



THE SENIOR CHOIR

A History of St Paul's Choir from Vatican Two
to The Present Day.

St Paul's and St Timothy's Parish,
West Derby, Liverpool.

By Pat McCoy

**I have a sweet tooth for song and music. This is my Polish
sin.**

Pope John Paul 11, listening to folk-rock hymns on a visit to
Poland, 1979.

Dear Reader,

I have really enjoyed writing this history of St. Paul's Senior Choir. I have relied heavily on members' memories and have only referred to documentation occasionally. As we all know, memory often lends enchantment so please forgive me if anything strikes you as too fanciful.

Throughout, I have referred to the singers as St. Paul's Choir but their official title is now 'The Choir of St Paul's and St Timothy's Senior Choir'.

Thank you for reading this story about a dedicated parish group.

Pat McCoy

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INTRODUCTION

There must have been many organists and singers connected with St Paul's parish over the years. However, this short history attempts to give an account of the Choir from Vatican Two to the present time.

There might be one or two parishioners who remember the name of Owen Cull. Before World War Two he was the organist at St Paul's, West Derby. It soon became widely known that he had been called up to serve, together with thousands of other young men and women. He was sent to the Far Eastern war theatre and was captured by the Japanese. Like so many others, after his release, he was a broken man, yet despite his condition, he continued to play the organ when he was able to do so.

It was after the tenure of Owen Cull that the choir comes in to 'living memory'.

As the 1940s and 1950s progressed, a Miss Gibney was prominent as organist and choir director. Meanwhile the 1960s were fast approaching and the advent of The Second Vatican Council.

In 1965 when Vatican Two closed, a need for the Spirit of Renewal had been emphasised. The Council sought the roots of Catholic life and the impact was felt on the liturgy in particular. Gradual change in public prayer of the Church was already an aspect of Catholic worship. People had already experienced the use of English from Latin and also having the altar placed in the centre of the Sanctuary with the priest facing the people. Lay readers were introduced, new hymns were composed and the Latin almost disappeared. Whilst many welcomed the changes, it was a time of turbulence for many Catholics. The parishioners of St Paul's parish were no exception.

In the middle of all this liturgical upheaval, Dean O'Donoghue died and Monsignor Breen was appointed as Parish Priest. Under his direction, St Paul's was reordered. That Christmas he invited anyone who could sing the Latin Mass to do so at Midnight Mass when the church was reopened. The organist was Miss Gibney. Shortly after this period, she retired and Joe Byrne became the organist and choir director. He led the choir well into the 1970s with Father Anthony Bullen as Parish Priest. The latter was an innovator and enabler and bravely steered the parish through the next, sometimes turbulent, decade.

By now, the Choir as we know it today, was setting down its roots and being formed. The members were to be in for a very exciting and rather wonderful musical future.

THE 1980s

By 1980 Therese McCusker had been appointed as Choir Director at St Paul's. Her ability as an organist was matched equally by her expertise as a choral teacher. Her father had also held these positions and had taught her well.

With her arrival there was a new structure to the choir. She inaugurated the first meeting of St Paul's Singers' Committee on 1st December, 1980. This was held in Mary and Allan's house. Under the guidance of Therese the members elected a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Social Secretary. This was followed by the first AGM on 28th December.

Therese insisted on strict discipline at all times. Each singer had their own place in the choir loft. Moving to another place was not permitted. There was a strict rule of 'No Talking' but to save it for the tea break which was held in the Presbytery kitchen and was generally an excuse for great fun and banter. If a singer missed three rehearsals with no genuine reason, they were asked to leave. Singing in St Paul's choir was a bestowed honour and in order to qualify there was the dreaded audition conducted by Therese. Four part singing was the norm and each singer was classified as either a soprano, alto, tenor or bass. Occasionally there would be upper and lower sections in each voice category. The standard was extremely high and singing on Radio Merseyside and making CDs was never really a problem. Theresa's passion was to bring the church's liturgy alive. As well as notes, words were important and good pronunciation vital.

The range of musical skills within the choir was wide and varied. Joe Robinson played the harmonica to a very high standard whilst Brother Anthony and Paul Kinder were very competent organists. Jack Cooper could play a few guitar chords.

Pat McCoy and Colette Cassel played the piano regularly and well. It was the latter two who caught the attention of Father Peter Nicholson in the late eighties. He had seen an archdiocesan course advertised which promised to help pianists to become organists. He asked Pat and Colette to go on this course and he would pay all the fees (£8 each!) It turned out that the course would be held over a series of Saturday mornings. Each lesson was in a different church on a different organ each week. On reflection, little thought was given to whether this was a good idea or not. Pat's and Colette's eventual individual skills were only achieved after hours of practice and many excruciating mistakes. (How the congregation must have suffered in the early days.) Another highly valued member of the choir was Sister Helen Flynn, a sister of Charity with the most beautiful voice.

In February, 1987, Therese announced that she had reached the age of sixty and had decided to retire from St Paul's but not from promoting good liturgy.

She and Sister Helen formed a Liturgy Team and travelled the length and breadth of the country promoting good liturgy and helping parishes to provide their own music.

There was a great sense of shock and sadness experienced throughout the choir. For a time the singers felt as though they were floundering. It was as though none of the musicians in the choir thought that they could do the job as well as Therese had done it. Little by little, Paul Kinder started to take the practices. When he was unavailable Brother Anthony would fill the breach. All seemed to be going well with Pat and Colette growing musically bolder by the minute. Choir life was returning to normal.

THE NEW ORGAN

Towards the end of the 1980s it was becoming very obvious that something needed to be done about the poor state of the pipe organ. It was beginning to show great signs of weariness. Canon Vincent Burrowes was now Parish Priest and he always showed his support and appreciation of his music groups. It fell to him to oversee the installation of a 'new' organ. Various options were explored and basically they were scaled down to three.

1. A brand new pipe organ to be built from scratch.
2. The present organ rebuilt with replacement of useless parts but to keep some parts.
3. A new electronic organ which some churches were already using.

Experts in the three options were consulted and invited to come along and address parishioners. This they did and gave their time and advice unstintingly. An evening event in the Club was organised and many parishioners attended and showed a great interest.

It was concluded that:-

The cost of Option 1 was prohibitive.

Too little was really known about the longevity of Option 3 at the time and therefore might not be very cost effective.

It was decided that Option 2 was probably the best of the three and the task was entrusted to Corkhill Brothers.

Whilst the work was being undertaken a small keyboard instrument was being used and the choir members stayed in the main body of the

church. There was a great deal of anticipation as everyone awaited the completion of the new organ.

When it was finally finished, Mr Terence Duffy gave a superb concert as he put the organ through its paces. He had been very generous with his advice in the early stages of replacing the failing organ.

It was now the end of 1982 and as well as working hard, the choir enjoyed many 'other' activities. They really believed in having a good time. To this end they had spent the weekend of 2-4 May 1981 in Scarborough. A notable memory is of being introduced to 'Sheep Dip' (a local whisky) by Colette's husband, Harry Cassell.

INTO THE 1990s

Choir routine was returning. Sighs of relief! Liturgy courses in Upholland, Jack's trips, Carol Services at Alder Hey, Pot luck suppers and theatre visits continued as normal. In 1990 there was even a wonderful concert in church to mark the 75th Anniversary of St Paul's Church.

Meanwhile it was very obvious that Paul Kinder was not a well man. He had already had serious health problems before he joined the choir. After a few years of being reasonably well he was now quite unable to continue with his school and choir work. Brother Anthony, Pat and Colette deputised more and more. In 1996 Paul died and there started a period in the choir's history which would sit well in a Monty Python sketch.

Father Peter Nicholson was now Parish Priest. He loved music and was a great opera fan. He gave his whole hearted support to all the parish groups but was particularly supportive of his music groups. For many years there had been two folk groups as well as the Senior choir. They all played throughout the year but came together for important events like the Easter Vigil and Christmas Midnight Mass. After Paul's death Father Peter was at a loss to understand why things could not continue as normal because by now he had three organists. But Brother Anthony was often not available and so it was being left more and more to Colette and Pat. Neither was in a position to take on the role permanently because both taught in Primary schools, had families and simply did not have the time to devote to taking the Choir full time. Eventually Colette and Pat convinced Father Peter that he needed to 'do something' and so he did. Advertisements with 'promise of payment' (unheard of at the time) went into relevant magazines eg. Church Times and The Organ. There was no response for quite a long time then along came Art from Holland. In 1998 he was followed by Jose Luis Rosario from Argentina. The latter fitted in very well but due to Visa constrictions he had to return to Argentina.

Pat and Colette were shaken from their complacency and kept the choir going until the present organist, Paul Delaney, became the new Choir Director in 1999.

By this time the parish was known as St Paul's and St Timothy's. Pat McCoy agreed to become the Music Director for St Timothy's church and it was anticipated that all musicians would sing and play in both churches.

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Other Activities

By the end of 1982 the choir's inclusion in Parish life and beyond was wide and varied.

When His Holiness Pope John Paul 11 visited Liverpool in May, 1983, the choir was involved with the launch of the Speke Mass, a setting which was to serve congregations well for almost three decades to come.

By Christmas 1985, Mary Finch's parents were residing in Montrose Court. A Christmas visit to sing Carols, eat mince pies and have a drink became a regular event and was enjoyed by all choir members as well as residents.

By now the Choir was becoming a victim of its own success and as a result they were often asked to sing in Alder Hey Hospital and other various Care homes around Merseyside.

On one occasion after singing at the 11am Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral the members celebrated with a very enjoyable lunch together in Wavertree.

One of the male singers was Jack Cooper, a flamboyant character who was a Blue Badge Guide in Liverpool and enjoyed fame as a local historian. He was often heard on Radio Merseyside but he really loved to hire a bus and take a party on a 'trip'. Naturally many of his groups were comprised of Choir members. His speciality was 'Murders and

Mysteries' and choir members were led to parts of Liverpool and Lancashire which truly surprised them, particularly in the Chinese quarter of Chinatown which was particularly memorable.

Another trip was to Ribchester where Jack proved to be a font of knowledge concerning the Roman period there.

However, it wasn't all 'play'. Therese was most insistent that the singers should seek constant improvement by attending courses and spiritual renewal events. Even after Therese had moved on from St Paul's choir, this ethic was maintained.

In May 1986, a whole Saturday was spent in the Cathedral crypt with Christopher Walker. All were infected by his sheer exuberance and prayerfulness. He said that he was not a Catholic then told the gathering that he was to be received into the Catholic Faith the next day in Clifton Cathedral.

A regular venue for liturgy and improvement sessions was Upholland and on one occasion a weekend in Bollington with Father Manny Griffin.

This was a particularly stirring event and remains indelibly in the memory.

Over the years, these activities have diminished somewhat as many of the original members have died or moved away. Also, there are more social events centred around the parish whereby the choir members can relax and chat.

A photographic inclusion at the end of this history reflects many of the above activities.

More recently, in 2012, changes were recommended for, among other things, words in Mass settings. Several liturgical composers prepared music, some suitable and some very otherwise, and the congregation is helped with these changes by listening to, and learning from, the Choir.

Delegates attended Salford Cathedral and St Margaret Mary's church in Knotty Ash for the initial introductions to the new music.

Birthdays, anniversaries or end of term meals are often a welcome excuse for a celebratory meal or drink. These events are usually enjoyed by priests and singers alike.

Social welfare has always been on the choir's agenda and members can always be assured of help and a friendly ear when needed.

2000 and ONWARDS

By the turn of the century, the Choir was continuing to provide music in the liturgy, mainly at the Parish Mass but also at weddings and the occasional funeral. Paul Delaney was, and still is, the Choir Director and because of his outstanding talent as an organist, he is often asked to play at other venues. Sometimes the choir members are invited to join him on these ventures, particularly to sing at weddings in other parishes.

Like many other parish groups the choir has had its ups and downs. Recruitment has always been on the agenda and despite lots of ideas being tried, the personal invitation approach has always seemed to be the most effective. Once members have tried the choir they admit to loving the experience, especially as membership is more relaxed. In keeping with the more modern approach to liturgical music at parish level, the old methods of auditions, silences in the choir loft, sitting where you are told to sit etc., etc., are gone. Since the year 2000 many of the original members have died. Some of them had been in the choir since before Vatican Two. They are still remembered and missed. They are the ones who put down the roots of the choir and worked hard to establish the spiritual aspect of the group. The strong tradition of caring and mutual welfare continues to this day with a social secretary keeping an eye on the members and arranging help when needed or perhaps just sending a greeting card.

The present choir consists of eleven singers who try to attend regularly. More will always be welcome. Some of the choir members have kindly written down what singing in St Paul's Choir means to them. These accounts are very thought inspiring and describe their experiences with honesty and sincerity.

IN THE WORDS OF CURRENT MEMBERS:-

Paul Delaney, Music Director

I joined the Choir in November, 1999 whilst Father Peter was here- he really welcomed me well and I always remember in the pulpit he said a friend of his, a priest, said,! "You've got Paul Delaney, haven't you?"- that made me smile!

I have always enjoyed the friendly choir and have been impressed with the dedication of the choir, despite their ageing years; turning up especially in Winter in wind, rain, frost etc. just demonstrates the dedication of St Paul's choir members!

I have particularly enjoyed Christmas Midnight Mass with the choir- pitch black outside, whilst we are singing our hearts out inside, welcoming the birth of Jesus. The Easter triduum too, which of course is four days of Services-all attended with great gusto and enthusiasm.

I have composed lots of psalms for the choir over the years, many of which we have performed on a weekly basis. I have also composed several Alleluias and a whole Mass setting-St Paul's acclamations, (which we haven't sung in a while).

I have made many close friends in the choir over the years and I believe coming to church during my painful separation and subsequent divorce, and playing for the choir helped me in a big if 'silent' way. Lots of members, and Father Peter of course, have since died and are sadly missed.

On a final note, the spirit of the Choir is:-

DEDICATION, FRIENDSHIP and COMMITMENT.

Long may it continue.

Mary Finch

I joined St Paul's Choir when the church was reordered after Vatican 11 and the then parish priest, Monsignor Breen asked for anyone who could sing the Latin Mass to come and supplement the Choir at Midnight Mass on completion of the work. I have been here ever since! I have worked with about seven different Directors.

I took on the task of Librarian in 1980 when Therese asked for a volunteer to look after our increasing repertoire and combined this with the post of Secretary in 1983. I had a short spell of occupying the Chair after Jim.

I have taken part in several Songs of Praise, the first being at St Mary's in West Derby Village, and since then those recorded at the Metropolitan Cathedral. On one of these occasions, my husband Allan joined the men and Paul Kinder, the then Director, asked him to join the Choir. Again, he has been here ever since!

The Choir has been a rock for me and my family on a number of occasions, particularly singing carols for my parents and friends in their sheltered accommodation. When they died the Choir came and sang for their Requiem Masses. They also contributed hugely to the entertainment for both our Silver and Golden Wedding Celebrations.

Both Therese McCusker and Sister Ellen Flynn have been a great influence which has enabled me to help Paul, when necessary, with the Liturgy and I now produce the Mass sheets for the 11.15 Sunday Mass.

There was a short time when the organ was being rebuilt and so we were unable to use the choir loft. We overcame this problem by borrowing the small electric organ from the parish club and used it in

the main body of the church for Mass. At this time, we rehearsed in the Sacristy, which was quite a challenge. It was during this period that we were joined by Nancy Burrowes and her daughter, Anne Tibke.

There was a time when I took on the task of Wedding Singers Coordinator, but that is now Pat McCoy's domain, and she is far better at it than I ever was.

Ann Rutherford

I joined St Paul's Senior Choir in late 1980-1990. I was asked by Mary Finch, the Choir Secretary and by Denis Bolland, a neighbour.

I never thought that my voice was good enough for a choir but I am still here!

As I was christened in St Paul's. I have always been a member here. I thought that I had better join because I would be retiring in a few years and should look to the future.

The choir is a friendly place. I have always enjoyed my time here. The choir had about 18-20 members when I first joined but now we have only 11.

Glyn Leatham

There was always a family commitment to St Paul's Choir. My late wife, Marilyn, my mother in law, Elsie Bowles and Geraldine, my sister in law, were staunch members.

I joined with my good friend Allan Finch in 1980. It was just after a memorable trip to Scarborough where we had been introduced to 'sheep dip'.

The audition with Therese McCusker was not frightening. In fact, I found it fantastic. She was supportive and helped me with my difficulty with sight reading. Fortunately I have excellent pitch and sing Bass.

Since my wife's death in 2013, the choir members have been very supportive. Their friendship and my voluntary work in Zoe's Place have, have been a great consolation.

I can honestly say that I have really enjoyed everything about the choir; not just the singing but all the activities.

Maureen Cobham

When I first came to St Paul's and St Timothy's Parish, seven years ago, I joined the choir.

I have been blessed with all the members who welcomed me.

It is a family in "God."

Allan Finch

I joined St Paul's Senior Choir after attending a TV Broadcast at the Cathedral. I had been in the congregation with the men as Mary, my wife, was singing with the ladies. Paul Kinder, the then Director of the Choir, said to me "Why don't you come and join us?" I went for an audition with him and he said he would be happy to have me and I have been here ever since.

Over the years, I have been with the choir on weekends of both pleasure as well as workshops, and have enjoyed them all. From time to time, I have been the Treasurer, the 'tea boy' as well as Welfare and other duties. I have now been in the Choir for over 20 years and whilst I am no Pavarotti, I feel that I have always put my best foot forward. The other members of the choir have always been helpful to me and it's been a pleasure to mix with their company.

Elaine Kinnehan

I've always loved singing and joined the Choir two; years ago. It's a way for me to make a contribution to the Church, to feel part of our community, and through the joy of singing Christian music, celebrate the glory of God.

My Membership of the Senior Choir and what it means to me.

By Tony Adamson.

Friday 8th May 2015

The first person to mention my joining the Choir was Glyn (Leatham). Whilst in conversation he mentioned that he was a member of the choir.

As I enjoy performing in musical theatre, the following Sunday I went along to 11.15. Mass to 'audition' the choir. I was quite impressed. Glyn spotted me in the congregation and called me up at the end of Mass. He introduced me to Mary (Finch) and told her I could sing; she got me in a head-lock and said, 'Walk this way.'

From my first Mass I was struck by the help I was given and the camaraderie of the other members. I appreciate their musical talents and experience of the other members. I have learned a lot from them.

Being a member for the last five or six years has been most enjoyable for me and I enjoy a good 'blast' on a Sunday morning.

I look forward to many more years of involvement with the Senior Choir.

Why I joined St Paul and St imothy's Senior Choir

Josie Kelly

On the 21st day of June 2012 I lost my Dad suddenly without warning.

My Dad's name was Joe Curran and he and our mam (Sabine Curran, who sadly died 19 years ago) were married for 40 years. They were wonderful parents to their nine children even though times were often hard.

Our Dad lived for 17 years after our Mam, but it was very hard for him to cope, but he did it with the love and support of his very large family.

My Mam and Dad were great singers, and if we didn't have anything else in our house we always had music. They sang whenever they went out on a weekend at their local social club where we would all gather as a family for many a celebration, and be proud when we would hear their names being called to give a song.

As the weeks and months went by after the dreadful shock of losing my Dad, I vowed to myself that I would do things that I never normally do, and I would love to do something that my Mam and Dad would have been proud of and as the realisation of how short life can be had hit me hard, I needed to think of something.

I love singing and listening to music, and had often thought that I would like to be a member of a choir, but it was never more than a thought at the back of my mind.

It was during an evening out at our Parish Centre of St Paul's and St Timothy's while I was talking to Mary and Allan Finch, that they mentioned that they were looking for more members for the Choir. I said, in a 'joking way' that I had often been thinking about joining a

choir but had not thought too seriously about it. They invited me along to the next choir practice which was after the Summer holidays.

On September 10th 2012 at 8pm, I turned up for my first Choir practice and I was as nervous as anything, mainly because I thought that I couldn't sing and would make a fool of myself. It has been over two years now and I'm glad that I persevered. It has been a huge challenge for me to stick at it, but it has helped me to think about the future and that I may even go a bit further to fulfilling any dreams and those little thoughts at the back of my mind.

The other members of the Choir are so welcoming and there is always a lovely atmosphere. I have sung at Weddings and more sadly, Funerals. At the back of my mind I think that I would never have experienced anything else like this in my life if I hadn't taken that first step out of my comfort zone.

When I am telling my Husband, Children and Grandchildren about my time in the Choir, I can see that they are proud of me, which in turn makes me feel proud of ME!

Margaret Maginn

Having been a member of both Junior and Senior school choirs, it was no surprise to me to have my arm twisted by the Secretary of the Senior Choir (who shall be nameless) to join the choir-back in the nineteen nineties. She had also been a member of both school choirs at the same time-many moons ago!

However, I am so glad to have joined up and do enjoy singing at Mass together with the other members to the best of our ability.

Colette Cassel

Until recently Colette was a staunch member of the Senior Choir. She and I share many happy experiences both as singers and organists. We both sang alto and so often spent time together in our 'places'. When Father Peter arranged for the two of us to have organ lessons we gave each other mutual support. She was much better on the pedals. She and her late husband, Harry, were always supportive of any social event involving the Senior Choir. The older members still miss her cheery encouragement.

Colette is not able to be with us now but we still often think of her.

Pat McCoy

Pat McAlister

I joined the Choir 13 years ago as a result of a chance meeting with a lovely lady (an Angel) called Sheila Warnick.

It was my 60th birthday and it should have been a happy day, but, unfortunately I had split with my partner a few weeks earlier and I was feeling a bit down as I made my way to Church that day.

Sheila was getting out of Pat McCoy's car and she saw me and said to me, "Are you OK?" I replied, "Not really" and so she asked me whether I liked singing and invited me to come with her to the choir and she would look after me.

Once in church I found out that it was Father Sean's birthday as well. The choir sang Happy Birthday and it made my day. It was a turning point in my life. I have made many friends in Church. I regard Church and the Choir as my second family.

Over the years we have enjoyed lots of social events-many of them in St Paul's Club. We also sing at Weddings and Funerals. We are like minded people who love singing.

Sadly, Sheila is no longer with us. She is an Angel in Heaven. I think of her as my Guardian Angel and my chance meeting with her was meant to be!

Just a Few Random Memories

Pat McCoy

When I first joined the choir, I really thought that I could sing. A few lessons with Therese soon put me right on that score. It is really thanks to her that I was able to go on and audition for the renowned Liverpool Welsh Choral. I have sung with them for over twenty years.

When I 'volunteered' to play at St Timothy's on a regular basis, I was pleasantly surprised at the really warm welcome which was extended to me. However, I had not taken into account that the good people of St Timothy's had not yet had the experience of listening to and learning from St Paul's choir. As a result I played many hymns which the parishioners had never had the opportunity of learning. Being the good souls they were they quickly got in to the swing of things and we soon had a really lively liturgy. This was helped by a group of children who regularly turned up and played percussion for the Mike Anderson 'Gloria'. They loved to do that with drums, maracas and tambourines.

One Sunday morning, a Sister of Mercy, Sister Eileen, introduced herself to me and said that she sang and played the piano. From then on there was hardly a Sunday went by without one of us singing the responsorial psalm and perhaps other responsorial parts of the Mass. Her move to London was a great loss to St Timothy's and to me personally as a musician.

In the early days of my transition to St Timothy's, I used to then go on and sing with the choir at St Paul's. This was always after being re energised by coffee and delicious cake provided by the Polish sisters who were in residence in St Timothy's presbytery at the time.

Before Paul Delaney came to St Paul's I was very involved with playing for weddings and Colette played for Funerals. Most of these went without incident and merged into the past. However, one wedding is indelibly etched into my memory. It was during Father Peter's time

and during a period when we had visiting organists. For some reason, all three keys to open the choir loft were missing. The guests and choristers were starting to arrive and we were starting to panic. The bride would soon be here. What could we do? After a lot of panicking, Father Peter came up with idea of finding a ladder long enough to reach the top of the choir rails. To this day, I do not know where that ladder came from but Father Peter produced one and he held it while we all climbed up and over the banisters. Naturally, we had to descend the same way.

The wedding went without a hitch and no one was any wiser.

I have never regretted accepting the invitation to join the Senior Choir back in the 1980s. Despite the human failings which sometimes rear their heads, the camaraderie, generosity and sheer good will usually triumph.

Some Noteable Dates in the Choir's History

1980

1 December First meeting of St Paul's Singers' Committee held in the Mary Finch's house.

28 December The first AGM took place in Parish Centre.

1981

2-4 May Choir weekend in Scarborough .On this occasion, Harry Cassell introduced choir to 'Sheep Dip'-a local drink (whisky).

1982

May Promise that the 'new' organ should be installed by Christmas.

1983

May Choir represented at Speke Mass in the presence of His Holiness Pope John Paul 11.

Visit to Llandudno to be arranged.

1985

Christmas Carols and mince pies in Montrose Court where Mary Finch's parents reside.1986

Low Sunday Sang 11am mass at the metropolitan Cathedral of Christ The King. Enjoyable lunch afterwards in Wavertree.

May A whole Saturday spent in the Cathedral crypt on a musical Liturgical day with Christopher Walker. Memories of life, enthusiasm, high spirits and prayerfulness which poured from him and were infectious.

1988

Trip to Upholland for music weekend.

Carol Service in Alder Hey Childrens' Hospital for Staff.

1989

House Mass and Pot Luck Supper at Mary Finch's house.

	Father Burrowes a guest.
	Carol Service at Alder Hey.
25 June	Upholland weekend.
<u>1990</u>	Liturgy Course in Savio House, Bollington, with Father Manny Gribben.
	Choir performed a concert in church to celebrate 75 th Parish anniversary.
<u>1992</u>	
19 July	A trip to Ribchester with Jack Cooper.
20 November	Murders and Mysteries trip-also with Jack.
<u>1993</u>	
18 August	A trip to the Empire Theatre to see Aspects of Love.
<u>1999</u>	Day in Upholland with Stephen Dean.
	Choir Festival in Stockport.
	Paul Delaney arrived to take up position of Choir Director.
<u>2004</u>	
2 February	Father Peter Nicholson died. Choir sang at his Requiem Mass.
20 April	Father Sean Kirwin's induction as Parish priest.
24 April	Celebrating Harry and Colette Cassels' Golden Wedding.
<u>2009</u>	
	Choir trip with Jim Cummins to Holywell and Pantasaph.
	Meal at the Sephton Arms. Illuminated plaques presented Sheila Warnick Nancy Burrowes to commemorate service

to the choir and a presentation to Em Simonet on her retirement from the Choir.

2011

Party in the Parish Club to mark Nancy's 90th Birthday.

2012

Several Choir members attended a seminar at Salford Cathedral with Father Peter Jones relating to the new Order for the celebration of Mass. Work then started on The Warrington Mass. Other recommended Mass settings have been sung by the choir.

2014

Buffet lunch in Parish Club for Pat McCoy's 80th Birthday.

2015

More buffet lunches for Pat McAlister (60) and Peter Cain (90).

THE STATUS QUO 2018

Since completing this work in 2016 a few changes have taken place which have affected the choir.

Just before Christmas Father Sean Kirwin left St Paul's and St Timothy's to serve in the parish of St Joseph and St Laurence, Kirkby. He was always a supportive friend of the choir members and in return they had, and still have, a great deal of affection for him.

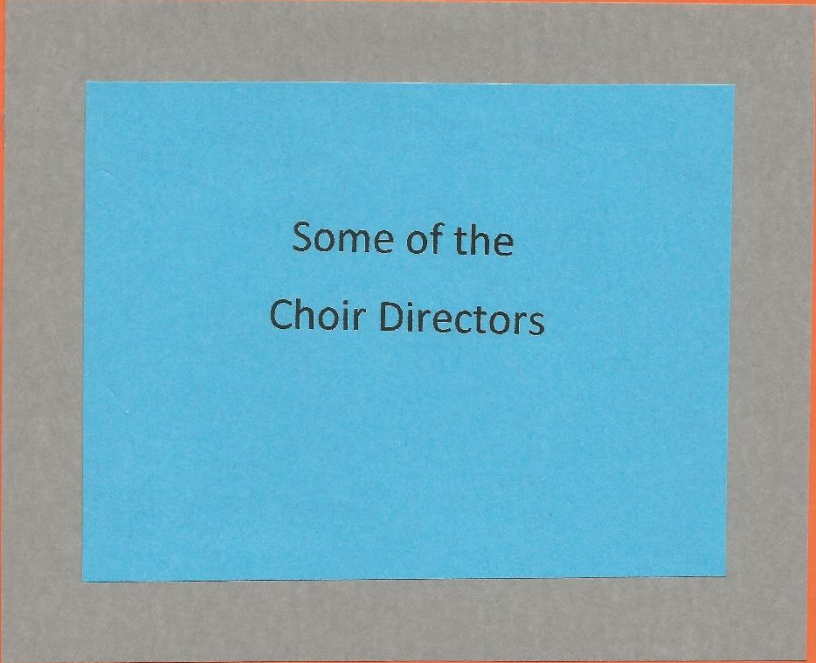
The new parish Priest is Father Darren Carden. He gives encouragement and support to the Choir and has initiated having a small group of singers at funerals as well as weddings. Since coming to this parish, he has insisted that he can't sing. Popular opinion is that HE CAN.

In the midst of this changeover, Paul Delaney, the Choir Director, took up another post and proffered his resignation. Needless to say that we miss him and wish him well in his new position.

At the time of writing we have welcomed Andrew Wileman as the new Choir Director and fellow organist with Pat McCoy who still does most of the organising.

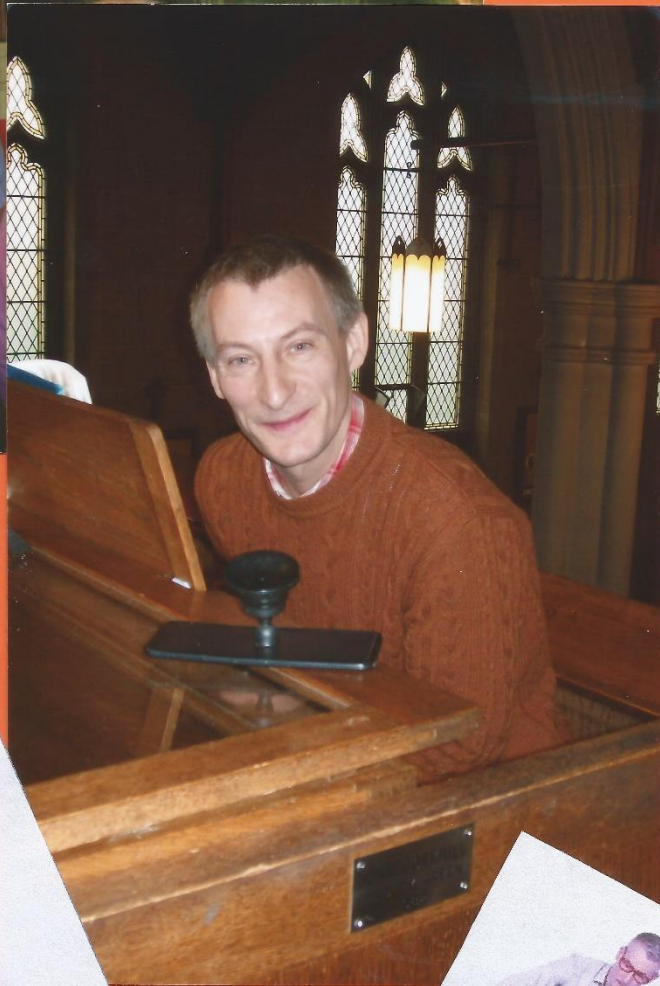
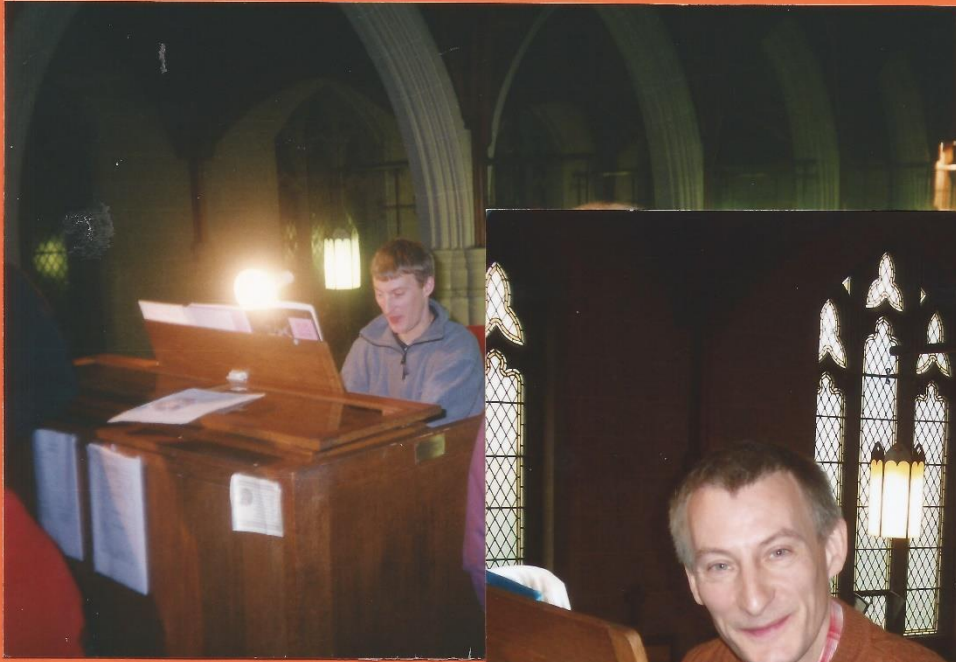
One new singer has been welcomed into the Choir, namely Elaine Kinnehan.

If this account of life in the Choir has inspired you to try 'singing in the choir', you will be very welcome.



Some of the
Choir Directors

Paul Delaney



Therese McCusker



Passion (Maundy Thursday)

3. 21. 8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R.V.2.

MEN
Sops. *Lento.*
My God, my God, why have you for-sa-ken me? *All repeat.*

MEN.
All who see me de-ride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him: let him release him if this

Response. All sing.
is his friend'.

MEN.
Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of

Response. All sing.
my bones.

MEN.
They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me. *Response All sing*

MEN.
I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are

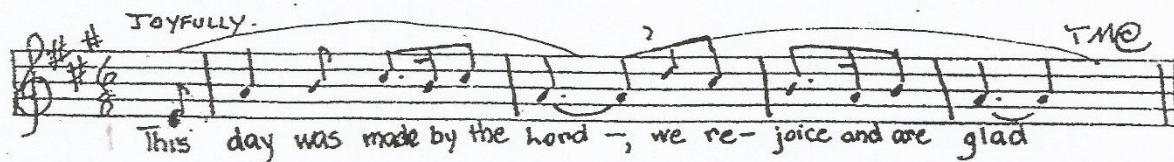
assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise: all sons of Jacob, give

Response. All sing.
him glory. were him. Israel's sor

EASTER SUNDAY: Response for Psalm 117.

N.B. Verses are as for Alleluia ps. of Vigil.

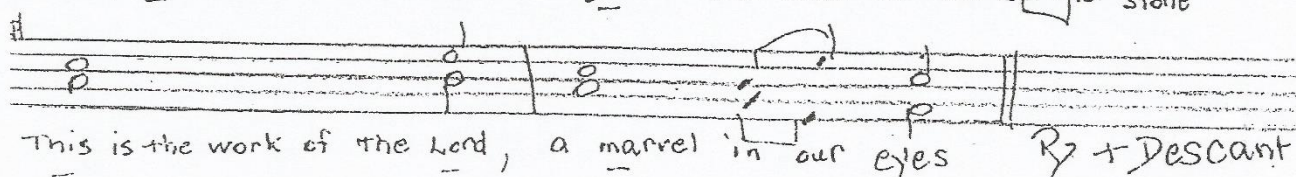
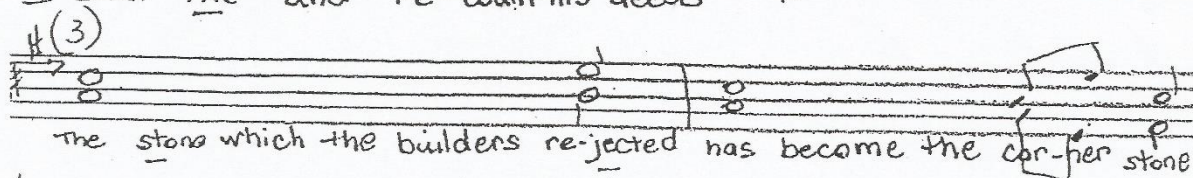
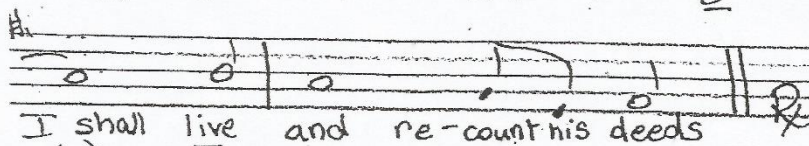
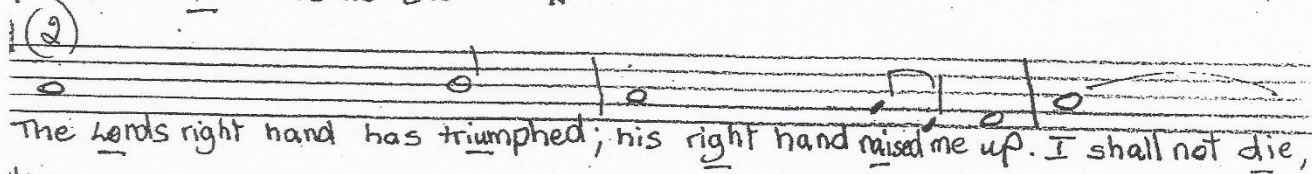
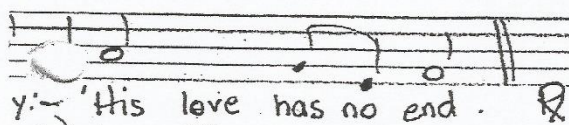
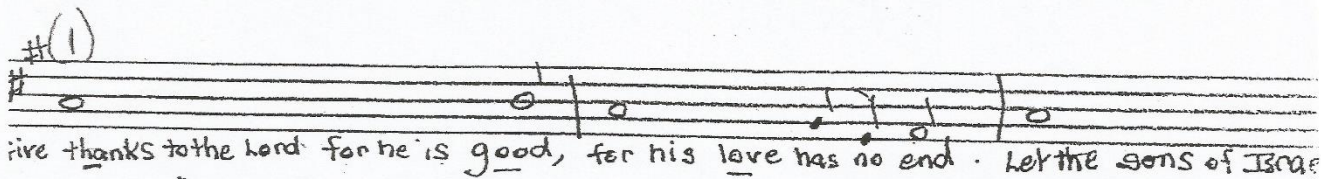
1st Resp: ORGAN / ORGAN AND SOPRS. / ALL.



Sops. 1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end
Let the Sons of Israel say:
"His love has no end." Response.

Sops 2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed,
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die I shall live
and recount his deeds. Response.

Alt & 3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. Response



Brother Anthony



Paul Kinder



Night Prayer.

O God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning

is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men. [Al-le-lu-ia]

hymn : The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended. 521.

Examination of Conscience :

Cantor : Lord, forgive us our failings;

all : send down your Spirit to help us.

Psalm 121 : The Lord is Compassion and Love.

PROCESSION OF LIGHT

Each person is asked to bring a lighted candle and place it around the Paschal Candle as a sign of our Covenant with God through his risen Son, Jesus. "I will be your God. You will be my people".

Please join in the response ; BE HERE WITH US.

A Reading from Jer. 31: 31-33.

Intercessions :

all sing : O Lord, hear my prayer.

Followed by : 4 prayers. Response : Father, hear our prayer.

all hum : O Lord, hear my prayer; during which
each request prayers for any intention.

The Magnificat.

Concluding Prayer.

May the Peace of Christ be with us tonight.

1. 2pt. 2. 3pt. 3. 4pt. 4. Hum.

Night Prayer.

O God, come to our aid
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be -----

Hymn: The day Thou gavest. No. 521

Psalms: Teige "Laudate Dominum"

1 chorus

4 verses

1 chorus

Reading: Psalms Carols

Intercessions:

O Lord hear my prayer (2)

Prayers (5)

O Lord hear my prayer (1)

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
you have redeemed us, Lord, God of truth.
Glory be -----

Nunc Dimittis response:

Guard us O Lord while we sleep
and keep us in peace.

Prayer.

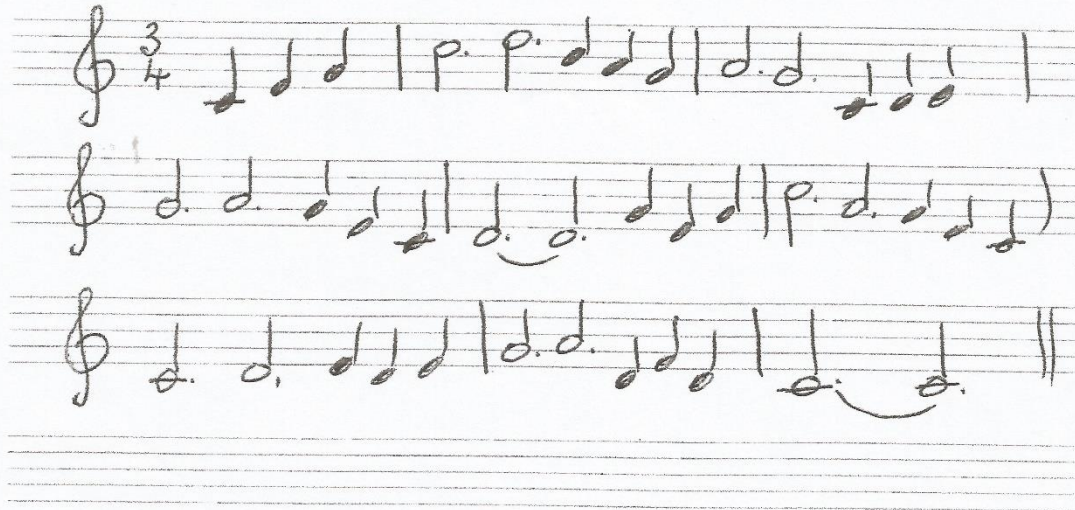
Blessing: The Lord grant us a quiet night and
a perfect end. Amen

Hail Mary: chorus only (3)

Pat McCoy



Hymn to St. Joseph ~ traditional Gaelic melody



Hymn to St Joseph

Joseph our patron, gentle and loving,
Caring for Mary and our dear Lord.
By your example may we be gracious
True to our mission, true to His Word.

Just as you worked hard shaping the timber
So did you nurture Mary's dear Son.
As one big family we join together,
Asking God's blessing on everyone.

Cherishing Jesus, honouring Mary,
Joseph we ask your care for us too.
Your intercession we humbly pray for
Trusting in Jesus, Mary and you.

Pat McCoy

Colette Cassell



JOSE LUIS ROSARIO



Social Events







Dining Room
in
the Presbytery









Nancy's Birthday







Llangolan 1992



and
York





Weekend
Liturgy
Courses

Upholland



1988







Weekend
Liturgy Course



Savio House
Bollington



Jack Cooper's events
~ always entertaining ...

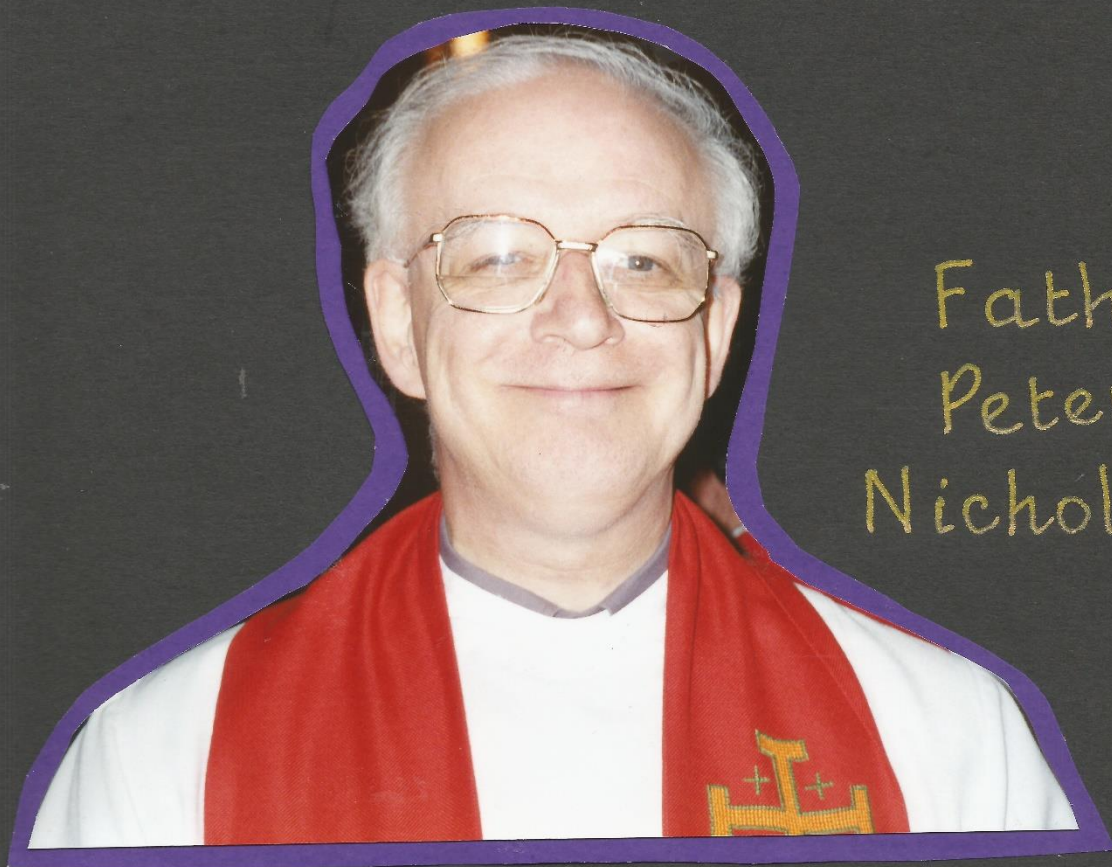


and informative



We remember in our prayers,
all the choristers who have died.

May they rest in peace.



Father
Peter
Nicholson



Thérèse
M^cCusker



