

Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch, New Zealand

The Christchurch Cathedral community continues its transient life at Christ's College Chapel.

Since the earthquake of Feb 22 2011, when the cathedral collapsed around us, the Cathedral Choir has had to reduce its sung services to twice on Sunday and 3 weekday evensongs. The other weekdays we have put the time aside to sing for various broken churches and communities in the region.

The Choir sang at the launch of the new Christchurch City Plan – when the concept of a virtually new Garden City was revealed - a beautiful ecological concept of low-rise buildings in rivers and parkland setting which seems to have captured the enthusiasm of the community.

The Transitional (Cardboard) Cathedral is now under construction – the foundations have been poured and things are beginning to appear above ground. Sadly our hope of being in situ by Christmas has passed and May is now our projected opening. Resuming our regular schedule of services in our own home is something we are looking forward to enormously.

The choir continues in remarkably good heart.

In 2012 we welcomed several new boys into the choir. Isiah Atherton came into Year 7, Deacon McClusky, into Year 5 and four probationers into Year 4: William Rowe-Lucas, Damian Frazer, Joshua Erasmus and Oscar Parkes.

One of the highlights this year has been a brief visit to Wellington to take part on the NZ Cathedrals Choirs Festival. To join with seven Cathedral choirs singing in a real Cathedral was a novel experience for our younger choristers.

The Cathedral's Dedication Festival in November welcomed as guest preacher and presider the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams on his final overseas trip before retirement.

For the second year in a row our Christmas midnight service was outdoors, this year on a stage next to the site of the new Cardboard Cathedral – it rained!

At the morning service on Christmas Day (the antipodes end of school year) we fare-welled our senior choristers, Ben Epton and Ben Johnson who are moving on to secondary school, and Dominic Aldridge who had continued singing with us while in his first year at Christ's College.

So the choir's life has continued, somewhat strained, certainly different, but with an awareness of our present, broader mission and the promise of an exciting future.

Brian Law
Director of Music