

church music, and amongst other musical activities teaches organ and piano; she pioneered and runs 'Positif Organist', an educational group designed to help pianists transfer their keyboard skills to the organ. Sheila is Vice-President of the Edinburgh Society of Organists, has given organ recitals over Scotland, and sings in the Scottish Chamber Choir. Having attained diplomas in organ performance and teaching before moving to Edinburgh in 1998, she studied organ under Michael Harris, graduating with BMus(Hons) from Napier University, in 2002, and MMus in Organ Performance from the RSAMD in 2005.

**RSCM ISS 2008** Following successful events at Durham in 2002 and York in 2005, plans are now advancing for the third RSCM International Summer School and Conference in 2008. This will be held in the historic city of Canterbury, from Monday 11th to Sunday 17th August 2008, following closely on the heels of the Lambeth Conference. The event will be based at Cathedral Lodge, an excellent conference facility immediately adjacent to Canterbury Cathedral, with bedroom accommodation at the Lodge and at Christ Church University nearby.

An inspiring and stimulating programme will include opportunities for music and worship in Canterbury Cathedral throughout the week. There will be seminars, practical workshops and concerts given by world-class musicians, as well as plenty of opportunity for discussion, fellowship and music-making with members of the RSCM from around the world. **Full details with a booking form will be distributed in the September edition of Church Music Quarterly, and further information can be found at [www.rscm.com/iss](http://www.rscm.com/iss)**

#### **What's on in Scotland**

- **Voice for Life** workshop for adults (16+) and choir trainers, Saturday 22 September 1400 – 1600 at Giffnock United Reform Church, Glasgow. Cost £5 for members £8 for non members. Pay by 7 September for a £1 discount.
- **"Dunblane" Singing Day** for everyone, Saturday 3 November from 1400 at Perth Cathedral. Led by Richard Walmsley, Director of Music.

**Contact details** If you are interested in registering for any of these events, or would like to discuss hosting something in your church please contact Pat [pat@rscmscotland.org](mailto:pat@rscmscotland.org) or 01620 892228.

You may contact all committee members by email – addresses are [firstname@rscmscotland.org](mailto:firstname@rscmscotland.org) – e.g. [Sheila@rscmscotland.org](mailto:Sheila@rscmscotland.org). Our website is [www.rscmscotland.org](http://www.rscmscotland.org) – please keep checking for updated information as it is not always possible to advertise all events in these Newsletters.

Lastly, news of an event that may be of interest to readers. Please note that this is not organised by RSCM Scotland. **Advanced notice of proposed Plainsong / Gregorian Chant Day in the Borders Region.**

- Date (to be confirmed) – 22<sup>nd</sup> September or 20<sup>th</sup> October
- Times – 10.30am - 4.30 pm
- Cost - £10 to include soup lunch.
- Contact – McRab on 01896 850540 or [harveymac2@aol.com](mailto:harveymac2@aol.com) to register interest ASAP.



## RSCM Scotland Newsletter

Issue 4 – June 2007

Welcome to our fourth RSCM Scotland newsletter. We are pleased to welcome yet more email recipients. We currently despatch 330 newsletters by post to addresses around Scotland. If you could help us cut down on our postal costs by opting to receive your copy by email, we would be very grateful. Remember, every £1 saved in postage means an extra £1 for training church musicians in Scotland. Please contact Pat to subscribe to email newsletters. Cancelling your email subscription is just as easy; email Pat with your request.

We are planning to change the issue dates of these Newsletters so that we can give you more advance information about events in Scotland. That means you will see Issue 5 in early February. Please keep an eye on the RSCM Scotland website for other events. If we have your email address, we could notify you about events that might be of interest to you.

In this issue we have news of four recent Scottish events, together with the Scottish Young Voices Festival and a report about the RSCM Celebration Day held in Llandaff Cathedral. We also include part of the tribute paid to Professor John Harper, by the Archbishop of Wales, at the Celebration Day service.

The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir is coming to Scotland for its Summer School. Based in Edinburgh they will sing Choral Evensong daily in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral 22 - 25 August. There will also be two concerts and a live broadcast of Choral Evensong for BBC Radio 3 from Dunblane Cathedral. Please see the enclosed flyer for full details.

We would like to include your church or choir news – let us know of your stories and achievements by contacting one of the committee so that we can share and celebrate each others' successes.

**This newsletter may be copied and shared. Why not pin yours on a notice board so that others can hear about the work of the RSCM in Scotland?**

**St Adrian's Church, Gullane** gave us a warm welcome when we attended the Anglican Chant workshop and Evensong on March 11<sup>th</sup>. It was lovely to be able to chant the Office, under the direction of Pat Lynch and accompanied by Drummond McNicol. The cakes were excellent too!

A **Worship, Music and Ministry** taster session was held at St Peter's, Luton Place on 29<sup>th</sup> April. With around 20 people attending, there were soon some wide ranging discussions about relationships within a church community and how this affects the ministry of each individual. It was quite clear to all that this fascinating subject needs more time to explore in depth and we look forward to further opportunities.

Robert Harvey was one of our members who attended the **Plainsong workshop and Compline**. He writes: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April saw approximately thirty people gathered at St. Peter's, Edinburgh for a Plainsong Workshop very ably led by Alistair Warwick and Pat Lynch. Introduced with recordings of chants, Alistair soon had the group singing a variety of tones and modes with Pat leading as Cantor. Alistair augmented the practical work with useful theory throughout. The Compline service was explained and rehearsed and then later performed in the church. Altogether it was a very instructive, worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

**Robert is organising a similar event for Autumn – see back page for details.**

**Young Voices Festival at Dunblane** by Amy Smart P6A, Morrison's Academy, Crieff. On Saturday the 9th of June the Primary Choir and a few older ones took part in the Festival at Dunblane Cathedral with other choirs. When we arrived, all very excited, Mrs Taylor put us into groups and took us into the Cathedral. I was amazed you could see the big organ and the pews where we were going to sit. Once we were all comfortably in our seats we began doing breathing exercises with Mr Beetschen who was conducting us. Mr Duthie's organ playing was very good. Once we had finished rehearsing we were all very tired, hungry and thirsty so we went into the hall to have juice and a biscuit. We were told to be back at the Cathedral at a certain time. When we were all seated Mr Duthie started to play the organ and we started our first song. Time went by so quickly after that. We were all upset when it was over but all of us enjoyed ourselves lots.

**Young singers' workshop at Colinton** was held on Saturday 16 June at St Cuthbert's Church, Colinton, Edinburgh. Nicola Corbishley led the vocal training; Sheila Robertson was available for advice on the Voice for Life scheme, and was organist for the afternoon.

The choristers were to prepare a Psalm, anthem and hymn for a short service at the end of the session, to which parents and choir trainers were invited. Firstly, Nicola introduced the choristers to some fun warm-ups (which were appreciated by all on such a cold, wet day!) which led into breathing and vocal exercises. The anthem chosen was Rutter's *A Gaelic Blessing* and the choristers worked well on the long phrases and on the dynamics. They also demonstrated their wide knowledge of music theory when answering Nicola's questions on the piece. Psalm 150 was the chosen Psalm and Nicola worked with the choristers on speech rhythms and encouraged them to follow her beat at the ends of phrases to ensure a clean ending to the sound. The hymn to end the service was *Praise my soul, the King of Heaven*, in which the choristers enthusiastically led their parents.

The children enjoyed the afternoon and the church is keen to book a further workshop in the near future.

**RSCM Celebration Day** – in this the RSCM's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year – was held in Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff. It is the custom for the Council of the RSCM to present Honorary Awards at the Celebration Day service so the RSCM Certificate of Special Service was awarded to Alan Treloar, Honorary Secretary of the RSCM Northern Cathedral Singers. Presented for the first time in Llandaff were awards to graduates of the Sacred Music Studies (SMS) programme. A Diploma (DipRSCM) was awarded to Donald Maclaggan of Kingussie and the award of Licentiate (LRSCM) was made to Patricia Lynch, secretary of RSCM Scotland for her postgraduate work with the small congregations in the Scottish Episcopal Church. A surprise award of Fellowship (FRSCM) was made to Professor John Harper, the present Director General. The massed singers, under the baton of David Ogden, included members of 2 cathedral choirs (Llandaff and St Davids), the RSCM Southern Cathedral Singers and representatives from affiliated church choirs drawn from a wide area.

**The Council of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM)** has awarded a Fellowship (FRSCM) to Professor John Harper, the present Director. Professor Harper is stepping down from the post in December. The award was made on behalf of the Council by the Most Revd Dr Barry Morgan, the Archbishop of Wales. In his citation, Dr Morgan recalled the time when Professor Harper was considering taking on the post. *"I was then the Bishop of Bangor when he was the Professor of Music at Bangor. I know how hard it was for John to decide about coming to the RSCM. There were those who told him in Bangor that he was leaving a relatively cushy life for a stormy one. I believe, however, that being Director General of the RSCM is a vocation and a way of life. He knew what he was letting himself in for, but he answered the call."*

Fellowships are awarded by the RSCM Council for contributions to church music or liturgy at an international level, or for an outstanding contribution to the RSCM. *"As well as being a key player on the national and international music scene, John's contribution and commitment to the RSCM has indeed been outstanding,"* said Mark Williams, the Chairman of the RSCM Council. *"John has led the organisation with extraordinary dedication, scholarship and passion. He has put in place a robust infrastructure to run the RSCM, which puts us in a strong and sustainable position for the future."*

Professor Harper, who is sixty this year, steps down from the post in December, to devote more time to teaching, research and writing. He has just founded the International Centre for Sacred Music Studies (ICSMuS) which will be based in Bangor, North Wales.

In another of our occasional articles about members of the committee we focus on **Sheila Robertson**, a freelance musician who has held a variety of rural and city Organist/ Director of Music posts within The Church of Scotland. In 2003 she was appointed Organist at St. Peter's Church, Luton Place, Edinburgh where she accompanies a wide variety of sung Anglican liturgies. She also runs the *VfL* class for the junior choristers. For almost five years, Sheila was also Organist/Director of Music at The Robin Chapel, part of The Thistle Foundation Edinburgh, conducting a professional choir as part of her duties. She is keen to promote the organ and