

Watchdog

Ray Scott has kindly forwarded a copy of recent correspondence with the B. B.O following the Songs of Praise programme on Sunday 9 August. When Sir Harry Secombe introduced the hymn Onward Christian Soldiers he said the words were written by Sir Arthur Sullivan which of course is incorrect. When this was drawn to the attention of the Programme Director the following reply was received:

"A correct graphic caption originally planned for the programme clearly stated that it was the music, not the words that Sir Arthur Sullivan was responsible for, but this was dropped in the last edit of the programme and unfortunately the slip-up in Sir Harry's script went unnoticed until transmission - a mistake which I can only apologise for and hope that it did not cause to much distress to your society members - particularly as the Rev Sabine Baring-Gould's words are in themselves so inspiring.

How interesting that the hymn was first sung at a children's Whit Sunday procession, and that it was originally set to a Haydn tune. I'm sure that the hymn is one which will make many future appearances on Songs of Praise as it continues to be one of the popular hymns most often requested by viewers - and hopefully we will make every endeavour to get the details correct in future.

Many thanks once again for taking the time and trouble to write to us and apologies once again for the slip up.

Yours faithfully

Judith Gregory

Songs of Praise".

Well done Ray.