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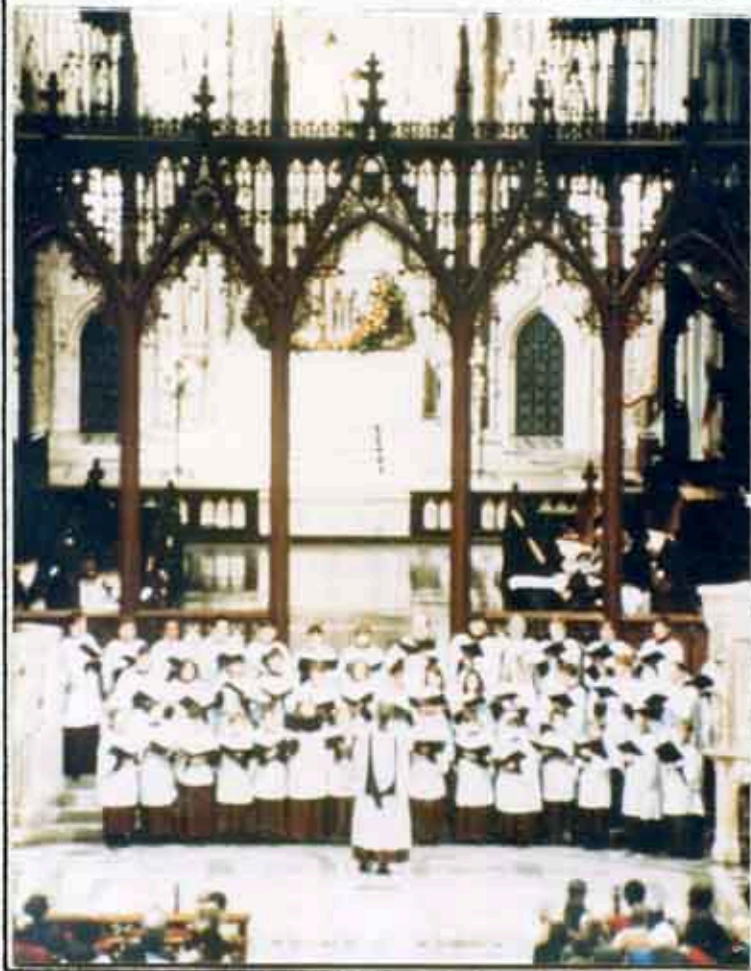
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

*my dear friends. Christmas 1987
in relations everywhere*

I find it increasingly amazing that so many friends in the USA and England tell me how much they enjoy this Christmas NEWSLETTER, & ask me when their photograph will appear herein; well, I'm thrilled 700plus homes all over the world look forward to receiving it and only wish it could contain even half of the good things that happen to me during the last 12 months, together with photos of all the friends and relations I meet - but, no way! So, here we go again:

NOVEMBER 1986...

... was notable for a pretty spectacular trip by the choir of men, boys and girls of Trinity Church, Princeton, to WASHINGTON D.C. where we



sang morning service in St. James' Church, Potomac (with a prolonged round of applause from the packed congregation, which included several U.S. Senators), and recital and choral evensong at the National Cathedral, where we were told that our singing was 'the best' from a visiting choir, and that some musical folk there rated us 'even higher' - which was nice.

The Rector told us of his wish that a brand-new sound system be installed in Trinity Church - we needed one badly. (The church is small and cruciform - i.e. four separate 'rooms' and the organ has to blast in order for it to be heard at the far end of the church.) His initiative was applauded and KARL HELD was approached to come up with some firm plans. (Karl is a parishioner - who is in charge of the sound system for the Boston Symphony Orchestra...)

DECEMBER

Started to make plans with BRAD FINDELL, an alto in Trinity choir, for the summer! He, with three other Trinity singers, would be singing at the Royal Albert Hall in June for the 60th anniversary service of the Royal School of Church Music, and he would also be coming around England with me to help set up the 1988 Cathedrals' Tour of my Princeton Singers. I like getting things planned well in advance!

Three days before Christmas I sent out NEWSLETTERS - so, dear friends and relations, you will know why they reached you so long after Christmas; let's hope this year's is better organised. (I'm starting to type on Oct. 2).

JANUARY 1987.

My greatest privilege in this place of high privilege and rich fulfilment is to lead the choirboys' confirmation class. I find a deep

hunger for spiritual reality among the lads every year, and this year the lads were even more vocal than usual; hardly ever did the lesson I prepared get taught - for there were questions and deep searchings almost every week which led us into all sorts of profitable highways. When the lads eventually were confirmed I heard from their parents that it meant a great deal to them. Hallelujah!

Saw a riveting filmed report on TV about MOTHER THERESA: the TV crew had spent several years with this present day saint and found their own lives turned right around by what they 'saw and heard'. Apparently it takes 9½ years for a novice to become a full member of Mother Theresa's Order; we saw her addressing one such novice at her admission service. She said, "As a young man and a young woman cleave to each other when they get married, so you must cleave to Jesus every day. Each day must be surrendered to Jesus - accept all that He sends; if there is water in the pump, accept it. If there is no water, accept it."

Flew to Florida in the depths of the Princeton winter to direct a weekend choir course held at St. John's Church, Tampa. What an experience to leave snow-bound Noo Joisee and, two hours later, step off the plane into spring sunshine which is so hot that the air conditioning had



to be turned on in the car! ELLIE TAYLOR, the director of music there and a warm friend of many years, runs a superb choir program, and it was a continual joy to work with her singers and choir parents.

Finally took down the 206 Christmas cards which you, dear friends and relations, had sent me; I pin them to the genuine imitation oak beams in my sitting room where they gaze down at me during Christmas - I feel truly surrounded by your love. Thank you. *And thank you for all your nice letters...*

Another great privilege here for me is to lead a monthly Bible study for adults - in the homes of several parishioners. At this month's I had prepared a discussion/talk/read about prayer. (How much I learn from this experience ... for example I discovered that the Rabbis of old had said that 'no-one could pray unless his heart was attuned to pray; for perfect prayer it is necessary to prepare for an hour beforehand, and spend an hour afterwards in meditation'.) When I arrived at the house I found 25 folk waiting for me, including a Nun who leads seminars in prayer all over the USA! Fortunately she was very kind, and so I did not feel too threatened!

Enjoying the hospitality of generous hosts in gracious Princeton homes is a constant delight



LOUISE BRISTOL invited a few friends to dinner one evening to meet JACK NOBLE WHITE - former secretary of the Episcopal Music Commission & a delightful person who brought his superlative bell choir to Trinity Church one Sunday -

which gummed up the works, because when they played the postlude everyone stayed in church to listen to them instead of streaming out for the coffee hour like good Episcopalians should.

Trinity invited Bishop JOHN BURT (former Bp. of Ohio) to be in residence for a month in the New Year. His was a stimulating and challenging presence to us all. At one of our forums, when asked a question about the necessity for us to have a sure Christian belief to guide us thro' life, he said 'yes', and contrasted such surely rooted belief with the 'yes, but...' outlook. "Suppose Albert Schweitzer had said 'Have a Reverence for Life, but let's be reasonable' - could he have led others with that? No!" Trinity liked Bishop John Burt a lot (sic).

Bishop Burt addressed the Vestry during a supra day spent at the University which was also attended by the Diocesan Bishop, MELLICK BELL-SHAW, a parishioner of Trinity. Much lively discussion ensued from the erudite and perceptive vestry members concerning their vision of Trinity Church during the next few decades. Expansion seems to be the order of the day!



Bishops Mellick and John listen as Rector JOHN CROCKER spells out his vision for Trinity.

Bishop Burt also led a weekend Parish Retreat during which he asked us to form small groups to share our Christian experiences. I was in a group where a doctor told us of his discovery that some of his patients welcome him praying with them; and also how his mother, when seeking an answer to her prayers, used to write them in the form of a 'letter to God'. He had come across them recently and found that every prayer had been answered!

FEBRUARY

My PRINCETON SINGERS (which are a constant delight) gave the opening concert in the first series of concerts sponsored by St. Mark's Church in the center of Philadelphia - we expected an audience of fifty but got 300! That was some evening.

Our new assistant choirmaster at Trinity, ROBERT PALMER with friend TOM GOEMAN came to dinner. Tom knows a lot about the musical needs of the American Church (for the choir of the church where he is assistant organist records a lot of new music by a publishing house for their publicity). He told me just what was needed and what would sell. I thought, 'Well, I can certainly do that having taught harmony and composition for 18 years at Manchester' and so began a new way of life for me - writing a new work every week and sending it to a variety of publishers. Much to my delight a number of these compositions are being accepted - I'm thrilled.

One evening, when I was in the home of another Gracious Princeton Host, a fellow guest asked me, "Do you consciously employ the panorama of Redemption as the underlying structural model for your compositions?" I can't say that I do!

On another occasion, in the home of George and Kinny Gallup, George said, "There's an inexorable law of probability that imposes some

sort of order on chaos." Kinny responded, as quick as a flash, "That's what's kept your family in business for 50 years!"

On yet another occasion, when I was taken out to dinner by three Gracious Hosts, I was told that no word of our conversation was to appear in the Christmas Newsletter - so it won't - whoops, or has it?

MARCH

It was good to welcome ERIC LAURIE to my home for a week to observe our choir practices at Trinity. Eric has newly been appointed director of music of a church in Los Angeles where he wants to start a comprehensive choir program. He (generously) told Trinity's Vestry that out of all the places to go for such observation, Princeton was the obvious choice! He also told the Vestry of his church's most ambitious outreach program - it has an annual budget of one million dollars which includes building temporary housing for the homeless. This impressed us a lot.

To the First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with Robert Palmer and Tom Gorman (see Feb) to hear the choir of YORK MINSTER. The choir sang well and there was a splendid audience. At half time Tom took me around his church to see the wealth of offices and halls which they have; as we were walking through one of the halls (where the York men were relaxing) I was hailed by a loud voice saying, "Hello, John!" It was PHILIP MOORE - organist of the Minster, who came across and talked with me; I was highly delighted, for I hadn't seen Philip for at least 8 years. He introduced me to the Minster Headmaster, RICHARD SHEPHARD who said, "Ah, another Corpus man!" (We had been at the same Cambridge college, but not at the same time). After the concert whilst walking down another corridor I was hailed again by a hearty "Hello, John!" - this time from the Minster sub-organist,

JOHN SCOTT WHITELEY who'd played brilliantly. I returned to Princeton with my English roots well and truly watered by those generous York musicians. It's good to be remembered.



JOHN SCOTT WHITELEY, PHILIP MOORE and RICHARD SHEPHARD In musically erudite mood.

To Providence, Rhode Island, to conduct another Youth Choir Festival in St. John's Cathedral, and to stay with dear friends JIM



and PRISCILLA RIGG whose hospitality I have enjoyed four or five times in recent years when I've directed workshops for Priscilla's Diocesan Music Committee. The Festival was

videod for TV and went very well indeed; so much so that as the choir recessed the congregation burst into prolonged applause. That night I woke up at 4.0 am feeling rather hot, so opened a window in my bedroom, which set off the Rigg burglar alarms in spectacular fashion, waking the whole house. Much laughter.

APRIL

Was delighted and surprised to discover that a talk I had given two years ago to the American Guild of Organists' Convention in Charlotte NC on "The Role of the Christian Church Musician" had been published in the AGO's April magazine. I'd sent it to them ages ago - but they'd made a neat job of it.

The new SOUND SYSTEM at Trinity was put into operation, complete with recording studio for broadcasts and pretty well everything else that 'opens and shuts'. It made an immediate difference to the music, for the choir and the organ were relayed, gently, to the far corners of the church which meant that the organ need no longer blast and the choirs could sing musically.

The choir of Hutton Grammar School, Preston, Lancashire paid a flying visit to Princeton. Directed by NIGEL SPEAK - who sang with me at Blackburn Cathedral and helped me train the boys... which he still does for my successor.. they were on a concert tour of the USA. (Some initiative!) We fed them with a 6 ft. long hoagie and then went with them to the American Boychoir School where they sang to the American boys and the American boys sang to them. That was a particularly happy time for me, for the American boys were conducted by Robert Palmer, who assists me at Trinity (see Feb). Thus two of my assistants shaved their choirs off to each other - with equal honors.



Hoagie Bearers: NIGEL SPEAK, his assistant, 'BRON' and PEGI STENDEL (Chairman of Trinity's Choir Steering Committee) who organised the creation of the six-foot monster - only the first half of which can be gotten into the picture!

To Richmond, Virginia, to lecture at a choir workshop which was being led by GEORGE GUEST, director of music of St. John's College choir, Cambridge. George rehearsed the choir in music for a concert whilst I lectured the choir-masters on how I get choir kids to sight sing. A happy few days - especially as I was able to renew a friendship with George which goes back to my Cambridge days (32 years ago). I

asked George if he would like to lead a workshop with Trinity MBG choir & my Princeton Singers the following year when he would be over here: Yes! So we fixed it for the beginning of May 1988.



This semester I was lecturing at Westminster Choir College here in Princeton on the same subject: how to get choir kids to sight-sing easily. This was part of a course which IRENE WILLIS, (former associate at Trinity) and now administrator of the church music program at UCC, had organised. Other main lecturers were FRANK ASEMANN (How to get kids to sing well



and JAMES LITTON (Director of Music at the American Boychoir School here in Princeton, and my predecessor at Trinity). The course was a wild success:-

for after we had given a course of lectures to the students, the students went to a local school and tried to put into practice what they had been taught; they found IT WORKED - and the students wrote glowing reports on the course which thrilled us and the school staff no end. The director of music at the school, PAUL CHAPIN, also lectured the students, and his insights on how to keep good order were inspiring:

How to get a class to do something - give them a 'when to do it', and 'what to do' and a 'what is the end result':

"When I've stopped talking [when]
I want you to carry your chairs there [what]
and I'll know you're ready [end]
when you're sitting quietly." [end]
Wow!

Paul showed me some answers given by children at a local school to questions put to them on music:

"A refrain is something you don't do;
so if a song's got a refrain
you'd better not sing it."

"I know what a sextet is,
but I'd rather not say."

MAV

Trinity's annual Spring Concert was a great success - three choirs sang Rutter's requiem, and the men, boys' and girls' choir sang Faure's - which provoked a standing ovation. Robert Palmer conducted the Faure at very short notice and I played the organ - which delighted me.

WILLIAM MATHIAS visited us at Trinity - professor of music at the University of North Wales, and composer of many anthems - notably the wedding anthem for "Chuck and Di" (as the Americans are wont to say). We sang some of his music for the service and many of us enjoyed talking with him afterwards in the pleasant Spring sunshine.



Bill Mathias meets Junior Warden JOHN SULLY & his wife KATHY ROHRER, both founder members of the Princeton Singers, plus daughter Clare.

He gave an address at the Commencement Service (Graduation ceremony) for Westminster Choir College, held in the University Chapel. This was, for me, a special occasion (a) because it was my first time there officially as an (adjunct) member of the teaching faculty - with glorious rank of "associate professor", and (b) because DONALD KRUGER (who had been lodging with me for two years) was graduating with his master's degree, prior to taking up his choral scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge. The sun shone on us all.

My car reached 100,000 miles. It's my best buy ever - second hand from MARGARET ROUTLEY - it used to belong to ERIK - and it starts first time always ... trundling me from home to church every day. Make: Ford Fiesta.

My Princeton Singers gave a rather super concert in the dining hall of the Institute for Advanced Study here in Princeton (where Einstein was). The audience was made up of distinguished friends of JOHN and ANN MCGOLD-RICK - Ann is heading up our committee for the England tour, and felt that some of her friends would enjoy hearing us. They did.

Bill Gorton, a student at Westminster Choir College who sings in the MEG choir at Trinity, began to 'house sit' for me. He moved in three weeks early and kindly agreed to paint the outside of the house before I returned from England - he is a very efficient and VERY tidy young man.

JUNE

Trinity staff enjoyed their annual 24-hour away conference on the seashore of New Jersey at Bayhead - the summer home of LOUISE BRISTOL (see Jan.) A time for relaxation and gentle assessment - and also for enjoying Louise's superb outdoor Jacuzzi!



SIX CLERGY and FIVE LAITY in Louise's Jacuzzi.

At the Princeton Singers' annual end-of-the-season party, held in the garden of HARRY and JULIE CLARK, whose son GREG sings with us, we left the pool to gather around the barbecue where the smell of hamburgers filled the air, when I was told to 'stand there!' - so stand there I did. BRAD FINDELL (see Dec) then began to make a speech: "We usually give you a present every year - but it's not going to be a bottle of whisky this time" said he holding a paper bag. 'Oh,' thought I, 'it's a jigsaw puzzle' - for the bag had something square inside it. "We thought you'd like this," said Brad, handing me the bag. Silence fell as I looked inside - there were half a dozen CD discs of choral music by King's and other leading choirs. "Well," said I, conscious that I was taking part in a play that had already been written, but which I had't had a chance to see, "thank you, they'll look very nice pinned around my walls, for I don't have a CD player." "Oh dear," said Brad, his face falling. Whereupon he turned on his heel, and went in to the house. A few moments later he returned holding a cardboard box which he gave me - a CD player! I was wholly overcome as I opened the box, whooping with delight at such a magnificent and beautiful present - the Singers were pleased I liked it ("He likes it")



Founder member BUFFV CARUSO helped me to unwrap my gorgeous gift, and joy was unconfined. My house is now filled with glorious music - RWV symphonies and Delius conducted by Beecham which is veritable balm to my English soul.

Two days later I flew to England for vacation and conferences - a time unmatched by any experiences I have had - so full, so glorious and so happy it was. (Pause whilst I gather strength to type a summary of that wholly wonderful English summer).

JUNE & JULY

I've said it before and I'll say it again: there's NO WAY I can even begin to cover adequately the rich generosity I experienced from hosts around England and Wales and Paris who shared the love of their beautiful homes with us. Brad and I stayed in such a rich variety of homes - a home with two swimming pools (indoor and outdoor), a country mansion formerly owned by the Astors, a thatched cottage in the midst of beautiful Dorset, another cottage near Land's End ("Beware of the goat!") a house on the Malvern Hills delicately perfumed with roses, a flat opposite York Minster, two homes near Cambridge - on and on, each time with welcomes by hosts which made us reel - two hosts gave up a day's work to be with us and everyone 'put themselves out' to make us feel truly welcome. Old Choristers of Blackburn Cathedral were strongly in evidence - how good it was to see them again - some for the first time for many years; how greatly do I treasure my association with that Association.

We stayed with a fellow Vice President of Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association, Bishop ROBERT MARTINEAU and his dear wife TRUDA who live in North Wales, complete with dog. Truda is a supa cook and gave me some marmalade ("Trudalade") which I consumed during the month of August. For the

second time in my life I had my early morning tea in bed brought to me by a bishop: that's living!



When Brad and I were passing St. James' Church, Picadilly in London, I said, "Let's pop in and see if IVOR BOLTON is there." (Ivor is a former chorister/pupil of mine from Blackburn, and is now organist of St. James and assistant conductor at Glyndebourne Opera, and has been offered a conducting position in Florida which he is considering. Surprise, surprise, he was in, as well as his wife JESS. They were as thrilled to see us as we were them - and Ivor took us back to his flat (covered in records and computers) where he broke open the champagne. That was a very good visit!

Ivor told us that we must meet JOHN RITTER when we were in Cambridge; John had taught Ivor when he was organ scholar at Clare, and I'd never met him. So we did - a happy time.



Champagne, IVOR BOLTON and JB In happy reunion.



With JOANNE and JOHN RUTTER In their delightful cottage in Duxford, near Cambridge.

When Brad and I visited Liverpool Cathedral to set up the visit there by the Princeton Singers next August we were given an amazing welcome by the organist and choirmaster, IAN TRACEY. He gave a 45 minute organ recital at noon - "What are you playing?" I asked, five

minutes before he was due to begin. "I don't know," he replied, "it's all up there in the loft." He then played brilliantly a most demanding programme which covered the whole range of expression that the monster cathedral organ could display (it's the largest cathedral instrument in England). Then he treated us to lunch, then took us to his house in the Close where he has a fantastic filing system



complete with computer and printer, with which he organises the cathedral's many musical events; then he gave us a couple of records each, then we returned to the cathedral where he set up pistons for the Poulenc organ concerto which he rehearsed 5 minutes later with Sir Charles Groves and the Liverpool Philharmonic, then he came to talk to us again, and then we left, for we had to get to Blackburn; but Ian just went on and on, with energy and talent that left us gasping; he had a choir practice after we left, then choral evensong and then the concert, at which he was also playing the Saint Saens organ symphony, and his choir was singing a new work by Richard Shephard (see March). I've never seen anyone do so much, so well in such a short space of time before. This year he celebrates his 25th year at the cathedral - he joined the choir at the age of 7 and never looked back!

We headquartered ourselves with cousins Sheila and Dick in Reigate; Sheila was about to retire as headmistress of the local junior school - and what a delight it was to be there for one of her farewell receptions; if anyone is truly loved and admired it is Sheila, because she loves all those committed to her charge, and knows them all by name. It is impossible to walk down Reigate High Street with Sheila without her stopping every few yards to talk to parents or former pupils.



Cousin SHEILA setting out for one of her retirement parties at school with DICK and son NICK. Much food was consumed and much lovely fellowship was strongly in evidence from Sheila's dedicated staff and friends.

What I want to share in this Newsletter are (i) some of the glories of the conferences which we enjoyed and (ii) some of the wholly amazing coincidences - which kept on happening.

The first week was spent at the annual Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM) which is an American organisation of organists and clergy which meets, usually, at various centers in the USA. This year they met in London - and what a rich feast we had! Glorious singing by the choirs of St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey (conducted by

JOHN SCOTT and SIMON PRESTON respectively), a guided tour of Chartwell (Churchill's home) and several outings to cathedrals.

It was so very good to mix both with former English Cathedral colleagues and my new friends from the USA as we went from place to place experiencing the very best that the blessed English heritage has to offer.



MURRAY SOMERVILLE (Orlando Cathedral, Florida) SIMON PRESTON (about to retire from Westminster Abbey) and DAVID LOWRY, President of A.A.M.

At Wells Cathedral I discovered that the wife of the organist (Anthony Crossland) had been a fellow student with me at the Royal College of Music. Tony had put down my setting of the final responses for Evensong that day - I was thrilled - for the choir sang exquisitely. Afterwards, at a reception for the delegates given by the Dean and Chapter in the Chapter House, I was approached by a young man bearing two bottles and wearing a Corpus tie: "I'm RICHARD MAYO, the new organ scholar of Corpus, my father GRAHAM was organ scholar there after you." "Quick," said I, "we must have a photo to mark this occasion." "Oh," said Richard, "there are two more old Corpus members here - two of the choirmen were choral scholars there, too!" I then spoke to the Dean who said, "You realize, of course, that today is Corpus Christi day!" I hadn't.

The AAM Conference also paid a visit to Salisbury Cathedral where we sang Evensong. After the service I introduced myself to the Precentor whom I didn't know. "What an extra-ordinary coincidence!" said Canon JEREMY DAVIES, "I know of you, of course, for I was a choral scholar at Corpus Cambridge a few years after you were there!" He went on to say that he was planning a visit to Princeton the following year!

There were two great occasions for the Royal School of Church Music - first the Festival Service in the Royal Albert Hall to celebrate the RSCM's 60th anniversary. There was a choir of 850 for this occasion - 700 of whom had been drawn from choirs in the U.K. and 150 from other choirs throughout the world; we at Trinity had been asked to send 4 of these 150 - and what a joy it was for them, and for us all - for the service was attended by The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and it was glorious in every way. Some 20 Princetonians were there to enjoy it and to support their



BRAD FINDELL, headgirl SUSIE GEORGANTAS, SHIRLEY KINSLEY and headboy WILLIAM GEORGANTAS.

friends and relations from Trinity, including the Bishop of New Jersey, MELLICK BELSHAW and his wife BETSY (who featured in last year's Newsletter, page 1).

I had been invited to enjoy a glass of champagne in a private box before the service, by STIRLING STOVER, a member of the RSCM Council - a good way to begin any service! - after which I sat in the BBC box, by kind invitation of DAVID CRAIG (who was recording the service for BBC TV), from where I had a superb view of the whole service. (Another 'uxu' is due, I think).

Brad and I later attended the RSCM's annual Garden Party at Addington Palace where we saw many distinguished musicians receive honorary diplomas from the hand of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Chairman of the RSCM Council. It was a particular joy to see many old friends thus honored, including WARREN MILLER from Ohio, a warm and generous friend of 21 years, whose choir camps I had directed three times in years gone by.

That afternoon was spent greeting friends who stretched way back to student days from all over the world - notably MARTIN HOW - one of the most inspirational choirtrainers it has been my privilege to know. Whenever I wonder what 'I ought to do next' I think: "What would Martin do?" and when I try it, it always works!



MARTIN HOW and WARREN MILLER

It was very good to meet ANDREW SHENTON who is doing a great job as organist of St. Matthew's Church, Northampton where I was organist 29 years ago. He told me that he was



organising a fine programme to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the St. Matthew's Concerts' Society which I had founded with Benjamin Britten all those years ago.

It was very good to meet in Cambridge the following week two other former St. Matthew's organists - Michael Nicholas (who succeeded me) and Stephen Cleobury (who succeeded him). A photograph was certainly in order!



STEPHEN CLEOBURY, MICHAEL NICHOLAS and J.B.

Brad and I spent one day in Oxford; as we were walking down the Turl (to see my old college, Lincoln College) I was hailed by a lady on a bicycle: "It's John Bertalot!" It was SUSAN DARNTON, choir parent from Trinity Princeton, who was spending a year in Oxford where her husband, ROBERT was lecturing! That evening Brad and I went to the movies (to get away from this incessant culture). We popped in to

a small Indian restaurant opposite the cinema for a quick bite; there were only six tables there - we sat down at one, and a voice from a table in the opposite corner said, "It's John Bertalot!" Another Princetonian who was in Oxford to do some research. (Exactly the same thing happened when Brad and I went to the theatre in London - yet another Princetonian hailed me as I was about to take my seat - you can't go ANYWHERE privately these days!)

But even more amazing was a series of four coincidences of another type: when I was standing outside the Royal Albert Hall before the RSCM Festival a man walked past me; he reached the doorway, but turned round and came back to me: "It's John Bertalot, isn't it?" "Yes." "You won't remember me, but I was a boy in your house at the RSCM course in Taunton in 1956; it was because of what I experienced that week that I decided to devote my life to church music. Thank you!" And he turned on his heels and was gone, leaving me speechless.

When we were taking part in the International Congress of Organists' Convention at Cambridge (ICO) I was approached by another man: "You gave me the prize for being the best boy when you directed the RSCM Course at Addington Palace in 1961." I didn't recognise him - he'd changed - his hair was going white. The next day we attended a recital (superb) by the choir of St. John's College in their chapel. Sitting next to me was another delegate: "You won't remember me but I was a boy on an RSCM course you directed - I'm now organist of Perth Cathedral, Australia!" The next day we were in the bar of King's College enjoying a drink with half a dozen other delegates. Sitting next to me was ANDREW MILLINGTON, organist of Guildford Cathedral; I told him about these three former choirboys who had attended RSCM courses I had directed in the dim far-off past. "I was a boy on one of your courses, too!" he said. Again, I was speechless.

Through the kindness of JONATHAN RENNERT the secretary of the ICO, I was invited to give a lecture to the delegates on "Bach Number Symbolism". This was an enormous privilege which I thoroughly enjoyed - and the talk was well received - a number of folk spoke to me about it during succeeding days.

Immediately it was over one of the members of the audience approached me: "May I introduce myself, I'm CHRIS MABLEY - I was organ scholar at Corpus 9 years after you were!" (By this time I wasn't surprised by ANYTHING).

That same evening Jonathan Rennert introduced me to FELIX APRAHAMIAN - the distinguished



music critic. "Oh yes," he said, "I remember you coming with your Mother to my Organ Music Society concerts in London 40 years ago!" That DID surprise me! It's one thing to say, 'yes I do remember you', but quite another to volunteer information.

On the last evening of the Conference Brad and I attended the Banquet given in the Hall of King's College. As I was circulating among fellow delegates I was hailed by STEPHEN CLEOBURY (director of music of King's) who said, "John, do you mind sitting at High Table tonight?" "Not at all!!" (Would you mind?) And so to High Table I went and enjoyed the most glorious two hours, basking in the

repartee and conversation of some of the great luminaries in the church music world on both



FRANCIS JACKSON (ex-York Minster), SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS (ex King's Cambridge and the R.C.M.) and PHILIP LEDGER (ex King's and now Director of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music)

sides of the Atlantic. My next door neighbour was EDWARD HIGGINBOTTOM, director of music of New College, Oxford, who had, needless to say, started his distinguished career as organ scholar of You-Know-Where!



Just before I left England I had the pleasure of meeting, for the first time, BASIL RAMSEY, who publishes some of my music. He told me that my Calypso Carol was his top seller of all time and that it was being sung on four continents!

My Little Baby carol was not far behind, and he was bringing out a new carol: Hallelujah, sing Noel for this Christmas (written for NOEL HUNWICK, born on Christmas Day in Blackburn, 6 years ago). Please excuse - but it gives me a thrill when I hear that my music is being sung all over the place....!

After that I returned to Princeton, exhausted and yet energised by all I had seen and heard during that remarkable summer;... and I found the outside of my house beautifully painted by Bill Gorton and the inside in impeccable order - Bill, therefore, came under the heading of A Good Thing!

AUGUST...

... was spent typing out the 52-page choirs' & music program for Trinity Church for the coming season (a major operation - with photos - much bigger than this Newsletter!), and entertaining guests.

The first was ROGER JUDD, sub organist of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle who turned out to be as enthusiastic photographer as I am. When we were walking the streets of New York he would stop every few yards and say, "Excuse me, I MUST photograph that!" I fully understood.

We spent a happy day in Philadelphia, too, being shown around that historic City by



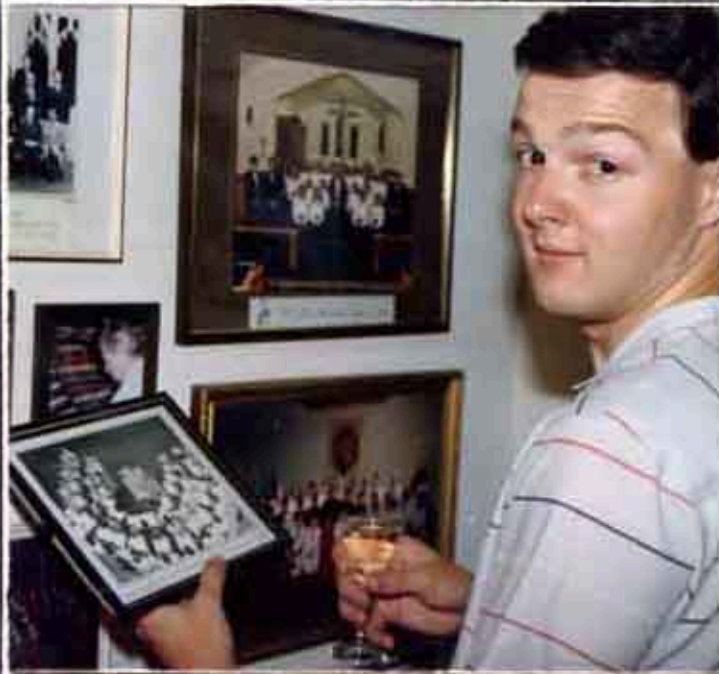
ASTRID CARLISO, President/Secretary of my Princeton Singers. I had no idea that such

beautiful sights could be seen - 'twas a real education. We finished the day, Roger and I, by sitting in the organ loft at Wanamaker Store; the store (rather like Selfridges in London) has the largest working organ in the world - 6 manuals and well over 450 stops - & recitals are given on it twice daily during shopping hours. I had long wanted to play it - A Thing To Do - and so when, towards the end of the recital the organist invited me to have a go I said, after a moment's hesitation, yes!



It was quite an experience to play the beast whilst shoppers were milling around buying their lingerie!

The day after Roger left, PETER BANKS, old chorister from Blackburn, came for the w/e. He was in New York for a month at the Citicorp building, sorting something out for Price Waterhouse. (He is an assistant manager in their London office). "Nostalgia Corner" in my house drew him, as it does so many English visitors, where he found several photos of himself in company with other OCs in former days.



PETER BANKS holding a photo of Blackburn Cathedral choir taken at Norden, Germany, when he was head chorister, with a photo of the J.B. Singers (centre, top) in which he sang tenor.

I spent a most happy weekend in Ohio, first staying with WARREN MILLER (see June), and then participating in the RSCM-in-America's Training Courses' Committee where much work was done in organizing next season's courses and discussing all sorts of practical RSCM matters in the idyllic surroundings of Cedar



By Cedar Hills swimming pool: BEN HUTTO - Vice President of A.A.M., BOB QUADE - chairman of RSCM Courses' Committee, BRENDA FRUITT - I/c Carolinas Girls' course and JB.

Hills Conference Center, Ohio. Highly valued friends of long standing were there, and it was a Good Time - especially as I was invited to direct the RSCM Girls' Course again - in N. Carolina next summer!

SEPTEMBER...

was the month I welcomed RICHARD MARLOW to my home. This was a double delight (i) for he brought his superb choir from Trinity College, Cambridge - which gave a concert in Trinity Church, Princeton, and (ii) because Donald



Kruger (see May) was there and able to meet up with his future Cambridge colleagues.

After Richard Marlow, I welcomed three guests to Princeton who came to hear and see how our children's program worked at Trinity: RICHARD PRIOR - a student from England, JIM KREGER, organist of St. James' Church Potomac (see Nov) and JULIAN WEST who is in charge of the youth choirs at the Crystal Cathedral in Los Angeles!

It gave me particular delight to drive to Pennsylvania on a gloriously sunny day to meet JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN, an executive of Harold Flammer Inc, who have begun to publish some of my music. Not only was her welcome gracious but her remarks on my music were most helpful - so much so that, after spending four hours in her company, I outlined yet another composition in my head as I drove home. Flammers have



JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

already accepted four works for choir and it was a great thrill to hear two of them recorded a couple of weeks later by a superb choir Bethlehem, PA (conducted by GREG FUNFGELD) with Tom Goeman (see Feb) at the organ.

PRINCETON SINGERS

My PRINCETON SINGERS will be singing at the 1988 A.A.M. Conference at Yale on Wednesday, June 22nd - 5.00 p.m. - American friends please come. (In St. Mary's R.C. Church. Yale)

English friends, please come to a concert or service by the PRINCETON SINGERS in August - I'd love you to hear them and for them to meet some of my English friends.



Itinerary (please check times):

AUGUST 1988 ENGLAND TOUR

- 6 Sat Liverpool Cathedral 3.30-4.00
JB short organ recital.
Blackburn Cathedral: Concert
7.30
- 7 Sun Liverpool Cathedral: Services/concert:
10.30, 3.00 and 4.30.
- 10-13 Chichester Cathedral. Services:
5.30
- 14 Sun Chichester Cathedral. Services:
10.00, 11.00, 3.30
- 15 Mon St. Mary's, Shoreham Sussex. Concert
8.00
- 17 Wed Bearsted Parish Church. Concert
7.30
- 18 Th Maidstone - somewhere. Concert
7.30
- 20 Sat St. George's Windsor Castle. Service
5.15
- 21 Sun St. George's Windsor Castle. Services:
10.45, 11.45, 5.15.

*May the joy of Christmas ever
increase for you through the
coming year*

John Bertalot