



## RSCM Scotland Newsletter – September 2009

**Welcome** to our belated September Newsletter. I am really sorry that it is later than intended, but circumstances conspired against me. We hope that you all had a very peaceful summer and have returned to church/work/school refreshed and ready to make the most of new opportunities.

**In this edition** there are reports about our activities and news of forthcoming events. Please note that there are two events coming up very shortly - October 11 at Bridge of Allan. If you are interested in attending please let me know asap. We are introducing food into some of our sessions – usually very popular! If you see an event that sounds like something you could host in your church, please let me know. Remember to keep an eye on our website ([www.rscmscotland.org](http://www.rscmscotland.org)) for the latest information on events. If you no longer wish to receive our Newsletters, or if you change your email address, please remember to let me know (01620 892228 [pat@rscmscotland.org](mailto:pat@rscmscotland.org)).

**Exploring Music, Worship and Ministry** is the title of an afternoon event to be held in St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan on Sunday October 11 from 1430 – 1730. This session is another opportunity to explore what we do in worship. It is particularly suitable for those who lead worship and others who are interested. Those who are thinking about undertaking Church Music Skills or Sacred Music Studies are also welcome to attend. And for those who want to prolong the delight.....

**Come and Sing Compline** – an opportunity for everyone to sing the Night Office of the Church to traditional chant melodies - will follow on from the Exploring Music, Worship and Ministry event at St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan on Sunday October 11 from 1900 – 2030. This will be preceded at 1745 by a "Bring and Share" supper to which everyone is invited.

**The RSCM Scotland Triennial Festival** was held in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Saturday June 6th. It was a joy to see that so many singers had made the effort to travel to Oban from all around Scotland for the day and that they were supported by so many local singers. The music for the Festival was themed around St Columba and included Directors Timothy Noon's setting of Psalm 27, *Now safely ashore* (the Iona Boat Song,

arranged by George Bayley) and part of the Cantata *St Columba of Iona* by local composer Norman Nicholson. The service was led by the Right Reverend Martin Shaw, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles who also made presentations. Members of the large (mainly local) congregation were eager to tell us how much they enjoyed the service and the singing, with special mention being made of the thrilling combination of organ and timpani, masterfully played by Matthew Beetschen and Alistair Warwick.

**RSCM Scottish Voices** residential weekend was held in early August. Pam Barrowman, one of the founder members writes: “The fledgling RSCM Scottish Voices celebrated the completion of its first year with a training weekend in the elegant surroundings of Loretto School, Musselburgh. More than 30 members took part under the direction of the legendary Frikki Walker, working on vocal technique, improving choral skills, and preparing a range of music from plainsong, through the classic repertoire to some new and yet-to-be-published responses. This weekend was the culmination of a year during which the Scottish Voices met in St Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, Dunblane Cathedral and at the RSCM triennial Festival in St Columba’s RC Cathedral in Oban. At the moment most of the membership is drawn from Scotland’s central belt, but we are keen to extend our reach. We are a multi-denominational group, serious about our singing but far from serious about ourselves.”

For more information about RSCM Scottish Voices please read the article attached to this Newsletter.

**The Dunblane Singing Day** returns to Dunblane Cathedral this year and will be held on 31 October. We are delighted that Gordon Appleton will return to direct the singing, accompanied by Matthew. Music will be learned on the day. Arrival please from 1.30 for a 2.00 rehearsal, 4.00 tea break and 5.00 Service. Everyone welcome – admission free, although a donation to RSCM Scotland would be greatly appreciated. It would be lovely to have a good turnout this year as numbers have been falling recently.

**RSCM Young Voices Festival** was held in Dunblane Cathedral on 19th September. Matthew Beetschen, our Chair, reported to the committee that the event was attended by “...about 85 young people and at least that many in the congregation which took us all by surprise!” Good to hear about such good support. A full report will be included in our next edition.

**Choral workshop and Festive Choral Evensong** on Sunday 15 November as part of St Peter’s Church, Peebles fundraising Organfest weekend, Alistair Warwick will direct this event for singers and choir trainers of all abilities. The workshop will start at 1430 and the service at 1800. Music will be provided for participants so please register in advance if possible. The cost will be £5.

**Come and Sing Compline by Candlelight for Candlemas** on Sunday 31 January 2010 at St Peter’s Church Lutton Place, Edinburgh. The Night Office of the Church to

celebrate Candlemas follows a musical rehearsal and other preparation for the service. Suitable for beginners to the experienced, it is for all musicians, clergy and congregational members, and will be particularly helpful for candidates working towards Voice for Life Awards. Start at 1700, service at 1830.

***Meet, Eat and Sing*** on Tuesday 2 March 2010 from 1900 – 2130 at Holy Trinity Church, High Cross Ave, Melrose. In the first meeting of a new initiative for RSCM Scotland, we are going to the picturesque town of Melrose. Learn and sing a selection of meditative and exciting music under the vibrant direction of Matthew Beetschen, and finish with sharing a meal together. All music and food will be provided on the evening.

***Barnard in Glasgow*** - The Glasgow Society of Organists has invited John Barnard to do a presentation on the RSCM publication *Season by Season* on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at Pollockshields Parish Church at 1430. This session follows on from one he did last year on *The Carol Book*, another RSCM publication. This is a good opportunity to meet John, who co-edited both collections, and to try some of the items contained in *Season by Season*.

## What's on in Scotland

### *Sunday 11 October 2009 - **Exploring Music, Worship and Ministry***

St Savior's Church, Bridge of Allan 1430 – 1730. A workshop exploring what we do in worship. Cost: donation to cover expenses **Contact:** Pat 01620 892228 pat@rscmscotland.org

### *Sunday 11 October 2009 - **Come and Sing Compline***

St Savior's Church, Bridge of Allan 1900 – 2030. This will be preceded at 1745 by a "Bring and Share" supper to which everyone is invited. Cost: supper item to share and donation **Contact:** Pat 01620 892228 pat@rscmscotland.org

### *Saturday 31 October 2009 - **Dunblane Singing Day***

Dunblane Cathedral. Arrivals 1330pm, rehearsal 1400pm (prompt) followed by refreshments, service 1700pm. No fee but donations to the work of RSCM Scotland gratefully received. **Contact:** Matthew 01786 445158 matthew@rscmscotland.org

### *Sunday 15 November 2009 - **Choral workshop and Festive Choral Evensong***

St Peter's Church, Peebles 1430 -1930. For singers and choir trainers of all abilities. Cost: £5 including refreshments. **Contact:** Margaret margaretjamie@hotmail.com

### *Saturday 28 November 2009 – **Choral Evensong***

Come and hear RSCM Scottish Voices at 1600, St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerstone Place, Edinburgh.

### *Saturday 5 December 2009 - **Barnard in Glasgow***

Pollockshields Parish Church at 1430. The Glasgow Society of Organists hosted presentation on the RSCM publication *Season by Season*

### *Saturday 16 January 2009 – **Choral Evening Prayer***

Come and hear RSCM Scottish Voices at 1600, St Mary's Church, Haddington.

### *Sunday 31 January 2009 – **Come and Sing Compline***

St Peter's Church Lutton Place, Edinburgh 1700 – 1945. Candlelight Compline for Candlemas. Cost: donation to cover expenses. **Contact:** Sheila Sheila@rscmscotland.org

### *Tuesday 2 March 2010 – **Meet, Eat and Sing***

Holy Trinity Church, High Cross Ave, Melrose 1900 – 2130. Directed by Matthew Beetschen. Cost: donation to cover expenses **Contact:** Sheila Sheila@rscmscotland.org

**website: [rscmscotland.org](http://rscmscotland.org)**

## **RSCM Scottish Voices**

Founded in the summer of 2008, RSCM Scottish Voices is an exciting new self-financing adult choir aiming to draw together some of the most accomplished and experienced church musicians in Scotland to perform approximately six times a year in a variety of venues around the country, in addition to which there is an annual summer residential rehearsal weekend which in 2008 was in Strathallan School in Perthshire, and in 2009 was at Loretto School in Musselburgh.

Our inaugural year has included services in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, Dunblane Cathedral, and St Ninian's Episcopal Cathedral in Perth, and on 28th November 2009 at 4pm we will be singing Choral Evensong in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh, when our music is planned to include:

Introit: Hear my Prayer - Purcell

Responses: Sanders

Canticles: Blair in b minor

Anthem: Hail Gladdening Light – Wood

The format of a typical event is that we meet for a rehearsal starting mid morning, break for lunch for about an hour, rehearse some more, then take part in a service around 4pm, although the timing of the service is dependent on where and what type of service we're singing. Afterwards we usually go to the pub to socialise, which isn't compulsory but is certainly to be recommended!

Due to the nature of our membership everyone is committed to their own church on a Sunday so we'll almost certainly always meet on a Saturday. Our residential rehearsal weekend is used to learn the basis of our repertoire and we don't meet on other dates in between, only on the day of a service, so we try to have as much of the music list published as far in advance as possible so that people can have a look at it beforehand and note bash if required. So far all our services have been Choral Evensong, but we are keen to extend our range and plans are in the early stages to take part in a Roman Catholic Mass, Church of Scotland and Baptist services.

There's some information about the choir available on the main RSCM Website at <http://www.rscm.com/ukIreland/areas/scotland/index.php> and some of our music list is on the online shop at [https://www.rscmshop.com/acatalog/RSCM\\_Scottish\\_Voices.html](https://www.rscmshop.com/acatalog/RSCM_Scottish_Voices.html) although it isn't all there as not everything we do is available from them.

The cost of membership is currently £30 per year subscription plus a day fee of £7 for every event attended, with the expectation being that the entire choir will attend all the events

unless absence is unavoidable. The cost of the residential weekend is separate and is dependent on venue.

### ***Music Staff***

The Musical Director of RSCM Scottish Voices is Frikki Walker, Director of Music at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, who as well as being an examiner for the RSCM's *Voice for Life* scheme, has been awarded Associate of the RSCM (ARSCM) in recognition of his work in music and liturgy in Scotland.

The Organist of RSCM Scottish Voices is Richard Walmsley, Organist and Master of the Choristers at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, who in addition to being considered one of the best organists in Scotland is a first class conductor and choir trainer in his own right.

### ***Joining RSCM Scottish Voices***

The choir currently has some vacancies for singers in all parts, so if you are aged 18 or over, are resident in Scotland, have experience in church choral singing, and would like to be considered for an audition or would like more information, please contact Gary Young, the choir administrator at [scottishvoices@rscmscotland.org](mailto:scottishvoices@rscmscotland.org) for an application form or with any questions. Holders of RSCM Bronze, Silver or Gold awards need not audition, but should contact the administrator for further details. RSCM Scottish Voices is an adult choir, but it is hoped that in the future a section for choristers aged under 18 will be formed.

### ***RSCM Scottish Voices in your church***

If you might like RSCM Scottish Voices to come to your church to take part in a service, please contact the administrator.