



November 2018

NOTES

**The Newsletter of
The Royal School of Church Music
Waikato Branch**



**The RSCM Choir
Evensong for Music Sunday
St Peter's Cathedral**

Chairwoman's comments

Dear RSCM family,

After a slightly frustrating year of postponing events, it was very pleasing to have such a successful joint Evensong at St Peter's, with overflowing choir stalls and healthy-sized congregation to worship with us! Chaplain Peter Lord Cowell's warm and inspiring sermon is printed in its entirety



here to refresh our memories. After several years of trying different styles of events, this is still our most successful format, with consistently impressive turnouts of strong singers. We will certainly be planning more of these, and also be looking to take Evensong on the road in our region.

By now, most of the seasonal choral music is probably planned, but if you are looking for some last minute Advent/Christmas music don't forget about the websites of our local composers Nigel Williams and Janet Jennings: both sell digital downloads from their websites so you can instantly download and print what you buy. Also the CPDL (cpdl.org) website has thousands of pieces of music, in many different styles, available for free use and copying.

On behalf of the RSCM Waikato branch committee, I wish you all the best for a joyful carol-singing season, and an enjoyable and safe summer.

With all good wishes,

Rachael

Branch activities in 2018

Music Sunday 2018

Unfortunately, we had to delay the celebration of Music Sunday this year. The original plan had been to hold a festival of 'mid-winter Christmas' music, but this turned out not to be viable, so the decision was made to celebrate Music in Worship by getting

together on 22nd July at St Peter's Hamilton to sing Evensong. As can be seen in the photo on the cover, this was a popular choice, and many people, individuals and members of other choirs, turned out to learn the music and take part in this act of worship with St Peter's choir.

The music was partly relatively simple and partly more challenging, but rewarding:

The versicles and responses were in the so-called ferial setting, which is familiar to anyone who has ever sung in an Anglican choir, and is very straightforward and easy. The term 'ferial' means 'every-day' as opposed to 'festive' or 'special';

The psalm set for the service was Psalm 63 'O God, thou art my God, early will I seek thee', which was sung to Anglican chant;

For the canticles, 'Magnificat' and 'Nunc dimittis', we sang a setting by Morley. This setting is in a style called Faux-bourdon, which is a combination of unison plainsong verses, and verses sung to a harmonised version of the same plainsong tune;

The anthem was Ralph Vaughan-Williams' 'O Clap Your Hands', a joyful and triumphant setting of Psalm 47, with appropriate organ accompaniment, which was sung with obvious enjoyment, enthusiasm, and accuracy.

The sermon was preached by our chaplain, Rev'd Peter Lord Cowell:

Back in the 1930s, people would entertain themselves with Concert Parties. One such was called Price's Night Lights, and it was run by my grandparents, Alfred and Maud Price. It was through this group and their love of music that my parents met – Dad sang tenor and Mum played the piano and sang alto.

It was no surprise then that their son was encouraged to play the piano and was enrolled in the local church choir, which led, at the age of six, to his auditioning for a place at the Cathedral Choir School in Canterbury.

In a blazing hot English July summer he sang for his voice trial a carol, 'See amid the winter snow'. Little did he imagine that over fifty years later those word would be much more appropriate for a New Zealand winter, if not necessarily in Hamilton.

And so it continued, King's School Choir and Choral Society, University Chapel Choir, and then a ministry full of music in quires and places where they sing.

I don't think I would standing here today, were it not for my awareness of the love of God through music.

Today we thank God for the Royal School of Church Music, and we gather in harmony with a mission to convey the love of God to our dissonant world and to draw people to the fire of God's love.

But it's not all a bed of roses. Today's readings speak of suffering, and our music too must address the pain of life for individuals and communities.

The hauntingly beautiful Psalm 137 speaks of suffering and music as the people of Israel languish in exile.

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion.

As for our harps, we hanged them up upon the tree.

For they that led us away captive required of us then a song, and melody in our heaviness, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.'

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

Music must penetrate the souls of the grieving and also those who suffer in a multitude of ways

Watch on the internet, if you have a moment, the short film *Lady in Number 6*, about Alice Herz-sommer, one of the oldest holocaust survivors, for a glimpse of the importance of music in her life.

As parents of seven months and one day's standing, David and I are determined that William will be exposed to all sorts of music (his day starts with me going into the nursery singing!), and not least to that of our great Choral Tradition, which is championed by the RSCM.

At their best, the offerings we bring in our music make the veil between things earthly and things heavenly extremely thin, and should point us and those who hear to the imperatives of the Gospel.

Today is also Social Services Sunday, and those of us who were fortunate enough to be here this morning will have been moved in spirit and mind by the inspiration which both preacher and intercessions gave.

Our music must similarly inspire, and not only as a solace for us as individuals but as a call to action as we are part of the mission and witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Choral Festival

Readers may recall that we had planned to hold a festival of Peter Godfrey's music to mark the first anniversary of his death on the 28th September 2017. Again, unfortunately, the original intentions turned out not to be feasible, partly for reasons beyond the control of your committee.

Branch activities in 2019

As this issue goes to press, the committee has not yet discussed next year's programme. However, be assured that we will aim to hold a range of events celebrating music in worship around our region. As a programme is developed, notice will be circulated by email and in the March issue of *Notes*.

Waiapu Cathedral Choir's recent concert *Music for Royal Occasions*

Royal occasions - coronations, weddings, funerals - have been the catalyst for much spectacular music, often sung by cathedral choirs which are required at such events, so this concert by the Waiapu cathedral choir, on September 8th, included some thrilling moments. Hawke's Bay music reviewer Peter Williams was impressed with the renditions of Parry's *I was glad*, complete with trumpet fanfare, Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, the Boyce anthem *The King Shall Rejoice*, Parry's *Jerusalem* (in which the audience also joined) and the polished performance of his *Blest Pair of Sirens*. Quieter music - such as the William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons funeral anthems and Attwood's *Come Holy Ghost*, with Jonathan Kreb's lovely tenor solo contribution, provided a strong contrast to the more extrovert selections.

The Cathedral Strings, conducted by Gary Bowler or Anthony Tattersall, offered good support to the choir for some of the items and presented a stylish performance of two movements from Handel's *Fireworks Music*. Trumpeters Jonathan Krebs and Tom Wilkinson played a major part in some of the more spectacular items and guest organist Michael Fletcher, from Sacred Heart Cathedral in Wellington, had a positive impact on the whole concert, with his vibrant accompanying and choice of registration, especially in his accompaniment of Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens*.

The audience joined the choir in singing of the British and New Zealand Anthems, and some of the choruses used in British prom concerts, obviously enjoying being invited to participate, and adding to the festivity of the occasion. The beautiful closing blessing, *The Lord Bless you and Keep You* by John Rutter, ended a very satisfying concert before the audience joined the performers for supper.

Peter commented on the huge progress made by the choir under the direction of Anthony Tattersall over the past few

months; Anthony's knowledge and obvious enthusiasm for choral singing showed in the precise direction and control of the singers over such a widely varied programme of music.

Raewyn Towers

Concert a wonderful experience for musicians and audience All Saints', Matamata

On Sunday 4th November, a concert of choral and instrumental music was presented in All Saints' Church, Matamata. The concert raised \$820 for the church organ refurbishment fund, which will allow work to be completed on the organ, plus funds for future tuning and maintenance. A further donation of \$200 was also received, making a total of \$1020.



The combined choir, conducted by Anne Connolly-Munt
The Guest choir, Venité from Cambridge, presented a wide range of sacred music throughout the ages and included two compositions by their conductor, Gordon Binnie. Rosalind Robinson and Debbie Alexander also conducted the choir.

All Saints' Matamata and St Matthew's Morrinsville church choirs combined with the Venité choir to sing four anthems, conducted by Gordon Binnie, David Brookes and Anne Connolly-Munt. The choirs also led the audience in the singing of Parry's 'Jerusalem'.

Soloists included a trio consisting of two recorders and organ, played by Ceridwyn Parr, Roz Robinson and Gordon Binnie; organ solos by Gordon Binnie and David Brookes; and a bracket of secular songs sung by Lea Gillanders, accompanied by Vaughan Chetwynd.

MC for the concert, Wayne Petersen, provided interesting details about the music and composers, as he introduced each bracket of music.

The concert concluded with the haunting melody of 'The Road Home', arranged by Stephen Paulus. A very appropriate conclusion to a wonderful concert.

David Brookes.

All Saints' Anglican church choir Matamata

David Brookes, whose enthusiasm and commitment has been largely responsible for the very welcome revitalisation of the choir, has sent in an account of the history and present activities of the All Saints' choir in Matamata.

All Saints' church has had a choir since 1910, when mention was made at the church AGM of the choir, under the Direction of Organist and Choirmaster Percy Ingram, who retired from this position in 1952, after serving 43 years.

No further information can be found of the choir until 1948, when the choir consisted of eleven boys, fifteen ladies and six men, a total of 32. In the 1950s the choir had twelve boys, nine ladies and two men. The Vicar stated in 1951 that the choir was as good as any in the Diocese. In 1952 six new psalters were purchased and copies of 'Modern Anthems', followed by another 20 Psalters purchased in 1954 after consultation with Mr Saunders at King's College, Auckland. Also, 20 copies of the RSCM Service No. 4 were purchased.

Enquiries were made to Mr Stanley Jackson of Cambridge regarding the date of the RSCM Combined Choirs' Festival. During 1955-1962 discussions were ongoing regarding choir robes, which were black gowns and mortars for ladies, and

black cassocks and surplices for the men and boys. In 1956 new hymn books were purchased, and Mr Crabb appointed organist. A change of choir robes to red was discussed in 1962, but no action taken.

During the 1960s the choir was very active, led by Choirmaster Mr Harold Hannay. The choir took an active part in the dedication of the new church in 1962. Also, in 1962 new choir robes (red) were made and used, the ladies not wearing mortar boards! The 'Crucifixion' was presented in 1967, followed by 'Olivet to Calvary' in 1968. During that year the choir became affiliated to the Waikato Branch of the RSCM.

The choir continued to flourish in the 1970s starting with the Anthem 'The heavens are telling', Joseph Haydn. This was followed during that period by the introduction of new hymn books *Songs of worship*; the formation of a Junior choir; 18 anthems learnt and presented over a five-year period; and the presentation of 'Amahl and the night visitors'. The highlight was in 1974, with the choir's participation in a RSCM Service conducted by Dr Gerald Knight, RSCM Director. The choir travelled to Hamilton in 1975 for a RSCM Function.

Good numbers of choir members continued in 1980. With the introduction of the New Zealand Prayer Book the choir attended some Parish Eucharist services during each month, but numbers of choir and congregation for Evensong were dwindling. By 1982 the choir was small in membership. After some discussion the choir was eventually put in abeyance in 1984, to the 'understandable concern of traditionalists'. Mr Harold Hannay also retired from his position of Organist and choirmaster.

Despite appeals from some members of the choir and congregation, affiliation to the RSCM also ceased. During this period of no church choir many of the choristers took part (and still do) in the annual Matamata Community Christmas Choir, which rehearses from September each year to present four concerts in late November and early December. Also, many women sing in the Matamata Ladies' Choir.

However, the church choir was to be resurrected in 2016, with encouragement by Rev'd Bruce Dale, the support of Clare Hitchcock, and the arrival in the parish of organist and choirmaster David Brookes. It was decided that this choir would present Choral Evensong three or four times per year. A robed choir of 14 choristers starting rehearsing in March to present Choral Evensong on Passion Sunday, 18th March - as shown in the photo. Some Choristers from St Peter's Cathedral and St Matthew's Morrinsville joined the choir for this service. Rehearsals, held for three weeks before each service initially were held in the church at 7.30p.m. on Thursdays. However, due to the church being very cold, and taking two hours for heaters to take effect, rehearsals are now held in the church on Wednesday mornings, straight after the 10a.m. service, when the church is warm. This has proved to be very satisfactory.

Other services/ Festivals 2016:

Sunday 11th June Evensong. All Saints' Church. All Saints' choir and Venité Choir Cambridge-30 choristers.

Sunday 4th July. Evensong. All Saints' Church. All Saints' choir and St Mark's Church, Remuera, Auckland 33 choristers.

Sunday 14th August. Memorial Evensong for Rev Bruce Dale. St Matthews Church, Morrinsville. All Saints' choir and St Matthew's choir. 25 choristers.

Saturday 29th October. RSCM. Waikato Choral Festival. Held in All Saints' Church. Combined choirs sang five anthems. The programme included a soprano soloist, individual choir anthems and two organ solos. 60 choristers.

2017:

Sunday 24th March. Evensong. All Saints' Church. All Saints' and St Matthew's Morrinsville Choirs. 24 choristers.

Sunday 11th June. Evensong. All Saints' Church. All Saints' and St Matthew's choirs. Renewed affiliation (as from 1st March) to RSCM. Certificate presented to the Vicar. 25 choristers.

Saturday 2nd September. RSCM Workshop 'Reading Music' held at All Saints' Church hall, Matamata. All Saints' choristers attended plus others.

Sunday 24th September. St Matthew's Morrinsville. Ordination service. All Saints' and St Matthew's choirs. 25 choristers.

Sunday 8th October. Visit of St Andrew's Epsom choir - Evensong. All Saints' and St Andrew's choirs. 30 choristers.

Sunday 6th November. St Andrew's Church, Cambridge. Induction service of new vicar. Combined choirs of Venité choir Cambridge and All Saints' choir. 30 choristers.

2018:

Sunday 11th February. RSCM Evensong. St John's Church, Waihi. Combined choirs. 38 choristers.

Sunday 18th March. All Saints' Church. Passion Sunday. Evensong. 17 choristers.

Sunday 1st July 8am. Sung Eucharist. Setting Brother Reginald, plus four hymns and choral music during communion.

Sunday 4th November. Concert with Venité Choir and St Matthew's Choir, Morrinsville.

Some helpful suggestions regarding forming a choir:

Rehearsals: Day and time are important, plus heating of church/ room in the Winter.

Rehearsals held three weeks before each service, and 90 minutes before each service, with a break of 15 minutes for light refreshments before the service.

Learning music: Choristers are encouraged to go over music during the week and listen to choirs sing some music on Google.

Robes: Traditional robes are very hot in the Summer. Black and white dress in Summer, and robes in the Winter.

Communication: Very important - use email. List of music sent to choir four weeks before service, and music emailed to choristers, and handed out at first Rehearsal. Choir Newsletter emailed to members quarterly, and now the RSCM Quarterly News, plus RSCM Waikato Newsletter.

Promotion: Notices of future choir activities and rehearsals put in the choir and church newsletters, and articles about choir activities, plus photos sent to the editor of the Church magazine, and to RSCM Waikato Newsletter editor.

Fellowship: As mentioned before each service, and refreshments in hall for choir and congregation after each service. Choir Christmas party held in December.

Times of Evensong: Summer 4.30p.m., Winter 3.30p.m. Times to suit daylight saving, and for many elderly people who attend the service.

Combined choirs: All Saints' choir has achieved a lot musically and socially when combining with other choirs. We have learnt and sung many Anthems, settings of the Evensong Canticles and Responses, which we could not have done by ourselves.

Acknowledgements: Our thanks to Roz Robinson, Merv Hunt, Gordon Binnie, Anne Connolly-Munt and Clare Hitchcock for their continual assistance and talents as choristers, conductors and organists, and to the Venité Choir Cambridge and St Matthew's Choir Morrinsville.

Thanks to Anne Stanley and the Tower Museum Library Matamata for the use of the book- 'Minutes of Annual General Meetings - All Saints' Choir'.

To All Saints' Vicar and Church, for the use of the publication *All Saints' Anglican Church Matamata. A Centennial History 1908-2008*.

David Brookes. Organist and Choirmaster 2018.

Music Reading Workshop.

A Music Reading Workshop was held in All Saints' Hall and Church, Matamata, on Saturday 8th September, directed by David Brookes, assisted by Mary Heberley, Cheryl King and Nancy Cox.

Fifteen people from Putaruru, Matamata and Morrinsville, , ten ladies and five men, showed a keen interest to learn the many aspects of this topic, aimed principally to assist people to recognise notation and the pitch of notes and intervals in the two staves.

David Brookes started the workshop with basic notation using unison singing, followed by the explanation of the pitch and range of different voices in the two staves.

Mary Heberley followed by leading voice warm-ups and exercises, and David continued with exercises in singing interval of thirds and fifths, recognising the Tonic note for music in different scales.

The participants then worked in groups of ladies and men, looking at and singing examples of notation, scales, tonic and intervals in music.

The final 20 minutes were spent in discussing other aspects of music notation, such as note values, bars, time signatures and meaning, rests, the speed of music etc., and singing music studied in the two groups together in four-part harmony.

Afternoon tea concluded the Workshop, organised by Diana Thompson, a member of All Saints' choir.
David Brookes.

Cantata Vespers at St Peter's Cathedral

17th November: J. S. Bach *Du Friedefürst, Herr Jesu Christ* BWV 116, for chorus, alto soloist (Cecily Shaw), trio (Hannah Bryant, Koli Jayatunge, Aidan Phillips), strings and oboes. This last cantata for 2018 is that written by Bach for the 25th Sunday after Trinity, and uses two biblical passages referencing the last judgement: one described as “a harrowing descent into Hell” and the other “a view of paradise that comes to the blessed.” (Craig Smith, *Emmanuel Music*).

Next year's programme is not yet set, but will be circulated when available.

Cantata vespers services all occur at 5.00p.m. at St Peter's Cathedral on the third Saturday of the month from February to November. Since they are religious services, there is no admission charge, but there is a retiring collection towards the organ fund.

Advent and Christmas Services and Events

Hamilton:

St Peter's Cathedral

Sunday 2nd December

Advent Carol Service – 6.00p.m.

Sunday 17th December

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 6.00p.m.

Monday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Carol singing, 9.00p.m.

Midnight Mass, 11.00p.m.

Tuesday 25th December, Christmas Day

Choral Eucharist, 9.45a.m.

Taranaki

Taranaki Interim Cathedral and other Taranaki venues

Sunday 2nd December

Advent Carol Service - 5.00p.m.

Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Wednesday 5th December

Hymn Lecture – ‘O little town of Bethlehem’ - 11.30a.m.

Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Sunday 16th December

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - 4.00p.m.

The Cathedral Choir

Hāwera Methodist Church

Wednesday 19th December

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - 7.30p.m.

The Cathedral Choir
Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Thursday 20th December

Christmas Organ Recital - 1.00p.m.
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, New Plymouth

Saturday 22nd December

Christmas Organ Recital - 2.00p.m.
Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Saturday 22nd December

Picnic Carols on the Lawn - 5.00p.m.
Great Taranaki Steam Band
Vicarage Lawn at Taranaki Cathedral

Monday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Children's Liturgy - 5.00p.m.
Carols - 11.00p.m.
Midnight Mass - 11.30p.m.
Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Tuesday 25th December, Christmas Day

Holy Communion & Carols - 8.00a.m.
Family Eucharist - 10.00a.m.
Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Napier

The Waiapu Cathedral of St John the Evangelist

Sunday 2nd December

A service of readings, hymns and carols for Advent – 8.00p.m.

Sunday 23rd December

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – 7.00p.m.

Monday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass, featuring the beautiful *Missa Carolae* by James Whitbourn, with opportunities for carol singing by the congregation - 11.15p.m.

Tuesday 25th December, Christmas Day

Festive Eucharist - 10.00a.m..

Matamata

Matamata Christmas Choir's Concerts

All Saints' Church, Matamata.

Thursday 29th, Friday 30th Nov., Saturday 1st Dec., all at 7.30p.m.

Sunday 2nd Dec. at 1.30p.m.

Admission by donation at the door.

Conductor: Mary Heberley.

Guest choir: Matamata Primary School choir.

Guest musicians: Matamata Country and Western Club.

Cambridge

Saturday 8th December – 2.00p.m.

Venité Choir presents a short Christmas Concert in the Cambridge Town Hall as part of the Cambridge Christmas Festival.

Sunday 16th December

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Venité Choir with other singers from St. Andrew's, St. Andrew's Church (no exact time as yet).

Editor's column

I regard it as a major function of *Notes*, if not the major function, to inform readers of past and future events involving church music within our region. Thus I am extremely grateful to

my ‘reporters’ in the region, especially David Brookes, for the great material he sends and for his overall outstanding contribution to church music in his area, but also to Raewyn Towers (Napier), and Christopher Luke (Taranaki). I’m looking forward to hearing from the directors of other affiliated choirs so that our sequence of choir profiles can be continued in future issues of *Notes*.

Your committee is always keen to hear of ideas to help promote church music in our region, for instance, works to learn together for the Choral Festival, other ways of promoting and celebrating Music Sunday, possible topics for a short workshop at the AGM.

Deadline for material for the next issue: 28th February 2019

OFFICERS

Chairwoman	Rachael Griffiths-Hughes, 70 Nixon St, Hamilton 3216. waikatochair@rscmnz.org.nz	027 2868779
Secretary	Vaughan Chetwynd, 332/141 Bethlehem Rd, Tauranga 3110. waikatosecretary@rscmnz.org.nz	07 577 6341 027 565 7724
Treasurer	Merv Hunt, 94 Karapiro Rd, Cambridge 3496. waikatotreasurer@rscmnz.org.nz	07 823 7494 021 135 9904
Editor <i>NOTES</i>	Ray Harlow 24 Marama St, Hamilton 3204. editorwaikatonotes@rscmnz.org.nz	021 027 48951
Chaplain	Rev’d Peter Lord Cowell, 15 Vaile Rd, Hamilton 3286. peter@willowbrookpark.co.nz	07 856 5656 021 022 2220

COMMITTEE

David Brookes	11 Sharp Place Matamata 3400. dave.brookes273@gmail.com	07 888 7005 021 039 2191
---------------	---	-----------------------------

Walter Crookes	17 Deanwell Ave, Hamilton 3206. wcrookes@paradise.net.nz	07 843 8150 021 416 312
----------------	--	----------------------------

RSCM (NZ) Website <http://rscmnz.org.nz>
RSCM (England) Website <http://www.rscm.com>



A Happy and Blessed Christmas
as we celebrate the birth
of our Lord in worship and music