

NOVEMBER 2009

❖ **NOVEMBER DIARY**

Saturday 7	19.30	DIT Graduation: Cathedral closed Past Choristers' Past Pupils' Association Wine & Cheese Evening
Sunday 8	10.55	Matins
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	15.15	Evensong (broadcast live on RTÉ Radio) Preacher: The Right Revd T.R. Williams, B.A. Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe
Saturday 14		DIT Graduation: Cathedral closed
Sunday 15	15.15	Service to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Adelaide School of Nursing Preacher: The Most Revd A.E.T Harper, O.B.E., B.A. Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland
Saturday 21		DIT Graduation: Cathedral closed
Sunday 22	15.15	Commemoration for those who lost their lives on Irish Ships 1939–45
	20.00	Concert by The Gaudete Singers
Saturday 28	11.30	Service marking the 100th anniversary of the Ministry of Reader in the Church of Ireland Celebrant: The Most Revd A.E.T Harper, O.B.E., B.A. Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland Preacher: The Right Revd K.H. Clarke, B.A. Bishop of Kilmore
Sunday 29	11.15	Sung Eucharist Celebrant: The Right Revd M.A.J. Burrows, M.A., M.Litt. Bishop of Cashel & Ossory
<i>Advent Sunday</i>	15.15	A Service of music and readings for Advent

❖ **THE NOVEMBER PRAYER**

2 November is All Souls' Day. The Maunsell window in the north aisle depicts Christ's appearance in Jerusalem after his resurrection.

'Jesus said, I am resurrection and I am life. Whoever has faith in me shall live, even though he dies.' (John 11: 25)

Almighty God

we remember with thanksgiving those who worshipped in the Cathedral,
and who steeped its walls with their prayers
before you called them away from your worship here below;
grant that we may echo their praises
and come, through grace, to that dwelling of eternal rest and light
which you have prepared for all who have faith in your Son,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



❖ DEANERY ENTERTAINING

The Dean entertained the following to lunch on 24 October: The Lord Mayor and Mr Joe Costello, T.D., H.E. the British Ambassador, Dr Conor and Mrs Keane, Fr Jaroslaw Maszkiewicz, Mr Harry McDowell and Mr and Mrs Michael Webb.

❖ CHANGES IN THE CHAPTER

The Archbishop of Dublin has appointed the Revd Canon Mark Gardner to be vicar of the cathedral parish. This means that he becomes an ex-officio member of the chapter as Prebendary of Tipperkevin. We welcome him as he moves the short distance from the other cathedral. He is of course a former minor canon of Saint Patrick's.

The Revd Canon Maureen Ryan, one of the three NSMs on the chapter is to resign from the end of December. She has been the representative canon of Tuam, Killala and Achonry since 2000. Her fine sermons will be missed and until domestic difficulties intervened she kept her full residence and interacted with our many visitors.

❖ PAST CHORISTERS' AND PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

The annual *Wine and Savoury Evening* will take place on Saturday 7 November. See the cathedral website at <http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/past-pupils-choristers.aspx> or contact Stephen Burleigh at 01 494 7460 for further details.

❖ DIT GRADUATIONS

It's that time of year again when DIT hold their series of graduation ceremonies in the cathedral for students who have successfully completed their courses. To that end the cathedral will be closed for visiting on 7, 14 and 21 November. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause.

❖ DATE CORRECTION

Please note that the Friends' Christmas party in the Deanery will be held on **Saturday 5 December** and not 15 December as stated in the recent edition of *St Patrick's People*.



❖ NEWS FROM THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The school term has been extremely busy so far and it is very rewarding to see students taking full advantage of the opportunities offered. Taking part in extra-curricular activities is often the start of lifelong interests or hobbies. Five of our Form One girls have joined the Girls' Cathedral Choir and I wish them many happy years of singing. The Girls' Choir sing at Evensong in the Cathedral on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Transition year students have just returned from a week at the adventure centre in Killary. They participated in kayaking, high ropes and swing, wall climbing and canoeing as well as team building challenges such as raft building and The Killary Challenge. Prior to this trip they had run a bake sale to raise funds to stock their 'Fair Trade' shop. They intend opening the shop at lunchtime two days a week. The aim is to sell some Fair Trade products as well as raise awareness of the issues involved. TY students are also busy producing the first edition of their newsletter, *The Grammar Gazette*. The first edition will be available before half term.

As usual the Gardáí have been very good to us. Garda Liam Holland visited the second year boys to assist them with research on the role of the Gardáí for their CSPE project, while two other Guards gave a presentation on 'Knife Crime' to our students. This presentation is to role out in many schools in Dublin as part of the Garda response to the rise in knife crime in the greater Dublin area.

In June we were granted Summer Works by the Department of Education in the form of a complete laboratory refurbishment. This has been ongoing since mid-August and I am very happy to see the project nearing completion. We hope to be installed in the new laboratory immediately after half term. This, added to our three new mounted data projectors, is a welcome addition to our teaching facilities.

Finally, our school Open Day will be held on Friday 18 December 2009 from 9.30 -11.30am. Current and prospective parents and pupils are welcome. This will be followed by the School Christmas Carol Service at 12.00 noon and the Prize Distribution at 12.45pm.

Sylvia Hick



❖SCOTT HAYES

Scott has resigned from the end of January 2010 to become Diocesan Secretary of Dublin and Glendalough. We owe him a great deal here and his links with Saint Patrick's go back a long way. He was educated at the Cathedral Grammar School and at Trinity College of which he is graduate in Business Studies.

He has a number of administrative jobs including running the cathedral shop. He came back to us in 2002 from a position in hotel administration in London to take up the post of Cathedral Administrator in succession to Kerry Houston. We wish him well in his new post and thank him for all he has done for Saint Patrick's.

Robert MacCarthy, Dean

❖SWIFT

The annual Swift symposium took place on Saturday 17 October with almost 40 people in attendance. The theme of this year's symposium was the 280th anniversary of the publication of *A Modest Proposal*. We are grateful to the many speakers who came and gave very interesting talks in their chosen areas of Swift.

On Sunday 18 October Professor Andrew Carpenter, emeritus professor of English at UCD, gave the annual Swift commemoration service address. His theme was *Swift on the art of getting older*. An abstract of his address can be found below:

Swift on the art of getting older

A significant milestone in the process of aging comes when one is granted a free travel pass. The pass states clearly that one is 66 years of age – a 'senior citizen'. The world now, suddenly, perceives one to be someone old enough to need free transport, special areas in buses and trains, cheap hotels and reduced entry rates to museums or theatres. And yet one does not feel any different inside oneself. In fact, one perceives oneself as being a reasonably fit and healthy middle-aged human being. But the world sees one as officially 'old'. It seems to me that these two ways of perceiving the old – from the outside and from the inside – are fundamentally different. Throughout his writing life, Jonathan Swift aimed to shock his readers into self-knowledge by exploiting the different ways things look when perceived from different points of view.

In various texts, the reader is seduced into thinking that what is being described is fairly normal – until he hears the view of some creature not able to judge it sympathetically, at which point he sees the full horror of the position he had thought was acceptable.



The most famous examples of this come in *Gulliver's Travels* when we are appalled to discover how human activities and human society look to a giant, or a pygmy or a horse. Our views of ourselves change when we are shown ourselves through the perspective glass of another being.

Equally, in an early informal manuscript entitled 'When I come to be old', which he wrote for himself, Swift set out to describe the behaviour of old people as he saw it when he was, himself, a young man: he was trying to write something that he could read again as he got older and so remember how old people are really perceived by the young. If he looked at the document late in life, he hoped that he would be able to avoid the characteristics he had seen in the old people around him.

The manuscript was written when Swift was 32 years old. He had been living, for some years, in the household of the distinguished old statesman, Sir William Temple. As a young man himself, Swift had a young man's perspective on the older man and his mature companions. Here is the text:

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)

When I come to be old (1699)

Not to marry a young Woman.

Not to keep young Company unless they really desire it.

Not to be peevish or morose, or suspicious.

Not to scorn present Ways, or Wits, or Fashions, or Men, or War, &c.

Not to be fond of Children, or let them come near me hardly.

Not to tell the same story over and over to the same People.

Not to be covetous.

Not to neglect decency, or cleanliness, for fear of falling into Nastiness.

Not to be over severe with young People, but give Allowances for their youthful follies and weaknesses.

Not to be influenced by, or give ear to knavish tattling servants, or others.

Not to be too free of advice, nor trouble any but those that desire it.

To desire some good Friends to inform me which of these Resolutions I break, or neglect, and wherein; and reform accordingly.

Not to talk much, nor of my self.

Not to boast of my former beauty, or strength, or favour with Ladies, &c.

Not to hearken to Flatteries, nor conceive I can be beloved by a young woman, *et eos qui hereditatem captant, odisse ac vitare.*

Not to be positive or opiniative.

Not to set up for observing all these Rules ; for fear I should observe none.



The Latin means: “and hate and avoid those who are hunting for legacies”.

The meaning is clear enough. Old people can appear, to the young, to be self-deluding, boring, contemptuous of change, covetous, dirty, intolerant, easily swayed, bossy, talkative and boastful (inventing glamorous pasts for themselves), unable to see when they are being duped, and opinionated.

Let me remind you of how far Swift pushes this device of playing one point of view off against another elsewhere in his work. His most famous fictional character, Captain Lemuel Gulliver, has a particularly high opinion of himself and his society and is blissfully unaware of the effect his boasting has on those around him. Gulliver’s inability to see how absurd he looks to the creatures he encounters – giants and horses particularly – leads him to brag wildly about human achievements, to behave as if nothing else mattered except his own, vigorously-stated point of view.

After he has been showing off for days to the giant king of Brobdingnag, the enormous king looks down on him in contempt and tells him that, from all that Gulliver has told him, he (the king) can only conclude that Gulliver and his fellow men are ‘the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth’. What Swift is doing here is shocking the reader into seeing how gross and immoral much human behaviour is – and we see it only because he forces us to see the naïve and boastful Gulliver through the perspective glass of a creature utterly different from himself.

Of course in a fiction such as *Gulliver’s Travels* Swift (like all satirists) is exaggerating for dramatic effect. But the basic device he is using in *Gulliver’s Travels* – forcing the reader to see how his own behaviour would look from another perspective – is the same as that he is using in ‘When I come to be old’. Swift wants to remember, when he is an old man and is seeing the world through the eyes of an old man, how the behaviour of old men looks to a younger man.

And the effect of this document is to remind us of how vital it is to be aware, as we get older, what our behaviour looks like to those younger than ourselves.

Let me put all this into the positive rather than the negative mode..... We can summarise Swift’s advice to himself (and to us) as follows: as you grow older, remember to be honest about yourself, to be wise and balanced, to be tolerant; but



above all, to be aware that others are seeing you and your behaviour quite differently from the way you perceive yourself. – and to amend your ways accordingly!

If you do this, Swift is suggesting, you will be able to grow old gracefully and those around you will delight in your company. It is, I think, very good advice from a very great writer.

❖ THE GAUDETE SINGERS

The Gaudete Singers, directed by the cathedral's assistant organist, David Leigh, will present a concert planned around the idea of *Vespers for St Cecilia* at 8pm on Sunday 22 November (St Cecilia's Day) in the Lady Chapel. Four strands will be represented: the liturgy of St Cecilia, the Vespers liturgy, the psalmody for the twenty-second evening, and veneration of the Virgin Mary, after whom any Lady Chapel is named.

The music will embrace the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Palestrina, Victoria, Philips, Dering), the nineteenth and twentieth (Rachmaninov, Stanford), and the twenty-first (Paul Mealor and Andrew Cooke, a Gaudete Singer who has composed a piece especially for this concert). David Leigh will allow the singers some respite by playing appropriate pieces for organ. There will be a charge of €15 (€10 concessions) for admission to help cover the costs.

The Gaudete Singers could accommodate additional members in all departments. If you would like to be considered for admission, please contact David Leigh at 087 223 8449 or John Barnes at 01 497 8341.

❖ SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Subscribers to the Cathedral, and members of the Friends, are reminded that applications for tickets for the Christmas Eve service of Nine Lessons and Carols should be made to the Dean's Vicar at the Cathedral Office by Tuesday 1 December. Applications must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a subscription / membership renewal fee where applicable. Each Friend or Subscriber is entitled to two tickets.



❖ PAST CHORISTERS' REUNION EVENSONG

As in previous years, it was a great pleasure to welcome back past choristers to sing evensong with the cathedral choir on Sunday 4 October. This was once again run in conjunction with an *Open Day* for prospective choristers and their families, and the assembled forces enjoyed a delicious tea in the Hewson Room after the service prepared by Judy Barnes with her customary skill and care.

The music chosen for the service was certainly suitable for the occasion. Stanford's ever popular and well-known setting in B flat includes an extended section for gentlemen only in *Nunc dimittis* which the past choristers sang with particular relish. By special request, the anthem was *The spacious firmament*. This piece would have been familiar to many of the past choristers as it is George Hewson's arrangement of music from Wagner's *Meistersinger Overture*.

It was very good to see the current president of the association, Roger Pickett, himself of course a distinguished former Lay Vicar at Saint Patrick's. Thanks are due to Roger for his support and also to Stephen Burleigh for his able organisation of the event behind the scenes.

The reunion evensong has become a regular fixture in the annual calendar of past choristers association events, and of course it is always a particular joy to see former choristers of all ages back in the cathedral.

❖ JAMES O'REILLY

The departure of James O'Reilly from the treble line at Saint Patrick's brings to a close a thirteen year period of full time commitment to the cathedral by the O'Reilly family. They have had three boys in the choir in that time, thus it has truly been a family involvement.

James joined the Choir School in September 2005, following in the footsteps of older brothers Colm and Peter. James was admitted as a chorister on 17 December 2006. That Christmas he was one of the boys who was interviewed on RTÉ television's *The Den* for their special Christmas programme.



His parents Larry and June were also closely involved in the life of the cathedral and choir school – notably as members of the Choir School Board of Management and the St Patrick’s Cathedral Choir and School Association committee and as supervising parents on several trips.

They also organised two very successful concerts in their local parish of St Brigid’s, Castleknock. During his time as a chorister, James took part in trips to Cork, Tralee and Roskilde. His parents were in fact instrumental in making the suggestion for the trip to Roskilde and for setting up some of the initial contacts for the trip. They also accompanied the touring party.

James was one of the boys who represented Saint Patrick’s at last year’s Charles Wood Summer School in Armagh. At the most recent prize-giving he was awarded the Roger Medal for reliability and good attendance, together with the Dean’s Prize. We feel sure that we will not lose touch with this most committed family.

❖ DUBLIN THEATRE FESTIVAL

This autumn six of the boys from the cathedral choir had a rare opportunity to take part in the recent Dublin Theatre Festival. The project was an unusual one – a site specific promenade piece staged in the magnificent surroundings of Newman House on St Stephen’s Green. This involved a month of rehearsals, starting right at the beginning of term, and culminating in seven performances on consecutive nights in early October, in addition to two full dress rehearsals. The performance was also recorded separately on video.

The production aimed to conjure up the troubled world of seminal Victorian poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. Entitled *No worst there is none* (after one of Hopkins’ poems) the boys were part of an evocative fusion of contemporary choral music, poetry and performance. The audience was limited to just twenty-five people per night (so it quickly sold out), as they were invited to follow the performers around the building within a series of tableaux, installations and performance sequences.

The music was specially composed by Sean Og, and actors were also involved, principally to play the parts of Hopkins and Cardinal Newman. The show also featured electronic music and multiple installations. Each performance concluded with the final scene in the University Church next door, which was particularly atmospheric. The boys seemed to enjoy this very different experience and the chance to sing and make music in new surroundings.



CANONS IN RESIDENCE

November 1	The Ven. M.S Harte	Prebendary of Howth
November 8	The Revd E. McDonagh	Prebendary of Clondalkin
November 15	The Very Revd K. Newell	Prebendary of Finglas
November 22	The Revd J. Caterall	Prebendary of Mulhuddart
November 29	The Very Revd P.J. Knowles	Prebendary of Stagonil

Services: Monday to Friday

11.05	Holy Eucharist (Said in the Lady Chapel on Wednesday and Thursday)
17.45	Choral Evensong

Services: Saturday

11.05	Holy Eucharist (Said in the Lady Chapel)
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Services: Sunday

8.30	Holy Eucharist (Said in the Lady Chapel)
11.15	Sung Eucharist / Choral Matins
15.15	Choral Evensong

Cathedral Contacts:

Dean: The Very Revd Robert MacCarthy (475 5449/453 9472)

Dean's Vicar: The Revd Canon Charles Mullen (453 9472)

Administrator: Mr Scott Hayes (453 9472)

Cathedral Supervisor: Mr Gavan Woods (475 4817)

Verger/Assistant Supervisor: Mr Louis Parminter (475 4817)

Cathedral Office:

Dean's Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Hickey

Tour Accounts: Mrs Joy Stewart

Assistant Administrator: Mr Mark Bowyer

Organist and Master of the Choristers: Mr Peter Barley (453 0776)

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