

# RSCM Devon Area Newsletter

## July 2021

Greetings to everyone in the Devon Area or on our mailing list.

I hope you have survived the last 18 months – we have certainly been more fortunate in Devon than many areas. I also hope you've all now been vaccinated.

It seems a good moment to start thinking about church music in Devon. I know that some churches have managed to maintain some music in services, whether by cantors, small groups or online offerings, but I'm also very conscious that it has not been possible for all churches to do this. Those of us who have had to keep going with much reduced numbers have been learning about what works and what doesn't, and I know from my own church that, while we would have loved to be able to continue with the full choir and the usual repertoire, the singers have gained in some ways from taking part in small groups, doing different music and perhaps needing to lead the singing in a way they hadn't before.

We are all really keen to resume the usual programme of events in Devon, and we also have some exciting new ideas for 2022.

### **Devon Area Help Scheme**

In the Devon Area we are supporting a Help Scheme for churches, organists, choir-leaders, cantors and choirs to cope with the challenges we are all facing as we resume music in public worship.

Now we can't promise to find you a new organist, or two decent altos, but we can see if we can work with and alongside you to see what you can do with what you've got. Maybe it's a matter of thinking of new repertoire, or being creative with the music you have, or thinking of new ways to do music in a service.

In the first instance please telephone or email me (contacts details at the end of this newsletter) and we can discuss it and perhaps get someone to visit you in situ.

### **Devon Area Festival Service**

Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1 – 5.15pm (service at 4), Exeter Cathedral

Let's make a really joyful song of praise in Choral Evensong, which this year (given all the challenges we've had) we'll run on a "come and sing" basis, to be directed by Dr Peter Nardone, accompanied by Tim Noon. The music will include:

Psalm 150 in the setting by Stanford

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E flat (no.2) by Wood (which has one of the 2 most uplifting Glorias I know)

Te Deum in B flat by Stanford

Plus some rousing hymns

The music will be in a booklet available on the day (and for you to retain) and we are treating this as a "learn on the day" event, but if you wish to see it in advance it is available as pdf on the area website. There are many youtube recordings you can access as well if you wish to.

There is a booking form at the end of this letter and we will be getting an online booking form up on the website shortly.

Please book by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October as we intend to print the books "on demand" and will need a few days' notice.

### **Advent Carol Service**

Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1.30 – 5.30pm (service at 4.30), Buckfast Abbey, directed by David Davies.

We will run this also as a “Come and Sing” so won’t be sending out books in advance, but I hope that we may be able to put the music up on the area website a little ahead of the day.

As we won’t be sending another paper mailing before then I also attach a booking form for this. Please book at the latest by 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Chorister Award Exams**

We are hoping to run these on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Crediton Parish Church. There is a new syllabus in place, so please refer to RSCM main website for that.

If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible, and not later than 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Mike Ball Shield**

As you know, we present this annually to a young person (the definition of “young” has been pretty flexible) in the Devon Area who has gone above and beyond in the cause of church music. I have a really worthy candidate at Colyton, but as he’s had the shield on his piano for the last two years I’m not allowing him to be nominated again, so please contact me if you have someone to nominate. The award is not necessarily for the best singer or organist, just for someone who has really put themselves out.

### **Plans for Next Year**

We hope to run courses for cantors, instrumentalists and award training, and we have our usual large events: Stainer’s Crucifixion, Come and Sing Cathedral Evensong, Area Festival and Advent Carol Service.

We are also interested to hear what members would like.

With all best wishes for the next few months, and hoping to see you all at the Cathedral on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Nicholas Brown

(Devon Area Team Leader)

07765 008859     [nickpiano64@gmail.com](mailto:nickpiano64@gmail.com)

(please note that the old contact details are no longer in use)

**RSCM Devon Area Festival Service**

**Booking Form**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

email:

Church;

Or individual member:

Number of singers:    Trebles:                      Sopranos:                      Altos:                      Tenors:                      Basses:

Cost:    Adults: £7

18-and-under: free

All under-18s need to with them a completed parental consent form (available on the website or from Nicholas Brown)

Please include cheque made payable to Royal School of Church Music    (don't include "Devon Area" please)

Please send by October 17<sup>th</sup> to:

Nicholas Brown, Little Pitt Cottage, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RG

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**RSCM Devon Area Advent Carol Service**

**Booking Form**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

email:

Church;

Or individual member:

Number of singers:    Trebles:                      Sopranos:                      Altos:                      Tenors:                      Basses:

Cost:    Adults: £5

18-and-under: free

All under-18s need to with them a completed parental consent form (available on the website or from Nicholas Brown)

Please include cheque made payable to Royal School of Church Music    (don't include "Devon Area" please)

Please send by November 20<sup>th</sup> to:

Nicholas Brown, Little Pitt Cottage, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RG