



News from the Royal School of Church Music

NEW RSCM REGIONAL ADVISERS TAKE TO THE ROAD

Churches and schools in England affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) will soon be able to receive closer support and training on their home ground from one of four newly-appointed Regional Music Advisers. As part of a major new initiative from the RSCM, the Advisers will also work with young people, support volunteers in their regions, and foster links with clergy.

The four Regional Music Adviser (RMA) posts, which are part-time, are being funded by a grant from the Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust, and each will cover one corner of England (details below). In their respective areas, each adviser will visit groups of affiliated churches to run training sessions geared to local needs, using RSCM programmes such as *Voice for Life* and *Church Music Skills*. Advisers will also support local volunteer committees in devising programmes of educational activities, and foster links with other music-based organisations and denominational bodies. In addition, they will promote events for young people such as the RSCM's successful *Young Voices Festivals*, which take place each year in beautiful church and cathedral locations throughout the UK.

“We’ve been told by our affiliates how much they value guidance, support and advice on their home patch, and these appointments will help to combat the isolation felt by many church musicians,” says Sue Snell, the RSCM’s Head of Education. “By going on the road, we’ll be able to form a much closer relationship with our affiliates, and really focus on their particular requirements.”

Another key aspect of the Adviser’s role will be to develop connections with those training for the ministry, as well as those recently ordained. “Our area volunteers have expressed concern that many clergy have not been made aware or had any training in the importance of music in worship,” says Sue Snell. “The advisers will be able to bring them support from the RSCM, and run training workshops.”

The appointments are as follows:

WEST AND SOUTH WEST: Nigel Groome

Nigel Groome is an accomplished organist, and has long associations with the RSCM, where he was the Regional Coordinator for the South-East. He has many years’ experience as Director of Music at Beckenham Parish Church, and will continue as Music Adviser to the Rochester Diocese.

LONDON AND SOUTH: Frances Novillo

Frances Novillo has worked with adults and children in both secular and sacred musical settings, and delivered training and seminars for pastoral musicians. She is a Community Musician in the Camden and Kentish Town Catholic Partnership.

NORTH OF ENGLAND: Gordon Appleton

Gordon has already worked for the RSCM in a number of roles; most recently he has made a significant impact with the *Northern Initiative*, a pilot project focussing on work with large and small groups of church musicians, clergy groups in particular.

CENTRAL AND EAST ENGLAND: Jon Payne

Jon Payne is based in Birmingham and has worked extensively as a vocal and choral animateur and in local youth music projects. In the past he has worked for the Norfolk Music Service, and Norwich Cathedral. He is Director of Music at St Thomas's Stourbridge.

Ends

29 March 2010

Notes for Editors

Photographs of each Adviser are available for downloading without charge from the Picture Gallery on the RSCM website. Please credit the RSCM. Visit 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

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