

Sing Joyfully

St Swithun's Choir e-newsletter



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August 2018

JULY

St Swithun's Day, Sunday 15 July

It was a very cool morning, starting at only 2°C. And it was a big day at Swiz, being St Swithun's Day and the opening of the refurbished 4A Merrivale Road. Our morning service started at 10:30 am with Archbishop Glenn Davies in attendance. There were 38 singers in the choir, including the Rowlings from WA, plus Phil and Peter, and two trumpeters, Brian Evans and Isabella Harvey, along with the evening music group. The church and lounge were full to overflowing. We sang Bruckner's *Locus Iste* (in English), Parry's *I was glad* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' ceremonial *Old hundredth*.

Funeral for Sam Chisholm, Friday 20 July



There was a splendid choir turn-out for the funeral of Sam Chisholm, retired CEO of British Sky Broadcasting and Channel Nine. We had 25 choristers, Phil and Peter, plus Amelia Linqvist (soprano) and Geoff Hervey (piano). Three hymns and three anthems – Goodall's *23rd psalm*, Lloyd Webber's *Pie Jesu* and Rutter's *Aaronic Blessing*.

A new Choir Patron

The first event to be held in the newly dedicated PACE Centre was a Swiz Choir social, held on the Friday evening following the official opening. The general conviviality was interrupted only briefly by the appointment of a new choir patron – **Allin Cousens**. It has been a while since we last had one, but the choir seems to have flourished quite well in the interim. The duties of Patron are not arduous; we allow the patron to decide how he will fill the position.

Allin has served the choir faithfully for many years. He instituted what has now become our regular program of overseas visits. He researched the choir's history and turned what might have been a recognition of seventy years of service to the parish in 2015 into a centenary celebration. He has stepped away from singing, so it will be good to have him stand in the role of Patron.

RSCM Midwinter Dinner

St Swithun's Church choir has been a member of the Royal School of Church Music for many, many years. Current members of the choir are all affiliated members of the NSW Branch of RSCM by virtue of their association with the choir and receive RSCM NSW's bimonthly newsletter *Newsclaf*. Rev. Roger Chilton is a member of the RSCM NSW Branch committee, as is Pamela Summers. Pamela is the current editor of *Newsclaf*.

There was a choir of 48 voices at St Martin's Church, Killara, for the Evensong service that preceded the annual RSCM NSW Branch Dinner on Friday 27 July. Of that 48 voices, 26 were St Swithun's choristers. Ross Cobb, Director of music at St Andrew's Cathedral and President of RSCM Australia, directed. The organist at St Martin's Church, Chris Wagstaff, accompanied. We outnumbered the congregation of around 30 people, but that is not unusual at this event.

We sang William Smith of Durham's *Preces and Responses*. They used to be our regular Evensong responses, until we adopted a new set by Peter Hamilton of Pymble. Memory is a fickle beast and it was an effort to sing the dots accurately – there are various versions

of Smith and the version we sang at St Martin's was not the version we used to sing at St Swithun's. The evening canticles by T T Noble were much better known, as was the anthem. It was composed by John Rutter in 1994 for the RSCM, using the English version of the RSCM motto: *Psallam spiritu et mente – I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also* (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Many stayed on for the dinner which was held in the church hall. The guest speaker was Dr David Garrett, a former history lecturer at Monash and Sydney Universities and a former manager of the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. He sings regularly with the choir at Mosman Uniting Church. His succinct address on the significance of the "C" and the "M" in RSCM suited the occasion very well.

Ross Cobb spoke at some length on plans for the RSCM Winter School, SYDNEYinSPIRES, which will be held in July next year. Details may be found on www.rscmaustralia.org.au.

AUGUST

Evensong for St Bartholomew's Day

Rehearsals are under way for our next Evensong service, to be held on Saturday evening, 25 August.

At the risk of stealing thunder from the preacher on the day, it is apposite that we look briefly at Bartholomew. The *New International Dictionary of the Bible* (1987) says:

BARTHOLOMEW: (bar-thōl'ō-mū. Gr. From Aramaic, son of Tolmai or Talmai). One of the twelve apostles. He is mentioned in all four lists of the apostles in the New Testament (Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13). There is no further reference to him in the New Testament, and the traditions concerning him are not trustworthy. Some scholars think that Bartholomew is the surname of Nathanael, who was led to Christ by Philip (John 1:45-46). The reason for this is that in the list of apostles in the Gospels the name of Bartholomew immediately follows that of Philip, and the synoptic Gospels never mention Nathanael, while John never mentions Bartholomew. This view has, however, not been conclusively established.

A Roman Catholic website: www.catholicculture.org embellishes the meagre facts as follows:

St Bartholomew, a doctor in the Jewish law, was a dear friend of St Philip the Apostle. Because Bartholomew was a man "in whom there was no guile¹," his mind was open to the truth. He went willingly with Philip to see Christ, and recognized the Saviour immediately as the Son of God. After having received the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost, Bartholomew evangelized Asia Minor, north-western India, and Greater Armenia. In the latter country, while preaching to idolaters, he was arrested and condemned to death.

Salisbury 2020

On behalf of the St Swithun's Choir, Phil has approached a number of English cathedrals over past months in the hope that we might continue our triennial visits. We are now able to advise that we shall be the choir in residence at Salisbury Cathedral from **Monday 17 to Sunday 23 August 2020**.

The choir's "Salisbury 2020 Committee" met for the first time last Sunday afternoon to begin detailed planning for the trip.

Its first need is to establish how the choir will sound; how many choristers might be going, and how many there will be from each voice part.

To help plan the accommodation, we would also like an early indication of the number of non-singing parishioners/friends/family that might come along.



¹ This quote is from John 1:47 which records the words of Jesus speaking about Nathanael.

The call is for **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**. And it goes to all readers of *Sing Joyfully*, whether chorister or friend of the choir. **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE CHOIR'S TRIP TO SALISBURY IN AUGUST 2020?**

Please express your interest, or otherwise, by sending an email to chideock@optusnet.com.au or by speaking to Brian Watson. The quicker the better, so that the committee can start work in earnest.

Members of the committee have acquired some expertise over past trips, and would love to pass on that know-how to others in the hope that the triennial trips might continue. If you would like to participate in organising this venture to Salisbury, please talk to Phil Linquist or Brian Watson. You don't need to be a chorister – there are jobs for anyone who would like to volunteer.



I was glad

Last month *Sing Joyfully* included an item on CHH Parry's version of *I was glad*, the anthem he composed for the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902 and which has been sung at every coronation since. But that was not the first time that the text was sung at a British coronation.

The version of Psalm 122 shown in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer reads:

- ¹I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.
- ²Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.
- ³Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.
- ⁴For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord: to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.
- ⁵For there is the seat of judgement: even the seat of the house of David.
- ⁶O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
- ⁷Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.
- ⁸For my brethren and companions' sakes: I will wish thee prosperity.
- ⁹Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God: I will seek to do thee good.

Parry's version uses only verses 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7. He revised it in 1911 for George V by adding the festive introduction.

The psalm, or parts of it, has been sung at British coronations since the early seventeenth century, and probably even earlier than that (when it would have been sung in Latin).

A setting of it in English may have been composed for the coronation of Charles I in 1625. Thomas Tomkins' version may have been sung at the coronation of Charles II in 1661. Henry Purcell is believed to have composed a setting for the coronation of James II in 1685. And a version of the psalm has been sung at every coronation since, with the possible exception of George II's when it was apparently omitted by mistake.

Thomas Attwood's setting was used at the coronation of George IV in 1821, then also in 1831 and 1838 at the coronations of William IV and Victoria, respectively.

All versions since 1685 have included the central section – the Vivats – traditionally sung by the scholars of Westminster School to greet the entering monarch. It has to be re-written every time a new monarch is crowned because the sovereign is mentioned by name.

The first pages of the versions by Tomkins and Purcell are attached at the end of this document. They are each available on the Choral Wiki website.



Choir program – 2018

Date	Venue	Time	
Sat 25 Aug	Swiz	5 pm	St Bartholomew's Day Evensong
Sun 23 Sep	39 Brightmore St, Cremorne	3 pm	Choir soiree @ Chez Gilkes
Sat 3 Nov	Swiz	5 pm	Evensong for the persecuted church
Sat 1 Dec	Swiz	5 pm	Advent hymn festival

Note that nothing is final until the actual day has arrived, so please be mindful of possible changes.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem

Thomas Tomkins
(1572-1656)

Soprano I *p* O pray for the peace of Je - ru - sa - lem, of Je -

Soprano II *p* O pray

Tenor *p* O pray _____ for the peace of Je -

Bass

Practice *p* *p*

S I ru - sa - lem, O pray for the peace of Je - ru - sa -

S II for the peace of Je - ru - sa - lem, the peace of Je - ru -

T ru - sa - lem, the peace of Je - ru - sa - lem, pray for the

B *p* O pray for the

I was glad

for the Coronation of James II (1685)

Henry Purcell
(1659-1695)

Psalms 122:1,4-7

5

Soprano 1
I was glad, was glad _____ when they said un - to me: we will go

Soprano 2
I was glad, was glad _____ when they said un - to me: we will go

Alto
I was glad, _____ when they said un - to me:

Tenor
I was glad, I was glad _____ when they said un-to me: we will

Bass
I was glad, I was glad, was glad when they said un - to me: we will

10

S
in - to the house, in - to the house of the Lord.

A
in - to the house, the house _____ of the Lord.

T
we will go in - to the house of the Lord. For thi-ther the

B
go, we will go in - to the house of the Lord. For thi-ther the tribes go -

B
go in - to the house, the house of the Lord.