

ELY MUSIC RAG

(No 2/08 – August 2008)

Published on behalf of the Ely RSCM Committee

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SUMMARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2008

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| 4 September | Rehearsal for King's Festival (Cathedral), 7.00-8.15 |
| 20 September | Choirs' Festival (King's College Chapel) |
| 1 October | John Barnard Workshop 'Season by Season'
(St George's Chesterton), 7.30-9.30 |
| 4 October | Singing Day for Children (Cathedral) |
| 11 October | 'Come and Sing Evensong' (All Saints Barrington) |
| 26 October | Huntingdon Deanery Evensong (Godmanchester), 6.30 |

2009

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| 23 February | Choirleaders' Rehearsal for Ely Festival (Cathedral), 7.00-8.30 |
| 28 February
& 7 March | Examinations for Bronze and Silver Awards (Cathedral) |
| 20 April | Rehearsal for Ely Festival (Cathedral), 7.00-8.30 |
| 25 April | Awards Choristers' Evensong (Cathedral) |
| 16 May | Ely Festival of Church Music (Cathedral) |
| 12 September | Archdeaconry of Cambridge Festival (King's College Chapel) |

MAJOR EVENTS IN AUTUMN 2008

Festival of Choirs, King's College Chapel, Cambridge Saturday, 20 September

This year's Festival, which is a traditional Book of Common Prayer Evensong, has as its theme *The Blessed Virgin Mary*. It will be conducted by Paul Trepte (Director of Music, Ely Cathedral) and the Organist will be Oliver Brett (Westminster Cathedral).

The music to be sung at the service will be:

Introit	Ave Maria (Mozart)
Hymn	For Mary Mother of our Lord
Responses	Neary
Psalm	132 (Chants Walford Davies and Goss)
Office Hymn	Hail, O Star
Canticles	Vaughan Williams in C
Anthems	A Tender Shoot (Goldschmidt), Gentle Mary (Vulpius), Stabat Mater (Rheinberger)
Offertory Hymn	Ye who own the faith of Jesus

A preliminary rehearsal, mainly for choirleaders, took place on 10 July and the main one for all singers will be held on 4 September in Ely Cathedral from 7.00 to 8.15 p.m. It is hoped that this rehearsal will be well attended.

Most choirs wishing to take part have now registered for this event, but if your choir has not yet done so it is not too late if you act quickly. Please contact the Bookings Co-ordinator, Professor David Yeandle, who will provide any additional information that you may need (The Long House, 56 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 9AW, Tel/Fax 01480 301737, Email david.yeandle@ntlworld.com). Details of the festival are also available on the committee's website (www.rscmely.org.uk/events).

The timetable for the day will be:

1.30	Choirs assemble in Great St Mary's Church
2.00	First Music Rehearsal in Great St Mary's
3.15	Second Music Rehearsal in King's College Chapel
4.30	Break for tea
5.30	Reassemble in Great St Mary's for robing
5.45	Procession to King's College Chapel
6.00	Festival Service

John Barnard Workshop 'Season by Season' Wednesday 1 October – St George's Chesterton

On Wednesday 1 October at St George's Church, Chesterton, John Barnard will lead a workshop from 7.30 to 9.30 on the new RSCM publication 'Season by Season' which he has recently edited and which is due to be released later in the summer. Full of music for services throughout the church's year, it is presented in a format that can (with the appropriate licence) be copied freely,

and is a worthy companion to the RSCM Carol Book which was the focus for the workshop that John ran for us last October. That event was warmly received and this new one promises to be equally enjoyable, inspiring and instructive. We sincerely hope that it will be well supported. Tea/coffee will be provided.

If you wish to attend, please complete and return the 'tear-off' slip from the enclosed flyer, together with your cheque for the appropriate amount (£7 for adults, £3 for children aged 18 or under. Book six or more adult places and get one free!).

Singing Day for Children **Saturday 4 October – St Mary's School, Ely**

On Saturday, 4 October a singing day for children and those who train them will be held at St Mary's School, High Barns, Ely. It will be run by Paul Trepte (Cathedral Director of Music) and singing amateur Rebecca Duckworth who directs the Cathedral's highly acclaimed Schools Singing Outreach Programme.

The day will be divided into two distinct sections:

- 10.30 to 12.30 A chance for adults (only) who have responsibility for or interest in training young voices to work with Rebecca and Paul on various aspects of running singing programmes for children, whether in church or in school.
- 1.30 - 3.00 An afternoon of singing and fun for children aged 7-13 years (boys and girls). There is no need already to be singing regularly in a choir, but please note that all singers must have the permission of a parent or guardian to attend and be in the care of a responsible adult who has been CRB checked or, alternatively, be accompanied by their own parent/guardian. Choir trainers who have attended the morning session are invited to stay on as observers.

It is expected that some young singers from the Cathedral's children's choir, *The Ely Imps*, will be in attendance to give the afternoon a good kick-start. Choir directors and any parents acting in a supervisory role are welcome to attend throughout the afternoon. At 2.45 pm there will be a short presentation of all the afternoon's work - all parents are warmly invited to watch.

Cost: £5.00 for the whole day for adult choir trainers. £3.00 per child (book for 5 and get 1 additional place free).

To apply for further information, please contact Jan Payne, 48 Impington Lane, Impington Cambridge CB24 9NJ or email janmpayne@googlemail.com

Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society (ACCMS) **'Come & Sing Evensong', Saturday 11 October – Barrington**

The next ACCMS 'Come & Sing Evensong' will be at All Saints Church, Barrington, on Saturday 11 October. There will be a rehearsal beginning at 3pm, followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Society at 4pm. Representatives from any church in the Cambridge Archdeaconry are encouraged to come to this meeting, after which tea will be provided, and Evensong sung at 5.30pm.

The service will include the following musical items:

Introit	O worship the Lord (Richard Shepard)
Canticles	Wesley in F
Anthem	For the beauty of the earth (John Rutter)

Further details of the programme of music will appear on the Ely website and on the Ely Music List very shortly. Singers from choirs, church music groups and choral societies would all be equally welcome – it is not necessary to be ‘robed’, but if you have robes, please bring them with you.

'Come and Sing' Evensongs are a wonderful opportunity for choirs from small churches/small choirs to become part of a larger choir and sing slightly more ambitious music. We hope that this one will be well supported. Additional information is available from Mary Stapleton, 1 Dumpling Cottages, Orwell Road, Barrington, Cambs. CB22 7SF, at marystapleton48@hotmail.com or on 01223 870672.

Please note: ACCMS will be arranging the 2009 Festival in King's College Chapel, but in order to avoid a clash with a major event in the Ely 900 programme, the date of the Festival will be 12 September, slightly earlier in the month than usual!

Huntingdon Deanery Evensong Sunday 26 October – Godmanchester

On Sunday 26 October at 6.30, choirs and singers from the Huntingdon Deanery will be combining in the Godmanchester Parish Church for a BCP Choral Evensong. Further details are available from the Church Organist and Choirmaster, Ken Diffey, on 01480 458846 or diffey@homecall.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN NEIGHBOURING AREAS

John Rutter Singing Day 'Sing on Saturday' Saturday 4 October - North Walsham

On Saturday 4 October, the Norfolk RSCM Committee is arranging a singing day led by John Rutter in St Nicholas Church, North Walsham from 11.00 to 4.45. The cost is £10 for adults, £5 for students, and free for junior singers under 14 years of age. Please bring your own packed lunch, but liquid refreshments will be provided. Applications for tickets should be made to the Area Secretary, John Hudson, 139 Cotman Fields, Bishopgate, Norwich NR1 4EP. Tel: 01603 661437.

Meet, Eat and Sing Christmas Music Wednesday 15 October Kingsthorpe, Northampton

On Wednesday 15 October, the Northampton RSCM Committee is arranging a 'Meet, Eat and Sing Christmas Music' event from 7.30 to 9.30 at the Chapter House, St John the Baptist Church, Kingsthorpe, Northampton. The cost is £3 and includes seasonal refreshments. It will be led by Andrew Moodie, the Committee Chairman, and will be an ideal opportunity for choir members and directors to think about and perform music that will be included in Christmas services. Please bring sets of music that you think others would like to consider.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Choir Directors 'Toolkit' Day

What is your USP? Well I wasn't sure I had one and certainly don't take it out to lunch! It is, as everybody knows, our *Unique Selling Point*. But how does this relate to choirs? On 16 February, Jan Payne, ably assisted by Paul Trepte, led us through a morning where we thought about many basic issues to do with choir direction.

We looked at where choirs came from and where they might be going. We examined the role of the choir director, and at what the bible tells us. We discovered what our USP might be in terms of what makes church choirs special, set apart from the rest, and what makes coming to choir something that people want to do or what stops people from coming. Many valid and interesting ideas were put forward from the small discussion groups.

Not being a very DIY sort of person, I wondered what might be in my toolkit. Jan carefully led us through the practicalities of being a choir director and explained the wide variety of skills or tools that we would need to use many times in our ministry. She listed musicianship and Christian understanding, choral direction skills (vocal health, conducting), resources (people, funds, music, books), liturgical skills, and pastoral skills (being open to new ideas, interest in teaching and learning, time, patience).

I did a mental check on my own toolkit, and of course I am not going to tell you how I scored, but enough to say that there might be areas that need to be revisited. I am sure this was the case for many if not all involved in the morning session.

The afternoon session was led by Paul Trepte. The idea was to work through the 2008 Ely Festival service booklet to learn the music and gain tips on how to prepare our choirs. However, Paul quickly asked for volunteers to accompany or conduct some of the pieces. Well done to the brave volunteers. It was a very useful afternoon and we gained insights into to how we could accompany or conduct in a more meaningful way.

Thank you to both Jan and Paul for a thought provoking but fun day. If you weren't there then you missed a treat.

Lloyd Barnett
Director of Music, St. Neots Parish Church

Awards Choristers' Evensong

At this years Awards Choristers' Evensong in the Cathedral on 19 April there were slightly fewer choristers than in previous years and from only three churches. However, those there made the most of the great opportunity to work with Paul Trepte and the cathedral boys' choir. In a mere hour and a quarter the Awards choristers rehearsed the entire Evensong music, including Vaughan Williams in C and anthems by David Ogden and Colin Gibson. After a short break for tea and then a run through with the Ely boys in the choir stalls, in no time at all the combined choirs were lining up for the service.

Throughout, the singing was of a very high standard, with the psalms (sung to plainsong) and both the anthems being very impressive. On paper the Vaughan Williams looks somewhat dull as it stays doggedly in C major, seemingly for its entirety, but the choirs really brought it alive. With

Jonathan Lilley's sparkling playing the whole service was inspiring. I was particularly impressed with the way in which all of the singers kept their eyes on Paul Trepte throughout and were obviously really enjoying the opportunity to sing in such a splendid setting. The Bishop himself presented the new and very impressive medals to this year's recipients. A great day!

Christian Rutherford
Director of Music, Cambridge St Mary the Less

Editor – The 2009 Awards Choristers' Evensong will be held on Saturday 25 April. Further details will be published in the February edition.

2008 Ely Festival of Church Music

On 17 May our choir, along with many others from across the Diocese, made their way to Ely Cathedral for the annual choirs festival, an opportunity to learn some new music and to join the cathedral choir for a service of worship on the theme *'The King of Love'*. It was the culmination of several weeks of rehearsals which we had to fit into a demanding schedule of services and practices in our own church.

We were conducted by the very supportive John Wardle, who was both patient and encouraging and really did bring out the best in us. Thanks should go to John, as well as to the organist Jonathan Lilley and the instrumental group, for producing music of the very highest quality.

The choice of music this year left us in no doubt that we were right to participate once again after a year off. The carefully selected pieces included psalms, rousing hymns, choir anthems and plenty of modern worship songs. As a choir we do not often sing psalms in the traditional way but we all enjoyed the well-known psalm 139 as much as the songs and hymns that we are more used to singing in our own church. For days to come after the service, we had the lilting rhythm of William Lloyd Webber's setting of 'Love Divine' going round in our heads.

Very often in church music the simplest of pieces can be the most uplifting and powerful. So it was with the short and meditative refrain that was used as a response throughout the service: *'God is love and where true love is, God himself is there'*. This sums up much of the Christian message and we will be using this refrain to help us focus on God in our intercessions in future services.

We would encourage churches to keep supporting this annual event. Although some hard work is required in the weeks leading up to the festival service, the effort is worthwhile and there is always support from larger church choirs for the smaller groups of singers who do not have enough voices to hold their own choir practices.

We all agreed that we had enjoyed being part of this year's festival and that, in this act of collective worship, we were able to celebrate God's love together.

Sandra Horner and Ian Harris
St Helena and St Mary's Church, Bourn

'Going for Gold' Workshop

In the Diocese of Ely the RSCM Gold Award has now replaced the Bishop's Senior Award to bring us in line with the practice elsewhere in the country. The Dean's Award and the Bishop's Award are still in existence and equate to the RSCM Bronze and Silver Awards.

The Ely RSCM Committee's Education and Training Task Group arranged an evening on Wednesday 4 June at the Stables Room in Histon for those interested to meet with John Wardle (the conductor of the Ely Festival in May) to discuss the arrangements for the Gold Award. John is the National Co-ordinator for RSCM Awards and had travelled from Worthing to be with us. There were 12 of us present with representation from Norfolk and Lincolnshire as well as Cambridgeshire, and we ranged from Authorized Lay Music Ministers, to organists, choir directors and choristers.

John spent some time discussing what is a very lengthy syllabus (which is available to download from the RSCM website http://www.rscm.com/education/vfl/gold_award.php), pointing out what was expected and the various pitfalls. He recommended the 'Voice for Life' scheme and the associated workbooks as a prelude to taking the Gold Award.

This Award is for singers and, unlike the erstwhile Bishop's Senior Award, there is no option for using instruments as part of the examination. Attendance at an RSCM residential course is one of the pre-requisites, as well as some form of previous successes in singing examinations.

There was good interaction during the evening between the 'students' and the 'tutor' and we even did some singing. We ended the session thinking about ways in which we could perhaps encourage our choristers to spread their wings further. 'Come & Sing' events, and other locally arranged events in the Deaneries and Archdeaconries were some of the suggestions.

Sheila J. George
ALM Music Minister, The Gransdens

Young Voices Festival

On 11 June, the Cathedral hosted the annual Young Voices Festival (formerly known as the Schools Festival), once again conducted by John Wardle from the RSCM. One of the choirs taking part for the first time was from Bushmead Primary School at Eaton Socon. Although located in Cambridgeshire it is just in the Diocese of St. Albans. The choir has not been formed for long and Mrs Janet Turner, the school music co-ordinator, was looking for a special event at which the choir could sing. The RSCM Young Voices Festival at Ely seemed an ideal opportunity, the date and location being just perfect.

The choir, numbering 44 children aged from 7 to 11, thoroughly enjoyed the day. The school had bought them special bright yellow polo shirts with the school crest and the word CHOIR embroidered on them. The children looked fine in their uniform and their smiles gave away what they were feeling. They enjoyed the festival so much that they performed all the music and readings again for the whole school in Eaton Socon Parish Church, to which parents and governors were invited. When asked if the children wanted to be involved next year they all replied YES! It was good to be with children from other schools but it would be better if even more children were able to take part.

Here are some of the children's thoughts.

Louis said 'When we got to Ely the building was so big, I was speechless'. Maisie thought that the conductor, John Wardle, was funny and nice, and Jonathan Lilley, the organist/pianist, played nicely and loud. Grace said, 'It was great fun'. Amy's comment, 'It was a great experience, I would love to go again', while Megan said, 'If I had the opportunity, Yes I'd do it again.'

Lloyd Barnett, Supply Teacher, Bushmead Primary School

‘Back to Basics’ Organ Workshop

On 16 June, people came from as far away as Kent, Cambridge, and Bedford, as well as from the surrounding areas, to a ‘Back to basics’ training session on the organ; led by Lloyd Barnett at St Mary’s Church, St. Neots, also known as the Cathedral Church of Huntingdonshire.

Lloyd has been organist in this church for twenty–four years, and has also played organs in many churches and cathedrals in this country as well as abroad, and so he was not only interesting to listen to but also well qualified to lead the training. He gave us great encouragement to get going and told us to spend time alone on the instrument, being prepared to “make a fool of ourselves on the organ, make playing a part of ourselves and if possible get a friend to listen to our efforts”.

He showed us several types of pipes, described how they were made and explained what their different functions are to make the wonderful organ sounds that we all enjoy so much.

The group were given an opportunity to play both organs in the church, one a large traditional instrument, the other a small and more modern type.

We were all encouraged by the obvious enthusiasm that Lloyd has for these wonderful instruments and hope that, with the tuition we received and with practice, we will all bring these benefits to our various congregations. Those of us who were too scared to have a go, would at least have a try now that we have been ‘back to basics’.

Janet Miles
St Andrew’s Church, Impington

CHORISTER AWARDS

2008 Awards

Many congratulations to the following candidates who were successful in the 2008 examinations:

Silver Level (Bishop’s Award)

Cambridge St. John the Evangelist	Charlotte Ball
	Grace Moore
Cambridge Little St. Mary	Claudia Efstathiou

Bronze Level (Dean’s Award)

Cambridge Little St. Mary	Eleanor DeWolf (with merit)
Whittlesey St. Andrew	Emily Brown

At the Awards Choristers’ Evensong in the Cathedral on 19 April, the Bishop of Ely and the Dean presented medals to those candidates who were able to attend and likewise presented the certificates at the Choirs’ Festival on 17 May.

Gold Award

As we were going to press, we were delighted to hear that Helen Lilley from St John the Evangelist Cambridge has gained the RSCM Gold Award. She has been a member of the choir for over 8 years, was head chorister from 2005-2007 and has taken all of the local RSCM voice for life awards (Dean's Award in 2002, Bishop's Award in 2004, and Bishop's Senior Award in 2006). In the examination for the Gold Award she achieved honours by gaining 146 marks out of a possible 150. Well done, Helen, and many congratulations from all of us!

2009 Examinations

While congratulating the successful candidates in the 2008 examinations, the Ely RSCM Committee was rather disappointed with the number of applicants - an all-time low. It is hoped that the clergy and choirleaders will continue to recognize the importance of the awards in the musical development of their young choristers and make every effort to encourage a greater response next year.

The examinations for the 2009 awards will be held in the Cathedral on **Saturday 28 February** (and also on **Saturday 7 March** if required by the number of applicants). The closing date is **1 February**. Copies of the syllabuses and entry forms are available on the Committee's website (www.rscmely.org.uk) or by post from the Awards Administrator:

Lloyd Barnett
43 Ridgeway, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambs PE19 2QX
01480 217153 or lbarnett@ntlworld.com

To encourage more candidates for the 2009 examinations the Committee has decided to provide a measure of financial assistance by covering the cost of the medals presented to successful candidates (approximately £11). Candidates, or their churches, will therefore be required to pay only the examination fees:

Silver £27 Bronze £21

As in 2008, the medals will be presented to the successful candidates at the Awards Choristers' Evensong on Saturday 25 April and the certificates at the Choirs' Festival on 16 May, both in the Cathedral.

Further details about the Awards scheme in general, including the national Gold Award (which replaces the erstwhile Bishop's Senior Award) may be obtained from the Committee's Awards Co-ordinator:

The Reverend Mike Banyard
The Vicarage
High Street, Chippenham, Cambs CB7 5PP
01638 721616 or banyardmg1@yahoo.co.uk

BARRY EADEN

Most readers will be aware that Barry Eaden has retired on health grounds as organizer of our festivals and the Chorister Awards scheme after very many years of unstinting dedication to these two very important areas of our work. In recognition of his exceptional contribution to church music in this area, the RSCM has awarded him their Certificate of Special Service which was presented to him by the Bishop of Ely at the 2008 Choirs' Festival on 17 May, together with a cheque for £500 donated by local choirs and musicians.

We are very grateful to his cousin, Roger Wheatley, for providing the following additional notes on Barry's background:

“Born in Cambridge in 1938, Barry joined the choir of St Andrew's Chesterton in 1948, where his father sang and where the organist was also a relative, thus beginning a lifelong association with this church. He eventually became the choirmaster and held the post for 25 years.

Meanwhile, he also became very much involved with musical activities on a wider front, principally by organizing for approximately 40 years the choir festivals in Ely Cathedral and the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, sponsored by the Ely RSCM Committee and the Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society. At the same time he was also responsible for administering the Chorister Awards scheme. As a musical performer, he became a leading amateur percussion player and timpanist with many local orchestras, his career being greatly influenced and assisted by Sir David Willcocks, Denis Fielder and James Blades.

Following his retirement, Barry still takes a keen interest in church music, and would be the first to acknowledge the help and kindness of so many friends that he has made in this fulfilling chapter of his life.”

PERSONALITIES

Bishop of Huntingdon

Most readers will be aware of the appointment of Dr David Thompson as the new Bishop of Huntingdon in succession to Dr John Inge. Dr Thompson was consecrated in Southwark Cathedral in July and will move to Ely over the summer. He will be visiting the Deaneries of the Diocese through the autumn, and so please look out for him. More details are on the Diocesan website at www.ely.anglican.org/news

Diocesan Communications Officer

The appointment of Mrs Val Robson as Communications Officer for the Diocese has just been announced. One of her first tasks will be an overhaul and maintenance of the Diocesan web-site. In addition, she will be responsible for producing a new, regular Diocesan newsletter and other appropriate written material to be available to parishes in both downloadable and hard copy form. This is a part-time post and Mrs Robson will have a base in the Diocesan Office.

Teresa Brown

Earlier in the year we were sorry to learn that Teresa Brown has resigned as the RSCM Co-ordinator for the Lincoln, Suffolk, Norfolk and Ely Areas. The Ely RSCM Committee has greatly

appreciated her contribution to its work, particularly her vision and ecumenical concern. Because of the current organisational changes in the pipeline at the RSCM, there are no immediate plans to replace her, but rest assured that your committee is continuing to liaise informally, but regularly, with neighbouring Areas in pursuit of the common goal.

George Granger

In March St Peter's Church, Wimblington, celebrated George Granger's 75 years as a member of the choir. He joined in 1933 at the age of 7, and, apart from war service, has been a regular chorister. He still has a strong voice, which is quite an asset when acting as vergier at weddings and funerals and can be heard from the back of the church - very useful for the organist when the congregation does not sing!!!

SINGING OPPORTUNITIES AT ELY CATHEDRAL

In January 2006 it was still the case that Ely Cathedral had only one choir it could call its own, and that, of course, was its traditional choir of **Men and Boys**. As I write these words it is quite extraordinary to think that we now have *three new choirs* we can call our own!

Girls Choir

Plans for the new **Girls Choir** were laid well over two years ago. It was not the first time that this initiative had been discussed, but in the past any such development was rejected. What made it possible this time was the new blood around the place which was really willing to drive the notion forward with sufficient determination and clarity of thought. Inevitably the crucial issue was funding. It is important to make it clear that this new choir is funded entirely by the King's School and that the Chapter bears no cost

The girls (aged 13-18), all boarding pupils in King's Senior School, have contributed significantly to cathedral services over the past 18 months, singing regularly on Wednesdays, alternate Mondays and on some Sundays.

Talented and devoted musicians were appointed to get the choir off the ground. **Louise Reid** (Director of the Girls Choir) was founder Director of the Guildford Cathedral Girl Choristers and before that Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls Choir of Wakefield Cathedral. **Edward Taylor**, the organ scholar appointed to assist her, has just been appointed Assistant Organist at Carlisle cathedral. He is replaced from September of this year by **Oliver Hancock** (until recently organ scholar at Jesus College, Cambridge). Currently, the girls' choir is directed by **Sarah MacDonald**, Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge

Ely Imps

The second new choir is *The Ely Imps*. The choir appeared in public for the first time in 2006 when over 100 boys and girls aged 8-13 sang to a packed cathedral under the baton of the world-famous Cambridge based composer, John Rutter. The choir is now conducted by Paul Trepte.

Following a very successful Christmas schedule in 2007 (three concerts in the cathedral!), *The Ely Imps* were featured alongside the cathedral choristers in the 2008 May Concert, singing songs by Richard Rodney Bennett. Rehearsals resume in early September for the new season which will

include a Christmas concert with *The Mediaeval Baebs* and a performance of Britten's opera *Noye's Fludde* in May 2009.

The 45-minute rehearsals are deliberately planned to take place on varied weekday evenings so that children with other commitments can achieve the minimum 75% attendance rate required. The emphasis is always on the fun and joy of singing and the feedback from current choir members is extremely positive. If *you* know a boy or girl in this age group who enjoys singing please encourage them to get in touch with us as soon as possible so that we can hear them sing.

Interested? If so please contact the Choir Administrator, Anne Mizen (e-mail: geoff8mizen@btinternet.com) *as soon as possible* to arrange a time to sing to Paul Trepte in August, 2008. Those who enquire will be given an individual time slot to show how well they can sing. There is no need to be scared of an 'audition' because the occasion will be a relaxed and enjoyable experience.

The new Children's choir is part of the *Ely Singing Outreach* (ESO) programme of Ely Cathedral's music department which has developed significantly over the past two years. ESO appointed the talented **Rebecca Duckworth** as singing amateur a year ago. During the past twelve months Rebecca has made regular visits to no less than fifteen primary schools to revitalize singing and train staff in those schools. New schools have been selected for similar visits during the academic year 2008-2009.

Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers (ECOS)

The third new choir is the **Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers (ECOS)** which was formed in association with the Diocese. This voluntary adult choir frequently sings for cathedral services when the Cathedral Choir is not available. Membership is open to any adult, whether or not they sing in a church choir, and a pool of about 60 singers (minimum age 18) has been created. **Jan Payne** is the first Director of this new choir and she needs no introduction to readers of this publication!

There are no formal entry requirements for ECOS. People from a wide range of backgrounds have been attracted to the new choir. They tend to have previous choral experience, are able to read music (although expert sight-reading skills are not necessary), are in sympathy with the aims of the choir and are prepared to work in a variety of styles of church music. The size of the choir makes it possible for individual commitments to be tailored in terms of availability. Most members sing for at least two services per session (plus rehearsals) and are available on some weekends.

Paul Trepte
Director of Music, Ely Cathedral

Auditions *Please note that informal auditions for both boy and girl choristers can be arranged at any time by contacting either Paul Trepte (P.Trepte@cathedral.ely.anglican.org) or Sarah MacDonald (seam100@cam.ac.uk). Parents of boys aged 7-9 may like to encourage their sons to attend the next 'Be a Chorister for the Day' event to be held on Saturday, 15 November. This is a fun day aimed at identifying potential cathedral choristers who visit the King's School and Choir House on this day before participating in an informal cathedral service with the choristers as a climax in the afternoon. Details can be obtained from the boys' Housemaster, Mr Neil Porter-Thaw (neilp-t@kings-ely.cambs.sch.uk).*

BISHOP'S ADVISER FOR MUSIC

As announced briefly in the last edition of the Ely Music Rag, our Education and Training Officer, Jan Payne, was licensed and commissioned in November 2007 by the then Bishop of Huntingdon for her new dual role as Honorary Bishop's Adviser for Music in the Diocese of Ely (a new post) and Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) at Ely Cathedral.

To provide us with a fuller picture of this appointment. I have asked Jan a number of questions over the past few months, and she has kindly given us the following answers - *Editor*

What is your background in music and pastoral work?

I trained professionally as a musician at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London in the 1970s. My church music experience has been broad and gained over a 30-year period working in both the Baptist and Anglican Churches. I'm genuinely happy worshipping in both traditional and more modern styles and to use music ranging from Plainsong to Renewal with everything else in between.

My pastoral work has been very varied, especially since becoming a Licensed Lay Minister. I have taken over 50 funerals, been part of a Healing Ministry team and undertaken Home Communion, Lay Chaplaincy work and general pastoral visiting. I see the pastoral care of all church musicians as key to a good working relationship within choirs and music groups and the wider church too.

What are the duties and responsibilities of your new role?

To some extent these are still being formalised. At the Cathedral I am a part-time member of the music team (directing the Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers) but also part of the ministry team too, serving alongside the Canons and the Priest Vicars. I undertake various roles within services on a weekly basis of which being Acting-Precentor at Evensong is probably the most challenging but enjoyable. Additionally, I undertake Day Chaplaincy duties and assist the Education Department on an occasional basis. As to the Adviser's post - I think it's a bit unknown as to how this might develop. I am very keen to see quality music supporting the worship in all our churches. With Ely 900 fast approaching and the importance of outreach and mission being emphasised through 'Mission Action Planning', I am hoping to be able to give appropriate support to all churches in their musical activity. I am available to give workshops, deal with specific areas of interest within one church, advise on appointments of musicians, training ALM Music Ministers and more besides. Watch this space, I'd say!

Why was the post created?

Quality music (in whatever style) supports worship in a unique way. A large number of our churches now have few, sometimes no, 'live' musicians or need a lot of help developing music. This requires time, encouragement and expertise which I hope I have to offer. That said, I would never claim to have all the answers on all subjects but I may know someone who does.

What have been the main challenges and achievements since you were appointed?

At Ely, learning my way around the Cathedral and the services held there has been challenging. Cathedral life is very different to being in a parish church. Everyone has been very kind and patient with me and I value the warm welcome and support I have received. Managing to lead Choral

Evensong without too many noticeable errors has probably been my best achievement and preaching in June to the main Sunday morning congregation the most daunting challenge to date. I recognise it is a humbling privilege to work and worship in our Diocesan Cathedral - it's not something I take lightly.

As an Adviser, I am still very much at the 'fact-finding' stage of the post. I am already seeing many challenges ahead but I think the jury is currently out on any achievements!

What are your main goals for the next couple of years?

- To see every church using music appropriate to its needs to enhance its worship.
- To encourage more musicians (and other interested parties) to come to training events and make use of the huge range of resources now available both locally and nationally. We urgently need to train more musicians for leadership roles in their churches if live music isn't going to die out in even more areas.
- To find ways of drawing young people into being involved in music in the church.
- To find and train new organists and choir directors.
- To make use of the considerable range of expertise that can be found in our churches if you go and look for it and to explore ways of sharing skills and personnel across parish boundaries.

Finally, with the 'Transforming Worship' initiative now up and running, my hope and prayer would be that everyone who attends a church in this Diocese will be drawn into a closer, transforming and more meaningful relationship with God, assisted by the music offered to his praise and glory. If my new post can help to make that happen then I shall feel I've done just a tiny bit to further God's Kingdom here on earth.

In this context, you might be interested in information received from the London School of Theology about a 'Symposium on Worship' to be held in September at their premises in Northwood. The line-up of speakers is of the highest quality and the workshop programme looks very promising. The dates (11-13 September) may sadly preclude those who work full-time (unless you take some leave) but it looks to me as though you can opt to do just the Friday/Saturday if that's all you can manage. The prices are pretty reasonable too, with some limited availability of accommodation and meals. More details are given on <http://www.ennerdalemusic.co.uk/1st/symposium/index.html> and <http://www.transformingworship.org.uk/TransformingWorship/>. For churches considering the 'Transforming Worship' initiative, this symposium might prove to be a valuable event to kick-start your thinking. Booking/registration is available on-line too.

NEWS FROM THE ELY DIOCESE

Authorised Lay Music Ministry Training Programme

There is still just time to make an application to undertake training as an ALM Music Minister, starting in September 2008. If you are interested in doing so, please speak with your incumbent as a matter of some urgency. You are welcome to contact me for an informal discussion about the course and for further information.

Calling Singers Aged 16-18

Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers (ECOS) now welcomes applications from those aged 16-18 who would like to sing occasionally in a Cathedral-based, voluntary choir. The minimum commitment is one service per term. There will be an open evening for interested singers on Friday, 19 September, starting at 7.30 pm in Ely. If you are interested in being part of this, or you know someone who might be, please contact me for an application form and further details. Singers over the age of 18 continue to be welcome to apply for membership.

Ely 900

In 2009 the Diocese of Ely celebrates the 900th year since its foundation. During this year of celebration we will not only be looking back with thankfulness for God's faithfulness in years past but we will also be thinking creatively about our responsibility to pass on the Christian faith to future generations.



At a time when many parishes and chaplaincies are involved in the process of Mission Action Planning, the 900th anniversary provides an excellent opportunity to reach out into our communities as we share in God's mission in this Diocese. There is now a section on the Diocesan website (www.ely.anglican.org/900/900_newsJune08.pdf) about this, including key dates for the main celebrations in Ely. There will soon be a suggested list of music resources for the year, reflecting a wide range of music suitable both for looking back with thanksgiving and moving forward in mission for the future.

Additionally, to help churches consider how best to use and expand their music during the year, we will be holding a special training day on Saturday, 1 November from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at Bar Hill Church. 'Fit for 900' will be a day of music-making for ministers, musicians and congregations alike. Details on how to book will go out with the September clergy mailing, and will also be available on the website and via the Ely Music List. If nobody from your church can access these facilities, please write to me for further information. Jan Payne (janmpayne@googlemail.com or 48 Impington Lane, Impington, Cambridge CB24 9NJ

ADVERT

Organist/ Director of Music, Royston Parish Church

The Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Royston, wishes to appoint an Organist/Director of Music. This is an exciting and challenging post for a committed Christian who will develop all aspects of music in our worship, both the choral tradition and modern worship songs and hymns. We have a robed choir and music group. The person we seek will be able to work flexibly using the musical gifts of the congregation. Our main service is the Parish/Family Eucharist. RSCM rates plus fees are payable and are reviewed annually. An enhanced CRB disclosure is required.

Requests for further information (also available on our website www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk) or letters of application with CV and two references should be sent as soon as possible to:

Mrs Joanne Wallis
Rosemount, 11 Hollies Close, Royston, Herts, SG8 7DZ
Tel: 01763 246371 (Church Office) or
e-mail: st.johnroyston@btopenworld.com

NEWS FROM THE RSCM

New Publications

'**Season by Season**', the latest publication to be edited by John Barnard will be released later in 2008 and will be full of music for services throughout the church's year. Presented in a format that can (with the appropriate licence) be copied freely, this is a worthy companion to the RSCM Carol Book. (See details earlier in this edition of a workshop on 1 October based on this publication)

'**In Every Corner Sing - Songs of God's World**' Compiled by Geoff Weaver, this is a timely publication with the Lambeth Conference being held in 2008. Full of songs which can be easily learnt and with permission to copy (under licence) this will be a valuable resource for churches keen to make use of music from across the world. At £50 (discount for RSCM members) the book is not cheap but it comes with its own CD of backing tracks for each song, so no excuses that there's nobody to play them/teach them. Available from RSCM Music Direct, Stock List Order Number D0209.

Sunday by Sunday—Music for the Second Service Lectionary Compiled by Anne Harrison, John Henderson, Peter Moger and David Ogden this is a companion to the 'Sunday by Sunday' insert in the Church Music Quarterly. This long-awaited resource for those who have to choose music for the second service in the day is available at £25 from RSCM Music Direct, Stock List Order Number G0105.

<http://www.rscm.com/publications/new.php> gives further details about all new publications.

RSCM Membership

The RSCM is committed to supporting sacred music in churches, chapels, schools and the community, bringing about the transformation of worship and of lives through music. We work with people of all ages and all levels of skill in many different countries across the world.

The challenge for the RSCM is both demanding and exciting - there is immense potential for further development - but like all charities, we need support. Membership of the RSCM is an investment in the future of church music, and the support of our members enables us to offer education and training courses, published resources, and activities for all those involved in music in worship.

Full membership of the RSCM, for organisations or individuals, has many benefits for those that are regularly involved in music-making. However, for the many people who enjoy listening to music from the pews, who just love to sing in the congregation, and would like to support the RSCM, there is the option of becoming a **Friend**. As a Friend of the RSCM you will:

- become part of a worldwide charity making a difference Sunday by Sunday in thousands of churches throughout the UK and across the world
- receive news and regular mailings about church music and the RSCM, including the *Church Music Quarterly* magazine
- invest in the future of live music in worship
- have the chance to take part in festivals, events and courses in your area
- give the gift of music to a new generation

To become a Friend costs just £25 a year, which can be paid by Direct Debit. If you are a UK taxpayer, the RSCM can claim Gift Aid on your subscription at no extra cost to you.

How about giving the gift of Friendship this Christmas?

The gift of a year's subscription makes an ideal present for family and friends. Just fill in the application form and supply us with separate contact details for you and the person to whom you are giving the subscription. The new Friend will receive a welcome pack including the current issue of *Church Music Quarterly*.

All membership details can be found on the RSCM website at www.rscm.com/membership. Alternatively, call us on 01722 424841 for details and an application form.