



Newsletter

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland
Past Patron: Dr I G Dicker

August 2017

From the Director

While in the UK in May, I came across an interesting article by Sir Simon Jenkins. For those of you that do not know, he is a well-respected, although sometimes controversial, author and columnist who wrote a book *England's Thousand Best Churches*.

The article spoke about the importance of music in services and why cathedrals in England may be more popular than parish churches "Music is very important, evensong is the most important service, people go for the music. They (cathedrals) don't feel obliged to be religious. I think the churches, particularly cathedrals are responding to people's desire for something that might be called spiritual. They are meditative, they are buildings where people find peace. They find peace in the music and the spirit."



TCS at Peterborough Cathedral 2011

As has been well publicised, the recent Australian census has shown a decrease in "organised religion", although many still have a sense of spirituality. I suspect similar results would come out of a UK census.

Later on he talks about cathedral worship – sometimes similar to TCS services -

"No one shakes you by the hand, no one says peace be upon you. I asked a Canon once why cathedrals are doing so well, he said 'unlike churches we don't bang on about God'. Which is very odd but also I sense rather true."

Some thought-provoking ideas! The full article can be found at:-

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/04/churches-would-popular-stopped-banging-god-sir-simon-jenkins/>

TCS has had a few weeks off services while I was away and many thanks to Carlos Alvarado, Brett McKern and Michael Butterfield for taking practices and leading workshops. We have been quite busy since then and have a fairly full programme over the next few weeks. I hope you will be able to see us at some of the upcoming services.

Jim Abraham

Director.

The Cathedral Singers

From the Chair

Greetings All

Since our last brief Newsletter, we have had a quieter couple of months when our Director, Jim Abraham went home to the UK for family celebrations. During this time we were pleased to welcome Carlos Alvarado, Brett McKern and Michael Butterfield to lead our rehearsals for a few weeks. It was a good opportunity to sing under different conductors with different angles on the work we were doing. Thank you guys!

We were very thrilled to be asked to sing at Dave and Nan Lewis' church – Pymble Uniting Church, for the first time, in July. We feel as if we know many of the congregation there as some of their members are significant supporters of TCS already. We also thank them for their great welcome and for their generosity to us on the day.



We had a fun evening singing Christmas Carols at Lodge Harmony as part of their “Christmas in July” dinner on 5th July. They were also raising money for the charity “Sydney Homeless Connect” and collected personal items to include in packs to be handed out to those on the streets.



TCS members took up a collection afterwards to contribute to this initiative. Our chorister, Michael Austin, who is extensively involved with Rotary, is in contact with the Master of Lodge Harmony, Daniel Najjar, as Rotary are involved in a similar project. We appreciated being invited and greatly enjoyed the meal and having a chance to socialize together.

Soon after that, we again had dinner together, this time to farewell Sally Rigden and her husband, Jim Lee, as they return to Canada for Jim's new position. We were very sorry to see them go and will hopefully be able to welcome Sally back to our ranks sometime in the future. God speed, guys!

We are now heading back to a busier time including looking forward to our annual “Country Weekend”, this year returning to both Cathedrals in Bathurst where we sang some years ago.

This will be on 16-17 September, when we hope the weather may have warmed up a little!

Before that, we will be singing at Dee Why, Gordon and for the first time, St Swithun's Pymble. We have been asked to sing there while their choir is singing in Dublin. As I used to be a member of that congregation, it will be good to go back – on 27th August at 10am.

As usual, we thank our deputies for helping us at times recently and are looking forward to the return of Hilana from her trip to the UK and Morocco to bring our Soprano numbers up again now that Sally is no longer with us. If there is anyone out there who would like to join a very happy choir, singing wonderful music, please get in touch!

God bless
Jan Kneeshaw

Check out our website and then tell your friends!

www.cathedralsingers.org.au

Would you like to consider joining us?

Contact Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or the Director,

Jim Abraham on 0405 817 276

Email: jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au

TCS Program for 2017

Come and join us for the some of our events for 2017

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
August	Sunday	6	6.00pm	Evensong	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	13	4.00pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	27	10.00am	Morning Prayer	St Swithun's Pymble
September	Sunday	3	9.30am	Choral Mass	St John's, Balmain
	Sunday	24	9.00am	Morning Service	Scots Kirk, Mosman
	Saturday	30	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
October	Sunday	8	4.00pm	Evensong	Holy Trinity Terrigal
November	Sunday	12	4.00pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	26	10.00am	Choral Eucharist	St John's Dee Why
December	Sunday	3	7.00pm	Advent Carols	St Alban's, Leura
	Sunday	10	6.00pm	Lesson and Carols	St John's, Balmain
	Friday	15	7.30pm	Lesson and Carols	St Peter's Cremorne
		17	7.30pm	Carol Service	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	24	11.00pm	Midnight Mass	St John's, Balmain

Vespers and Vigil Mass at St Mary's Cathedral

We were once again pleased to have an opportunity to sing Vespers and Vigil Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 15th July. This is a wonderful place to sing and we appreciate the welcome we receive.

Our organist was Michael Butterfield, who I have known for some years and who is about to leave to study for a Masters Degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London. This is a wonderful opportunity for him and we wish him well.



While Jim Abraham was away in June. Michael took one of our rehearsals, concentrating on the music we would be singing at St Mary's – Schubert's Mass in G, the challenging motet by Byrd – "Ego sum panis vivus" and the better known Panis Angelicus by Franck.

We really enjoyed this rehearsal and wish Michael well as he goes overseas to pursue his career.

Good luck, Michael!

Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem Investiture

The Cathedral Singers conducted by the Director Jim Abraham BA (Hons) ARCO provided choral accompaniment for an Investiture Service at St Philip's Church, Church Hill - the oldest Anglican parish in Australia - on Saturday 20th May.

The Service was conducted by The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem on the occasion of investing 18 postulants as new members of the Order during the National Chapter meeting in Sydney this year. The National Chaplain of the Order, Rt Rev Richard Hurford OAM KStJ SChLJ presided over a Service attended by about 200 people.



Chev Bill Killinger AM KLJ CMLJ, President of the NSW Commandery who hosted the annual meeting said: "The Cathedral Singers were superb and they received numerous accolades from interstate members of the Order from all of Australia".

Bill Killinger AM KLJ CMLJ
President NSW Commandery

TCS sings at PUC

As a member of the Pymble Uniting Church choir for over 45 years, it was an interesting experience for me to be singing as part of a visiting choir.

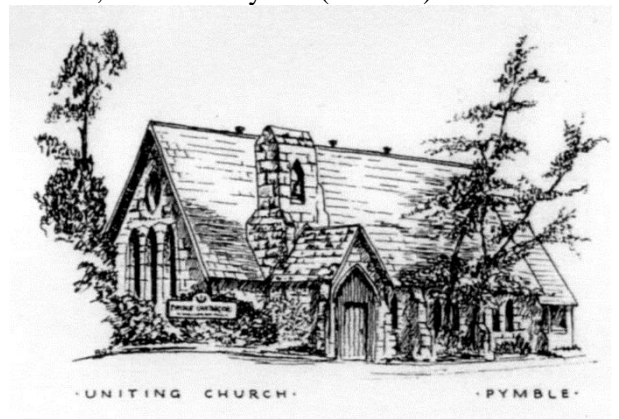
Our worship was supported with some familiar music (Mozart's *Ave verum* and the *Kyrie* from Schubert's *Mass in G*) as well as the unfamiliar Gardner's rousing *Fight the good fight*, and a premiere of an arrangement of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Pater Noster* with words and music extended and adapted to the more modern version of the Lord's Prayer that we use at Pymble. The sung Psalm, also unfamiliar at Pymble, attracted some favourable comments (perhaps from ex-Anglicans like me).

I was pleased with the enthusiastic congregational singing – particularly in the Iona Community setting of the *Sanctus*, only recently introduced to us by Steve Aynsley our Minister, and in the hymns (as usual).

The service concluded with the beautiful *Clare Benediction* by John Rutter.

There were many positive comments from members of the congregation, and they were very generous with their retiring donations. There is talk of a possible return visit in the future.

Thank you to all the Singers who helped to show what I'm up to when I'm absent from the choir at Pymble Uniting Church on some Sunday mornings!



Dave Lewis – Bass

Bon Voyage Sally

Displaced Australian-Canadian second soprano, Sally Rigden and her husband Jim Lee are returning to Canada after nearly four years in Sydney. They enjoyed a sumptuous dinner at Pizzeria Farina with the choir earlier this month.

Sally has thoroughly enjoyed singing with TCS for the last two years and will miss the liturgical music, both traditional and modern and the fellowship of choristers in this wonderful organization.



It will be a bit of a shock leaving Sydney for the prairies where they expect rather colder winters and much flatter topography but will be back to see family and friends on a regular basis, including TCS.

"It has been a joy and privilege to sing with the choir and many thanks to Jim Abraham and the other members of the choir, Sally says. "When we return to Sydney I hope to re-join TCS."

Ed: We will miss Sally and Jim as well!

Introducing John Stanbridge

I was born in Harrow, England, but from the age of 8 to the age of 20 I lived with my parents and siblings in Kenya, East Africa, where I was educated. I was no good at sport but from a young age I was very interested in Music and Literature.

I have always enjoyed singing although I have never had a paid singing lesson as my confidence in my ability was seriously dented in primary school when a teacher of music in a music/singing class told me to 'shut up John, you sound like a foghorn!' I think I may have been a boy alto. In secondary school after my voice matured (it deepened rather than broke), I auditioned for the chapel choir and was accepted as a bass (the choir enjoyed some small privileges which was useful as a boarder), which was my first introduction to part singing. I also joined the school brass band and learned to play the trombone. I was usually 2nd trombone and I can still get a scale of B flat out of the instrument I later bought when I came to Australia.



At the age of 16 I acted the part of the Duke of Plaza Toro in a school production of 'The Gondoliers' as I have always enjoyed the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. As an extra curricula subject at school I studied the Theory of Music and attained a Grade V certificate. At the age of 20 I went back to England ostensibly to become a teacher but dropped out of college in 1970 and joined Barclays Bank as a Junior Clerk. Later, having obtained a job with the ANZ Bank, in 1972 I migrated to Sydney, Australia as a ten quid Pom. (The rest of the family had preceded me in 1971 but they settled in Brisbane). Whilst expecting to be sent somewhere 'out the back of Bourke' I found myself posted to a branch in the Sydney CBD and found accommodation in North Sydney.

Whilst I was in teacher training college I majored in English and Music which meant that I had to be a member of the college orchestra (2nd trombone again) and the choir. The first work we practised that year was the *Bach B Minor Mass* which we performed just before Easter as part of a massed choir at Southwark Cathedral in South London (just near London Bridge railway station for those that do not know Greater London). The following Easter, just before I dropped out of College we performed the Bach *Matthew Passion*, also in Southwark Cathedral.

When I arrived in Australia I was keen to continue pursuing my interests in music, and shortly after settling in North Sydney I joined the choir at St. Augustine's Anglican Church in Neutral Bay. The choir master at the time was Dr. Alan Bellhouse, and his wife, Dulcie, whom I knew as Mrs. Bellhouse, was the organist. It was only later I discovered that Dulcie Bellhouse was better known as Dulcie Holland.

Also, at the same time as I joined St. Augustine's, the Over 20's fellowship, in conjunction with the fellowship at St. John's Milson's Point, were rehearsing a production called '*Bread, the Soul Sound Jesus Review*', based on the Gospel of John (6:35), words and music written by Jeff Carroll. I attended the first performance in May 1972 and became a member of the cast in the third performance. An abridged version of 'Bread' became ABC TV's token Easter production for Easter 1973. I sang in the chorus on the soundtrack but did not appear in front of the cameras as I managed to score the rather more interesting role of Assistant's Assistant (unpaid) Floor Manager for the ABC at the Gore Hill studios where it was filmed. The success of 'Bread' led to the formation of an organisation called 'Harvest Theatre' which was attached to the Sydney Anglican Diocese Youth Department for about ten years.

Another personal achievement for me was when Jeff Carroll was asked to organise the music for the 1973 Easter Youth Rally in Hyde Park, Sydney, which resulted in my being a part of a group of singers that warmed up the crowd before the main attraction appeared. We were then invited to back him in a couple of songs. The main attraction that year was Cliff Richard. Also amongst that group of singers was a young Sydney Conservatorium student who on this occasion sang Alto (which for years I assumed she was). In fact she was a Soprano and her name was Amada Thane – she went on to make quite a name for herself at Covent Garden in London and with Opera Australia.

In 1974 I was appointed one of 63 pioneering staff in the newly formed NSW Bankcard Department of the ANZ Bank. Doing shift work rather put paid to any further involvement with Harvest Theatre.

In 1980 I married my Australian-born wife, Marion, who I met at St. Augustine's church and in 1983 we settled in Roseville. Retrenched from the ANZ Bank in 1991, I worked for a number of companies including David Jones Department Store, mainly in their Credit Department as a Collections Officer until my retirement in 2013.

During my time at David Jones, I joined the staff Christmas Choir under the direction of David Drury and in 2000, whilst everybody else was gearing up for the Sydney Olympics, the choir was heavily involved in practising and recording the 50th Anniversary album which was made available in time for Christmas 2000.

In 2010 I added another skill to my resume by completing a Certificate IV in Tourism (Guiding) and am now a fully qualified tour guide.... although I have yet to be paid to conduct a tour and advise that I currently can't do one as my First Aid Certificate is out of date and needs renewing.

In 2014 I joined 'The Cathedral Singers' (I am also now a member of St Andrew's Roseville church choir), and also became a volunteer guide at 'Nutcote', a role which combines my interests in literature and social history and enables me to practise my tour guiding skills. I also read '*Snugglepote and Cuddlepie*' for the first time.

John Stanbridge – TCS Bass

CD Order/Donation Form



The Cathedral Singers



TCS Sings Evensong



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Enclosed is my cheque/money order for: (✓ Tick appropriate box/s)

- CD 3 “Lo! The Star” @ \$10 each _____ \$ _____
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- Any 2 CDs - \$15 _____ \$ _____
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- + Postage and handling @ \$5 per CD _____ \$ _____

- Donation for our ongoing ministry _____ \$ _____

- Total: _____ \$ _____

Cheques should be made payable to “The Cathedral Singers Donation Fund”

Banking details for direct transfers (please notify us by email):

Bank account details: BSB 814 282 A/c 504 371 53

Postal address: The Cathedral Singers PO Box 569 Gordon NSW 2072

Please email us for further details: tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au

or ring Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or 0411 785 117

More details on our website: www.cathedralsingers.org.au

All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible

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