



VIRTUAL RSCM!

The Portsmouth Area has had its Website for nearly three years now: <http://www.rscmportsmouth.com> and provides the most up to date information on local RSCM events that there is. You can download the latest newsletter, application forms for events and a whole lot more. It has



started us thinking how much simpler (not to say ecological) it would be to stop sending mail shots in the post at all. But we are nevertheless concerned not to alienate those who do not have internet access, or who prefer good old-fashioned paper.

So, if you would like to be removed from the paper mailing list and receive everything electronically, all you need to do is register on the website and you will have access to a special members' area, and receive all mailings by email, keeping you more up to date, our costs down and all of us saving the forest. Go to <http://www.rscmportsmouth.com/register.php> and we will do the rest! Don't forget to keep us informed of any changes of email address (by giving us your home address and telephone, we can still contact you even if you change your email address).



Most importantly, rest assured, if you don't do anything, you will continue to receive paper copies as you do now.



Portsmouth Area Chorister Awards... News update.

Congratulations to Lucilla Redvers Harris, from All Saint's Church Ryde IW, who was awarded a merit mark for her Dean's Award. Lucilla traveled across from the Island and met with the examiner Mr. David Burgess, in Portsmouth Cathedral, at 10.30am on Saturday January 20th.

David reports:

'Lucilla presented herself very well today and had obviously prepared thoroughly. Her enthusiasm shone through when discussing the music she sings, and this must make her a great asset to her choir.'

Young singers in a choir may often be entered for the Dean's or Bishop's Award, and will enjoy wearing their Green or Purple ribbon and badge, but the new award syllabuses have been designed to appeal to older singers too.

But why enter for these assessments?

- To build your personal singing confidence
- To increase your musical knowledge
- To give your choir and congregation a chance to congratulate you on your success
- Above all, to gain some useful experience to help enhance your own and others' singing ministry week by week.

There are five sections for the Dean's/Bishop's Award:

- Section A: the prepared hymn, psalm and anthem
- Section B: sight-reading, aural tests, technical knowledge
- Section C: understanding the repertoire you are singing
- Section D: belonging to the choir -testimonial
- Section E: choir in context, Christian understanding

So, why not ask your choir trainer to help you study the syllabuses and ensure you understand each requirement, so you can make a decent attempt at it. Build in some training sessions for a couple of months leading up to the exam. Be self critical, and aim for the very best sound you can produce, each week as you sing. Your greatest strength lies in week-by-week participation in your choir's ministry.

A special message for choir trainers!

Training the Trainers

In view of the fact that the new validated syllabus is now being used, a special session has been arranged for choir trainers on Saturday 19th May 2007 between 10am and 12noon at John Pounds Memorial Church in Old Portsmouth (just up the road from the Cathedral)



It would be lovely to see all choir trainers supporting this session, especially those with young people and keen adults, even if you have no one at present wishing to enter for these exams. Who knows what may happen!

The date for the summer examinations is **Saturday 14th July** and the closing date for entries is **Friday 1st June**. Please contact the Area Awards Secretary, Mrs. June Cox (see page 12 for contact details) for further information.

Spotlight on...



St Mary the Virgin, Carisbrooke

Our church is situated in the village of Carisbrooke on the outskirts of Newport on the Isle of Wight. The choir consists of three basses, three tenors, three altos and twelve sopranos/trebles.

We sing at the 10am and 6.30pm services nearly every Sunday and at major mid-week festivals such as Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. There are three practices a week, two for the full choir and one for the school age members. In 2006 the regular pattern of Sunday worship was interrupted by Services of hymns and readings for Epiphany, Pentecost, Harvest, Advent and Christmas.

On Passion Sunday (25th March) we will be singing from a lovely selection of music by Christopher Tamblin called Hail Redeemer.

We support the RSCM Chorister Award Scheme and currently have five Bishop's Choristers and one Dean's Chorister singing in the choir.





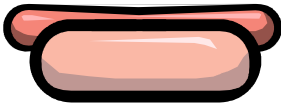
Reviews of Recent Events:

Portsmouth Area Festival

The Area Festival took place at the Cathedral on Saturday, 14th October 2006 at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for World Peace. This theme was reflected in the music by Parry, Berkeley, Bairstow, Wesley and Rutter. Marcus Wibberley led us very ably and helped us to enjoy this wide variety of music. We rehearsed from 2 - 4 pm, with the celebration at 5 pm. The Cathedral ladies kindly provided us with tea and biscuits which was much appreciated.

About 200 people attended from around the diocese, and having lived in the Isle of Wight for a number of years it was particularly good to see a large contingent from the island. I found it a most uplifting and enjoyable occasion. It is always good to be part of a large choir and to meet up with friends from all over the diocese. I was pleased to hear also that Prom Praise is to be repeated in 2008.

Thank you to all who made the day possible.
Elizabeth Cleaver, All Saints', Denmead



Junior Choristers' BBQ

On Saturday 16th September we all went to Holy Trinity Fareham to go and play games with other RSCM choristers. There were 10 of us from St Mary's. We played rounders and a circuit game. In the circuit game you had to pick up and walk on stilts, walk around a cone and then run back. We could also play on hoops and skipping ropes. There was a game where you had to throw rings over pegs. We also had a relay race and a game of football. Then we had hot dogs. They were really nice and for dessert we had cakes. After the hot dogs we played British Bulldog. It was great fun. A big thank you to Hazel Ricketts, Sheila Taylor, Mandy Hawkins and all at Holy Trinity for a great day. We all really enjoyed it.

(by choristers from St Mary's Portsea)

Faure's Requiem



About thirty choristers from church choirs across the diocese joined together at All Saints' Botley on 12th November for a very special RSCM event. The assembled choir rehearsed in the afternoon in the hopes of giving a superb performance at a service in the evening. Following the rehearsal the choir partook of tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes.

It is always a wonderful experience to sing Gabriel Fauré's (1845 - 1924) *Requiem*, but to sing it in its liturgical setting within a Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service is truly amazing. For the past few years it has become rather a tradition within All Saints' Church choir to sing Fauré's *Requiem* on Remembrance Sunday as a tribute to the fallen of both world wars. So it was great to be joined by other singers on this occasion.

The choir was conducted by David Burgess, the musical director at All Saints' and the organ was played by Mark Dancer, the musical director of St. Peter's Parish Church, Petersfield. The celebrant at the Communion Service was the Rector, Reverend Philip Goodey.

The choir worked hard to follow David's direction in order to portray the subtlety of Fauré's composition. The congregation at this service were certainly appreciative of the peacefulness and serenity of the music. So it is hoped that the choir achieved one of the commitments of the RSCM in the best use of good music in worship.



Fauré used the traditional Latin text for a funeral rite rather than the full Requiem Mass. For instance, he did not include the *Dies Irae* which focuses on the Day of Judgement. He preferred to concentrate on words of hope and the reassurance of everlasting life. The service concluded with the seventh movement, *In Paradisum*, Fauré's serene and ethereal music floated around the church, 'may the angels lead you into Paradise'.

Cath Tribble, All Saints', Botley

If you have a review of an event you have attended, an article you'd like to submit for inclusion, or any other ideas about the newsletter's content please contact Hazel Ricketts—details page 12.



A Shot in the Arm for Church Musicians.

The seminar began with a reminder that the musicians' role is to lead the singing in the mission of fellowship.

Michael Stoddart, the Chairman of the Portsmouth Mainland District RSCM, opened with a talk about Recruitment. Children can be approached via the Vicar or by contacting the local schools and their music teachers. This is better if a visit can be arranged, with help in assemblies or perhaps by letter writing to the families of the children, to invite them to an Open Day. Michael went on to describe how such a morning or day could be organized, how to keep new members and how to give them a sense of achievement. He also pointed out problems that can arise if there are both boys and girls in the choir, how frequent the choral services might be and how practices might best be organized. Choir pay and social events were two issues to be considered in order to attract new members. Adults respond better if approached personally to join the choir. Michael also touched on whether the choir is already in existence or if a new choir is being formed.

Marcus Wibberley, the Diocesan Music Adviser, spoke about choosing music. It is most important to choose music appropriate to the occasion, suitable for the choir but without being too difficult. Planning ahead is desirable with a balance between known and new music, easy and more challenging music, giving the choir a balanced repertoire and sense of achievement.

When the question of an annual budget was raised for the music fund, it was discovered that some churches represented catered well for their musicians whilst others struggled to find money for their needs. Marcus also explained the "Classrooms to Choirstalls" scheme which runs throughout the diocese.

John Wardle, RSCM Regional Director for the South of England, spoke of the issues of Vicars. Some show considerable interest in the music of their church whilst others leave matters to the musicians. Although the mission of all clergy is to work in the community, all have their strengths and weaknesses; support is a two-way thing but the Vicar has the final say!

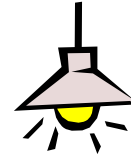
The meeting then broke into groups to discuss three scenarios and how they might deal with situations in a parish. It was agreed that all churches should budget for an organist whether their organist accepts a fee or not, Another group discussed how to introduce new music which involved the congregation and the third group were made aware of a copyright situation. The evening concluded with singing music from the "Voice for Life" Song Books, followed by refreshments, opportunities for further discussion and to look at other music publications.

Carol Frogley - Bedhampton



Spotlight on...

Hazel Ricketts
Newsletter Editor & Mainland
Committee member.



Hazel has been singing for as long as she can remember and joined her local church choir at the age of 6. By then she was already learning the piano, and later took up both the clarinet and organ. Music became a way of life and she was very active with both youth choirs and orchestras in her home area of Hastings. When she finished school she went onto the 'East Sussex Preparatory Course in Music' to study for her 'A' levels, and had a great time with about 40 other young musicians from Sussex.

She went onto study for an undergraduate music degree at Surrey University where she was a very active member of the music department, even spending a year as the Orchestral Manager for the University Orchestra. She then went onto study for an MA at Southampton University, which is what brought her to this area. Anyone familiar with Holy Trinity Choir will be unsurprised to learn that Hazel's specialist area in study at both undergraduate and postgraduate level was sacred English renaissance music (both organ and choral)!

Despite singing in choirs all her life she never expected to find herself standing in front of a choir 'doing windmill impressions'. However when she moved to Fareham in 1999 this is exactly what happened and she has been conducting Holy Trinity Church choir ever since. After a wrist injury at university the organ playing had come to a stop, but now started again with Rosemary Field as her teacher. Rosemary also persuaded Hazel to join the local RSCM committee who, in turn, persuaded her to edit this newsletter!

Through Holy Trinity choir she met her husband Tim (a bass) and they also sing in Wyndcliffe Voices—a group which sings primarily English renaissance music. Hazel also enjoys flower arranging, gardening, reading, needlework and cooking when she gets the chance. She and Tim are expecting their first baby any day now so Hazel apologises for any mistakes she may have overlooked in this newsletter!





JUNIOR CHORISTER'S WORD-SEARCH!



Can you find
these Cathedrals?

A	A	Y	W	L	F	C	T	R	U	R	O	H	R	I
E	J	O	R	I	S	H	R	L	C	C	L	E	M	B
V	L	R	E	V	O	I	E	Y	B	A	I	X	H	X
Y	L	K	T	E	U	C	T	R	J	R	N	E	U	I
R	A	R	S	R	T	H	S	U	D	L	C	T	S	V
U	N	E	E	P	H	E	E	B	R	I	O	E	M	S
B	D	T	H	O	W	S	C	R	O	S	L	R	A	H
S	A	S	C	O	A	T	R	E	F	L	N	E	H	I
I	F	E	N	L	R	E	O	T	E	E	M	G	R	V
L	F	H	I	H	K	R	W	N	R	M	D	W	U	H
A	U	C	W	Z	M	X	V	A	E	A	D	D	D	N
S	A	P	A	U	Q	U	S	C	H	O	F	R	P	Y

Canterbury
Lincoln
Worcester
Carlisle
Liverpool
York
Chester
Llandaff

Chichester
Salisbury
Durham
Southwark
Exeter
Truro
Hereford
Winchester



Forthcoming events:

Area Events...

Put these dates in your diaries NOW!

13th October 2007 2–6pm

Portsmouth Cathedral

AREA FESTIVAL conducted by Andrew Lumsden

Our annual Area Festival will be led by Andrew Lumsden of Winchester Cathedral, with David Price at the organ. More details to follow!

The **2007 RSCM Music Conference 'Sounding God's Praise'** will be taking place in the new Portsmouth Cathedral Music Centre on **Saturday 10th November**. The key speakers will be Stephen Platten (Bishop of Wakefield and Chairman of Liturgical Commission), Andrew Maries (Exeter Diocesan Music Adviser) and Noel Tredinnick (Maestro of Prom Praise and Director of Music at All Souls, Langham Place, London). All are welcome to this key event, and ticket enquiries should be made to sophie.lederer@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk or call 023 9234 9430.

Prom Praise 2008



Following the success of Prom Praise last year, we have decided to do it again, this time on **May 28, 2008** at the Portsmouth Guildhall. This concert, a cross between 'Songs of Praise' and 'Last night of the Proms', will again be conducted by Noel Tredinnick. The All Souls orchestra will be joined by a choir made up of some of our local church choirs and they will be performing classical extracts with religious themes, traditional hymns and modern worship songs. There will be a short 'Thought for the Day' slot. The musicians from All Souls Orchestra will be joining church musicians from around our diocese on Sunday morning.

Although it seems a long way off, preparations are already afoot, and Michael Stoddart is looking for volunteers to help coordinate arrangements in the following areas: publicity, venue, massed choir, organising the accommodation for the orchestra and liaising with the churches in which they will assist with the worship on the following day. You can contact him at michael@michaelstoddart.org, or on 023 9229 8708.

**THE EXAMINATION DATE FOR DEANS AND BISHOPS AWARDS
IS 14th JULY 2007**



ISLE OF WIGHT EVENTS:

Tuesday 3rd July 2007, 6.30–8.15pm
St Mildred's Garden, Whippingham Cost £3
Junior Choristers' Barbecue

A social event of games and a barbecue for the young choristers of the district

Sunday 2nd September, 7pm
Medina Theatre, Newport
Wesley Tercentenary Festival



MAINLAND EVENTS:



Friday 6th April 2007
St Mary's, Portsea (PO1 5PA)
'Come and Sing' Stainer's The Crucifixion
Led by Andrew Cleary

Cost £5

Rehearsal at 4pm followed by tea, Performance at 7pm

You can either cope with Stainer's The Crucifixion or you can't. First performed in 1887, it remains, for some, a key work in a living tradition of British devotional music, while for others it embodies Victorian sanctimony at its worst. Find out where you stand! Rehearsal at 4pm followed by tea. Performance at 7pm.

Saturday 19th May, 2007 from 10 am - 12 noon
John Pounds Memorial Church (PO1 2HW)

Train the Trainers

Cost £5



An invaluable session for all choir trainers planning to enter their choir members for the RSCM awards. Find out the requirements and what standard is expected.

Saturday 16th June 2007, 9.30am - 12pm

St Thomas Music Centre (PO1 2HH) (formerly Cathedral House)

Publications Morning

Cost £5



We are fortunate indeed to have Helen Burrows to lead a workshop exploring new publications from a variety of publishers - including but not exclusively the RSCM. This is a chance to handle and buy a full selection of current church music of all types and difficulty. Drop in for an hour, or stay for the whole morning. There will be an opportunity to sing through a range of new repertoire and followed by time to browse (and buy if you wish).



Monday 1st October 2007, 7.30pm

All Saints', Botley (SO30 2EA)

Exploring the RSCM Carol Book

Cost £5

Led by John Barnard

John Barnard, co-editor of The Carol Book, presents this photocopiable collection of 150 Christmas carols with its accompanying CD-ROM offering a wealth of extra materials: services outlines, selections of readings, instrumental and orchestral arrangements and much more.

John will bring with him both copies of the demonstration booklet with a selection of carols from the collection for us to study and sing together, and also the audio CD recorded specially by Southwark Cathedral Choir, samples of which we will be able to hear. The Carol Book and the audio CD will be available for sale on the night, so do bring your cheque books!

For more information on The Carol Book, do have a look back to page 44 of the September 2006 Church Music Quarterly; and if you have already bought The Carol Book, do bring it along with you. We hope you will discover new ideas for carols to attempt.

Why have we included postcodes? In the hopes that you don't get lost! It makes it easier to find the venue using many internet maps.



Don't forget you can download information and application forms for our events from our website: www.rscmportsmouth.com

Contact Details:



David Price (*Area Chairman*)

(02392-430811)

email: organist@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk

June Cox (*Isle of Wight Chairman and Awards Secretary*)

(01983-525013)

email: trebleclef@btinternet.com

Hilary Spurgeon (*Area & Isle of Wight District Secretary*)

(01983-615551)

email: homs.150@tiscali.co.uk

Michael Stoddart (*Mainland Chairman*)

(02392-298708)

email: michael@michaelstoddart.org

David Wiseman (*Mainland District Secretary*)

(02392-250717)

email: dw@fish.co.uk

Marcus Wibberley (*Diocesan Music Adviser*)

(02392-362112)

email: marcus.wibberley@portsmouth.anglican.org

Hazel Ricketts (*Newsletter Editor*)

(01329-284717)

email: hazel.ricketts@dsl.pipex.com



Why not duplicate copies of this newsletter so all your choir members can find out what's going on?