



essex & east london

Area newsletter

Area newsletter

Area newsletter

July 2016

Thank you to all who have sent us news and pictures for inclusion in our third RSCM Essex and East London Area Newsletter.

See pages 2 - 4

Please keep sending us reports of musical events in your parishes, and please do pass this newsletter on to members of your choir and your church. If you would like us to send copies by email to additional addresses we would be very pleased to do so. Email admin@rscm-eel.org.uk,

We are all looking forward to the next big event in our calendar, our annual Choral Festival in Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 17 September 10am - 5pm. Festival Service 4pm



RSCM-EEL chairman James Davy writes:

Do join us for what promises to be a splendid Festival and great opportunity to work with esteemed choral conductor (and RSCM Director) Andrew Reid, pictured right.

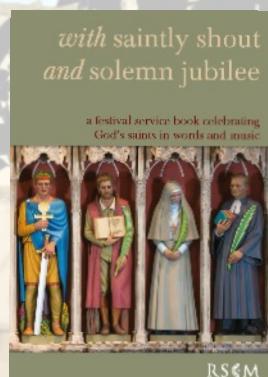


The music includes pieces by James MacMillan, Basil Harwood, Charles Stanford, and others, with something for everyone. Music is available for hire or to buy, so we hope that this will appeal to our many attendees.

Even if your choir isn't able to attend as a whole, please do consider coming in smaller groups: everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you on September 17.

The Festival will again follow the one day Come and Sing format using RSCM publication

with saintly shout and solemn jubilee



You are warmly invited to register for the Festival

Just email admin@rscm-eel.org.uk for your

*Registration form

*Timetable for the day and general information

*Service running order with music list

to obtain your copies, contact Shirley Timmins.

e-mail: shirleytimmins@btinternet.com

phone: 01277 233302 (answersphone)

Cost £5 a copy.

Postage if required will be charged at cost, or

books can be collected from Picturesque,

154 Warley Hill, Brentwood.

Tuesday to Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday and RSCM Sunday



Holy Trinity Church Rayleigh

celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday, on Sunday 12th June,

with afternoon tea followed by Choral Evensong, featuring music by Charles Stanford, Thomas Ebdon, James Turle, and John Rutter.

Both the tea and the Evensong were very well attended and guests included the chairmen of Rochford District and Rayleigh Town Councils. All visitors were given a copy of the souvenir book 'The Servant Queen'

The bells rang, it was a sunny day and it was a great opportunity for the church to be a focus for the town's royal celebrations

The picture shows Holy Trinity Choir, following the service.

Chingford Parish Church

A service of Festal Evensong was held at the Parish Church of Chingford, SS Peter and Paul on the evening of the 12th June following a very busy weekend of celebrations across Chingford during the previous weekend.

A typically full Chingford Parish Choir sung Gibbons *Short Service* and the William Byrd's apposite anthem *O Lord, Grant thy Servant Elizabeth*. Just over 100 people gathered to pray, sing and hear an address by The Rev'd Tina Rollings and to join in singing the National Anthem before a blessing was offered by the Rector, The Rev'd Andy Trenier.

Though the parish enjoys choral evensong each week this was a particularly lovely occasion. A notable high point in a summer that has since become a more mixed bag!



St. Bartholomew, Wickham Bishops

On Sunday June 19th the choir of Saint Bartholomew, Wickham Bishops sang evensong for RSCM Sunday and to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday, conducted by Sue Handscombe, director of music. We set the scene with the introit "O worship the Lord" by Richard Sheppard, Responses by Ayleward and Canticles by Brewer in F, plus the anthem "O sing joyfully" by Adrian Batten. Sue had composed the chant for psalm 98. Reverend Derek Clark presided and John Gilbert acted as Precentor.

We sang joyful hymns, ending with "How shall I sing that majesty" to that lovely tune Coe Fen. Sue had written a descant to soar over the last verse.

We were thrilled and honoured that Ed Sutton (conductor of the Harsnett choir) was able to play the organ for us and even treated us to Widor's Toccata at the end.

We had a most appreciative congregation who joined us for wine and nibbles afterwards. They gave generously in the collection, half of which the RSCM will be receiving shortly!

The previous Saturday St Barts had a special concert for the Queen's birthday in which the choir sang the Teddy Bears' picnic and the Hippopotamus song, a far cry from Brewer in F but enormous fun. We ended with Rule Britannia and God save the Queen, accompanied by violins, cello, flute and piano.

RSCM Essex and East London Area Come and Sing Evensong at St Andrew Hornchurch



On Sunday 5th June, St. Andrews Church hosted the above event, organised by RSCM EEL, for people who enjoy singing Choral Evensong to come together with St. Andrew's Choir and sing music from the RSCM's 2016 publication '*with saintly shout and solemn jubilee*'.

Music included Charles Stanford Benedictus in C; Basil Harwood O how glorious is the kingdom; and Philip Wilby Preces & Responses.

Visitors included singers from Horndon on the Hill, Warley and Dagenham. We were delighted that Mr James Davy, Director of Music at Chelmsford Cathedral, and also chairman of RSCM EEL was present, not only in a supportive rôle, but was also happy to accompany from time to time.

The Director of Music, Andrew Losq, conducted the choir, assisted by Bill Brooks. Our thanks go to the Reader, Pat Bromhall, who led the service, and of course to the Vicar, Barry Hobson, who gave a thought provoking talk.

Many visitors expressed how much they had enjoyed the day, and how welcoming St. Andrew's had been, and looked forward to being able to take part in a similar event at St. Andrew's in the future.

We must not forget to thank members of the church who provided such delicious refreshments between the rehearsal and the service, and also the congregation who attended the service for their support.

Bill Brooks (RSCM EEL, Bishops' Chorister Award)



RSCM Essex and East London section organise a number of musical events throughout the year, and these can be found on our website. www.rscm-eel.org.uk

Would your church like to host an RSCM-EEL event?
Please email us at admin@rscm-eel.org.uk

Does anyone have a St Nicholas award medal?
A member of one of our affiliated choirs can not find his medal and would love to replace it.
There must still be some around?
Please contact admin@rscm-eel.org.uk

Come and Sing with John Rutter
Saturday 3 September 2016
11 - 4.45 (registration from 9.30)

Enjoy a day's choral singing with one of Europe's best-loved composers and choral directors, featuring a mixture of music old & new, with John's own music - including new work *The Gift of Life* - and a few surprises.

Tickets are available from:
ticketsource.co.uk/chelmsfordcathedral
Lunch can be pre-booked at:
chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/music-events

RCSM- EEL Small Choirs Day



April 23rd saw a group assemble in Our Lady of Ransom, Rayleigh, for a day focussed on the needs of those of our communities who do not possess the facilities enjoyed by larger parishes and rely perhaps on half a dozen or less amateurs of varying skill levels who still want to bring music into its rightful place in our worship. This is a key area for RSCM as we recognise that there are many groups and parishes needing such help and attending to these needs as well as those of the larger parishes is a key part of our role. The group's members came from both the Roman and Anglican traditions in roughly equal measure. The leader was Philip Norman.

An important strand to the day was improving individual musicianship and confidence in terms of keeping in tune, in time and to one's place in the music – all important skills for amateurs

who by the nature of these situations find themselves more often thrust into the limelight rather than being able to share responsibility with other choir members. Often one tends to find people default to unison singing where four parts are not available but Philip demonstrated a range of techniques for varying this – perhaps by using voices for some parts and the accompanist or other instruments taking other lines, varying high and low voices and other techniques. Lastly he showed how to virtually create one's own music using hymns and other material out of copyright as regards both authorship and printed layout.

This was a very practical and enjoyable day which we would be keen to repeat in other parts of the twin dioceses. Huge thanks are due to the team at Our Lady of Ransom for making us so welcome and providing all the tea and biscuits.

Brentwood Deanery Choirs Festival

Sunday, 8th May, the Feast of the Ascension was a glorious day and made even better by the Annual Brentwood Deanery Choir Festival, held that afternoon.

Choirs from St. Thomas', Brentwood, St. Peter's, South Weald, St. Edmund and St. Mary, Ingatestone, Fryerning, St. Mary the Virgin, Fryerning, and St. Mary the Virgin, Shenfield, and Holy Cross and All Saints, Warley gathered for a rehearsal in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin at 4.15 p.m. followed by Evensong at 6.30 p.m. The director of Music at Shenfield, Suzanna Brooks welcomed everyone and introduced Sylvia Bridger, the conductor. Suzanna also played the organ.

The music included Magnificat and Nunc dimittis (Stanford in C), Rejoice the Lord is King (Archer) and Save us, O Lord (Bairstow). The celebrant was Rev. Eileen Lockhart, and the address was given by Rev. Jane Bradbury. Derek Bevan kindly produced a booklet for the choirs and a leaflet for the congregation. As we have come to expect, it was a joyous occasion, and a great sound.



RSCM events in the East London Area are organised by a Committee of volunteers from churches in the Diocese of Brentwood and Chelmsford. RSCM central office is in Salisbury.

RSCM Volunteers' Open Day

At Regional Meetings in 2015 the RSCM was asked to arrange an Open Day in Salisbury so that Committee members could meet staff and understand the operations and working environment of the RSCM.

The date was fixed for 16th May and four of our Committee, James Davy (Chair), Antony Timmins (Treasurer), Emmelia van der Walt James (Training and Education Officer) and Shirley Timmins (RC Representative) journeyed to Sarum College, Salisbury to join twenty two other representatives from across the country.

We met at 12 noon and after a brief introduction in the Cavell Room by Andrew Reid (RSCM Director) were taken in groups of five to see the office and meet and talk with the staff.

Members of the staff were introduced and described their roles, enabling us to better understand how RSCM runs and providing us with more information on how to contact them for help and advice in the future. We then returned to the Cavell Room for a Question and Answer session with staff members, again chaired by Andrew Reid. After an excellent lunch in the College Dining Room, we assembled in the College Chapel to rehearse the music for a short service led by Rosemary Field.

Tea with delicious cakes was then provided and we had the opportunity to view RSCM publications and view archive material.

The day officially ended at 4 p.m. but those who wished were given the opportunity to watch John Challenger, Cathedral Assistant Director of Music rehearse the Cathedral Chamber Choir, attend Evensong at 5.30 p.m. and then John gave us a short talk and a demonstration on the Father Willis organ, and an opportunity to see the console. We are most grateful to Andrew Reid and his team for arranging this interesting and varied day which certainly made us feel part of 'the team' and hopefully more ready and able to provide help and advice in our area.

We next see Andrew Reid when he leads our Festival Service in Chelmsford Cathedral on September 17th.
Have you booked yet?

Shirley Timmins



Like to know more about our awards scheme?

RSCM - EEL Awards

For information about our Awards scheme,
please visit our website

www.rscm-eel.org.uk

Deans' Chorister Award (RSCM Bronze Award)

Bishops' Chorister Award (RSCM Silver Award)

Bishops' Senior Awards

Please click on **Awards** for more information
details and syllabus

SUPPORTING RSCM

At RSCM we are committed to promoting the study, practice and improvement of music in Christian worship.

We are an open, life long learning organisation, offering face to face and distance education, through its programmes, published resources, courses and activities. RSCM in Essex is just part of a world-wide fellowship of churches, schools and individuals.

Our work is entirely funded by subscriptions and donations. If you would like to help by making a one off or a regular donation, as a Friend of the RSCM (donations of £25 or more) you will receive a copy of Church Music Quarterly and The Network.

For more information visit
www.rscm.com/support-us/

or speak to our local treasurer Antony Timmins 0771 815562
antonystimmins@hotmail.co.uk

Your local Essex and East London RSCM Area Committee promotes local events and training days throughout the year. Please support us in our mission to maintain and improve the quality of church music in our parishes.

We would always be pleased to hear from you with your idea and suggestions
admin@rscm-eel.org.uk