

# NOTES

JULY  
2025

## *The Newsletter of* **THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC - WAIKATO BRANCH**

### *From the Chair -*

As we continue rapidly through this year, and are already into the second half, this is a special edition of 'Notes' to inform you of choral activities for the remainder of the year.

Firstly, the proposed RSCM Waikato choristers visit to New Plymouth with St Mary's Cathedral Choir did not gain enough choristers and enthusiasm to make this feasible. However, Merv Hunt, myself and our wives will be going down for the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> August and participate in the Sunday morning Mass with St Mary's Cathedral choir.

Our Branch committee has approved us presenting the Cathedral with a gift of \$500 from our Branch funds and the Guyon Wells RSCM Fellowship Trust towards the rebuilding of St Mary's Cathedral. Our committee have discussed a visit of choristers to New Plymouth in the future during a better time of the year such as Spring next year.

There are several other church music activities and choral services happening at All Saints church Matamata, to which I invite you to attend.

***'Come and Play the organ' at All Saints Church Matamata,***

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2.30pm**

The 2 manual pipe organ in the church will be demonstrated by Karl Byett, **a young church organist and musician, who shortly will move to UK to join Tim Carpenter in the Music Dept. and Chapel at Ardingly College, Haywards Heath.**

Fergus will play 3 pieces of organ music during our 'Come and play the organ'.

A photo of Fergus, plus short CV is included in this newsletter.

Between these 3 pieces people are invited to come and have a play on the organ. The church is offering an Organ Scholarship to one or two people who are keen to receive tuition to learn to play the church organ.



*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

**A special service of Thanksgiving and RSCM presentation to two church musicians  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 9am. Choristers are invited to join with All Saints church choir  
to lead the singing of hymns/ songs, and choir music.**

This service will celebrate the long service of two church musicians:

**Claire Hitchcock**, who will be presented with the RSCM Nicholson Award, and **Graham Burdon** the RSCM Waikato Long Service Award.

Here is the list of choir music:

**Introit:** Psalm 150. Setting by C.V. Stanford.

**Peruvian Gloria.** (Choir and congregation)

**Anthem:** 'Lead me Lord'. S.S. Wesley.

**The Lord's Prayer.** Setting by Gillard/ Smith. ( Choir and congregation.)

**During communion:** Taize responses: 'Eat this bread'. 'O Lord here my prayer'.

Hymns/ worship songs will be selected shortly, and will include:

'I will give thanks to thee'. ('Be exalted O God'.) 'He came singing love'. Colin Gibson

If you would like to participate in the choir for this service., please reply to me by email by **7<sup>th</sup> August, and state your voice part SATB.** I will send you the music, plus dates and times of rehearsals.  
(dave.brookes273@gmail.com)

**Dress:** Black and white.

All are invited to Brunch in the church hall after the service.

**All Souls Service of Remembrance and thanks. Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

**Choir warm-up 3.45pm Service 5pm.**

A special service in which we give thanks and remember those who have 'passed away', be it recently, or many years ago. The music will be appropriate hymns, Taize chants, and one or two simple Anthems by the choir. All Saints choir will rehearse for this service on Thursdays 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, at 4pm in the church Lounge, and 3.45pm on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November in the church.

During the service all are invited to light a candle in remembrance of a friend or loved one.

Please reply to me by 9th October if you would like to join the choir for this service and attend the warm-up before the service at 3.45pm. The music will be sent to you by email.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these activities.

Please send any notices of carol Services/ concerts for Christmas to Jill Brookes, editor of 'Notes' before December.

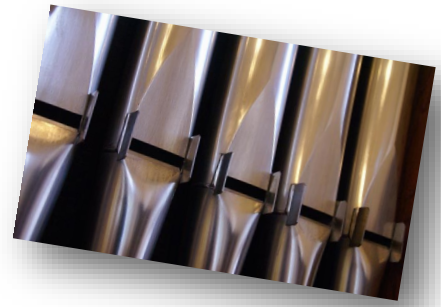
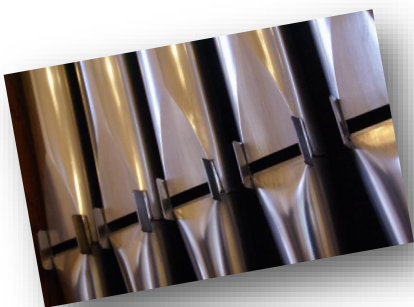
David Brookes

July 2025



## **FERGUS BYETT**

Fergus Byett is an organist, pianist, composer and conductor based in Hamilton. He holds a Masters Degree in Classical Performance (piano) from the University of Waikato, where he was also a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar (2019-2022). While studying under Katherine Austin and Dr. Rae de Lisle, he won all three instrumental performance competitions at the University of Waikato (Concerto, Chamber Music, and Bach Competitions). His compositions have won national awards, and in 2024 he was Composer-in-Residence with the Auckland Youth Choir and Choirs Aotearoa. In addition to being one of the organists at St. Peter's Cathedral, Fergus has just completed a stint as interim Director of Music at the Cathedral, and this year he has been a guest conductor for the Tauranga Civic Choir, conductor and accompanist for the two choirs at St. Paul's Collegiate School, as well as Musical Director for 'Mamma Mia!' at John Paul College. Fergus has a small private piano teaching studio in Hamilton, and he is a collaborative pianist at the University of Waikato.



# Festival of Fauré

— *feat. Requiem* —

**St George's Community Choir**

Conducted by Kolitha Jayatunge

Organist Michael Bell

**Saturday 2 August 5.00pm**

**Sunday 3 August 2.00pm**

**St George's Church, Mackay St, THAMES**

Adults \$25 - Senior /Students \$20 - Primary Children Free  
Tickets from Carson's Bookshop and Door Sales - Cash Only

## OFFICERS

**Chairperson:** David Brookes  
11 Sharp Place  
**MATAMATA 3400** 021 039 2191  
Email: dave.brookes273@gmail.com

**Secretary/  
Treasurer:** Merv Hunt  
94 Karapiro Road  
**CAMBRIDGE 3496** 021 135 9904  
Email: waikatotreasurer@rscmnz.org.nz

**Chaplain:** Venerable Andrew Evans  
20 Hohaia Street  
**MATAMATA 3400** 021 235 0549  
Email: revev55@gmail.com

**Editor NOTES  
& Communications:** Jill Brookes  
11 Sharp Place  
**MATAMATA 3400** 021 778 713  
Email: jill.brookes12@gmail.com

**COMMITTEE:** Kath Barnsley  
23 Dalethorpe Avenue  
Fairfield  
**HAMILTON 3214** 027 472 1062  
Email: kbarnsley@xtra.co.nz

Hilda Bester  
P O Box 10434  
Bayfair, Mt Maunganui  
**TAURANGA 3152** 027 424 1029  
Email: hilda.bester@gmail.com

Rev Doris Elphick  
117/11 Manuka Street  
**MATAMATA 3400** 021 231 0700  
Email: doris.elphick@outlook.com

Beverly Glover-Paix  
6 Te Mara Place  
Merrilands  
**NEW PLYMOUTH 4312** 021 070 6053  
Email: bmglover27@gmail.com

Claire Whiteman  
609/80B Burwood Road  
**MATAMATA 3400** 027 819 6309  
Email: claire51938@gmail.com

**RSCM (NZ) Website - <http://www.rscm.org.nz>  
RSCM (England) Website - <http://www.rscm.org.uk>**