



The Victoria Branch of RSCMAUSTRALIA: A National Church Music Association Inc.

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Victorian News

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 29 March	7.30pm	Tenebrae at Auburn Uniting Church
Friday 30 March	3pm	Taizé at Trinity College
Sunday 15 April	3:30pm	Hamer Singers Concert at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne
Saturday 21 April	7:30pm	Heidelberg Choral Society at IGGS Performing Arts Centre
Friday 27 April	6/6.30pm	Gala Next Gen Organ Concert at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne
<i>Wednesday 9 May</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>	RSCMVIC Committee Meeting
<i>Wednesday 11 July</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>	RSCMVIC Committee Meeting
<i>Wednesday 12 September</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>	RSCMVIC Committee Meeting
<i>Wednesday 14 November</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>	RSCMVIC Committee Meeting

EDITORIAL

A Palm Sunday Reflection

I fulfilled a long-held wish in 2016 when I visited Bishop Auckland, a town quite close to the north eastern English cathedral city of Durham. Castle Auckland was the home of the Prince Bishops of Durham from 1183 until 2012. The labyrinth is best seen from the bank that encircles the castle, allowing visitors to then walk down to the beginning of the labyrinth in the central section of the expansive lawns.

The route of a labyrinth goes round and round doesn't it? But in ever diminishing circles in order to reach the centre. If a labyrinth was, instead of a pattern on the ground, a vertical installation, then the path would spiral around a hill until it reached the summit.

What can we learn from walking the labyrinth on Palm Sunday? In Chapter 11 of Mark's Gospel Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph. This is swiftly followed by events in and around Jerusalem: temple cleansing, teaching, anointing, institution of the Lord's Supper, arrest, trial and appearances before the Sanhedrin. In Chapter 15 of Mark's Gospel Jesus leaves Jerusalem condemned to death.

The journey may be seen in three stages:

Stage 1: the lesson about the cost of discipleship: As the Son of Man, Jesus' mission involved suffering. Jesus understands our weak attempts to follow, as well as the cost of leading a Christian life. However, pain and suffering are also endured as part of any human's journey (Mk 8.34; Isa 50.6).

Stage 2: the lesson of obedience. This is often a humbling experience. Keeping Christian principles is difficult but failing to uphold Christian values is even more difficult. The little deaths we die in acknowledging our failures do not measure anywhere on the scale of the cross (Phil 2.8).

Stage 3: the lesson concerning hope and trust in God. The psalmist (as we do) complains to God about his enemies but his faith is sufficiently developed to allow him to trust (Ps 31.13-14). May our faith grow to hope and trust in God.

If a journey through Lent is not in vain, we are now on a circular route, travelling from Galilee to Jerusalem again and again, Lent by Lent, year by year, a circular route in a spiral, slowly but surely moving closer to our goal.

What is our goal and how does Mark help us get there, or at least one level higher this year?

Through Chapters 11 to 15 we move from the teaching (with explanations along the way the road to Jerusalem) to Palm Sunday (with palm branches laid crisscross on the ground for Jesus to trample triumphantly) to consider the trial before Pilate, the Crucifixion and the Death.

Are we like the disciples or the crowd? One minute shouting *Hosanna* and the next minute shouting *Crucify*? Like the disciples, we are often fickle friends, blind blunderers.

We move from walking the way to sitting through the trial. Jesus was accused by false witnesses, rejected by the leaders and the people, abused by the soldiers, he stumbled under cross bearing, cringed under mocking, was crucified and died.

With Jesus, we walk the way of the cross from the city to the top of the hill. To meditate on the horror of Good Friday when the cross rises from horizontal to vertical. From passive burden to active body bearer. Why? To show the love of God, of Jesus who changed places with us, to allow the relationship with God to continue.

While Jesus was teaching (and healing) on the way he was developing relationships with the disciples and the crowd. Our relationship with Jesus may be costly, it may cause pain, but an obedient response to the offer of salvation, of love, of a personal relationship with the mystery that is God, brings joy and peace.

As we wind our way around and up the hill in ever decreasing circles, closer and closer to the summit we need to develop our relationship through prayer and praise, learning and service. This is our life, walking steadily with the Lord Jesus, with our burden, our cross, our task in life on our back, with music in our heart, a Christian friend beside us and the Holy Spirit to guide us. Growing closer and closer to God, the summit of our journey. It becomes more difficult as we get closer to the summit, the more our sins convict us.

But we should grasp our cross firmly because, as it is our burden, so it is our comfort.

As it is our fear so it is our arms of Jesus' love outstretched for us.

As it is the weight of our sins so it is our means of salvation.

Unlike the disciples of Mark's Gospel (but like its hearers) we have the benefit of hindsight. We know that crucifixion was followed by resurrection and ascension; we have the hope of eternal life.

That is the good news of the gospel we are called to share. As a labyrinth has a circular formation, so has this section of the gospel of Mark. It begins: *The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God (1.1)*. It ends: *And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (15.39)*.

What we should bear in mind is that our cross is not of wood but it is a cross of palm.

A cross, not of *Crucify* but of *Hosanna*.

A cross to save and set free.

A cross not of brown but of green.

A cross not of death but of life.

A cross not of despair but of hope.

A cross not of opposites but of relationships.

As we walk the labyrinth of life we carry a cross of salvation.

Jesus is the green blade that rises from the buried grain

Jesus is the Love [that] is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Marion Dewar

TENEBRAE

A Service of Darkness with the extinguishing of candles

Maundy Thursday 29th March at 7.30 pm

Auburn Uniting Church, 81 Oxley Road, Hawthorn

Music and readings arranged by Hal H. Hopson

The Auburn Church Choir and the Ad Hoc Singers will take part in this service, which has been a part of Holy Week at Auburn for many years.

The Service of Tenebrae is marked by movement from light into darkness with the extinguishing of candles.

Through words and music this Holy Week service movingly dramatises the suffering, death and burial of Jesus Christ.

Please come to this special service - all are invited.

Directed by Bruce Macrae with organist Margaret Pettitt

PRAYERS AROUND THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY AT TRINITY COLLEGE

Friday 30 March 2018 at 3pm

Please feel welcome to attend a **Taizé Prayer Service this Friday** at Trinity College Chapel Royal Parade, Parkville, at **3pm**.

This is a Good Friday service, which will include prayers around the cross.

There will be an opportunity to reflect, sing, connect and pray.

On Easter Saturday 31 March 2018 there is a Vigil at Trinity College at 7:30pm, including some Taizé music.

As usual, there will be the regular monthly Taizé service the following week, **Saturday 7 April at 5:30pm**

HAMER SINGERS CONCERT

when we were children

Sunday 15th April 2018 - 3:30pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne

DAVID LANG *when we were children*

THOMAS TALLIS *Missa puer natus est: Agnus Dei*

PETERS VASKS *Laudate Dominum*

NB: Program Subject to Change

<https://hamersingers.weebly.com/>

For tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?embed&eid=340239>

HEIDELBERG CHORAL SOCIETY, ORCHESTRA AND SOLOISTS PERFORM AN ALL-MOZART CONCERT

Saturday 21 April at 7:30pm

IGGS Performing Arts Centre (Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School)

Under the direction of Peter Bandy, and in company with acclaimed soloists, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass* will be the featured works for the Choir's April Concert

Soloists include Kathryn Radcliffe (Soprano), Anna Plotka (Mezzo Soprano),

Michael Petrucelli (Tenor) and Nicholas Dinopoulos (Bass Baritone)

Peter Bandy is delighted to be conducting two of the most popular choral works of Mozart. "The Mass acquired the nickname 'Coronation' after becoming the preferred music for royal and imperial coronations", says Peter. Equally popular, if not more often performed, is Mozart's Requiem. Unfinished at the time of the composer's death, the work was subsequently completed by others, including Franz Xaver Sussmayr.

Tickets: \$45 adult or \$40 conc.

Bookings: tickets@hcs.asn.au or online <https://www.trybooking.com/TZGU>



**ONLY ON FRIDAY
27 APRIL 2018**

At 6.30 pm... (Doors open @ 6 pm)

The next generation of Australian Organists takes the stage in a

GALA NextGen Organ Concert

with the 1964 Fincham Grand Organ in

St Patrick's Cathedral • Melbourne

1 Cathedral Place • East Melbourne

\$20 admission at the door includes programme. ANZCO is committed to providing financial recognition of these young Australian performers' time and talent. The proceeds from this GALA NextGen Concert go to encourage these young artists as tomorrow's leaders.

Grand Organ Discovery at 7.30 pm...

Do you learn, or do you want to learn, the King of Instruments?
This is your chance to meet and play the famous Grand Organ
in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne
in an informal and entertaining voyage of discovery!



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

cam.org.au



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
MELBOURNE



ANZCO

Australian and New Zealand College of Organists

anzco.org

ADVANCE NOTICE

RSCM Australia & New Zealand Winter Summer School July 2019 at the University of Sydney

PETER GODFREY MEMORIAL SERVICE AND CONCERT

On Sunday 25 February 2018 more than 180 choristers from throughout the country came together to celebrate and remember NZCF's former Patron and Founder Professor Peter Godfrey at Auckland's Holy Trinity Cathedral. The event began with a Choral Evensong at 5.00pm followed by a concert at 7.30pm.

At Evensong members of the St Mary's Singers, Cathedral Choir and the Orlando singers (conducted by Anita Banbury) sang the responses, psalms and Magnificat and were joined by the massed choir (conducted by Terence Maskell) to sing the introit, anthems and Nunc Dimittis. The hymns (*All my hope on God is founded*, *The duteous day* and *The day Thou gavest*) were known to be among Peter's favourite hymns. Peter Watts gave a very fitting tribute in which he added some personal anecdotes and memories.

Following a meal break, the concert opened with a bracket from the massed choir, conducted by John Rosser, performing Lassus' *Jubilate Deo*, *I will give my love an apple*, *Great god of love*, and *Soon ah will be done*. Each of the five guest choirs – New Zealand Youth Choir alumni, The Graduate Choir, Orlando Singers, Viva Voce and Auckland Chamber Choir – performed one or two pieces that were often conducted by Peter. When introducing their items each conductor mentioned the significance of their choice and recounted how Peter had influenced their lives.

The concert concluded with a final bracket from the massed choir, conducted this time by Karen Grylls and Peter Watts, performing *My spirit sang all day*, *Abendlied*, *Early one morning* and Parry's *I was glad*.

Many friendships were rekindled and old friends reunited, but most of all it was a time to sing, remember and honour the man who contributed so much to choral music in New Zealand to make it what it is today. For more information see <http://www.nzcf.org.nz/peter-godfrey-auckland-memorial-service-concert/>

Beverly Phillips writes: *There would be a number of RSCM members (self included) who benefitted greatly from the evening classes Peter offered during his time at Trinity College. I still have annotations from the conducting classes in a couple of my books.*

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

With the retirement of our current Organist and Director of Music in 2021, applications are invited for the following positions with **Sacred Heart Cathedral – Bendigo** as we plan for succession:

Assistant Choir Director Assistant Organist Choir Conducting Scholar Organ Scholar

The successful applicants will assist the Organist and Director of Music of Sacred Heart Cathedral as per the detailed position descriptions available at www.sacredheartcathedral.org.au

For any other enquiries please contact Mr John Hogan (03) 5443 0363 or jfho@bigpond.com

Applications close 16 April 2018

AN RSCM PUBLICATION

Inspiring Music in Worship – A short course of guided conversations for churches

by The Revd Canon Helen Bent

<https://www.rscmshop.com/inspiring-music-in-worship.html>

The resource also includes downloadable worksheets

Inspiring Music in Worship encourages parishes to make best use of music to enhance their worship, even when they have few resources. Guided conversations foster greater understanding – not only of worship and music, but also between leaders of worship (both lay and ordained), musicians and congregations. In an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, participants are invited to explore together. Grounded in real-life case studies, each session provides an opportunity to discover new riches whilst acknowledging the tensions of traditional and contemporary forms of worship and bringing hope to congregations in the face of challenge and unavoidable change.

Helen Bent is a priest and musician with a passion for worship and mission. She understands the challenges faced by local churches, and guides discussion from her wealth of experience in both parish ministry and the training of worship leaders and musicians. She remains rooted in the local church, regularly leading worship in The Rivers Team in Sheffield Diocese. Although she writes as an Anglican, this course will be useful for churches of every denomination.

A DIFFERENT BALANCING ACT!

In the last newsletter, Marion Dewar provided an account of the challenges of providing music for services in the Leongatha parish. Having recently moved into the Wooden–Trentham Parish (part of a cluster with Kyneton-Malmsbury), I only have a rough idea of what happens here across the four congregations in the cluster. So far I'm not assigned to a regular roster and content to participate from the pews at St George's Trentham!

As in many rural and regional congregations there can be a shortage of keyboard/organ/piano players. So at St George's a creative solution has been found and in operation for some years. Accompaniments for hymns/songs are sourced from an online 'provider' at www.smallchurchmusic.com, now connected through www.hymnary.org with repertoire from *Together in Song*. The information on the website explains that: "The **SmallChurchMusic** site was commenced in 2006 and grew out of requests from those struggling to provide suitable music for their services and meetings."

The Rev Clyde McLennan was ordained in mid 1960s and was a pastor in many small Australian country areas, and therefore was acutely aware of this music problem. Having also been trained as a Pipe Organist, recordings on site area II (a subset of smallchurchmusic.com site) are actually played by Clyde, and also include piano and piano with organ versions. All recordings are in MP3 format. Churches all around the world use the recordings, with downloads averaging over 60,000 per month.

The recordings normally have an introduction, several verses and a slowdown to the last verse. Users are encouraged to use software: Audacity (<http://www.audacityteam.org>) or Song Surgeon (<http://songsurgeon.com>) (see <http://scm-audacity.weebly.com> for more information) to adjust the MP3 number of verses, tempo and pitch to suit their local needs.

One good outcome from using this resource is that if the recording does not include enough verses, the congregation sings on, "lustily and with good courage"! Thus confidence in singing regardless is evident even amongst a small community, maybe 12–20 people. Another observation is that our recording 'tech guy' now has a collection of over 200 hymns as mp3 files which have been used and the are now stored for when needed next time. This represents a significantly-sized repertoire for any congregation, let alone a smallish one.

Sometimes the tempo may not be quite right for a particular text, or the ends of phrases rushed over. But if this is the best we can do is that ok? Is 'live recorded' accompaniment better than no accompaniment?

Well, actually, we should not be afraid to sing unaccompanied and I've known parishes where this happens. And, as I'm not afraid of repeating, it is none other than Brian Wren who recommends we sing at least one verse of one hymn unaccompanied each Sunday. Where I've been able to do this it is encouraging to all to hear their voices rise to the occasion.

So what about teaching and learning new repertoire? This can be done from time to time in a special gathering, maybe according to a seasonal theme, where resources and people come together from several congregations. Maybe this is where RSCM people can take their skills to a smaller scenario, even a regional/rural one and assist the locals to learn some new repertoire. If songs are known by a few in a group it is much easier to arrange to use the materials and repeat regularly to become better known.

And what about the skill levels of those involved in 'the music' each week?...Maybe we'll leave that for another time...

**Fay Magee
Trentham**

RSCM VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP 2018

Affiliate Metropolitan

Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation (RCTC)

All Saints Anglican Church East St Kilda

All Souls Anglican Church Sandringham

Anglican Parish of Box Hill

Auburn Uniting Church Hawthorn

Christ Church Brunswick

Christ Church South Yarra

Coburg Uniting Church

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Kew

Melbourne Grammar School

Melbourne Helpers Schola Cantorum

St Andrews Brighton

St Dunstons Camberwell

St Francis Choir Melbourne

St Georges Anglican Church Malvern

St Johns Anglican Church Camberwell

St Johns Toorak

St Marys Anglican Church North Melbourne

St Oswalds Anglican Church Glen Iris

St Patricks Cathedral Melbourne

St Patricks Mentone

St Pauls Canterbury

St Pauls Anglican Cathedral Melbourne

Trinity Brighton Uniting Church

Affiliate Country

Anglican Parish of Castlemaine

Ballarat Grammar

Christ Church Anglican Cathedral Ballarat

Geelong Grammar School

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Launceston TAS

Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral Wangaratta

Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo

St Augustines Anglican Church Shepparton

St Matthews Albury

St Pauls Anglican Church Bakery Hill Ballarat

St Pauls Anglican Church Geelong

St Pauls Cathedral Choir Bendigo

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Mr William Adams

Rev Kenneth Allan

Rt Rev Jeremy Ashton

Mr Stephen Baldwin

Mr Ken Barelli

Mr Michael Bottomley

Mr Tim Clarke

Dr Geoffrey Cox

Mrs Marion Dewar

Mr Roger Doyle

Dr Helen Farrell

Mr Siegfried Franke

Mrs Dianne Gome

Mr John Griffith (Life)

Mr Leslie Harrison

Mr Gordon Hawley

Mr John Hogan

Mr Bertram Hosking

Mr Richard Hoy

Mr Brian Krahnert

Mr John Lagerwey

Mr Warwick Lewis

Mr Bruce Macrae

Ms Kay McLennan

Mrs Fay Magee

Mrs Julia Morkham

Mrs Sophy Morley

Ven Ian Morrison

Dr June Nixon

Mr William Orange

Mr Chris Pearce

Mrs Anne Poppins

Mrs Donrita Reefman

Mr Peter Sheehan

Mr Allan Smith

Dr Paul Taylor

Mr Geoffrey Thomlinson

Mrs Elisabeth Uebergang

Mr Peter Wakeley

Mr Mark Woods

Friend

Mr Doug Clowes

Mr Andrew Kerr

Rev Ian Littler

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Victorian Council of Churches

RSCM Victoria Subscription Fees for 2018:

Subscription fees are due and payable by

1/1/2018 for the period 1/1/2018-31/12/2018

Affiliate Member—Metropolitan \$145

Affiliate Member—Non Metropolitan \$120

Individual Member \$95

Friend \$80

Victorian Newsletter only \$30

Music Resource Library & Archives:

The RSCM Victoria Music Resource Library &

Archives is housed at St Francis' Church 326

Lonsdale Street Melbourne. Contact Tony Way

for catalogue, information and access

RSCM Victoria Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rscm%20victoria>

RSCM AUSTRALIA

RSCM Australia Web Page:

www.rscmaustralia.org.au

RSCM Australia Facebook Page:

http://rscmaustralia.org.au/?page_id=52

Invitation to Young Members to join the RSCM

Australia Youth Network Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/139626686830694/>

RSCM Australia Aims and Objectives:

*To promote the study, worthy practice and improvement of music in Christian worship in Australia

*To facilitate communication between church musicians of all Christian denominations in Australia

*To encourage the composition and publication of church music in Australia

*To establish formal links with Christian denominations and organisations within Australia

*To develop, promote and administer award or certificate schemes at various levels, specifically related to church music in Australia