

# ELY MUSIC RAG

(No 2/11 – September 2011)

Published on behalf of the Ely RSCM Committee

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## 2011 and 2012 DIARY

### 2011

- 17 September ACCMS Festival (King's College Chapel), 5.30  
18 October Workshop on Choral Music Skills, Chesterton, 7.30

### 2012

- 25 February and 3 March Examinations for Bronze and Silver Awards (Cathedral)  
28 April Award Choristers' Evensong (Cathedral), 5.30  
19 May Ely Festival of Church Music (Cathedral)  
15 September Choirs' Festival (King's College Chapel)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society Festival 17 September - King's College Chapel, Cambridge**

As we go to press, the final preparations are being made for the 2011 Festival of the Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society (ACCMS) in King's College Chapel, Cambridge on Saturday 17 September at 5.30. The theme of the Festival is *The King and the Kingdom*, and it will be conducted by Jonathan Lilley, Assistant Organist at Ely Cathedral, with Parker Ramsay (King's College Organ Scholar) at the organ. The main anthem (chosen by the Committee back in January) is to be the very appropriate *I was glad when they said unto me* by Parry, as heard in April at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in Westminster Abbey.

### **Workshop on Choral Music Skills for Adults 18 October – Chesterton**

On Tuesday 18 October a workshop will be held at St George's Church, Chesterton from 7.30 to 9.00 for adults who want to hone their choral musical skills. The evening, which will be led by Paul Trepte (Director of Music at Ely Cathedral), will look at reading notation, sight-singing and take a swing at some vocal technique. You may wish to use it as a precursor to entering for the chorister awards or simply to improve your understanding of musical skills. No prior knowledge needed!

To register your interest or book a place please submit the enclosed flyer by **Tuesday 11 October** or give the flyer to someone you think may be interested!

### **Workshop 'Piano to Organ' Spring and Summer 2012**

Two short morning/afternoon workshops designed to support those pianists called upon to play the organ are being planned for next year. Gentle guidance will cover how to select appropriate stops and venture onto the pedals with a bit of swell box thrown in. Intrigued? Join us in the Spring or, if that's not convenient, in the Summer. The event will be held in two places to cover as much of the Ely Area as we can. Details of the

dates and venues will be published in the next edition, but you can register your interest now by contacting our ETO, Philip Asher, on [eto@philipasher.co.uk](mailto:eto@philipasher.co.uk) or 01763 220568.

## **Festival of Church Music**

### **19 May – Ely Cathedral**

The annual Ely Festival of Church Music in 2012 will be held on Saturday 19 May with the Ascensiontide theme of *Christ Our King*. The service includes music by Stanford, Mathias and Mendelssohn, as well as a number of well-known hymns. Further details will be circulated at the end of the year to those on our festivals' mailing list. Meanwhile, if there are any choirs or individual singers who are not on the mailing list but who would like to take part, please inform the Festival Co-ordinator, Ken Diffey (contact details on page 1), and they will be included in the mailing. We are delighted that Andrew Millington, the Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral, has accepted our invitation to conduct this Festival.

## **Festival of Church Music**

### **15 September - King's College Chapel, Cambridge**

The 2012 biennial Festival of Church Music in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, will be held on Saturday 15 September. It will be conducted by Sarah MacDonald, Director of Music and Fellow of Selwyn College, and Director of the Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir. Further information will be included in the next edition and full details will be circulated later in 2012 to those on our festivals' mailing list.

*Editor – if you have any suggestions for future training events, or would welcome some support (choosing music, conducting tricky time signatures, preparing choristers for the awards, how to pedal a particularly tricky passage or warm-up your choir in an interesting way, etc), our ETO, Philip Asher, would be very pleased to hear from you on [eto@philipasher.co.uk](mailto:eto@philipasher.co.uk) or 01763 220568.*

# CHORISTER AWARDS

## 2011 Awards

Many congratulations to the following candidates who were successful in the 2011 examinations:

### Silver Level (Bishop's Award)

Cambridge, St. John the Evangelist

Benjamin Ball (Merit)

Esther Leonard

Florence Zolman (Merit)

Ramsey, St Thomas à Becket

Amy-Marie Field

### Bronze Level (Dean's Award)

Cambridge, St. John the Evangelist

Benjamin Somers Heslam

(Merit)

Ramsey, St Thomas à Becket

Rachel Bell-Berry

(Distinction)

Charlotte Field

Sutton-in-the-Isle, St Andrew

Sara Groom (Merit)

Lucy Sidwell

At the Awards Choristers' Evensong in the Cathedral on 2 April, the medals were presented to those candidates who were able to attend. The certificates were subsequently presented at the Choirs' Festival in the Cathedral on 21 May.

### Gold Award

Many congratulations also to Sophie Thompson from the choir of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge, who obtained the prestigious Gold Award earlier this year. This Award, unlike the Silver and Bronze, is administered and examined directly by the RSCM.



The successful candidates who attended the Awards Choristers' Evensong on 2 April, together with the Bishop, the Dean, the Chairman and the Secretary of the Ely RSCM Committee

## **2012 Examinations**

The 2012 examinations will be held in the Cathedral on **Saturday 25 February** (and also on **Saturday 3 March** if required by the number of applicants). Copies of the syllabuses and entry forms are available on the Committee's website ([www.rscmely.org.uk](http://www.rscmely.org.uk)) or by post from the Acting Awards Administrator:

Ken Diffey  
1 The Maltings  
Godmanchester  
Cambs, PE29 2JR  
01480 458846, [diffey@homecall.co.uk](mailto:diffey@homecall.co.uk)

The closing date for entry forms is **31 January**, but it would be very helpful for the administration if in advance of this date you could inform Ken by email of the number of expected candidates.

As a measure of support for the Awards scheme, the Ely RSCM Committee will again provide financial support for the 2012 examinations

by meeting the cost of all examination fees. However, the candidates (or their parishes/choirs) will be expected to pay for the medals and ribbons (current cost £15.65, including VAT @ 20%). A condition of this considerable financial assistance is that successful candidates will be expected to attend either the Awards Choristers' Evensong on Saturday 28 April, when the medals will be presented, or the Choirs' Festival on 19 May, when the certificates will be presented, or preferably both!

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Further details about the Awards scheme in general, including the national Gold Award (which replaces the erstwhile Bishop's Senior Award), may be obtained by visiting the RSCM website ([www.rscm.com/education](http://www.rscm.com/education)).

## **ODD JOTTING**

### **Second Hand Organ For Sale**

Due to the donation of a new electronic organ, St Mary's Longstowe wishes to sell the previous instrument and will consider offers over £50. It is a Phillicorda, with two manuals and pedals, in good working order. If you are interested in seeing and playing this organ, please contact Sheila Hemmins on 01954 19372.

## **REPORTS ON EVENTS IN 2011**

### **Visit of RSCM Director**

#### **7 March - Ely**

On Monday 7 March, members of the Ely RSCM Committee, together with the Director of the RSCM, Lindsay Gray, senior representatives from the Cathedral and the Diocese, and local members of the RSCM, assembled in the Cathedral Centre for their AGM. The Director then gave a most interesting and informative talk with a power-point presentation entitled, 'The RSCM and Church Music in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century', followed by

a time for questions and lively discussions. The evening concluded with drinks and a buffet supper.

## **Conducting Workshop 14 March - Chesterton**

On Monday 14 March, a group of 10 choir leaders, organists and musicians from Melbourn/Meldreth, the Gransdens, Waterbeach, Fowlmere, Histon, Godmanchester and Northampton assembled at St George's Chesterton for a workshop on choral conducting led by Paul Trepte, the Director of Music at Ely Cathedral. St George's is a large church built in 1937-38 and its vast basilica style interior made most of us rather nervous about standing up and demonstrating our conducting skills. Our worries were groundless as Paul made us feel most welcome and quickly covered some of the basics of conducting, using a selection of music for the forthcoming Ely Choirs Festival. We were soon on our feet trying to put his advice into practice with the four singers engaged for the evening, Paula Downes, Adam Herrick, Richard Mayer and Matthew Simpson (all lay clerks or choral scholars). It was quite an experience conducting professional singers who did precisely what one asked for – even if it wasn't quite what was intended! Overall the evening was of great value in improving our confidence and giving us some basic conducting techniques to work on. The added bonus was listening to some outstanding singing and it was worth the journey for that alone!

Colin Thirlwall, St Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester

## **Award Choristers' Evensong 2 April – Ely Cathedral**

After taking part in last year's Ely Festival, I decided that I would really like to take my Bronze Award. And so shortly after Christmas, I downloaded the syllabus and got busy! It had been a very long time since I had undertaken any sort of examination and I was wondering if the 'old grey cells' would still allow me to cope with remembering facts such as musical terms and key dates in the church's calendar. The date of the exam loomed and I began to get seriously nervous! Singing in a choir is one thing, but singing in front of an examiner all by yourself is quite another! As it turned out, it was a pleasant occasion. The examiner, Jan Payne, really put me at ease and I was able to do my best without letting nerves get the better of me. When I heard that I had passed, as had the

two other Ramsey choristers also taking the examinations, I began to look forward to the Awards Choral Evensong on 2 April. Some of the previous year's award winners were invited alongside this year's candidates. The afternoon began with a rehearsal with Paul Trepte for the twelve choristers taking part. We worked hard on our Latin for the *Ave, maris stella* by Grieg and also enjoyed rehearsing all the other music for the service. Later we joined the Cathedral choristers for a final rehearsal.

The evensong itself was a fantastic experience, with the twelve award choristers sitting right in front of the Cathedral choristers. The psalms were all sung beautifully, as were the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Stanford. Hearing such amazing music in the wonderful Cathedral setting was a joy to experience. The anthem, *Ave, maris stella*, was gentle and thought provoking. The recession was to Mendelssohn's Allegro and Fugue from Sonata No. 2, played by Jonathan Lilley. As the evening drew to an end, I felt thankful that God had given me a voice which, along with others, could be used to sing His praises.

Thanks need to go to all the organisers of the event, since it is always a great experience singing in the Cathedral and having the opportunity to sing with others. I would also like to thank my choirleader, Neville Palmer, for all his hard work in preparing the Ramsey choristers for the examination and the evensong. Congratulations to all those who received awards. I would thoroughly recommend taking part in a Dean's or Bishop's award, whatever your age!

Rachael Bell-Berry  
St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey

*(The 2012 Awards Choristers' Evensong will be held on Saturday  
28 April. Further details will be published in the next edition)*

## **Festival of Church Music 21 May - Ely Cathedral**

Each year around this time, village and town church choirs have their chance to sing in Ely Cathedral. On a beautiful sunny late spring day, nearly 200 choristers from across the Diocese, plus the Cathedral choirs, lifted their voices to sing under the famous octagon. The music, carefully selected by the conductor, Paul Trepte, was this year in celebration of 400 years of the authorised version of the Bible. **Lord thy Word Abideth**

was the opening hymn and provided the title for the service. The hymn was then very effectively used throughout the service, verse by verse, each time with a different setting, following the readings. Several of the other hymns or worship songs also reflected 'the Word'. During the service the Archdeacon of Cambridge (on behalf of the Bishop) and the Dean presented certificates to this year's recipients of the Silver and Bronze Awards.

Speaking to my own choir and several other participants, they were very happy with the music this year. In the past, the music booklets purchased for the festival were rarely used again, village choirs finding the music unsuitable or too difficult for their own services. This year, however, I think the booklets will be well used in our home churches as all the music was very user friendly and can be sung with small choirs and congregations with basic accompaniment. As an experiment this year, several area rehearsals were arranged so that people did not have so far to travel and they were much appreciated. The sectional rehearsals held on the day, which were also experimental, were excellent and worth repeating, though some felt it was too long a day, when travel was taken into consideration plus the very short lunch break. Keeping this arrangement optional would seem to be the best solution.

As always, the administration for the day went like clockwork. All the singers processed and were seated in the correct place without a hitch on the first try. Fantastic! I think that I speak for many in saying that this year's choir festival was one of the most enjoyable.

Liz Slee

St. John the Baptist Church, Holywell cum Needingworth

## **Taizé Workshop**

### **5 June - Linton**

Following the well-received Taizé workshop held at Godmanchester in October 2010 (as reported in the last edition), it was repeated on 5 June at St Mary's Linton, once again led by Philip Asher, the Education and Training Officer for the Ely RSCM Committee. Philip introduced the afternoon by showing to the 25 participants a DVD depicting a week at the Taizé monastic community in France. It gave us an opportunity to see services taking place and to note that the visitors (especially young people) come from many countries. We were then shown examples of

chants, many of which had been composed by Jacques Berthier for the Community. They are based on short, simple texts and are often in Latin. Finally we tried them out, with Philip leading and guiding singers and instrumentalists (in this instance, piano, cello and recorder) to be sensitive and flexible in following the cantor, as the chants are repeated many times. This induces a very prayerful and peaceful atmosphere.

After a break for tea, we reconvened for a service, the highlight of which was a deep, extended silence. The structure was very simple, based on the services used by the Community at their daily communal prayers. It was led by Philip and we were joined by several members of the local congregation. During the service the group of singers sang several of the chants rehearsed earlier. We plan to hold similar services in the future.

Anne Parry-Smith

## JAN PAYNE

Many congratulations are due to Jan Payne for the well-deserved award of the RSCM Certificate of Special Service



Jan has played a very significant role in church worship in this area for very many years, both musically and liturgically – initially at parish level in Cambridge but latterly at diocesan level. As well as her private teaching and examining, she has been involved in numerous church activities in the area on a voluntary basis, usually in a lead role. She was a founder member of the present RSCM committee when it was created in its present form in 1999, and has served two terms as the Education and Training Officer. Always proactive and looking for new challenges, Jan took on the task of Music Ministry Co-ordinator on the Authorised Lay Ministry course started in 2005, and became the Director of the Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers (ECOS) which was formed in 2006 to provide a voluntary choir of a high standard, primarily to sing for Cathedral services when the Cathedral choirs are not available. Under Jan's direction, ECOS has been categorically established as the third Cathedral choir and is regarded by all as such. Not content with these extra tasks, in

November 2007 she accepted the appointments of Licensed Lay Minister at Ely Cathedral and Bishop's Adviser for Music in the Diocese of Ely. Looking further afield, she also served as the RSCM Co-ordinator for the Eastern Region for a year until the appointment of Regional Music Advisers in 2010.

Jan thus has a very full programme and we are very grateful for her untiring efforts in so many ways in support of worship, particularly the place of music in worship. Above all, she has a warm and friendly disposition, reflected in her ready willingness to provide any help that may be requested, big or small. She is a big asset for the church in this area and we are very grateful for her continuing contribution to our work.

## **ALM MUSIC MINISTRY COURSE 2010 - 2011**

July marked the completion of the latest year-long course to train Music Ministers as part of the Authorised Lay Ministry programme in the Diocese. This year we have had eight trainees (the biggest group so far) drawn from very different musical backgrounds and churchmanship.

They have proved themselves to be a highly motivated and able bunch of people and it has been both a joy and a privilege to work with them, assisted by Nicky Redsell, co-tutor on the course. I am sure that they will all go on to be a blessing to the churches in which they serve. The completion of this course means that we now have twenty ALM Music Ministers serving across the Diocese which is excellent news - but we have room for plenty more!

So, if anyone reading this is interested in considering training as an ALM Music Minister in their parish from September 2012, please pray about it and then speak to your incumbent and/or get in touch with:

- The Reverend Christine Worsley at the Diocesan Office [christine.worsley@office.ely.anglican.org](mailto:christine.worsley@office.ely.anglican.org), or
- Me at [janmpayne@googlemail.com](mailto:janmpayne@googlemail.com) or 48 Impington Lane, Impington, Cambridge CB24 9NJ.



Those who have completed the course this year are:

Ruth Banger:	Chesterton (The Good Shepherd)
Nicola Bown:	Cambridge (Holy Cross)
Ann Brittain:	Buckden (St Mary)
Chris Bylett:	Buckden (St Mary)
Pam Clark:	Hartford (All Saints)
Patti Hatswell:	Buckden (St Mary)
Mark Liversidge:	Isleham (St Andrew)
Fiona Ward:	Ramsey (St Thomas à Becket)

Most are pictured here with Nicky Redsell and myself. Please pray for them all as they prepare for authorisation and start their lives as ALMs in their churches.

Jan Payne  
ALM Music Ministry Co-ordinator

## FORTHCOMING NON-RSCM EVENTS

### **‘All that Jazz’**

**24 September – Buckden**

As the final event in the Buckden Summer Music series, the Reverend Ally Barrett (the singing vicar) and her husband Sam will be giving an ‘All that Jazz’ concert in St Mary’s Church, Buckden, on Saturday 24 September at 7.30. Tickets at £10 (£8 concessions) include interval drinks.

### **Come and Sing ‘The Messiah’**

**20 November – Great Gransden**

On Sunday 20 November there will be a ‘Come and Sing’ concert of selections from ‘The Messiah’ at St Bartholomew’s Church, Great Gransden. It will be conducted by Christopher Brown, the Musical Director of the New Cambridge Singers, and the proceeds will be donated to ‘Crisis’. The rehearsal will be held from 2.00 to 4.00, and the concert starts at 5.00.

Singers should register with Sheila George on 01767 677553 or [sjg@nutbells.plus.com](mailto:sjg@nutbells.plus.com) by 1 November, stating voice part and whether a score is required. The cost is £10 per head.

### **‘A Ceremony of Carols’**

**15 December – Hemingford Abbots**

On Thursday 15 December at 7.30 in St Margaret’s Church, Hemingford Abbots, the Ely Cathedral Girls’ Choir will be singing Benjamin Britten’s *A Ceremony of Carols* (with harp accompaniment) and other Christmas music. Tickets, together with more information, can be obtained from Bruce Garner on 01480 461692, or purchased at the door. Light refreshments will be available after the performance.