

GREETINGS - to all Affiliates, Members and Friends, from your Scottish Committee!

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter!

It's been a busy Summer at RSCM Scotland. It is a great pleasure to put all our news together in this, the second of our new chatty Newsletters to all Affiliates, Members and Friends in Scotland. One direct follow up from my last communication to you is that our startlingly successful initiative at the Church of Scotland General Assembly should now be made known to a wider audience through an article accepted for publication in CMQ. That's great, because we don't get nearly enough publicity in that important journal. Look out for it!

RECENT EVENTS

The RSCM Scotland Committee met in early September, in Glasgow for the first time for a long while. We met in a room in St George's Tron church under the chairmanship of Pat Lynch and welcomed at least one of our new Consultants (see below) to the meeting. Many items of business will be discussed in this Newsletter but we were all greatly impressed with the unusual view from our room window – along the length of George Street. The Committee has had approval to appoint three new Consultants to help us with our work.



They are Frikki Walker, Director of Scottish Voices and Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, Martin Ritchie, a long-standing and well-known Scottish member and active in Church of Scotland matters, and Robin Bell, chair of SCOTS, the organists' training scheme. We look forward to their contribution to our affairs.

The biggest event of the Summer wasn't Scottish at all but International! Four Scottish RSCM members attended the **International Summer School** in Liverpool from 8th - 14th August. Two of them, Marion Paton and Pat Lynch, were actually involved in the programme which was based around Liverpool's magnificent Anglican Cathedral and the stunning Metropolitan Cathedral (known locally as "the wigwam"). These two centres of excellence are connected by Hope Street and each is clearly visible from the other. This has produced, we understand, an amazing level of ecumenical co-operation between the two faiths. We sang about a dozen Services, spread between the two cathedrals and also used a couple of local churches. Conveniently, our residential base was equidistant from all venues, but there was rather a lot of walking!



I'm sure that you can imagine the intensity of rehearsal that was involved – such a great learning experience and an opportunity to be guided, cajoled (and even lightly threatened) by Andrew Reid (photo), the Director of RSCM. Andrew was the Summer School director and this proved what a worthy leader he is. Of the many highlights, I would identify a broadcast service on Radio

3 (Choral Vespers from the Metropolitan Cathedral) and Sung Eucharist on the final Sunday morning at the Anglican Cathedral. There were several Elective programmes to choose from and a number of workshops. One of the plenary sessions involved the esteemed organist, Dame Gillian Weir, and many of us took the opportunity to visit the workshop of organbuilder, David Wells, who cares for these magnificent organs (and many more). The photographs show the ISS choir at work in the Anglican Cathedral and your very happy correspondent fulfilling a life-long ambition! This is a BIG event in the RSCM calendar, so I've appended (at the end of this Newsletter) an edited diary account of the week from Sally Carus, a member from Dundee. You'll enjoy that!



Here, **in Scotland**, there was a training session in Stirling in March for those preparing for their Bronze and Silver "Voice for Life" Awards and a Meet, Eat and Sing was held at Carnoustie church on Sunday 29 May with 17 singers from churches in Carnoustie and other places in Angus. Richard Walmisley led the music for an evening service, which wasn't familiar to all (Pointed psalms!). The happy band of gathered singers was not very well supported by worshippers; RSCM Scotland is keen to support these local singing events/services but needs to ensure that they are widely publicised around all neighbouring denominations. The Scottish Summer School in Dunblane was held in mid-July with over 30 people participating - fewer singers than the usual 50 or so. However, participants still sang together to the best of their abilities under Matthew Beetchen's direction, hopefully managing to make a merry noise!. Workshops included vocal training (Susan Hamilton), training for RSCM Awards (Alistair Warwick) and presentations by Douglas Galbraith (*Are hymn tunes real music?*) and by Susan and Alistair (*The Wode Psalter!*). Next year will be the 20th Summer School - some have already booked their place for this event and all are looking forward to singing together again in 2017. As always, it was a very happy and exciting few days; it is amazing to think that the 2017 Scottish Summer School will be celebrating its 20th anniversary! Be sure to be there!"

Just passed, in mid-September, was the workshop Strengthen for Service, held in Dunblane, led by Helen Bent (photo), Head of Ministerial Training at the RSCM. This was aimed at clergy and worship leaders, particularly those at an early stage in their careers. This is/was an important initiative and we hoped, in particular, that we could capitalise on our work with the Church of Scotland. There are no reports, as yet, as to its outcome.



FUTURE EVENTS

Haddington features highly later this year with a Come and Sing Compline on Sunday 9 October, led by Pat Lynch in Holy Trinity Church, and a Come and Sing Advent Sunday (Sunday 27 November) led by Susan Hamilton in the "Lamp of the Lothians" - St Mary's. Both leaders are well-known to RSCM Scotland and it's such a beautiful church. Please put these dates in your diary!

The Dunblane Singing Day will be held on Saturday 5 November.

RSCM Scotland requires to have an annual plenary meeting or AGM and it is likely that this will be combined with an event in March 2017.

Looking further ahead, a joint RSCM/Diocesan(Aberdeen & Orkney) choir festival will be held in St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen in May 2017, although the final date is yet to be confirmed. This represents the extension of an established event to include RSCM Scotland so we hope that local affiliates, members, and friends will be particularly supportive.

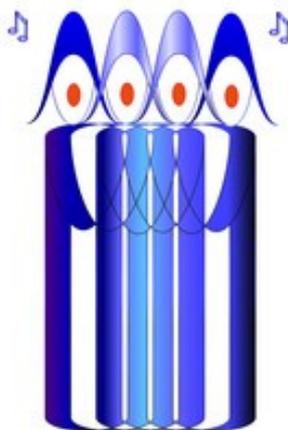
RSCM Scotland will be back at the General Assembly in May 2017 and would greatly appreciate VOLUNTEERS to meet, greet and educate the fathers and brethren! Please let me know, by email, if you'd like to do this.

Frikki Walker is planning an RSCM Music Sunday event in St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, in June 2017. We hope that this might be the start of a pattern of joint events between Cathedrals and the RSCM in Scotland. The Summer School in 2017 will be held from Monday 10 -Thursday 13 July.

Finally, we can now confirm that the next TRIENNIAL Celebration, which will be in 2018, will be in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Dundee.

RSCM SCOTTISH VOICES

Gary Young, Administrator of Scottish Voices, sends us this report.



“Following our enjoyable annual residential rehearsal weekend at the Scottish Police College, where our hard work was matched by equal amounts of fun and socialising, the members of RSCM Scottish Voices are all set for the next year and a half and are looking forward to a mixture of first visits and revisits to abbeys, cathedrals, and significant churches around the country. The music list for the next 12 months is still being lovingly crafted by our Musical Director Frikki Walker, and as soon as those details are available they'll be published on and added to the individual Facebook Events we host at (if you use Facebook why not “like” our page, and the RSCM Scotland one too, of course, and join some of the events there?)”

Gary also sends the following information about the venues in which they will be singing...

8th October 2016 - St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Edinburgh

12th November 2016 - Culross Abbey

14th January 2017 - St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow

4th March 2017 - Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling

20th May 2017 - Peebles Old Parish Church

11th to 13th August 2017 - residential rehearsal weekend (NB: no public access)

9th September 2017 - St John's Episcopal Church, Dumfries

7th October 2017 - St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen

11th November 2017 - St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, Dundee

“**All services are at 4pm** and last under an hour. We'd love to see you come along to one or more, and if you do then please come and say hello!”

RSCM AWARDS

Kirsten Mann reports that we are well on our way to fulfilling the commitment to hold Training days, having had one already this year and another planned (reported above). We are very pleased to report here of Awards made in the Voice for Life programme so far, this year.

Bronze Award: **Robert Nellist** passed with Merit and **Alison Stewart** passed with Distinction. Both are from Holy Trinity, Stirling.

Congratulations to all of both from all at RSCM Scotland and best wishes, I'm sure, from all readers of this Newsletter who will be so impressed.



OTHER NEWS

As you have probably already heard, it has been decided to put Young Scottish Voices into abeyance for the time being owing to a number of insurmountable difficulties, not least being other local and national attractions for young singers. Hopefully, this is not the end of the road – just a pause for thought. The RSCM Scotland Committee gave consideration to publicising the RSCM in general and our work in Scotland in particular, and will be looking at greater press coverage and promotional presentations. More as this develops. We also had an interesting discussion about taking Voice for Life, or the like, into schools. This is not an easy subject and, as you'd expect, there is no conclusion – but at least we're thinking about it!

TAILPIECES

Our very own Scottish Co-ordinator, Alistair Warwick, has quietly hit the big time. Let me draw your attention to an article on pages 22/23 of the current CMQ. Alistair was conducting over 100 singers at the



RSCM North-West Europe Choral Festival in St John's Anglican Church in Ghent, Belgium. I've openly plucked the photo from CMQ just to show you here. That's him in the black gown in the middle – well, where else would you expect him to be on such a big occasion? Maybe I do him an injustice and this type of thing is pretty routine for him. Anyway – well done Alistair!

I'd also like to draw your attention to a tasty little insert in the last magazine (hope you didn't bin it!) about Merchandise – ties, hoodies, bags, mugs, and so on. Everything a member could possibly want for Christmas. Did I say Christmas!!!

(Remember, Sally's Diary is appended.)

That's it for this edition – I'll forego the usual homily and just add my message!

JOIN, TELL, PROMOTE, ASK! Interpret as you wish, but it's about being your RSCM!

David Sutherland,

for RSCM Scotland Committee

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SALLY CARUS'S DIARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Monday 8th Augustsome 80 people from all over the English speaking world plus a few from Austria, Nigeria, Italy, France and Hong Kong are checking in at Vine Court, a hall of residence for Liverpool University see, in the timetable, that we have to be at the Anglican Cathedral for the introductory talks at 2pm. It's a 1.3km walk which they say will take 15 minutes so this is the first of many rapid turn-rounds in the week. Find the right room in the warren under the church and enjoy the keynote speech introducing us to the theme for the week which is Reformation/reformation – chosen to match our base in both Anglican and RC cathedrals. This evening we go to another local church - St Margaret's in Toxteth, very near the Anglican Cathedral - for a buffet supper followed by a choral rehearsal. We finish the evening with contemplative worship at 9pm - the Taizé and Iona music come into their own in this service.

Tuesday – Today we are at the Metropolitan RC Cathedral which is not so far away but here is another layout of rooms to fathom out. Interestingly, we start at 8.45 in the crypt singing Scottish Presbyterian worship including several psalm paraphrases. After tea we have choir practice for the plainsong mass this evening and for the (later) live broadcast of Choral Vespers. Plainsong takes a lot of concentration but there is a congregation for the feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross so we do our best.

Wednesday – we are at the Met again today where we start at 8.45 with Methodist/URC worship in the crypt. This includes a hymn and psalm 121 sung to Anglican chant, a reading and prayers. Then it's time for choir practice concentrating on the music for the broadcast. At 2pm we join the Millennium Youth Choir for the final rehearsal and, after a short tea break, we go live on air. The MYC are singing most of the service but we join in with a canticle, a hymn and a Gloria. MYC are very good and we do our best not to spoil anything.

Thursday – back to the Anglican Cathedral today where we start in the Lady Chapel with Matins. There is nothing like singing Stanford's Te Deum in Bb before 9am to wake you up! We also sing the Jubilate Deo which I have encountered for the first time yesterday but it is assumed that we are able to sight read well. We chant the Venite and a psalm and the responses are sung to plainsong. This is a big sing for first thing in the morning but we are getting used to this now and go straight into a choir practice ... later, it's another choir practice and then Lutheran Vespers in the chancel. This involves some chorales and a Magnificat by Pachelbel and an exciting arrangement of Ein feste Burg by Rutter. This evening we have the Gala Dinner in a trendy restaurant called Alma de Cuba which is a converted Polish Catholic Church. At the end of the evening there, we sing Compline but against the backdrop of the sound system and the clatter and chatter it is rather lost.

Friday – starts with Morning worship led by Graham Kendrick and an Evangelical Praise Group in St Bride's then it's off to the Anglican Cathedral for choir practice in the chancel. In the afternoon there is the chance to visit the workshop of the organ builder, David Wells. He shows us round and explains the mechanisms of the organ while his staff produce tea and biscuits for everyone. He has made a mini keyboard and pipes to show how an organ works and two box organs which we are allowed to play. All the staff are very enthusiastic and obviously love their jobs and their boss. After supper this evening we return to the Met for choir practice and a Devotional Service of the Passion which is very moving. Some of the RSCM staff sing Crux Fidelis by Roger-Ducasse. It is very difficult and I assume that they have been practising it in Salisbury but find out they had been given the music on Thursday! The readers for this service have been chosen from all the countries represented at the summer school. We leave in silence and walk back mostly in silence.

Saturday – today we have Family Prayers in Vine Court at 7.40 BEFORE breakfast! No workshops today so there is the possibility of a free morning (maybe to do the Beatles tour!) but I opt to go to the organ demonstration in the Anglican Cathedral. This organ is the biggest in the country with 5 manuals (but 8 divisions), 153 speaking stops and 10,000 pipes ranging in size from 32ft down to ¾ inch. Three of the keyboards also connect to the new second organ (thus 8 divisions) which is situated half way down the nave for the benefit of large congregations. The organ is undergoing a £1million refurbishment so much of the great organ is not here. We are given a demonstration by Shean

Bowers, who grew up with this organ but is now at Bath Abbey. He takes us up to the console although he has demonstrated on the nave console which is used at recitals, etc. He also demonstrates the organ in the Lady Chapel which is a large 2 manual but is much more like what most of us play. We walk round to St Bride's for a choir practice and, after lunch, we have a discussion on the Reforming Church with Dame Gillian Weir on the panel. After tea break we all head off to the Met for choir practice and a Vigil Mass in the crypt.

Sunday – we split forces to go to either the Met or the Anglican cathedral. We rehearse from 9am ready for the Anglican service at 10.30. or the Met at 11. At the Anglican, we enter in procession, as this is the big service of the week, and sing the Little Organ Mass by Haydn and chant the psalm to plainsong. The anthem is Ave Verum Corpus by Gounod. None of this had we seen till Saturday but it is wonderful to be singing a full service in such a great building and it goes well..... back in the cathedral (with our luggage) for the last time for evensong practice at 1.45 and the service at 3pm. There is a modern setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Chilcott and an introit and anthem by Bairstow – none of which is particularly straightforward. We get the hang of the tricky rhythms in the Chilcott and I enjoy it after all.

It has been a tough but rewarding week spent in the company of like-minded people. It is a thrill and privilege to sing in services in such great places of worship. Working with the best choir trainers who know what they want, and how to get it, is an education in itself and I have learnt so much just from the rehearsals. The success is due to the planning and hard work of the staff at the Salisbury office and in Liverpool and I thank them for making it such a good experience. We are all looking forward to the next ISS in three year's time.