang choral evensong with an all male choir - a tradition in suspension for at least 15 years. And on the 3rd April the girl trebles had their say in like fashion.

The more senior boys and girls combined at February half term with a mixed ATB to visit York Minster and take over the duty of singing choral evensong there for the 5 weekdays. I think this will be a memory we will all treasure for many years to come. And the Music Team at the Minster thought well enough of us to ask us to come back!

The effect of this surge in quality of singing has enabled me to programme a much more diverse range of music. Also, the improved quality and interesting music have combined to dramatically increase the size of the congregation at evensong, and for the Nine Lessons & Carols Service in 2010, we tripled the attendance of the previous year.

Dr Tim Williams (Director of Music)



Boy Trebles
13th March 2011

Girl Trebles
3th April 2011



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PHILIP LANK TRUST—ACTIVITY

The strap line reads 'living within our means'. After a surge of donations associated with the last meeting of ex choristers and clergy which raised over £6000 for the Endowment Fund, funds for current expenditure have been slow to materialise.

An excellent recital by Richard Arundel (aka Richard Houlton) together with a proportion of Gift Aid claimed on the Endowment donations has enabled us to contribute funds to a number of activities: 2 workshops for trebles, 2 psalm workshops, a voice training workshop for adult members and a substantial subsidy of the cost of the visit to York for the trebles to prevent any treble being unable to attend on cost grounds.

The fruits of supporting the training of our Organ Scholar, Joe Beech, are clearly demonstrable. He now regularly accompanies the choir at Family Communion and at evensong, and is very capable to take rehearsals.

Last Saturday, 14th May, Richard Markham—a renowned international pianist—gave a recital at St Wulfram's to raise money for the Trust for current expenditure. The event was attended by over 70 people and raised over £700.

But we need to do much more – over 20% of our music library is so ancient it is falling to bits. Music sets are incomplete and not big enough to support the full choir. We estimate there is immediate need for £6500 to rectify this and with the wider range of music we are able to sing we need new music sets in addition.

And with the growth of choir members, there is a need to replace the existing robes, for which Tim is campaigning to raise £15000.

The Trust has also created a web site at <http://www.planktrust.org.uk>, which holds amongst other things some historic photos of the choir over the years – please look at these and help fill in the names of choristers whom Bob and Roger could not remember. Of course it provides more information about future events as well as past ones. And also please note that the St Wulfram's web site at <http://www.stwulframs.org.uk> has undergone a major re-vamp.

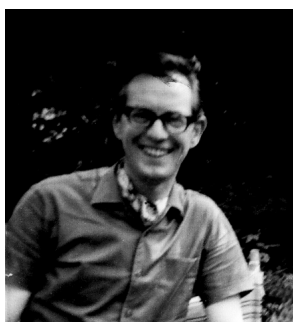
Roger Sleigh (Chairman)



Joe at York Minster

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL CHORAL EVENSONG ON SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2011 AT 6.30 PM.

This year marks the completion of 50 years' service in the choir by Bob Jeffreys. Ex-choristers, clergy and donors to the Trust are invited to come to St Wulfram's to attend the service and celebrate the occasion with us. Sadly with the numbers on the choir register now, we cannot invite you all to sing in the choir.



I can promise you an evensong to remember, the choirs are in fantastic voice at the moment.

We shall serve tea at 4 pm and choral evensong will be at 6.30 pm.

Please use the enclosed form and return it to Roger Sleigh by 23rd October to say if you can come.

We hope that a good number will attend to show our appreciation of the time, inspiration and fellowship Bob has given us over the years.



copyright Roger Sleigh 2011

SPECIAL CHORAL EVENSONG ON SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 6.30 pm

From:..... (please write name and address)

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I/we (please indicate number attending) shall be attending tea and evensong on 6th November.

Please return to: Roger Sleigh, 1 Welby Gardens, Grantham NG31 8BN
or by email to roger.sleigh@btinternet.com

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