

Visiting Choirs

Luke Bond has been busy organizing our visiting choirs this summer while the Cathedral Choir takes a well earned break.

The summer holiday heralds again a wonderful line-up of visiting choirs from Cornwall, England and the World! Our Cornish welcome is known through the length and breadth of the country (possibly further) and goes some way to explain why we have visiting choirs booking to sing here in Truro as far into the future as 2014. Please do come and support the choirs as and when you are able and do please say hello at coffee on Sundays. On July 16th and 17th we welcome **Laudate Chamber Choir**. Set-up by Neil Shepherd only two years ago the choir has already given many memorable concerts all over Cornwall.

From August 1st-7th the **Lynwood Singers** will be joining us. The Lynwood Singers were formed in 2007. The choir members come from many parts of the country and meet on three or four occasions each year to sing the services for a weekend or a week in various Cathedrals, Abbeys, Minsters and other Churches throughout the country. Amongst these, they have been privileged to sing in Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral and are now pleased to be leading the worship for a week in Truro Cathedral. Further visits planned in the next six months are to Ripon and Hereford Cathedrals. The choir's director is Robert Soper and the organist is Daniel Soper. **The Harsnett Choir** will be with us from August 8th-14th.

Samuel Harsnett was born in 1561, the son of a Colchester baker. Between 1597 and 1605 he was the Vicar of the Parish of Chigwell. In his later career he became Bishop of Chichester, then Bishop of Norwich and, at the time of his death, in 1631, was Archbishop of York. Samuel Harsnett enjoyed a certain amount of fame in his day. He was well known for his support of the Anglican campaign against the practice of exorcism. His treatise, 'A Declaration of Egregious Popish Impostures', was published in 1603 and appears to have been used by Shakespeare as a reference for certain scenes in King Lear.

The following week, August 15th-21st, we welcome the **Priory Singers**. The Priory Singers perform a wide range of music from Tudor anthems and madrigals right through to arrangements of contemporary works. They have performed anthems by sixteenth-century composers, a fully-staged performance of Purcell's Dido and -*Aeneas*, a new setting of the Requiem mass by their Musical Director, Stephen Benavente, they give an annual nine

lessons and carols service by candlelight, and perform their regular 'Lighter Side' engagements at the Dolman Theatre.

Finally on September 3rd-4th we welcome **St David's Singers, from Exeter**. St David's Singers was formed by Sylvia Pritchard, then organist of St David's Church Exeter, in the early 1970s. Sylvia directed the choir until Autumn 1994 when the baton was passed to Mark Perry. The choir consists of about 28 singers who enjoy singing challenging music from a wide range of composers, periods and styles. They sing sacred and secular music, normally a cappella, in and around Devon, usually for charities. They have toured in England and France and have previously recorded a CD of the music of local (Dartmoor) composer Christopher Williams.

The visiting choirs are generally singing the same pattern of services as the Cathedral choir. In addition several choirs are singing Saturday evensong at 4.00pm (except on Saturday 23rd July, 5.30pm). Please do check the music list before attending a choral evensong over the holiday as there are several changes to the normal pattern in order to accommodate the choirs' needs.