

Portsmouth Area Committee Members

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Mainland committee members:

David Burgess, *All Saints, Botley*

John Witham, *St Faiths, Lee on Solent*

Ruth Grant, *All Saints, Denmead*

Keith Miller, *St Peters, Titchfield*

Hazel Ricketts, *Holy Trinity, Fareham*

Brian Moles, *St Mary's, Portsea*

Island committee members:

Caroline Jacobs, *St Marys, Carisbrooke*

Leslie Snow, *St James, East Cowes*

Freda McCutcheon, *St Marys Cowes*

Marian Dark, *Holy Cross, Binstead*

Jean Barker, *All Saints, Ryde*

Howard Wilkie, *St Catherines, Ventnor*

Andrew Pellow, *St Albans, Ventnor*

Rachel Salter, (*based on the mainland*)

Andrew Duxon, *St Marys RC Church, Ryde*

Diane Etherton, *St Johns & Christ Church, Sandown*

Stephanie Matthews, *Quay St. Methodist Church, Newport*



From our Area Chairman...



Welcome to the newest edition of the newsletter for music and worship leaders for the RSCM Portsmouth Area.

We are delighted to report on the most recent events in the region. Thank you to those who led the events and for those of you who took the trouble to attend. We have included reports of these events by those who took part so all can see something of what took place. Why not book a place for next year's event?

In October we look forward to welcoming Noel Treddinick back to Portsmouth when he leads our Annual Choirs' Festival in the Cathedral. Do please look out for the booking forms that will be circulated in the late Spring and your chance to collect music booklets.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events!
David Price

AREA EVENTS

RSCM DEAN'S and BISHOP'S EXAMINATION Saturday 23rd July 2011

AREA FESTIVAL

Led by Noel Tredinnick (*Director of Music, All Souls, Langham Place*)

Saturday 15th October 2011

2pm Rehearsal

5pm Festival Service

St Thomas' Cathedral, Portsmouth

Mainland Events

Come and play the organ.....

With Brian Moles (Organist of St Mary's Portsea)

Saturday 16th April 10am-12noon

St Columba's Church, Fareham

Come and Sing Sir John Stainer's 'Crucifixion'

Directed by Marcus Wibberley Organist: David Price.

Friday 22nd April 2011 4pm rehearsal for at 7pm

St Thomas' Cathedral, Portsmouth

Sing for your Strawberry Tea

Meet, eat and sing

Sunday 17th July

St Peter's Church, Petersfield

'I enjoyed going to Emsworth Church for a choir workshop with Sarah Baldock because I learnt lots of new skills which can help me improve my techniques when singing. It was also fun because we did lots of unusual and funny exercises which we can use in the future, including rolling your tongue around your mouth 8 times to improve the muscles. Sarah was very good because she encouraged the younger ones to sing out, and gave the opportunity for small solos in the group. I would definitely recommend it for all age choir members in the future.'

Amy - age 13

'When our group of young choristers visited the church in Emsworth, we were really excited because we were going to learn new pieces of music and fun little warm-ups. Sarah Baldock taught us how to reach high notes when we're singing, and how foot posture can help us to sing loud and clear. We also found out little handy tactics to get around the music. Overall, the whole morning was filled with fun, physical and choral fun, singing and then performing what we'd learnt. I would love to go again!'

Emily - age 12

'I really enjoyed the morning with Sarah. It was really inspiring and made me learn more things about singing. She gave us different things to do and a fun and interesting warm up. I'd love to have the opportunity to have another session like that!'

Imogen - age 11

A Chorister's Tale.

'On Saturday 12th February, I went on a choral workshop where I would learn many tips on how to improve myself when singing in a choir. I was nervous as I knew no one. We started with our teacher, Sarah, warming our voices up. We did a number of vocal exercises. Next we learnt our first important tip. When singing I learnt to keep my feet glued to the ground, unlock my knees and have my legs shoulder width apart. This was hard as we were all tempted to move our feet around a lot as we sang.

Our second tip was to open our mouths and work our tongue around it. We all felt the sense of achy pain in our tongues as we rolled them around our mouths, eight times each way. To improve we were told we should do this exercise daily to ensure our tongues were strong and this would improve our singing. We then took a break and I returned to my dad to ask how he felt we were doing. He said "I haven't even read a single page of the book I brought".

The final tip was to stand straight and learn to use our stomachs and diaphragms to help our breathing when singing. This was so helpful to all of us and when we sang after that we sounded 100 percent better. To top the amazing morning off we had a private service where the reverend came and said a few prayers and we sang our best pieces to the parents in the pews. We learnt to process up and down the church aisle to enter and exit the nave and we listened to the extremely good organ voluntary at the end of our mini service.

My favourite part of the day was the mini service at the end and had so much fun singing and making new friends as well as improving my voice. I went home with vocal exercises to do and a confidence boost for whenever I next sing. Overall the morning was a hit and I would love to do it again.

Isle of Wight Events

Taizé Evening

Led by Paul Inwood (*Portsmouth RC Diocese*)

Thursday 24th March 2011 at 7pm

Holy Cross Church, Binstead

Mini Festival

Led by Brian Moles (*Organist, St Mary's, Portsea*)


Saturday 7th May at 2-6

St Catherine's Ventnor


Chorister BBQ

Tuesday 5th July at 6.30pm-8.15pm

St Mildred's Church Whippingham

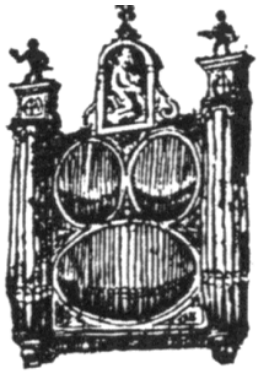


Help kids find their voice



Cathedral SingUp enters its third year in partnership with **Diocese of Portsmouth, RSCM Portsmouth** and **Portsmouth Grammar School**. If your church or local school would like to part of this year's initiative to encourage more **youngsters to join** church choirs or help with recruitment to your existing church choir please email singup@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk

Review of “The King of Instruments” event...



This was a joint meeting between the Portsmouth & District Organists Association and the Portsmouth Mainland District of the RSCM that was held in St Thomas’ Cathedral, Portsmouth, with a Masterclass given by Marcus Wibberley as the central focus. I would like to thank the following organists for putting themselves forward and giving us some splendid performances:

Charles Haestier	Tuba Tune <i>by C.S.Lang</i>
Amy Frost	Der Tag ist hin <i>by Christoph Oley</i>
Beth Udy	Prelude <i>by William Harris</i>
Francesca Ponsford	Gothic Suite (1 st mov) <i>by Boellmann</i>

About ten of us gathered in the organ loft, where Marcus gave a brief, but very informative history of the organ. We then focussed on the four performances, starting with the Tuba Tune, in which Marcus covered such topics as balance between solo and accompaniment, and ways of articulating the solo tuba.

Next came *Der Tag ist hin* followed by *Prelude* and again various registrations/colours were discussed. The only French piece was the *Gothic Suite* and Marcus made the point that phrases in such music really do need to be very legato. He referred to one “trick of the trade” being that of omitting some notes from big chords to facilitate this.

We were then taken in two groups inside the organ, and Marcus pointed out the various rods/linkages that were visible to us, explaining their part in the mechanical action of the organ. We saw the choir and swell boxes that respectively faced east and west. I was fascinated by the bent pipes forming part of the 32’ rank, and was assured that this was quite a typical feature of larger instruments.



Finally, by special request, we were treated to a performance of the Boellmann *Toccata*. Marcus was at pains to point out that he hadn’t practised it, but he gave us a great show of technical brilliance, and I left the Cathedral wondering what it would have been like, *had* he prepared it!

David Wiseman