



News from the Royal School of Church Music

THE CROSS OF CHRIST: PASSIONTIDE FAVOURITE REVISED

The Cross of Christ, a time-honoured Passiontide Devotion for choir and congregation, has been revised in an attractive new edition from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). While the selection of music and readings is unchanged, some of the other spoken parts have been updated using prayers and responses from *Common Worship*. The new edition also includes an appendix containing alternative readings and more modern hymns.

Copies are available for review (see Notes for Editors below)

The very first edition of *The Cross of Christ* was published in 1956, and its telling of the Passion story from Betrayal to Crucifixion, using popular hymns and anthems has been used by countless churches ever since. The music may be the same but has been newly type-set in a publication which, unlike the original version, prints texts of all seven biblical readings in full, using the New Revised Standard Version.

The main changes have been to update some of the language and wording, using material from *Common Worship's Times and Seasons*. "Revising such a venerated devotion was a daunting task," says Peter Moger, the Church of England's National Worship Development Officer, who co-edited the new publication. "We felt it right to use modern-day language. Nonetheless, our hope is that what we've produced is compatible with the very first edition that appeared over fifty years ago." In addition, the new publication provides a sequence of alternative readings. These are all taken from St John's account of the Passion, giving churches the opportunity to follow a continuous narrative.

To the selection of much-loved anthems by Ouseley, Goss and Mozart and chorales by JS Bach, this new edition of *The Cross of Christ* includes an additional selection of contemporary hymns from a range of composers including Stuart Townend and Bernadette Farrell. "We are aware that churches have adapted *The Cross of Christ* themselves," says Tim Ruffer, co-editor and Head of Publishing at the RSCM. "So we hope this selection of more modern material will mean that this much-loved sequence of music and readings will have even broader appeal throughout the world."

Ends

3 March 2010

Notes for Editors

The Cross of Christ: A devotion for congregation and choir

Price: £5.50

Order number: S0112

Online: www.rscm.com

Email: musicdirect@rscm.com

Tel: 0845 021 7726 (option 4)

Fax: 0845 021 8826

Post: RSCM Music Direct, St Mary's Works, St Mary's Plain, Norwich NR8 3BH

The Cross of Christ is available for review in bona-fide publications on request. Please contact either Stuart Robinson or Heather Bamber (see below).

An image of the cover of the publication is available from the picture gallery on the RSCM website at www.rscm.com/media

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an international ecumenical charity that educates, supports and enables musicians, composers and clergy in promoting sacred music in churches, schools and the wider community. The RSCM publishes music and training resources (such as its popular *Voice for Life* training scheme for singers of all ages), and organises a wide range of courses, short workshops and activities. With over 8,000 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is supported by over 600 volunteers in area committees and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

For further media enquiries contact:

Stuart Robinson: RSCM Media Relations Organiser srobinson@rscm.com 01492 556378 / 07831 827701

Heather Bamber: RSCM Marketing & Communications Administrator hbamber@rscm.com 01722 424847