

St. Saviour's Choir goes to Berlin

BY CATRIONA DUNCAN

The choir of St Saviour's spent a wonderful autumn city break in Berlin from 12-15 September as guests of the friendly and inclusive parish of St George's Anglican Church in Charlottenburg.



The choir at the Brandenburg Gate

St George's was built as a garrison church in 1950 and reverted to civilian status in 1994. It provides a light and spacious area for worship by Anglicans and other English speakers from a wide variety of interesting professions and cultures who are living in or passing through Berlin. Host Pastor is the Rev. Irene Ahrens.

The choir opened the morning service with *O Thou, the Central Orb* by Charles Wood as an introit and Mozart's *Laudate Dominum* from the Solemn Vespers with Eleanor Forbes, a Berlin Scot, as soloist. Our minister, Dom Ind, preached the sermon. The service, the warmth of the welcome and the splendid outdoor lunchtime feast

provided by the congregation afterwards will long be remembered by the group.

While the choir had been rehearsing, Frank Burr, who accompanied his daughter Helen on the trip, undertook an unusual and emotional journey and visited the grave of his Uncle Frank, after whom he was named, and who had been killed in the Second World War.

Frank Burr had been conscripted as a Royal Artillery gunner early in the war but had been captured in Italy and taken to Germany as a POW. Here, at the age of only 23, he met his death, from "friendly fire", whilst working as a POW on the railway. With Frank's visit this year to the immaculate British War Graves Cemetery in Berlin the family now have a photo of the grave as a permanent record of this tragic event.

Still Shining "The Beacon" at Beaconhurst

BY DAVID TUCKER

Earlier this year, Beaconhurst School passed its latest HM Inspectors of Education test with flying colours. The HMIE report mentioned "high performance" and "very effective leadership" and specifically praised Beaconhurst's partnerships with the local community, including fundraising for the War Memorial appeal.

Surprisingly, Beaconhurst is one of only two independent, fee-paying schools in the whole of Stirlingshire; there are 10 in Fife and 11 in Perthshire, and yet Bridge of Allan alone once boasted "a host of small private schools" and a "competitive educational atmosphere", according to the history of Strathallan School, founded here in 1913 but relocated to Forgandenny, Perthshire in 1920.



It was a Strathallan teacher from its Bridge of Allan days - a Miss Cameron - who founded The Beacon School for Girls in 1919. The present name comes from The Beacon's merger with Hurst Grange, a boys' school, in 1975. Expansion came in 1991 with the start of secondary teaching and now there are some 400 Beaconhurst pupils aged from 3 to 18, split evenly between juniors and seniors.

Headmaster Iain Kilpatrick, says: "We are proud of our charity programme at Beaconhurst". Current projects include the British Heart Foundation and child sponsorship through World Vision.


Beaconhurst makes the most of being adjacent to the University of Stirling with its excellent sports facilities. Teams of pupils ready to play hockey, walking from the school to the campus, are a regular sight!

Situated on Kenilworth Road, Beaconhurst is the only private school in Bridge of Allan. It now has 400 pupils aged from 3 to 18. Fees per term range from £2,158 to £2,902 depending on age.


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