



Newsletter – May 2011

**Welcome** to the Eastertide issue of our Newsletter. I hope everyone has rested after the busyness of the Holy Week and Easter celebrations. This is a packed issue with details of several new initiatives. Please feel free to get in touch to ask questions or to let us know your views. Please contact Pat – 01620 892228 [pat@rscmscotland.org](mailto:pat@rscmscotland.org)

**Membership** – The RSCM Scotland committee has spent a great deal of time discussing how we could better keep in touch with members and supporters and **RSCM HQ** has admitted that its records of Scottish members are not always up to date. David Sutherland, our membership officer, has devised the form which is attached to this Newsletter so that he can try to sort things out. For RSCM Scotland purposes, we currently keep a list of names and email addresses but we would quite like to add to that information about church and area or postcode. If you would like to offer your services as a local area contact (so that we can occasionally get in touch to ask about churches in your area and other local information) we would appreciate a telephone number. Please take the time to fill in the survey form and send it to David as soon as you can – we would be very grateful for your help.

**Meet the Director** - we are delighted to announce that Lindsay Gray, Director of the RSCM, will be visiting Scotland later this year. He will be here during the first week of September and would like to meet as many RSCM members as possible during this time. To this end we have arranged two events during that week and very much hope to see yourself, or members of your choir at one of them. On Wednesday 7 September he will be at St Mary's Cathedral, **Glasgow** where he will be joined by members of RSCM Scottish Voices who will give a short concert. On Thursday 8 September he will be in **Dunblane Cathedral** and this will be an occasion both to meet him and to sing through some recent RSCM publications. On both nights he will talk about his work and that of the RSCM worldwide, and there will be a chance to chat with him over light refreshments.

**Young Voices Symposium** - a new opportunity for choir leaders and those involved with young voice choirs or choirs that include young people to share thoughts and practices as well as problems ! Subjects to be covered will include: recruitment and retention of choristers, repertoire, using Voice for Life effectively, integration of youngsters and adults in a choir. We are especially keen to welcome anybody interested in setting up their own *new* children's choir. Coffee will be available from 10.30 and we will break for a sandwich lunch. Trebles from Dunblane Cathedral Choir will attend part of the session to share their own experiences! Dunblane Cathedral Halls, Monday 27 June 11.00 – 16.00. Please contact Pat ([pat@rscmscotland.org](mailto:pat@rscmscotland.org) 01620 892228) to register or for further details.

**RSCM Scotland Young Voices Festival** - This year we hold our Scottish Young Voices Festival at St Mary's Church in Haddington where we hope to welcome young

people from all over Scotland –but the Edinburgh area in particular – to celebrate the RSCM's 2011 Festival "Water of Life". Susan Hamilton (internationally famous Soprano and Artistic Director of the Dunedin Consort) will be co-leading and providing voice training. Rehearsal will start at 1400 and will be followed by a service at 1700 which is open to everyone. Cost will be a donation to cover costs. To register or for further details please contact Matthew Beetschen [Matthew@rscmscotland.org](mailto:Matthew@rscmscotland.org)

**RSCM Young Scottish Voices** - we are very excited to announce the formation of *RSCM Young Scottish Voices*, our brand new choir. Our adult choir, RSCM Scottish Voices has been in operation for some 3 years and is already making a reputation for itself (see paragraph below). The new choir will be open to boys and girls aged 10 to 15 (boys' unbroken voices) who have passed their Bronze Award or are at an equivalent standard. Choirs such as this have existed in England for many years and we feel it is high time that Scotland had one! We plan to meet five or six times a year to rehearse and sing services and concerts in cathedrals and churches around Scotland (although mostly in the Central Belt). It will not be necessary for every member of the choir to sing on every occasion. The choir will sing by itself and will on occasion join with members of RSCM Scottish Voices. Entrance will be by simple audition.

Matthew Beetschen will direct the young people and we are lining up experienced voice trainers and other church musicians to work with the youngsters at different events. Our intention is to form the highest possible quality training choir helping to develop a new generation of singers, performing challenging repertory in high-profile venues.

We hope to get the choir up and running in the late summer / early autumn. If you would like to register an interest on behalf of your choristers, arrange a date for auditions or ask for more information please contact our administrator, Sue Gardner [susan.gardner1166@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.gardner1166@btinternet.com)

**St Andrew's Award Exams** - We look to have a record number of candidates for Bronze and Silver Award exams this summer. Good luck to all candidates! Please note if you are thinking of taking an exam in the autumn there are NEW SYLLABUSES for both Silver and Bronze, details of which will shortly be available on the website.

**2011 is the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the King James' Bible**, and to celebrate, the RSCM has created a Festival Service called *The Word Revealed*. (See the article on p. 17 in the March 2011 issue of CMQ, or the articles and podcasts found at [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com), found under 'New Publications'.) Compiled by Revd Peter Moger and Charles Taylor, this service book contains hymns, anthems, readings and prayers, which trace the place of the Bible in Christian life and worship, as well as celebrating the effect the King James Bible has had on generations of Christians since its publication. Suggested music, both old and specially composed, is included, and the service can be cut and modified to fit any occasion. An order of service can be downloaded free from the RSCM Web page, thus enabling your own congregational service book to be created. The book itself is £7.95 (£5.96 for affiliates). If you are planning to hold a service using *The Word Revealed*, and you would like it advertised on the web page, please let Pat know ([pat@rscmscotland.org](mailto:pat@rscmscotland.org) 01620 8922280)

**Dunblane Singing Break 2011** - will take place from Monday 11 - Thursday 14 July. Services are held daily in Dunblane Cathedral. This will be the last event in the format of recent years because of the closure of Scottish Churches House which accommodates most of the participants. Gordon Appleton will lead the course, assisted by Matthew Beetschen and Chris Broughton. This is a very popular course, held in the beautiful surroundings of Dunblane, so please get in touch immediately if you'd like to attend. For further details or to make a booking please contact Brian Baker 01786 821294 [dunblanesingingbreak@rscmscotland.org](mailto:dunblanesingingbreak@rscmscotland.org)

**New RSCM Scotland Studies Support Group** - a meeting of current and former participants of RSCM Sacred Music Studies courses was held in Dunblane before the Singing Day on 30 October last year. Seven of the twelve people invited were able to attend and explored the possibility of forming a Scottish group which would support current students in their studies as well as share what had been learned with other interested people. All present were keen to take the ideas forward and this was supported by those who had other commitments that day. As a result the RSCM Scotland Studies Support Group has been formed and is open to all current and former students of the Sacred Music Studies and Skills Programmes. Future plans include full day seminars with possible speaker input and practical elements, ending with a short act of worship as well as day Pilgrimages to interesting places in Scotland which would have a wider appeal. Please register your interest in the group with David Sutherland [david@rscmscotland.org](mailto:david@rscmscotland.org)

**Jamie Brand**, choirmaster at St John's Church, Dumfries reports about the ***Eat, Meet and Sing*** held there recently: A large and lively group met for an evening of musical fun and food! The evening was jointly led with Alistair Warwick. We started with conversation and were delighted to welcome members from both Ayrshire and various locations in Dumfries and Galloway. The RSCM Bronze collection provided an excellent basis for the singing, its wide variety of styles and flexible vocal arrangements giving ideas and inspiration for all. The event concluded with a very generous buffet supper provided by the choir at St John's. We look forward to hosting events like this in the future.

***Come and Sing Fauré's 'Requiem'*** – on Sunday 29 May 2011, Jamie Brand *conductor*, John Morris *organist* at St John's Church & Hall, Lovers Walk, Dumfries DG1 1LW. 2.30pm rehearsal and 7.00pm performance. An opportunity to celebrate the life of Tom Carrick, organist at St John's Church for over 50 years, with a performance of this much-loved choral work. Cost: £5 (+ £2 score hire, if needed) Please register by Saturday 21 May. **Contact:** Jamie Brand [jbrand759@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:jbrand759@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

***Come and Sing Fauré's 'Requiem' and Vivaldi's 'Gloria'*** – on Saturday 24 June 2011, Marion Dodd *conductor*, John Bryden *organist* at Melrose Parish Church. Register from 1.00 pm rehearsal 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm. Concert at 7.30 pm. Cost: Singers £12; concessions £10; young singers (up to 16 years) £5. Audience for the evening concert will be asked to donate £8; concessions £6, when pre booked. Copies of the two scores will be available to hire and we will collect the cost from you on the day – probably about £1 or £1.50 per copy. Some singers have their own scores but it

is important that you tell us when booking if you need music, to ensure that we have sufficient copies. **Contact:** Hedydd Anderson woodlea.anderson@btinternet.com

**The 23rd National Ring in Praise Seminar** for Church Musicians will be held at Dunblane Cathedral on Saturday 4 June 2011. This event is for church music leaders who would like to explore the possibilities for introducing ringing instruments into their church, or for churches which already have handbells, handchimes or belleplates. The programme will include a concert of music for the combined forces of handbells and organ (featuring Dunblane Cathedral's magnificent Flentrop organ). So if you are considering introducing handbells into your church for the first time, or looking for new ideas, or just want to enjoy the unique experience then sign up now for this event. Individuals or whole groups are equally welcome. Everything you need for the day is provided for you. **Contact:** 01786 825387 or e-mail: info@ringinpraise.org.uk web site www.ringinpraise.org.uk

**News from RSCM Scottish Voices** – Gary Young writes: The 2011 season started with the postponement of the service due to take place at Dunfermline Abbey because of their problems with fire and flood, caused by the bad weather. Happily though, despite the short notice we were able to schedule a visit to the impressive surroundings of Thomas Coats Memorial Baptist Church in Paisley, with its magnificent William Hill organ, where we sang Choral Evensong using music by Bairstow, Bainton and Stainer. It's a simple formula - big Victorian church + big Victorian music = big fun for everyone and a magical experience! An explanation is required though. *RSCM Scottish Voices* sings services all round Scotland in churches, abbeys and cathedrals of various denominations and our aim is that the service will always be relevant to the denomination of the building in which we're singing. The organist of Thomas Coats Memorial Baptist Church, Matthew Edwards, had particularly requested that we sing Choral Evensong though so we were happy to oblige.

On a Monday evening in February in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow some members of *RSCM Scottish Voices* joined with singers drawn from Glasgow Chamber Choir, St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral (Glasgow), St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral (Edinburgh), Glasgow University Chapel Choir, Strathclyde University Chamber Choir, Edinburgh Singers, and Edinburgh Royal Choral Union as well as soloists from the RSAMD, in **Concert for Christchurch** which was organised and conducted by Michael Bawtree, and which raised over £4500 for the victims of the recent earthquake. The musical centrepiece was Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*, and amongst other solo performances on the night, *RSCM Scottish Voices* chorister Ruth Elder, herself a Kiwi living in Glasgow, movingly sang the traditional Maori love song *Pokarekare Ana*. The evening was rounded off with audience and choir singing a rousing rendition of the New Zealand National Anthem, *God defend New Zealand*, with the first verse being sung in Maori by the choir.

March saw *RSCM Scottish Voices* paying a welcome return visit to the historic Dunblane Cathedral, where conducted by Richard Walmsley and accompanied by Matthew Beetschen, we sang a service of Evening Prayer. The music included the rather lovely *We wait for Thy loving kindness, O Lord* written by William McKie for the marriage of HRH The Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, as they were then known, in Westminster Abbey on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1947. It's a lovely and

effective piece, and if you don't know it I'd urge you to have a look at our choir Website, where I've posted a YouTube video of it being performed by Westminster Abbey Choir. It's on a post dated 5<sup>th</sup> December, just scroll down and you'll find it. Other music at Dunblane was by Daniel Purcell, William Byrd and Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck.

The rest of 2011 will see us returning to the lovely St Mary's Parish Church in Haddington on 21<sup>st</sup> May, a first visit to St Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Aberdeen on 18<sup>th</sup> June, returning to St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow on 17<sup>th</sup> September, and a much anticipated first time at the stunningly marble bedecked St Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in Glasgow on 5<sup>th</sup> November when we shall be providing the music for their 5.45pm Mass. As well as our services, in August we will be returning to Strathallan School in Perthshire for our residential rehearsal weekend. There are also one or two exciting potential extra events in the pipeline, although nothing's finalised yet, and details will be available on our Website in due course.

*RSCM Scottish Voices* currently has some vacancies for singers, 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 just like more information, please contact me at [administrator@rscmscottishvoices.org.uk](mailto:administrator@rscmscottishvoices.org.uk) for an application form. Holders of RSCM Bronze, Silver or Gold awards need not audition, but should contact me for further details. Further information, including more details of the **Concert for Christchurch**, our upcoming services, our repertoire, and how much it costs to be a member is available online at our Website which can be found at [www.rscmscottishvoices.org.uk](http://www.rscmscottishvoices.org.uk)

Even if you're not in a position to join *RSCM Scottish Voices*, we'd love to see you at some of our services, so why not consider coming along?

**Fiona Crighton**, Chairman **Friends of Perth Cathedral Music** writes: I wondered if you might be interested in hearing of a new initiative at Perth Cathedral. We have been running a project which is now being expanded; that of The Friends of Perth Cathedral Music. This group of music lovers has been formed to support the priceless musical heritage of the Cathedral including our Scholarship scheme. We have had performances from a variety of artists and participating schools in Perthshire and we are looking forward to welcoming many more over the coming year. The Cathedral is providing a rich musical experience for all tastes by showcasing and promoting singers and instrumentalists in the community and wider afield. (For more information please see our website [www.perthcathedral.co.uk](http://www.perthcathedral.co.uk)).

Our other exciting news is the expansion of the Cathedral Choir with the addition of a dozen children between the ages of eight and thirteen drawn from local schools and Craigclowan Preparatory School. These choristers have joined seven Choral Scholars from Strathallan School and the Cathedral Choir which now brings us to a total of 30 singers.

**Donations to RSCM Scotland** - we are very grateful to friends of Helen Tabraham, Irene Craig and John Mason, who sent donations to RSCM Scotland in their memory.

## What's on in Scotland

Saturday 21 May 2011 – **Choral Easter Sequence** at St Mary's Church Haddington. Come and worship with RSCM Scottish Voices at 1600.

**Contact:** Gary scottishvoices@rscmscotland.org

Sunday 29 May 2010 - **Come and Sing Fauré's 'Requiem'** at St John's Church & Hall, Dumfries 2.30pm rehearsal and 7.00pm performance. Please register by Saturday 21 May. Cost: £5 (+ £2 score hire, if needed).

**Contact:** Jamie Brand jbrand759@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Saturday 4 June 2011 **The 23rd National Ring in Praise Seminar for Church Musicians** at Dunblane Cathedral. See [www.ringinpraise.org.uk](http://www.ringinpraise.org.uk) for further information.

Saturday 24 June 2011, **Come and Sing Fauré's 'Requiem' and Vivaldi's 'Gloria'** – Marion Dodd *conductor*, John Bryden *organist* at Melrose Parish Church. Register from 1.00 pm rehearsal 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm. Concert at 7.30 pm. Cost: Singers £12; concessions £10; young singers (up to 16 years) £5.

**Contact:** Hedydd Anderson woodlea.anderson@btinternet.com

Saturday 18 June 2011 – **Choral Evensong** at St Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral, Aberdeen. Come and worship with RSCM Scottish Voices at 1600.

**Contact:** Gary scottishvoices@rscmscotland.org

Monday 27 June 2011 – **Young Voices Symposium** at Dunblane Cathedral Halls from 1100 – 1600. An opportunity for choir leaders with young voice choirs or choirs that include young people to get together and share experiences.

**Contact:** Matthew@rscmscotland.org

Monday 11–Thursday 14 July 2011 **Dunblane Singing Break** directed by Gordon Appleton at Scottish Churches House and Dunblane Cathedral. Now taking bookings.

**Contact:** Brian Baker dunblanesingingbreak@rscmscotland.org or 01786 821294 for pricing and booking information.

Wednesday 7 September 2011 **Meet the Director** at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow from 1930 – 2130. An opportunity to meet Lindsay Gray and to hear RSCM Scottish Voices. Cost: Donation to RSCM Scotland.

**Contact:** Pat@rscmscotland.org 01620 892228

Thursday 8 September 2011 - **Meet the Director** at Dunblane Cathedral from 1930 – 2130. An opportunity to meet Lindsay Gray and to sing through some recent RSCM publications. Cost: Donation to RSCM Scotland.

**Contact:** Pat@rscmscotland.org 01620 892228

Saturday 17 September 2011 – ***Young Voices Festival*** at St Mary's Church, Haddington from 1400 – 1900 with Matthew Beetschen and Susan Hamilton. Service open to everyone at 1700. Cost: Donation to cover costs.

**Contact:** Matthew@rscmscotland.org

Saturday 17 September 2011 – ***Choral Evensong*** at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow. Come and worship with RSCM Scottish Voices at 1600.

**Contact:** Gary.scottishvoices@rscmscotland.org

Saturday 5 November 2011 – ***Choral Mass*** at St Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in Glasgow. Come and worship with RSCM Scottish Voices at 1745.

**Contact:** Gary.scottishvoices@rscmscotland.org

Saturday 5 November 2011 – ***Dunblane Singing Day*** at Dunblane Cathedral. Register at 1345, rehearsal at 1400 and service at 1700. Cost: Donation to cover costs.

**Contact:** Matthew@rscmscotland.org