

NNPM 2018 - High Leigh

The theme of the conference is always chosen to help church musicians see their ministry as part of the whole Christian mission rather than as an end in itself. 'Our task is to clothe the Gospel in song, so that message can be heard and taken to heart - by ourselves first, then by others who benefit from our music.'

This year the topic was 'Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive', forgiveness being a commandment given to us by Jesus in the prayer he taught us.

The two main speakers were John Bell and Marty Haugen, John Bell emphasised the utterly forgiving nature of God which was obscured by the strict theology of his upbringing and its emphasis both on sin and the harsh inflexible image of the divine which saw misfortunes such as disability as evidence of God's anger. The Gospels show quite the opposite. Jesus heals the sick without any reference to the sick person's sinfulness, and he forgives sin freely in anyone who reaches out to him in faith. Marty Haugen illustrated this point by analysing the story of Jesus eating in the house of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36-50) when a woman, 'a sinner', anoints Jesus' feet with precious ointment and, to the chagrin of the host, is forgiven.

Both speakers were able to illustrate their points by using their own hymns, John Bell noting that a sermon is quickly forgotten but a good hymn impresses attitudes and doctrines in the mind of the singer and can be repeated. Both speakers also gave vivid illustrations of forgiveness from people they had met; most of the Gospel relates Jesus' own encounters with people, giving practical help and showing boundless compassion.

Other musical highlights included a 'Big Sing' by Geradine Latty, and liturgies led by Christopher Walker, Richard Hubbard, and Jane Porter and Martin Foster. The presence of a nine-strong contingent of teenage singers from Dockhead parish in Southwark was greatly appreciated.

There were just over a hundred residents at the conference and 35 day visitors on the Saturday. The next one will be held in 2020, Watch this space.

RIGHT: John Bell's conference presentation

The Burden of Guilt and the Great Heap of Happiness

John L. Bell

The theme of this conference, 'Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive' has caused me no small amount of consternation. Yesterday,

I decided to change my script completely when I became concerned about an ambiguity about that phrase in the Lord's prayer which I had never recognised before.

My basic problem was pondering whether the 'as' in the phrase is simultaneous or causal. In other words are we asking God to forgive us *at the same time* as we forgive others, or *in the same way*? I decided to go to the Latin text hoping to find *simul* and instead discovered *sicut*. 'As' means 'in the same way.'

That's the problem. It suggests that we are the ones who determine what forgiveness is like and ask God to replicate what we do. But how can we originate genuine forgiveness, especially if we have never experienced it for ourselves?

Given that bargaining with God is not something which is encouraged as a spiritual exercise, the only solution which seems to hold any meaning is to recognise that Jesus is not asking us to be the originators. Before he taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer, he had already exhibited what God was like. He made it clear that God loves, affirms and forgives unconditionally. That is God's nature, and once we are familiar with it, that is what we strive to emulate. We do not have to make forgiveness up as we



go along. But, having known it, we hold ourselves to that divine standard when we pray 'Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive.'

In the Anglican Prayer of Humble Access, said before receiving Holy Communion, there is an acknowledgement of forgiveness as God's right:

'But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy.'

Mercy and forgiveness

Forgiveness is not synonymous with mercy, it is a facet of it. God's mercy is about more than simply forgiving. It is God's generosity, God's big-heartedness, God's benevolence, God's indiscriminate love for those made in the divine image. It is the essence of God's nature.

To narrow it down to being God's response to guilt and repentance is to diminish the goodness of God.

We realise this when we hear the age-old prayer *Kyrie Eleison* (Lord, have mercy) sung in the Ukrainian Orthodox tradition. The *Kyrie* is familiar to us all, but Westerners tend to make it sound like a lament, while the Orthodox allow it to be an enthusiastic anticipation of God's grace to us.

A less well-known setting is the *Kyrie Guarani* which comes, in the original language, from Paraguay. It is a slow chant which sits low in the voice, and in English it is rendered as:

On the poor, on the poor,

John Bell is in London on 21 October to lead a Big Sing at St Columba's, Pont Street SW1X 0BD. (tubes: Knightsbridge, South Kensington, Sloane Square) Tickets from: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/john-bell-big-sing-deep-praise-with-diversity-tickets-50362093377> This is a free event but part of the fundraising for the Capital Appeal and donations are welcome! There will also be a bookstall with Wild Goose books and an exclusive Iona 2019 calendar: proceeds going to the Abbey refurbishment

show your mercy, O Lord.

The poor are not asking for forgiveness because they are poor. The poor, in this Kyrie, are asking that they might be the beneficiaries of divine justice, especially where human justice has overlooked them. The poor are asking for God to fulfil the promises of the Magnificat. They are not happy with being downtrodden. They know they were made for something better and they ask God to respond to their plea. They – who do not deny their personal sins - want to be delivered from the structural sins whereby a nation keeps people marginalised and impoverished.

Fake guilt

But back to forgiveness and our context. I wonder sometimes whether our hymns and liturgies are spiritually damaging when they give the impression that a primary concern of God is evidence of iniquity, and that God is only happy when we are grovelling before the throne of heaven.

As one who was brought up in a protestant church, I found it difficult as a child to find much divine warmth in hymns such as:

*God is always near me,
hearing what I say,
knowing all my thoughts and deeds,
all my work and play.*

Far from instilling affection for God, this text seemed to suggest that God was like a disgruntled celestial policeman whose primary purpose was to note the petty crimes of children on earth.

Later in my adolescence I realised that every church service began with a prayer of confession. As those who went to evening services were mostly the same as those who had been there in the morning, I wondered what sins some of these adults had got up to in the intervening six or seven hours.

In my late teenage years I ventured into an Anglican church, and counted four occasions in the liturgy when worshippers alluded to how bad they were as if this repeated confession of guilt was a pre-requisite for sharing the eucharist.

Such a heavy concentration on human sin is both bad psychology and bad theology. It is bad psychology because it can inculcate in us a lower self-esteem than is good for our mental health. And it is bad theology because it eclipses the fact that God is as interested in our potential being fulfilled as our sins being forgiven.

When we look at the Gospels and at all the encounters Jesus had with individuals, how many times do you

think he directly forgave a person his or her sins? The answer is quite astounding. He only says it twice.

The first time is to a paralysed man who is carried to him by four friends (Mark 2:5). The second is when he absolves a call-girl whose tears have washed his feet (Luke 7:48). There are no other encounters where he directly forgives an individual of her or his sin.

Does this mean that Jesus is light on sin? Not at all. He adjoined himself to the people who were going down into the water to be baptised by John 'for the remission of their sins'. But he is more interested both in encouraging the hidden potential for good in the people he meets, and in calling to account those whose perverted delight is in recognising the failings of others.

Fake guilt is as bad as fake news, even worse. And it permeates societies where people are made to feel guilty because of a health issue, social abnormality, or minority cultural trait.

As a product of the globally famed Scottish education system, I remember with less than fondness a ritual which happened every day in my primary school class when we were between the ages of 8 and 9. Our teacher gave us ten words a day in order that we might memorise their spelling. When tested the next morning, anyone who had more than three errors was strapped with a leather belt in front of the whole class, the implication being that they were 'bad'.

There were four pupils in my class, any two of whom would be belted most days. One of them was called Billy Jamieson. He was so frequently belted that though we travelled in the same school bus, he would often fail to appear in class. He would 'dog off' and no wonder.

After the 11-Plus examination when we were segregated according to academic prowess, I hardly saw Billy. I would be in my early forties when a letter appeared from him. He had met my mother and asked for my address.

His message was almost unintelligible, the product of someone who was clearly dyslexic. It ended with the humbling request that I might write him "an old-fashioned letter." I did this, and we met up some time later by pure chance. I was coming off a train from London in Glasgow Central Station. Billy recognised me, and began a long conversation in which he indicated how his life was just a catalogue of failures: he couldn't keep a job, two marriages had ended in disaster, and emigration to Canada hadn't worked. At the age of

44, he was a recovering alcoholic with severe health problems, and he had come to Glasgow from our hometown just to watch the trains.

Two years later he died while awaiting a liver transplant. He had written himself off as a guilt-ridden failure. But I believe that this negative self-image was something which our early education had instilled in him.

About the same time as Billy was being strapped for failing to spell, people in my home town would speak of how it was 'a sin' that so-and-so should have had a baby which was recognised as having Down's Syndrome. And in my mother's last years in which she suffered from a rare and undiagnosed form of vasculitis, one of her friends suggested to me that she might have 'an unconfessed sin.'

Jesus has no time for this. It is explicitly clear in the Gospels, no more so than the long account in John Ch. 5 of his meeting with a man born blind. It is those who should have been true believers – his disciples – who first question whether the cause of the man's blindness is his own or his parents' sin. Jesus refutes the notion explicitly.

But then the accusation rears its head again, this time made by the Pharisees, sin-sniffers whose greatest delight seems to be basking in their own self-righteousness while detailing the deficiencies in others. When they have reached a level of delirious frustration in failing to understand how a person born blind can possibly have been given vision for the first time, they accuse the man of being 'born entirely in sin.'

Jesus picks up their accusation when he meets them and enrages them by suggesting that those who claim they can see (and therefore understand) everything are actually the ones who are blind and pickled in sinful presumption.

For Jesus illness and disability, like social marginalisation and poverty, are, in the main, unconnected to sin. We ask therefore for sin to be forgiven and for sickness to be cured, believing that both respond in different ways to the all-encompassing mercy of God.

The confusion of a negative self-image and sin was central to the doctrine of apartheid, a heresy which was born out of a perverse reading of scripture. Its perpetrators found dubious support in the story of Ham or Canaan, the son of Noah who found his father drunk and naked, and was subsequently cursed by his father and condemned to be forever the slave of his brothers. (Genesis 9: 2-27)

Though there is no explicit mention of Ham's colour, something which one would presume to be the same as his brothers, the proponents of apartheid argued that this sinful son was black. By extension the implicit suggestion was that all black people were descended from Ham and equally accursed.

In the struggle of black and coloured people against apartheid in South Africa, their objection to this perspective was given voice in a three-versed song which was sung in churches and at protests against discrimination and the brutality shown by the ruling white elite.

The text of *Senzenina* comes from the Hebrew Scriptures where David, who has become the object of Saul's assassination attempts, says to his beloved friend Jonathan who is also Saul's son, 'What have I done wrong? What is my sin?' (1 Samuel 20:1). In the Xhosa language one word sufficed for each verse – *Senzenina?* (What have we done wrong?) and *Sonosetu?* (What is our sin?) The persecuted races in South Africa added to these questions a third which, in English, means 'Is it that we are black?'

Two Impediments

When I was nineteen, I visited a lady in my home church called Mrs. Armstrong. I didn't know her and was rather taken aback by her coldness which to me was a typical of widows in their seventies. Conversation was difficult and rather dull. In an attempt to enliven the visit, I pointed to the photograph of a young man in RAF uniform. It was perched on top of the television.

'Is that someone you know?' I enquired.

At this, Mrs Armstrong's face grew darker and then she spat out the reply, 'That was Jimmy. The Germans shot him down over Dresden.'

I knew sufficient about the second world war to realise that her son Jimmy was not on a tourist trip, but was probably aboard one of the thousand RAF bombers which flattened that city. He, sadly, was killed. But the mission to which he was enlisted was precisely aimed at killing others, particularly civilians.

I sensed that such a perspective would not be what Mrs. Armstrong wanted to hear. Her son had died and it was as if her life had stopped as well as his. Like Lot's wife she stared on destruction and became immobilised herself. Clearly any willingness to forgive her son's anonymous killers was the furthest thing from her intentions.

And yet she was allegedly a woman of faith.

I have often wondered since then whether Mrs. Armstrong had a grievance against God, not only because of her son's death, but also because she found the phrase 'forgive us as we forgive' to be repugnant. An angry God seeking vengeance for this casualty of war would probably have been more to her liking than a God who encourages us to let go of grievances which distort our personality and keep us in the valley of the shadow of death rather than enabling us to walk through it.

We cannot forgive others if we resent God's own graciousness.

I remember also another woman I first met when I worked as associate pastor in a multi-cultural church in Amsterdam in the mid-seventies. Her name was Anna. She would then be in her late fifties and would appear on a Sunday often dressed in clothes which, her peers said, 'would be more suited to a younger woman.' She was last in the door before the service began and would stride to a front seat, her blonde hair falling down an often rather revealing dress of scarlet and orange or some other noticeable combination.

Twenty years after working in that church, I was covering for the senior pastor who was on holiday. Anna was nowhere to be seen, but she left a message asking that I might visit her. I went to her house and saw a woman who was much older and much diminished. She was a widow dressed not in a scarlet dress but in a shabby grey house coat, looking rather unkempt and unhappy.

In the course of conversation, she explained that she had been diagnosed with cancer and told she would have around three years to live. In our conversation it was clear that while she regretted this illness, she took it as a consequence of being mortal. After what seemed like a reasonable time together, I made to leave and then, as sometimes happens in such situations, she revealed why she had asked me to visit.

'I want to ask you a very important question and I want you to give me an honest answer,' she said, in the direct manner to which the Dutch are wedded, 'I want to ask you if you believe that God really forgives.'

What was behind that question I have no idea, but I assured her that I did indeed believe that when we acknowledge what we have done wrong and are truly sorry, God is willing and keen to forgive us. After praying with her, I made for the door and

then heard her say, 'One other thing, John. I have another three years. But when I die I would like you to take my funeral.' I suggested that I might be dead before her, but promised that if I were available, I would be privileged to attend to her wish. She then assured me that her request would be in her will along with provision for any expenses incurred on my behalf.

Three months (not three years) later, I had a phone call from her son to say that Anna had died peacefully. I wondered then and still do whether not just believing but knowing that God forgives enabled her to depart quickly in peace rather than hang on, fearful of the fires of hell stoked by a sadistic deity.

God who is merciful, forgives. And we must never let our inability to forgive or our fear of not being forgiveable be an obsession which deters us from being embraced by the affirming and converting affection of the God whom Jesus came to reveal.

Perceptions from South Africa

The first occasion I visited South Africa has seared itself on my memory and greatly influenced my thinking because of the remarkable people I met when working for the BBC on a programme to be broadcast in Britain on television on Good Friday.

Apartheid had fallen, democracy had been established, and Mandela had been succeeded by Mbeke.

The crew of which I was a part wanted to gather material which would allow people in Britain to see how those who had suffered under the apartheid regime regarded the suffering of Jesus. We went realising that while apartheid had been dismantled, another punitive scourge – HIV/Aids – was reaching epidemic proportions.

In Guglethu, a suburb of Capetown, we visited the J.L.Zwane church, a hybrid presbyterian/methodist congregation whose pastor Spiwo Xhpile arranged for me to meet and interview people who had a story which he reckoned would be of interest.

One of these was a girl called Nomso, whom I had seen in the front row of the choir at the main Sunday morning service. She was a bright and animated spirit who clearly enjoyed singing. When I met her, the story she had to tell was of a much less joyful character.

Three years previously, she had been accosted by four men who bundled her into a van, drove her away from the township and raped her. Awful as that experience was, what was equally alarming for her was the way in which

people, especially men, on hearing of her story doubted her innocence, and pondered whether she had given her assailants a 'come-on.' She spoke of how in subsequent months she lost her self-respect, her confidence and ultimately her job. She let herself go, became unkempt and despondent. This ended after a friend encouraged her to go for a health check. The results of blood tests indicated that she had been infected through rape by the AIDS virus.

Then a major turn-around happened. She knew that she could not un-rape herself, but realised that she could at least take better care of herself. So she smartened up, exercised, changed her diet, tidied up her appearance, got a job and went back to the church.

I said, 'Looking at you, Nomso, on Sunday morning, I never would have suspected that you have gone through such a terrible ordeal. What enables you to keep so positive?'

She replied, 'Every morning when I get up, I go into the bathroom and look at myself in the mirror. Then I say out loud, I love you, Nomso. I love you, Nomso. God never made anyone ugly. I love you. I love you. I love you.'

Nomso had been able to forgive herself. It wasn't that she had any guilt regarding the rape, but she had despised herself thereafter. And it was the realisation that God intended her for goodness, not perpetual regret, for affirmation and not self-denigration, that enabled her to begin to love herself.

This encounter with that exceptional young woman convinced me that forgiveness is rooted in love – the love of God, the love of neighbour and the love of self. Any notion of forgiveness which is disconnected to either love or justice is sterile, ineffectual, barren.

But another encounter convinced me that forgiveness needs to be rooted in truth as well as love.

That word, truth, is commonly associated with a highly effective process enabled by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up after South Africa transitioned to an inclusive democracy.

Among those who were involved in the proceedings was a man called Dawe Ackman. He was a member of an Anglican evangelical congregation which had a mission to Russian sailors who docked from time to time in Capetown. Members of the congregation ferried sailors who understood English from the harbour to the church for evening worship.

One Sunday, Dawe and his wife, driving different vehicles transported

the visitors. Dawe and his passengers arrived after his wife, and he was unable to sit with her because the church was so busy. The service had barely started when the doors burst open and in came four black teenagers who threw hand-grenades and opened fire on the congregation. Dawe's wife was one of several killed. Many others were wounded.

It was a national scandal and footage of the carnage was broadcast all over the world. The four boys were traced, arrested and imprisoned.

Twelve or so years later, after the major political change, the young men asked the Truth and Reconciliation Commission if they could be considered for amnesty. A hearing was arranged in Capetown at which Dawe and others affected by the carnage came face to face with the perpetrators, now in their late twenties.

Dawe asked whether any of them remembered shooting his wife. None of them knew her, but all acknowledged that one or more of them were responsible for her death. After several other questions, Dawe asked if the young men had anything to say for themselves.

One of them responded, 'Sir, we are truly sorry that we are responsible for the loss of your wife. But we wish you to understand that we were in a civil war, in which we were as much under orders as those in the South African army. We did what we were told when we attacked the church.'

'You, sir, have at least a grave at which you can remember and grieve for your wife. We have lost fathers and uncles and brothers and sisters, mowed down by the defence forces. We have no place at which to mourn for them. Their bodies were flung on rubbish heaps, burned or left to rot.'

It was on hearing this, their truth, that Dawe was convinced that he should agree to their amnesty.

After the hearing, the young men were released and they met members of the congregation in an ante-room where people prayed for them. Dawe embraced each of the four former assailants. I asked him what it felt like to have embraced the person who killed his wife. He said, 'An immense experience of release.'

Desmond Tutu has been keen to prevent the work of the Commission from being sentimentalised. The hearings have been gruelling for many people as the truth of both victim and violator has been aired. He has also been keen to note that while the black communities

wanted truth and reconciliation, the whites often wanted reconciliation without the truth being told. But for him, as for Dawe, forgiveness does not begin to flow in the absence of the whole truth being shared.

Corporate as well as personal

When we are read or pray 'forgive us ... as we forgive,' we are confronted with a text which is plural, not singular. It is the prayer of the community, not just the prayer of individuals.

There is, therefore, a need to recognise that there are corporate sins for which a church, a community or a nation needs to ask forgiveness. And these should not be simply covered by catch-all phrases especially when a shared responsibility for, or a shared tacit endorsement of some iniquity needs to be named.

In recent weeks, we have been made aware that seventy years ago, Great Britain encouraged its colonial subjects in the West Indies to emigrate to the mother country and do the kinds of jobs which the native British were not keen to do. Many of the Windrush Generation, as they are called, were the victims of racial discrimination and prejudice as they settled into their new habitation. Their children bore witness to an inequality of opportunity and a higher rate of incarceration than their white counterparts. And most recently we have discovered how these workers who came at the request of the British Government have fallen foul of legislation aimed at repatriating people who do not have residency papers or a passport.

This has meant that some West Indian expatriates who have lived in the UK for fifty years or more, paid tax and brought up a family, have been forcibly removed from their homes and sent to the countries they left as children, countries in which they may have no acquaintances or foothold. Injustice against Afro-Caribbeans is something in which our whole nation has been complicit. I recognised it first as a boy of eleven when my father took the family to Germany to meet people who had treated him as an adopted son when he was serving in the army towards the end of the second world war.

We travelled overnight by train from Scotland and my uncle met us at Euston to take us for breakfast in a large London restaurant.

It was the first time I had ever seen black people in the flesh. There were many in the restaurant. None were eating. They were all either sweeping the floors

or clearing the tables and washing the dishes. I remember wondering why it was only white people who were taking the orders, and sitting at the cash desks. The reason was that the others were not considered suitable for 'responsible work.'

This injustice and all the suspicion which has surrounded the way in which we have kept at arms length those we invited to do our dirty work is something about which, in the wake of the Windrush scandal, we as a nation need to ask God's forgiveness.

And if we are truly penitent and believing that God forgives, then a consequence must be seen in the way in which we amend our lives and behaviour. This is clear in the Gospel. It is seen in the account of

the woman to whom Jesus said 'Your sins are forgiven.' She is one who was washing his feet with her tears, and her lavishness of love, according to Jesus, was evidence that 'her sins which were many have been forgiven' (Luke 7:48).

The Heap of Happiness

'But what about the Heap of Happiness?' you may be asking. What has it to do with the Burden of Guilt?

It may seem blasphemous, but the 'heap of happiness' was a term used for God in a psalm prayer which accompanied the 1595 Scottish Psalter as the collect on the 100th Psalm

The archaic but also beautifully evocative language is a reminder that God's preferred descriptors are not negative and doomfraught (Who could

love a perennially sin-obsessed God) but positive and nourishing.

Here is the full prayer, in its original form but not with the original spelling.

**O Lord, the plentiful heap of all happiness,
since it has pleased you,
of your free mercy and goodness,
to choose us for your own heritage
and to regenerate us spiritually,
entertain us under your wings to
the end
and grant that we may daily grow
in the knowledge of your goodness,
truth and mercy,
which you have manifested to us
through our Redeemer and Saviour,
Jesus Christ.**

NNPM 2018 - some pictures Jane Porter with a few by Jennifer Burrige & Stephen Dean



Top Row Geraldine Latty at her Big Sing (with Carey Luce at the piano), Marty Haugen. **Middle and foot of page:** non-workshop moments. Left, the welcoming committee of Chrissie Howes, Vicky Dearing, Jennifer Burrige and Stephen Dean. Right: sitting in the sun outside **Below left:** Geraldine Latty (back row, fourth from left) with the Dockhead Parish Choir. Mag Shepherd is sitting in front of Geraldine. Right: the Dockhead Choir again (conductor Hayley Boateng) at the Saturday evening entertainment





Top Row Chris Walker, Gary O'Neill Above: Marty Haugen. Right and below: Liturgies. Right, Mgr Kevin McGinnell presiding at Mass. Below left: Richard and Wendy Hubbard, Sunday Morning Prayer. Right and foot of page: the closing liturgy. Martin Foster presiding; one of the prayers compiled by the groups, and the groups



Merciful God, inspire us as together we recommit ourselves to the ongoing, daily work of forgiveness and healing. We acknowledge our need for you and our dependence on one another.



ROUNDUP

ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Area secretary: Marie Wratten (020 8224 0632)

For f information and updates, please see

www.abliturgy.wordpress.com or contact catherine.christmas@dabnet.org or ruth.gerun@dabnet.org (01293651164)

HALLAM & SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Trish Stafford trishstafford59@gmail.com, 07534 184982

Hallam Youth Ministry: 0114 256 6464 / 0170 986 7383

mfitzgerald@hallam-diocese.com.

First Monday of every month, 19.30-22.00. **Sacred Harp Singing** in Sheffield (Ecumenical or no religion) Open to all. **Shakespeare's pub, 146-148 Gibraltar Street, S3 8UB.** Singing from the Sacred Harp (1991 edition). Especially suitable for those new to Sacred Harp, a tradition of 4-part a cappella singing from shape-note books first published in the USA in 1844. The sessions are suitable for everyone . <http://sheffieldsacredharp.weebly.com/sing-with-us.html>

Whirlow Spirituality Centre, Sheffield. See p.14

MENEVIA

Area sec. Jennifer Burridge 01792 775 598 • jburridge@me.com

29 November, There will be a Reflection in preparation for Advent at 19.00 at St David's Priory, Swansea SA1 3NG.

14 March 2019. A **Taizé evening** of quiet prayer and music at St David's Priory. 19.00. All welcome.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Area sec. Sue Black 01904 760331, sue.black@btinternet.com

Diocesan Choir Practice: 3rd Sunday of month term time, Our Lady's, Acomb, York YO24 3AE, 14.00-16.00. Currently working towards the annual Advent Service, Sunday 2 December, 15.30, in the Cathedral.

To audition for the Schola Cantorum, (men, women) or Boys' or Girls' Choirs contact: timothycraigharrison@gmail.com

Sung Vespers with Benediction ('...a lovely experience...'): Wednesdays, 18.00, weekly, term-time. St. Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough TS8 0TW.

Sung Vespers in the cathedral some Sundays, 16.15

Support for Parishes: contact Deanery representatives:

• York: Sue Black • Middlesbrough, Hull and Coastal: Tim Harrison timothycraigharrison@gmail.com

Other Cathedral Musical Events: see Diocesan website

<http://middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk>

SOUTHWARK

Mag Shepherd 0208 291 4107 magshepherd@hotmail.com

3 November. Diocesan Mass to celebrate the canonisation of Archbishop Oscar Romero which took place in Rome on 14 October. Our Cathedral contains the National Shrine of the Archbishop, so it is appropriate that this National Mass of Thanksgiving will be held there. There is a rehearsal on 27 October in the Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral, London SE1 6HR, 10.00 (coffee) 10.30 (start). Please bring a packed lunch. Booking forms from Nicholas Pointer nicholas.pointer@btinternet.com

Wrexham Tony Warren ndtl3@yahoo.co.uk

27 October. **Priase to the Holiest**, music for Lent and Easter, The Catrin Finch Suite, Glyndwr University, Wrexham LL11 2AW, 10-00-17.00 Presenters: Stephen Dean, Martin Foster, Philip Duffy, Jo Boyce. See poster below

SCOTLAND

Nicola Lawrence nicola@lawrencesolutions.co.uk

News from RSCM Scotland rscm.com/area/scotland/

27 October. **War and Peace: 100 Years.** Glasgow Cathedral G4 0QZ. An event from the Glasgow Cathedral Festival, 21-28 October, www.gcfestival.com A century after the 1918 armistice, Glasgow Cathedral Choir considers the profound emotional questions humanity still faces in its quest for peace. Also in the Cathedral is:

28 October, **The Festival Service** Joyful music and hymns with two choirs, brass & organ, at 11.00.

3 November. Dunblane Singing Day in Dunblane Cathedral, FK15 0AQ led by Adrian Lucas, 13.3 - 17.30 (service at 16.00). A Come and Sing event for all singers. Cost for the event is a donation to the work of the RSCM in Scotland Kirsten Mann, 01241 853874, kirsten@rscmscotland.org

17 November. **Choral Evensong** at Dunblane Cathedral, FK15 0AQ, 16.00. See www.rscmscottishvoices.org.uk

Glasgow Society of Organists secgsol@gmail.com is organizing the following. All events begin at 14.00.

- 3 November, St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life and Art, Castle Street, Glasgow, G4 0RH (basement room) - talk by Andrew McIntosh - 'The work of the RCO'

- 17 November, Church of Christ the King, Glasgow, G44 5AP, recital by Martin Baker, Westminster Cathedral

- 12 January, St Mungo's Museum (as above), presentation by Chris Bragg and Matthew Hynes of the Scottish Historical Organs Trust on organs in stately homes.

Esgobaeth Wrecsam



Diocese of Wrexham

Praise to the Holiest

Diocesan Music Congress 2018

Catrin Finch Suite, Glyndŵr University, Wrexham

Saturday 27th October 10:00 - 17:00

Internationally renowned tutors:

Stephen Dean (Decani Music)

Martin Foster (Liturgy Office England & Wales)

Philip Duffy (Formerly of Liverpool Met Cathedral)

Jo Boyce (CJM Music)

Informative and practical workshops:

- Preparing music for Lent and Holy Week
- Workshop including instrumentalists - bring your own instrument
- Starting a choir or developing your singers/singing
- Special workshops for young instrumentalists & singers

£49.00 per head inc. lunch, refreshments & resource materials

Under 18's from the Diocese free of charge (must be accompanied by an adult)

The congress is open to all with a love of and an interest in music in the liturgy

✉ paulbooth@wrexhamdiocesanmusic.org.uk

✉ Bishop's House, Sontley Road, Wrexham, LL13 7EW

☎ 07908 093661

☎ 01978 262726

www.wrexhamdiocese.org.uk

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From Around the Country.....

AMMERDOWN ammerdown.org/home
The Ammerdown Conference & Retreat Centre.
 Ammerdown Park, Radstock, BA3 5SW.



Monthly Taizé evenings and Contemplative Service every Friday: ammerdown.org/regular-worship

27 Novembe. **Refreshing Days for Carers.** Led by various Therapists. Cost £23. Those who care for others need themselves to be nurtured and cared for, and these days at Ammerdown are designed to do just that. Each day includes one session of complementary therapy together with workshops and creative arts for fun. It also includes lunch and a chance to enjoy Ammerdown's gardens. *Please check for availability.*

17 November. **Guided Quiet Day.** 9.30 for 10.-00 -16.00 includes lunch, coffee and tea. Cost £45. These days are a time out to pray, reflect and meditate in the Christian tradition Led by the Rev Narinder Tegally and Dr Jan Mojsa. The last of five days spread throughout the year, on the theme of 'Journey of the Heart –Seeking Stillness?'

5-9 November. More or Less About Jesus. Led by John Bell If we want to be more like Jesus, we have to do more than sing praise songs or concentrate on his birth and his death, which are separated by thirty three years of life. In this retreat, we will look at aspects of his ministry, teaching and relationships, and aim to identify false assumptions whilst being open to surprises. *Residential: £425. £85 deposit required*

30 November - 2 December. Praying with Handel's Messiah. Led by Euan Tait. Part of our Advent time of praying and preparation for Christmas, to explore the joyful transformation of heart and spirit that Handel's Messiah's Part 1 Christmas music represents. Euan Tait is a Lecturer in English and Creative Writing, and leads 'Praying with Music' retreats across the UK. *Residential: £240, non-residential £160. £85 deposit required*

BELMONT www.belmontabbey.org.uk
Belmont Abbey, Hereford, HR2 9RZ 01432 374724.
Belmont Abbey welcomes individuals and groups as part of its Benedictine tradition of hospitality.



10 November*. **Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them** with Dom Alistair Findlay. November is traditionally the month of holy souls. We examine what it is we truly believe and why it is so important to pray for the dead. Through the teaching of Scripture and the church we pray together for our own loved ones.

2-4 November. **Chagall's Bible** with Dom Brendan Thomas. Chagall called the Bible 'the greatest source of poetry of all time.' A favourite of Pope Francis, can we too learn from Chagall to celebrate life and faith with the humour, joy and love that suffuse his paintings? Reg. fee £28.

16-18 November. **I call you friends.** Friendship is one of God's most precious gifts. The Christian way is that of a deepening friendship with Jesus which in turn enables us to develop deep and lasting human friendships. With Abbot Paul Stonham. Reg. fee £28.

3-6 December. **Waiting in Joyful Hope,** Advent retreat with Dom Alistair Findlay and Dom Brendan Thomas. Reg. fee £32.

8 December*. **The One who is to come.** An Advent day with Dom Jonathan Rollinson.

*DAY RETREATS run from 10.00 to 16.00, tea and coffee provided, bring lunch. Suggested donation £8. No need to book. For more info contact Brother David: 01432 374750 retreats@belmontabbey.org.uk

RESIDENTIAL RETREATS vary in price according to the accommodation - see the website. Non-residents may also attend and meals may be booked.

Benedictine Institute Benedictine-Institute.org
 Ealing Abbey, 74 Castlebar Road, Ealing, London W5 2DD

Liturgical Institute: England & Wales. The Institutum Liturgicum <http://liturgyinstitute.org/> promotes liturgical research and graduate level education in liturgy, and is endorsed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

See the website for details of the 2019 Course Schedule.

CANTUS FIRMUS <https://cantusfirmus.org.uk/home/>

Cantus Firmus Trust supports the ministry of Richard Hubbard, Richard is Parish Music Development Researcher at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, a Lecturer in Music & Worship at London School of Theology, and Artistic Director of Cantus Firmus Trust. 07969 470545, richard.hubbard@cantusfirmus.org.uk



4 November. **Crimson Glory.** St Edmundsbury Cathedral, IP33 1LS, 18.00. A unique event to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War. It tells the story of a young Suffolk soldier in the Great War, through music, drama, dance, art and video. It depicts the soldier's journey from his life on a farm to the horrors of the Somme battlefields, exploring his questions about Christian faith in the face of war. With 350 performers. Directed by Richard Hubbard. Book through the website.

Sing with Cantus Firmus

There are two Cantus Firmus Choirs. Each is made up of singers from churches in the local area, and meets on an occasional basis to provide music for worship events. See at: cantusfirmus.org.uk/schoirs/index.html

CELEBRATE www.celebrateconference.org/



Celebrate runs Catholic Charismatic, faith-filled, fun events for all ages, combining good Christian teaching, inspirational speakers and celebration of the liturgy, all in the power of the Holy Spirit. Young and old join together in a vibrant atmosphere to celebrate the love of God. This year's theme is *See, I am doing a new thing!* (Isaiah 43:19)

The last weekends of 2018 are: 27-28 October, St Bede's College, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, BS11 0SU; 3-4 November, Loreto College, Hatfield Rd, St Albans, AL1 3RQ. For 2019 the first weekend announced is 27-28 April in Macclesfield. See the website for full details.

CJM Music Ltd



www.cjmmusic.com
 PO Box 17060, Sutton
 Coldfield B73 9YR
 01675 466254

Coming events at

www.cjmmusic.com/diary-dates/

7 December. **Concert** at St Mary's The Mount, Walsall, WS1 3NX at 20.00. A concert for Advent and Christmas with Jo Boyce & Friends - ticket details to follow ...

7 December. **Concert** at St Joseph's, Stevenage SG1 1NJ at 18.30 - ticket details to follow.

To book Jo Boyce or the ministry team for an event or concert, complete the booking enquiry form.

engageworship

engageworship.org



17 November. **Whole Life Worship Saturday** 10.30-16.00 at St Matthew's, Cheltenham GL50 3PL, with Sam and Sara Hargreaves.

A Saturday training event, inspiring you to reconnect Sunday worship with your congregation's everyday lives. Unpacking our book **Whole Life Worship**, and sharing resources, songs and ideas to help you put the teaching into practice. This day will be suitable for worship teams, pastors, service leaders, creatives and anyone else interested in engaging our 'gathered' services with our 'scattered' lives. Details at engageworship.org/events/whole-slif-worship-day-cheltenham-1



JUBILATE

www.jubilate.co.uk

2019 February 16.

Jubilate Big Sing

St Paul's, Robert Adam Street, London W1U 3HW, 10.00-17.00 . Over the past few years hundreds of people have gathered to take part in the popular Jubilate Big Sing events. Under the inspirational leadership of Noël Tredinnick we have sung through and recorded over 50 items from Jubilate writers. The Big Sing 2019 is again led by Noël Tredinnick, and will feature a wide variety of new hymns and songs. Entry is free with a retiring collection to cover costs. Full details on the website.

To find out more or to book a place please email Roger Peach, Jubilate Big Sing Organiser roger@jubilate.co.uk



Launde Abbey

A Christian Retreat and Conference Centre in the heart of the East Midlands

LAUNDE ABBEY

30 minutes from the centre of Leicester, Launde Abbey retreat centre has a resident Anglican community and offers a varied programme. Launde Abbey, East Norton, LE7 9XB 01572 717254 (10am-4pm) www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events/



Quiet Days take place once a month. They are an opportunity to learn, to meet others, spend some recuperative time and to meet with God.

Quiet Days may involve some periods of silence and there will be free time for you to spend on a favourite activity or just relaxing. Format: arrive 10.30 for coffee; talks, lunch, eucharist, 16.00 depart. £27.

5 November. **Quiet Day: Painting with Light** Led by the Rev. Christine Lomas. Drawing on principles of iconography, this Quiet Day will invite us to look at our current situation with new perspectives: seeing our world, seeing ourselves and seeing the Divine.

26-28 November. **Advent Retreat: Knocking on Heaven's Door.** Led by Adrian and Jill Chatfield. Advent offers us an opportunity to think and pray about what it means to live now in the light of heaven's promise. Price: £295 - £315

3 December. **Advent Quiet Day: Watching, Waiting and Anticipating.** Led by Cathy Davies and Mary Lodge. We will be watching, waiting and anticipating the miracle of Christ in the cradle through silence, scripture, poetry and creative prayer.

3-6 December. **From shadow to warm glow; from pitch black to blinding light:** The Christmas Stories in the Gospels. Drawing people out of the shadows and seeing them for the first time; exposing abuse of power and its consequences; discovering the smallness and the vulnerability of God (besides his greatness). Led by Canon Trevor Dennis. Price £295-£315

2019 11-13 January. **Eyes Wide Open: A Retreat for Epiphany.** In this retreat we'll explore the ways God constantly reveals himself to us in creation, in scripture and in our day to day lives, and how we can respond to those revelations with enthusiasm and delight. Led by Chris Webb. Price £205 - £225

LEE ABBEY

<https://leeabbeydevon.org.uk/visit/programme/>

Lee Abbey, Lynton, North Devon, EX35 6JJ. 01598 752621. Check availability and book online.



12-16 November 2018. **Christ within you and cancer too.** With Simon Holland, Chris Jagger. 'Mr. Holland, you have cancer....' Have similar words been said to you or someone you care for? This week hopes to offer all who have experienced cancer a safe place to be real with God and each other. Time to simply stop and reflect, receive teaching, a listening ear and support as you travel through the new territory of life with and after cancer. Simon Holland is warden of Lee Abbey, and Dr Chris Jagger runs a cancer support group in Surrey. £199 to £259 per person

27 December - 2 January 2019. **New Year with Stuart Townend.** What more can be said apart from how excited are we to spend this special time of year with such a gifted worship leader and his amazing family. £415 to £505 per person

25 Feb-1 Mar 2019. **The Gifts That Others Bring** with John Bell. Christianity is a global faith. We have celebrated that by sending missionaries and bibles abroad. But what have we received from those who are not 'like us'? Here we engage with biblical and spiritual insights, writings and songs from our fellow Christians abroad and receive them as gifts for our growth in faith. Everything will be in English. £268 to £328 per person

LIVABILITY



www.livability.org.uk

Livability explores the power of creative approaches to support those living with dementia.

22 November, **More Than Welcome' training:** St John's

Parish Church, Canal Street, Long Eaton, NG10 4NL. 09.30 - 15.30. Despite one in six people in the UK experiencing disability, many churches don't know how to respond; and those who do, can find themselves stuck in old, unhelpful ways of doing things. Together we will explore what it means to become a church where everyone can belong – one that doesn't just welcome disabled people, but includes them within church life, and encourages them to grow and participate. This course will train your church to respond to the challenge of disability. Every church has people affected by it, whether it's members of the youth group who have autism, older people with sight or hearing loss, people with learning disabilities or families struggling to care for a relative with dementia. Cost £20

11 December. **Christmas Carols.** St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 4JL. 19.00 (doors open 18.15). We'll be celebrating the birth of Christ, the good news of the Christmas story and the importance of friendship and community in the lives of the people we support. This major event in Livability's calendar attracts large crowds, celebrity speakers, and world class opera singers, and helps us raise much-needed funds to support people experiencing social isolation. Cost £15, book through the website.

LLANSÔR MILL

www.llansor.org



Llansôr Mill stands in a tranquil valley tucked away at the southern edge of Monmouthshire.

A range of events is offered, including weekends for men and for women. Treherbert Road, Caerleon, NP18 1LS. Patrons: Richard Rohr and Daniel O'Leary.

November 16-18 **The Enneagram:** delving deeper For retreats and weekends in 2019, see the website. *Suggested donations range from £45 to £350 - see website*

There are also groups that meet regularly:
3rd Thursday of every month, 19.00-21.30: **Exploring the soul of creation** study / listening group. The format is a simple shared supper, a shared silence, viewing a video, and a discussion of questions prompted by this.

First Thursday of each month, 7.00-9.30 **Men's evening gathering.** For more detail go to the 'Men's group' page: <http://www.llansor.org/mens-group/>

METHODIST MUSIC <http://www.artserve.org.uk>

ArtServe magazine is published three times a year. Anyone can download previous issues.

19 - 21 October. **The Word Around Us.** ArtServe Festival 2018 High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, EN11 8SG. Explore imaginative ways of sharing the Good News. If you haven't booked but would like to join us, please email festival@artserve.org.uk or phone 01666 824029 to check there is still space. Next year's dates are 18-20 October.

1st Saturday of month (not Jan.or Aug.), **Dance in Worship** at the United Reformed Church, Chapel Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 1TT. 10.00-12.00. No need to be very fit. Free style dancing to Christian praise music, to worship Jesus through movement. £2 donation 0208 744 5005

3rd Sunday of each month, 1.30- 3.00. **Danced liturgy** - St James's Piccadilly, W1J 9LL. Circle and prayer dances, creativity. A drop-in event, no need to book, and no charge. With ArtServe member Heather Williams. www.sjp.org.uk <http://www.sjp.org.uk/regular-events.html>

praxis www.praxisworship.org.uk
enriching worship today
c/o Sarum College, 19 The Close Salisbury SP1 2EB. 01202 296886. Praxis events are open to all. The cost is usually £15, Praxis affiliates £10, and free for Ordinands and Readers in Training, but check for each event.

31 October. **Liturgy at home and in hospital.** Southwark Cathedral, London, SE1 9DA. 10.30 - 15.30. A day exploring liturgy in a home setting e.g. confession, last rites, home communion, and in hospital. Speakers: The Very Rev. Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral, and Hilary Fife, Senior Chaplain at Croydon University Hospital Trust. Download the Booking form/flyer from the website.

Contact The Reverend Peter Furber peter@furber.me.uk

17 November. **Apt Worship in Times of Grief and Sorrow.** Bridge Community Church, Rider Street, Leeds, LS9 7BQ, 10.30-15.45. With Helen Bent and Robin Greenwood. Tragedy and loss, whether sudden or expected, is what happens to other people - we never expect it to happen to us. Helen Bent and Robin Greenwood speak from firsthand experience as both worshippers and worship leaders. How do we personally find God in the face of terminal illness and death? What happens in the face of unexpected tragedy or a problem in society? What is apt worship in the face of the unthinkable? A day for pastoral workers and bereavement visitors as well as worship leaders, ordained and lay.

Praxis Yorkshire. Cost: £10 or £5 for Praxis members. Download the Booking form/flyer from the website. Contact John Moss johnfrancismoss@btinternet.com

2019 2 March Growing in Worship for Lay Leaders at Cullompton Community Centre, Pye Corner, Cullompton, EX15 1JX. See the website

Royal Foundation of St. Katharine

2 Butcher Row, London E14 8DS 0300 111 1147 <http://rfsk.org.uk/>



St Katharine is a retreat centre in East London with a programme of quiet days and residential retreats,

12 November, 10 December. **Open Reflective Days.** These days are not led events but rather opportunities for people to have some space and quiet in their lives. We cannot offer exclusive personal use of any room, but there will

always be space and a quiet corner for all our guests. The Open Reflective days usually run from 08.00 to 17.00 but you can join us for as much of the day as your commitments allow. Most people choose to begin their day joining our welcome meditation at 10.30. You are welcome to join our services held in our Chapel.

The cost of the full day is £20, to include refreshments.

Quiet Days run from 10.15-16.00.

8 December. **A Quiet Day with Malcolm Guite.** O Come, O Come: A Day of poetic reflection on the seven great 'O' Advent Antiphons. Cost £40

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

Sarum College, 19 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2EB

RSCM Administrative Centre: tel 01722 424848;

enquiries@rscm.com; Website: www.rscm.com

RSCM Music Direct for sales of music/training materials from RSCM & other publishers. 0845 0217726; Fax 0845 0218826; musicdirect@rscm.com; Online shop: www.rscmshop.com

National Events www.rscm.com/courses/

Events for 2019 will be advertised in due course.

Education Administrator 01722 424843 education@rscm.com

LOCAL EVENTS www.rscm.com/where-you-are/ - North & Midlands

29 October. **Hymns and the Great War** at St Nicholas, Durham DH1 3NU, 19.30-21.00. Anne Harrison (former Sunday by Sunday coordinator) leads a session exploring hymnody and the Great War in this season leading up to the Armistice Centenary. Cost tbc. Durham Area.

rscm.org.uk/events/hymns-and-the-great-war/

David Harris 0191 3741659 d.m.harris108@gmail.com

10 November. **Preparing for Christmas**, Carmel Priory, LA11 6PU, 13.15-18.00. Come and learn carols old and new. The music will be printed in a booklet priced £1 and will be available on the day. Only sufficient copies will be printed for members attending. Cost £5 per person. Cumbria area

rscm.org.uk/events/preparation-for-christmas/

Joan Swindlehurst 01229 821166 joanswin1@talktalk.net

17 November. **Annual Festival and Awards Service**. Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row B3 2QB, 10:00-17:00 with Mick Perrier. A bespoke Festival Service commemorating the cessation of hostilities in 1918. Birmingham area.

rscm.org.uk/events/annual-festival-and-awards-service/

Alison Vining 07971 265702 alison@vining.eu

18 November. **Come and Sing Evensong**. Broughton Parish Church PR2 9TP, 15.45-19.30, with Hugh Morris. Rehearse and sing choral evensong with our new Director. Music to include *Let all the World* (Vaughan Williams) and Stanford in A. All music given out on the day. Lancashire Area

rscm.org.uk/events/come-and-sing-evensong/

Marilyn Prescott 07525 860316 marilynprescott@gmail.com

2019

10 January. **Conducting workshop and supper with Cathy Lamb**. All Saints, Bakewell DE4 1FD, 16.00-18.00. Cathy Lamb of Lichfield Cathedral leads a workshop in choral conducting with a focus on music for Passiontide and Holy Week. The workshop is followed by a chance to share supper and meet other church musicians and choral

directors. Cost £15. Derbyshire Area.

rscm.org.uk/events/conducting-workshop-and-supper-with-cathy-lamb/

Elin Heron 01773 821262 hello@elinheron.co.uk

2019

20 January. **Come and Sing Choral Evensong**. St Mary Magdalene, Newark NG24 1JS 15.30-17.00 with Stephen Bullamore. Take up this exciting opportunity to join with the regular choir to rehearse and sing a full service. Experience the thrill of singing in a church choir supported by professional musicians. This event is aimed at adults and teenagers. No charge. Southwell and Notts Area

rscm.org.uk/events/come-and-sing-choral-evensong-3/

Stephen Bullamore 01636 678897 choir@stmnewark.org

27 January. Festival **Choral Evensong with Orchestra**. Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row: B3 2QB, 13.00-16.30 with Simon Palmer. The Concert Orchestra of King Edward VI Camp Hill Schools will accompany the choir in a selection of exciting and varied music. £3 (£2 under 18s)

rscm.org.uk/events/festival-choral-evensong-with-orchestra/

Simon Palmer 079732 791717 simonpalmer@btinternet.com

2 February. **A Candlemas Celebration** at St James, Barnsley Road, Flockton, Wakefield WF4 4DH, 16.45-19.00 with Angela Griffin. A rehearsal of the choral music followed by a service to celebrate Candlemas. Retiring collection.

rscm.org.uk/events/a-candlemas-celebration/

Angela Griffith 01924 848423

2 February. **Candlemas Festival Evening Service**. Christ Church Cathedral Oxford, OX1 1DP, 15.00-19.00 with Stephen Grahl. For members of affiliated choirs in the Oxford Diocese. Non-affiliated choirs and individuals welcome if space allows. £5 to include tea. See details on our website

www.rscm-oxford.org.uk

rscm.org.uk/events/candlemas-festival-evening-service/

Janet Low 01865 777257 janetcllow@gmail.com

3 February. **Come and Sing for Candlemas**. Holy Cross Church, Barmoor Lane, Ryton NE40 3QP, 15.00-19.00 with David Harris. Mark the festival of Candlemas with a choral Come & Sing service – a chance to meet and sing with fellow musicians from around the area, and to worship in a 13th century church on the banks of the River Tyne. Durham Area

rscm.org.uk/events/come-and-sing-for-candlemas/

David Harris 0191 374 1659 d.m.harris108@gmail.com

18 February. **Sing for Fun**. Church Hall, St. Matthew's Church, The Drive, Northampton NN1 4RY, 10.00-16.00. A day of fun, games and singing for children in years 3 – 8 led by renowned vocal coach and educator Charles MacDougall, who returns by popular request. Have a fun day and improve your singing at the same time. Cost £10. Peterborough and Northampton Area

rscm.org.uk/events/sing-for-fun/

Jem Lowther 01604 632845 JLowther91@gmail.com

9 March. **Training Day for Directors of Music and Organists**. St Peter's, Nottingham NG1 2NW, 10.00-15.30. Led by RSCM's Head of Choral, Adrian Lucas. The day will concentrate on conducting and accompanying as well as time for questions and discussion. Please book by the end of February. Cost: see website

rscm.org.uk/events/training-day-for-directors-of-music-and-organists/

Dr PA Siepmann peter.siepmann@nottinghamchurches.org

16 March. **Musicians Training Day.** Middlesbrough Cathedral, TS8 0TW, 10.00-17.00. A day for all church musicians to come along for a set of workshops and training sessions led by distinguished musicians including principal leader, Norman Harper. Strands will include Composition, Instrumental music, Choral music and practical advice on matters and issues in Church Music. Fee tbc. Durham Area rscm.org.uk/events/musicians-training-day/

Dr Craig Cartwright 07508 805621
craig.cartwright@outlook.com

South and South West of England

27 October. **Come and Sing Advent to Candlemas.** St Andrews Church, Sonning RG4 6UR. 10.00-12.30. Looking for ideas? Join us for a morning of singing a variety of music for the coming Seasons under the leadership of Nigel Groome. Download the booking form to register. Cost: £5 rscm.org.uk/events/come-and-sing-advent-to-candlemas/
Mary Delaney 01189 403121 mary.delaney@btinternet.com
Berkshire area.

28 October. **Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem Liturgically.** St John the Baptist, Buckhorn Weston, Dorset SP8 5HS, with David Duvall. Join us to commemorate all those who gave their lives in war, as we approach the centenary of the Armistice. Loan copies will be provided if needed. £10, (£5 for young people), £8 for affiliates. Wessex Area rscm.org.uk/events/come-and-sing-faures-requiem-liturgically
David Duvall 07855 947104 davidduvall@btinternet.com

3 November. **Inspiring Music in Worship: exploring and engaging** at Walthamstow Hall School, Holly Bush Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 3UL, 10.30-15.30, with Helen Bent. Taking our lead from the latest RSCM book by Helen Bent, clergy and musicians are invited to come together to explore how music best suits and encourages good worship in their church context. The day will include practical as well as discussion sessions and worship. £5 including refreshments rscm.org.uk/events/inspiring-music-in-worship-exploring-and-engaging/ Rochester Area

Sue Moore 020 8859 6997 rscmrochester@outlook.com

3 November. **Singing the Seasons: A Choral Festival Service** at Exeter Cathedral EX1 1HS 11.00-17.00. with Timothy Noon. £7 for Festival Booklet. Devon Area rscm.org.uk/events/singing-the-seasons-a-choral-festival-service/
Lionel Holmes 01647 440113 lionel@homebound.org.uk

3 November. **Masterclass for Organists**, St Wilfrid, Haywards Heath RH16 3QH, 10.00-13.00. with Darcy Trinkwon. For more experienced organists who would like to work on repertoire. Observers welcome. This opportunity will be limited to a maximum of 7 playing places on a first-come, first-served basis. Sussex Area

rscm.org.uk/events/masterclass-for-organists/
Imogen Stewart 01903 209107 ots.rscmsussex@outlook.com

10 November. **Three Areas Choir Festival: Peace and Remembrance.** St George's Cathedral, Southwark, London SE1 7HY. 10.30-17.00, with Norman Harper. Choirs from the Southwark, London and Essex RSCM Areas rehearse and sing a non-liturgical service of remembrance and peace, for the weekend of Remembrance Day. St George's Cathedral is situated appropriately opposite the Imperial War Museum. rscmlondon.org.uk/remembrance-and-peace.php

Jenny Dean 020 8866 7637 secretary@rscmlondon.org.uk

17 November. **Lift up your Voice (and pick up your instrument).** St George's Church, Anselm Avenue, Bury St Edmunds IP32 6JZ, 10.00-14.50, with Miles Quick. Exploring music from a wide range of traditions from Taizé and Iona to worship songs, with an emphasis on material for churches with little or no musical resources. All welcome—congregation members, choir members, clergy, instrumentalists (please bring your instrument), organist, etc! Suffolk Area rscm.org.uk/events/lift-up-your-voice-and-pick-up-your-instrument/
Alexander Binns 01284 748737 adam@stedscathedral.org

24 November. **Come and sing with Bob Chilcott.** Ss. Peter & Paul, Great Missenden HP16 0BA. A great day singing some of Bob Chilcott's compositions under his direction, when he will introduce carols for Advent and Christmas, alongside his extended work, *Wenceslas*. £15 (non-members £20). Under 18s £8. Buckinghamshire Area rscm.org.uk/events/come-and-sing-with-bob-chilcott/
Val Williams 01494 866389 val@choralconnections.com

1 December. **Advent Carol Service** at Buckfast Abbey TQ11 0EE, 13.30-17.30, with Philip Arkwright. Marking the start of Advent and preparing for Christmas. Advent Carols, Anthems and Scripture. £5 adults, £1 children. Devon Area. <https://www.rscm.org.uk/events/advent-carol-service/>
Nicholas Brown 01297 560493 nbrownpiano32@btinternet.com

6 December. **Carols at the Crib.** Truro Cathedral TR1 2AF, 18.00-19.30, with Jonathan Mann. No charge. Cornwall Area. <https://www.rscm.org.uk/events/carols-at-the-crib/>

Karen Harris 07984 678628 rscmcorwall@gmail.com
2019

2 February. **Strengthen for Service Lite**, St George's Church, St George's Square, Portsea PO1 3AT, 10.00-18.00 with Helen Bent. An event for clergy, readers, lay readers, and music worship leaders together under the expert direction of Helen Bent, with practical help and guidance on how best to manage your parish music, including choosing suitable music and materials for worship, good working practices, biblical and historical insight, and much more. £10.00 (includes refreshments)

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/events/strengthen-for-service-lite-2/>
RSCM Portsmouth rscmportsmouth@gmail.com

9 February. **Come and Sing Evensong** with the Cathedral Choir. Exeter Cathedral, EX1 1HS, 14.45-18.30 with Timothy Noon. £5 adults, £1 children. Devon Area rscm.org.uk/events/come-and-sing-evensong-with-the-cathedral-choir/
Joy Winzer 01364 642448 joy.winzer@btinternet.com

9 February. **New Forest and Waterside Young Voices Festival.** St John's Church and Church Hall, Hythe SO45 6BP 10.00-17.00 with Philip Dowd. Singers aged 6-13 are invited for a day of singing from the RSCM Bread of Life festival book. Words/music provided on the day. Families and friends are welcome to come to the service. For details please contact Philip Dowd. Prior booking is essential no later than 31 January. Free. Collection taken in service.

rscm.org.uk/events/new-forest-and-waterside-young-voices-festival/
Philip Dowd 023 80841679 philip.dowd1@gmail.com

20 February. **Sing4Fun.** St John's Church, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 8RN 10.00-16.00 with Charles MacDougall. This will be an exciting day of musical activities for young people aged 8 – 18, culminating in a short concert at 15:30

for friends and family. No singing experience required – just come along and sample the joys and fellowship of music making. Don't miss it! £10 ((10% discount on bookings received by 30 November 2018). Ely Area

rscm.org.uk/events/sing4fun/

Lydia Cant 01353 665943 membership@rscmely.org.uk

3 March. **Singing Gregorian Chant** workshop. St. Philips, Hawthorn Crescent, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 2TL, 10.00-17.00 with John Rowlands-Pritchard. The day is structured around the traditional Benedictine monastic hour services recited mainly in English, concluding with compline. All are welcome, male or female, singers and non-singers alike. £6.00, £2 under 18s. Portsmouth Area.

rscm.org.uk/events/singing-gregorian-chant-workshop/

Rachael Newman rscmportsmouth@gmail.com

9 March. **Taizé singing afternoon**. St. Mary, Princes Risborough, HP27 9AW, 14.30-17.00 with Derry French and Stuart King An afternoon spent singing music from Taizé and some plainchant, finishing with a service open to the public. £5, under 18s free. Buckinghamshire Area

rscm.org.uk/events/taize-singing-afternoon/

Stuart King 01844 345927 stuartlhking@gmail.com

16 March. **Songs for Sighing – Psalms for Lent**. St Mary Magdalen, Tilehurst RG31 6DR, 10.00-16.00, with Adam Carlill. Using Adam Carlill's book Psalms for the Common Era we will explore a variety of metrical psalms set to well-known hymn tunes, with a special emphasis on those for use during this season of Lent. £5 for the day or £3 for half day. Berkshire Area

rscm.org.uk/events/songs-for-sighing-psalms-for-lent/

Mary Delaney 0118 940 3121 smary.delaney@btinternet.com

RSCM SCOTLAND <http://rscm.scot>

Contact: Nicola Lawrence 0141 886 7963

nicola@rscmscotland.org See p.8

RSCM CYMRU/WALES

www.rscm.com/where-you-are/rscm-cymru-wales/

Co-ordinator Stuart Robinson 07831 827701

srobinson@rscm.com

Operation Music. The RSCM has launched a major initiative in Wales designed to support organists, worship leaders, choristers and particularly those congregations with little or no musical resources, to make them more confident in using music in worship. Called Operation Music (Menter Gerdd), it comes at the request of the bishops of the Church in Wales. See www.rscm.com/mentergerdd/

South- East Wales/De-Ddwyrain Cymru

<https://www.rscm.com/area/south-east-wales/>

17 November. **Youth Event** in Llandaff (tbc), 11.00-16.00, with Stephen Moore. An event for under 18s to include singing, an act of worship and some fun activities!

rscm.org.uk/events/youth-event/

Emma Gibbins 07952 514117 emmagibbins1978@gmail.com

2019, 16 March. **Liturgical Organ Playing Workshop**. St Martin, Caerphilly CF83 1EF, 9.30-16.00 with Stephen Moore & Emma Gibbins. Workshop focusing on liturgical organ playing: hymns, psalms, congregational mass settings, voluntaries. Participants will form the congregation and the afternoon will end with an act of worship at 16:00.

Cost see website *Emme Gibbins as above.*

rscm.org.uk/events/liturgical-organ-playing-workshop/

West Wales/Dyfed Cymru

<https://www.rscm.com/area/west-walesdyfed/>

7 November. **Young Voices Festival**, St David's Cathedral, A62 6RD, 10.00-18.00, with Simon Pearce. This is a pilot venture for schools in St David's to take part in a day of workshops and music-making at the cathedral, culminating in a service to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1.

rscm.org.uk/events/young-voices-festival-2/

Simon Pearce 01437 720057 skchpearce@gmail.com

RSCM IRELAND www.rscmireland.com

2019

19 January. **Ecumenical Service**. Sandford Parish Church, Sandford Road, Dublin 6. Details tbc. Join us for an Ecumenical Service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January.

rscm.org.uk/events/ecumenical-service/

Thérèse Gaughan +353 8776 24380 secretary@rscmireland.com

8 February. **Open Evening for Choir Directors**. St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Dublin 1, 19.30-21.30, with Blánaid Murphy. Choir directors are invited to come and learn about the RSCM and how it can support them in their music ministry. No charge. *Thérèse Gaughan as above*

rscm.org.uk/events/open-evening-for-choir-directors/

St Columba's House stcolumbashouse.org.uk



St Columba's House is an urban Christian retreat and conference centre just thirty minutes by train from the heart of London and a mile

from the centre of Woking. Groups are welcome to hire the facilities for your own events. See the website for details and prices. Forthcoming events are:

24 October, **Quiet Day. Paint your heart**. 09.45-16.00. An opportunity to paint or otherwise portray on paper something drawn from the readings for the day (lectionary readings) which captures their imagination. Led by Mark Rudall. £25 including coffee, tea and a light lunch.

15 November, **Christian Book Group**, 19:45-21:30. We meet six times a year to discuss a book. This month it A Book of Silence by Sara Maitland. Charge: donation only.

6-8 November. **Take Off Your Shoes**. An opportunity to turn aside and look – and to see that the ground on which we stand is holy. More than this, it is to be reminded that the holy ground of God is deep within each one of us. (Re)discover his love for us and his presence with and within each one of us. Led by John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick. £175-195

Booking forms are available at www.promotingretreats.org

21 November. **When Praise is a challenge**. 19.00-21.00, led by Mark Rudall. An evening of reflection on how we make our musical praise acceptable to the God of Grace. Mark is keen to take us on an exploratory journey. Cost £10

24 November. **2000 Years of Christmas Song**. 10.00-16.00, led by Giles and Marguerite Hutchinson. A one-day workshop learning Christmas music in a range of styles from Gregorian chant to the present day. You don't need to know how to read music; an eagerness to learn and share

the joy of Christmas song is all you need. Cost £25

3 December. **Advent Quiet Day.** 10.00-16.00. Led by Haydon Wilcox. Be still and reflect on the significance of Advent and to become spiritually prepared for this special season in the busy run up to Christmas. Cost £25

8 December. **Cloth for the Cradle Advent Service.** 17.00-19.00. Led by St Columba's House Team with the Diocese of Guildford's Heart Musicians. Cloth for the Cradle is a contemporary service of readings carols and songs Strips of cloth are placed in the empty crib to prepare to welcome Jesus for Christmas. Afterwards, join us for drinks and festive treats. A free event

Society of Saint

Gregory

www.ssg.org.uk

SSG Spring Gatherings 2019



Theme: Music and Liturgy – planning and preparing for Mass

16 February – Glasgow – venue tbc

16 March – Holy Trinity, Newark, Nottinghamshire

18 Mary – St Helen's, Caerphilly.

SSG Summer School 2019

14-19 August. Celebrating Jubilee SSG 90th Anniversary Summer School 2019 at Worth Abbey. Keynote Speaker: Fr Paul Turner Director of Liturgy; Martin Foster Director of Music; Martin Barry

Taizé in London

1st Friday of the month. **Meditation & Prayer** with Songs from Taizé, 18.15 at Lumen URC, 88 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RS.

St James Piccadilly - Sundays at Six

Sundays at Six is a pattern of evening services to offer a variety of ways in which to worship. The third Sunday of each month is Prayer in the tradition of the Taizé Community. Refreshments are served after each service. Sundays at Six runs from January to November each year.

<http://www.sjp.org.uk/sundayssix.html>

All Hallows by the Tower

All Hallows (Byward Street, London EC3R 5BJ) hold a weekly Taizé service on Wednesdays at 18.00 to encourage people to encounter God in the City. The informal candlelit service includes bible readings, prayers and times of silence as well as music. You don't need to be a musician or even a good singer to join in. Come to us to find the time to rest in God.



<http://www.allhallowsbythetower.org.uk/services/taize/>

Whirlow Grange

whirlowspiritualitycentre.org

Whirlow Spirituality Centre, Whirlow Grange Drive, Sheffield S11 9RX

Tuesdays at 09.45 **Reflective Communion Service.**

Sundays at 08.30 **Space To Be** - silent, self directed meditation (45 minutes).

First Sunday of every month. **Reflective Worship.** 19:00-20.00. An opportunity to be still and reflect on God's grace and love for each one of us.

Third Sunday of each month. **Reflective Eucharist. 19:00.** A reflective communion service led by members of the spirituality team. Creativity, time for reflection and an opportunity to share in communion for those who wish to.

8 November. **We Who Sing, Pray Twice.** 19.30-21.30. Each evening (every two months) is a standalone event with no pre-booking and no charge. Songs from a variety of sources such as Taizé, Wild Goose/Iona Community and others. The focus of the session is singing the songs together, and the 'dazzling silence' that can follow offers a way into stillness, prayer or meditation.

20 November. **Simple Quiet Day.** 09:45-15.45. These days are intended to provide you with the space to 'be' before God; to relax, reflect and pray and so to renew your spiritual resources. The space available will be quiet and honouring of your quiet. The day will begin with a Reflective Communion Service. Please bring your own lunch, drinks are provided. Cost £15. Book through the website.

22 November. **Praying Without Words,** 1930 - 2100. An opportunity to practise silent prayer. Optional sharing of our prayer journey. Open to all . No need to book.

1 December. **Advent Quiet Day.** 09:30-15:30. Watch and wait for the coming Christ, with Centre chaplain Joy Adams. Cost £15. Repeated on 5 December.

8 December. **Carols and Contemplation.** 19:45-21:15. Enjoy familiar and less familiar carols played by a brass quartet, with readings and moments of Advent reflection.

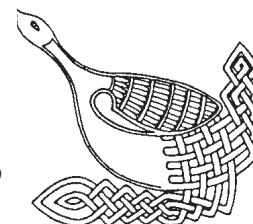
18 December. **Simple Quiet day** (see 20 November)

20 December. **Praying Without Words** (see 22 Nov.)

WILD GOOSE

www.wildgoose.scot/

The Administrator, Wild Goose Resource Group/ WGRG, c/o The Iona Community, 21 Carlton Court, Glasgow G5 9JP, Scotland. 0141 429 7281 wildgoose@wildgoose.scot



October-December. Brexit and the Book Of Ruth - Conversations about Brexit, borders and belonging

This series of nine gatherings at 21 Carlton Court, Glasgow, G5 9JP uses the book of Ruth from the Hebrew Bible to explore some of the pressing issues of these uncertain times. It has been produced by the Corrymeela Community as a public theology initiative.

The Book of Ruth details the story of Ruth, her mother-in-law Naomi and Ruth's eventual husband Boaz. It's a story of borders, tensions between neighbouring territories, stereotyping narratives between people long divided, law, how laws change when people meet people, hunger, resentment, shame and love.

The series is designed to address our need to belong to each other and what is the nature of that belonging – across the Irish border and in the changing experience of Brexit. It's our full expectation that people who participate in this project will have voted differently on Brexit, changed their mind or kept their mindset. This resource and project does not seek to establish consensus on what form Brexit should (or should not) take, but rather seeks to open up the conversation about how the sacred and ancient Book of Ruth can

speak to our contemporary politics and relationships across difficult borderlands.

The series is already in progress but it is possible to come to individual evenings. See Cost & Registration at:

wildgoose.scot/event/brexit-and-the-book-of-ruth/all/

The remaining sessions are:

Section 1 – Reading The Story

17 October (3) Who Is Family?

24 October (4) A Complicated End

Section 2 – Thematic Studies

31 October (5) Liturgical Setting

14 November (6) Counter Narratives

21 November (7) Addressing Stereotypes

28 November (8) Compassion & The Law

5 December (9) Enlarging The Circle Of Kinship

Events around the UK

27 October-1 November. **Enthusiasm, Entropy and Ecology: A New Look at the Psalms.** St Columba Hotel, Isle of Iona, Argyll PA76 6SL. Led by John Bell. The poetry of the Psalms, which has fascinated people for three millennia, is totally diverse in emotional range, spiritual depth and subject matter. It can be argued that one poem is the source document for original sin, while another suggests that nature is engaging in a cosmic symphony without any need for human direction. It is to the diversity of material and to rare species rather than fond favourites that the retreat will be concerned. That will involve some singing, some listening, some silence and not too much entropy (a term which among other things means 'a lack of pattern or organisation').

To book visit stcolumba-hotel.co.uk/index.php?id=9 or call the hotel on +44 (0)1681 700304.

5-6 November. **More or Less about Jesus** - Ammerdown, p.8

9-11 November. **On Pilgrimage While Standing Still** Minsteracres Retreat Centre, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 9RT <http://www.minsteracres.org/come-on-retreat/>

John Bell will lead a series of reflections on how, throughout our lives, we are gradually moving to deeper

understandings. Suggested donation £140.

1 December. **Living and Praying the Psalms.** 10:00-15:30, All Saints Church, Church Close, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, SL6 4HE. Apart from the Gospels, the Psalms are the most widely known texts for Christians. They are read, prayed and sung daily throughout the world. But what is their real significance, and how do we move beyond seeing them as part of our tradition rather than part of our life? This is what John Bell will explore in this day retreat. Part of the Year of Mission March 2018-March 2019 for the parishes of St. Luke, the Good Shepherd and All Saints, Maidenhead. *Jeremy Harris 01628 626921 Jeremy-Harris@outlook.com*

Wydale Hall

wydale.org

The retreat and conference centre of the Church of England's Diocese of York **Wydale Hall, Brompton-by-Sawdon, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO13 9DG 01723 859270**



<http://wydale.org/events/>

1 November. **Discerning Leadership** - Putting God back at the heart of mission. 09:45-16:00. A study day on the nature and practice of discernment which will help you to discern and co-operate with the Holy Spirit in mission. Led by Bishop Graham Cray. Cost £25.00

13 November. **Exploring the Sacraments.** 09:45-16:00. A day to explore the importance of the Church's Sacramental life. Led by Bishop Glyn Webster Cost: £25.00

3-21 December. **Christmas Meals.** 13:00 or 19.00. Come for a 3 course meal at Wydale either lunchtime or evening. Enjoy the beautifully decorated house with friends, family, work colleagues etc. Cost: £18.00 per person

24-27 December. **Wydale at Christmas 2018.** Come and stay with us and enjoy a Christmas with all the trimmings. Come alone or with family or friends. Cost: £225 per person fully inclusive of bed, food and festive treats.

Why not run an NNPM workshop in your Church?

A project for your Parish music group/choir(s) to work on together.

- Meet other church musicians in your area.
- Learn new music.
- Get advice on good practice.
- Advice and financial grants available.

Apply to Vicky at: vdearing64@gmail.com

DO YOU: Want to advertise an event? To find/exchange music? To write a letter or a comment? Contact the compiler of ACCORD, Christine Howes

ACCORD EDITORIAL ADDRESS Christine Howes dryliehowes@gmail.com

JOIN THE NNPM £15 for two years. Contact: Vicky Dearing, NNPM (membership), 12 Boleyn Way, New Barnet EN5 5JS Phone: 0203 638 4178 (leave message) vdearing64@gmail.com

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NNPM: Patrons Area Secretaries

Area Secretaries are gathering agents for events planned in their locality; sources of information on what is planned; resource persons who may be able to help in giving or planning events.

Arundel & Brighton: Marie Wratten: 020 8224 0632 • wratens@ntlworld.com

Birmingham/W.Mids: Fiona Jinks: 01785 241518

Cardiff: Frances Bibey: 029 2065 3216 • frances.bibey@ntlworld.com

Hallam (S Yorkshire): Trish Stafford trishstafford59@gmail.com

Archbishop Michael Bowen

Bishop Thomas McMahon

John L. Bell

Hull: Finola Barron : 01482 341 313

Leeds: volunteer needed

Liverpool: Anne Preston • anne.preston@ntlworld.com

Manchester: volunteer needed

Menevia (Swansea): Jennifer Burrige: 01792 775 598 • jburrige@mac.com

Middlesbrough: Sue Black 01904 760 331 • sue.black@btinternet.com

North Wales: Tony Warren: 01244 532 341 • ndtl3@yahoo.co.uk

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