



WEST WALES NEWSLETTER – MAY 2018

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EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2018

Meet, Eat and Sing Choral Evensong <i>Holy Trinity, Aberystwyth</i>	7 July 2018
Lift Up Your Voice <i>St Brynach's Church, Nevern, Pembrokeshire</i>	22 September 2018
Young Voices' Festival <i>St Davids Cathedral</i>	7 November 2018

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to this edition of the RSCM West Wales Newsletter. As I write this article, we have just hosted our annual Festival Service in St Davids Cathedral. It was a particular pleasure to see so many familiar and new faces coming along to sing under the inspirational direction of Dr David Hill. As well as singing some splendid music we had the opportunity to formally recognise the achievements of this year's Voice for Life examinations. I often reminisce about my own formative training as a chorister, little realising the impact it would have on my later life, but these experiences (like last Saturday) can have a lasting impact, often opening our eyes as to how to improve our own skills whether as a singer or choir trainer.

The Voice for Life programme, an award scheme set up by the RSCM to formally recognise progression through a choir has been extremely successful over the years, and it is my aim to spread this award programme to all corners of the Diocese. Firstly, it needs

emphasising that this scheme is open to all ages, not just the young. Secondly, through encouragement from your choir trainer, these examinations set realistic targets for what 99% of us do every Sunday in our own choirs.

If you would like some help in training for these examinations, we would be delighted to help in any way we can. Similarly, if you are a choir trainer and want guidance on how to approach the delivery of the syllabus, please get in touch. We are here to help.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our other events.

Simon Pearce
Area Chairman

MEET, EAT & SING CHORAL EVENSONG SATURDAY 7 JULY 2018 ABERYSTWYTH

Our next event in 2018 is on Saturday 7 July 2018 at Holy Trinity Church, Aberystwyth when we will 'Meet, Eat & Sing Choral Evensong' under the direction of Simon Pearce.

This is a follow-up to the very successful 'Evensong Safari' held in Aberystwyth last July and will be similar in style but based at a single location this time. The schedule for the day is:

10.30 am	Registration and coffee
11.00 am	First rehearsal
12.45 pm	Break for lunch
2.15 pm	Second rehearsal
3.45 pm	Tea break
4.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Arrangements will be made to have lunch together at a suitable venue in the town for those who would like to do this – **but please note that this is not included in the cost of the event.**

The RSCM Festival Service Books include a wealth of material, so we plan to use some of the additional music in ‘King of Glory, King of Peace’ (used at this year’s Area Choirs’ Festival – see below) and possibly also some unused music from ‘With Sainly Shout and Solemn Jubilee’, the Festival Service Book that we used at the 2017 Area Choirs’ Festival.

The cost for taking part in this event will £5.00 for RSCM affiliates and members, and £7.00 for others. Booking forms will be circulated to all local contacts around the end of May 2018 and will also be available through:

- the Diocesan website (<https://stdavids.churchinwales.org.uk/rscm-west-wales-area/>);
- the West Wales section of the main RSCM website (www.rscm.com/area/west-walesdyfed/); and
- the RSCM West Wales Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rscmwestwalesarea).

Do come and join us for what promises to be an enjoyable day out on the west Wales coast!

**EVENT REPORT:
AREA CHOIRS’ FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 12 MAY 2018
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL**

We were delighted with the response to this year’s Area Choirs’ Festival, when just under 60 local singers joined with the cathedral choir to sing Choral Evensong under the direction of Dr David Hill and with Rupert Jackson, organ scholar at St Davids Cathedral, at the organ.



We used the RSCM’s latest Festival Service Book ‘King of Glory, King of Peace’ and, with the event taking place just two days after Ascension Day, the theme could not have been more fitting.



afternoon rehearsal.

Much of the music was new to those taking part, which made for a challenging but very enjoyable



The service began with the cathedral choir singing ‘Cantate Domino’ by Guiseppe Ottavio Pitoni as an introit, before everyone joined in the processional hymn ‘Love divine, all loves excelling’. The Preces, Responses and Lord’s Prayer were sung to a straightforward but very effective setting by Harry Bramma, a former Director of the RSCM, and psalm 145 was sung to a chant by Thomas Attwood. We used Grayston Ives setting for the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and the anthem was ‘What wondrous love is this’ by Philip Moore. The hymn ‘Crown him with many crowns’ followed the presentation of chorister awards and the service concluded with a rousing arrangement of ‘Rejoice, the Lord is King’ with organ interludes written in the style of Handel by Andrew Reid, Director of the RSCM from 2012 to 2017.

It was a wonderful occasion and we are grateful to David Hill for travelling over to St Davids to direct us, and to all those who supported the event. The feedback from the day suggests that everyone found it immensely enjoyable.

CHORISTER AWARD EXAMINATIONS 2018

This year's local examinations were held at St Peter's, Carmarthen towards the end of March (delayed as a result of the snow at the beginning of that month, when they were originally scheduled to take place). All of the candidates were successful and we extend our congratulations to them:

Dean's Award

Jessie Giles	Pass
Jasmine Mason	Pass
Luke Mason	Commended
Conor McEvoy	Pass
Mirjam Plantinga	Highly Commended

Bishop's Award

Bryony Dickens	Commended
Nia Griffiths	Highly Commended

Many congratulations also to the following singers from St Davids Cathedral who achieved success in the RSCM Gold Awards during 2017:

Megan Rees (*with Honours*)
Carys Reynolds

They were all presented with their medals and certificates at this year's Area Choirs' Festival in St Davids Cathedral.



Full details of the award scheme, including the examination syllabus, can be found on the West Wales section of the RSCM website (<http://www.rscm.com/area/west-walesdyfed/>).

If you are interested in taking one of the examinations or would like further information about them, please contact Nigel Morris

(nigel@gdmorris.demon.co.uk; 01570 481336) who is the local Education & Training Officer and Awards Administrator.

EVENT REPORT: IMPROVE YOUR ORGAN SKILLS SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2018 CARMARTHEN

Mary Evans reports on our first event in 2018:

On Saturday 10 February James Parsons and Meirion Wynn Jones co-directed an organ training event at St Peter's church in Carmarthen. This was a joint venture between the RSCM and the Royal College of Organists (RCO). The event had been rescheduled and unfortunately, due to clashes with other events on the same day, there were just three participants – Daniel from Holy Trinity church in Aberystwyth, Bernie from Swansea and myself from St Peter's, Carmarthen. There were two observers, namely Andrew Goodwin and Alison Goodwin from Llangennech.



It was a bitterly cold day but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants and tutors. James, in his characteristic easy manner, managed to involve the whole class from the first note and everyone enjoyed the experience, exploring a wide range of repertoire from a Bach Leipzig chorale to Christopher Steel's Dancing Toccata.



We needed a few breaks to warm up in between the teaching sessions so there was a lot of opportunity to get to know one another. Since

this event, Meirion has started a Complete Church Organist programme at St Peter's (see below).

LIFT UP YOUR VOICE: FREE MUSIC RESOURCES

'Lift Up Your Voice' is an RSCM event designed to encourage singing in churches where there is no choir or experienced organist. We will be holding a 'Lift Up Your Voice' event at St Brynach's Church, Nevern, Pembrokeshire on Saturday 22 September 2018 (further details of this will be given in the next newsletter).

In the meantime, RSCM members and affiliates may not realise that many of the 'Lift Up Your Voice' music resources are available to them free of charge through the RSCM website. This was mentioned in the latest membership renewal letters but could easily have been overlooked.

To access the resources, you need to go to the RSCM online shop (www.rscmshop.com) and sign in with your RSCM membership details, then click on 'RSCM Membership Area' in the left-hand column. From here you will be able to access and download straightforward music for use at Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and the Eucharist.

This is an ongoing RSCM project and new material should be added over the coming months.

THE COMPLETE CHURCH ORGANIST

The last newsletter included a short update on the RSCM's 'Complete Church Organist / Organydd Gyflawn' tuition programme. The programme is led by an RSCM accredited tutor once a month with a maximum of six participants sharing the fee for this.

Two groups have now been established locally – one led by Meirion Wynn Jones in Carmarthen and the other led by Wyn Parry in Swansea. Each is running a course of six monthly lessons from April to October 2018.

Anyone interested in taking part in a similar programme in the future should contact Stuart Robinson, the RSCM Co-ordinator for Wales (srobinson@rscm.com). He will need to know

where you are based, some information about the church where you play and your playing standard.

RSCM INTRODUCTORY OFFER

The RSCM is now continuing its specially discounted membership offer until 31 December 2018. The offer gives a 25% discount on the first year's membership to those who join after attending an RSCM course or event. The offer is available to any new individual or affiliate member, or anyone who has not been a member since 31 December 2013. To qualify for the offer, you need to obtain a discount voucher and application form from the event leader. So please do come and support our local events and invite a friend to join you as well!

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

If you have any news that you would like us to feature in the next newsletter, please do let us know. We would be very glad to hear of church music activities in the area. Please use the contact details at the top of the first page to get in touch with us.

LOCAL MAILING LIST

We e-mail our regular newsletters and booking details for RSCM West Wales events to:

- the registered contacts for all affiliated churches in the Area;
- all individual RSCM members in the Area; and
- others who have expressed interest in receiving this information.

If you do not already receive these details and would like to do so in future, please email Glynis Morris (glynis@gdmorris.demon.co.uk) and ask to be added to our local mailing list.