

Sing Joyfully

St Swithun's Choir e-newsletter



Vol. 5 No. 7

August 2017

The program for this month

Saturday 5 August at 5 pm, Farewell Concert

A significant sample of the music being sung in Dublin will be presented in a concert at Swiz. In the presence of the Consul General of the Republic of Ireland and the composer Colin Brumby. Afterwards, the regular high tea will follow in the hall.

Sunday 6 August at 10 am, commissioning service

The choir will present two anthems at the regular service this morning: Mendelssohn's *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace*, and Rutter's *A Clare Benediction*. Travelling choristers will be commissioned as representatives of the parish to share our choral message with congregations in both Christ Church and St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

Sunday 13 August

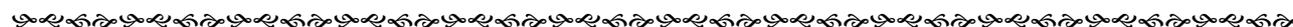
Those members of the choir who are not going to Dublin, and those who have not yet left for Dublin, will support the congregation in singing the hymns at 10 am.

Sunday 27 August, special guest choir

A choir from Abbotsleigh will sing at the 10 am service, accompanied by their organist, Rosemary Blake.

Sunday 3 September, another special guest choir

The Cathedral Singers, with director and organist Jim Abraham, will sing at the 10 am service.



The recent past – July

Sunday 9 July at 8 am

The small choir for July sang George Herbert's hymn *Let all the world in every corner sing* to a tune by Norman Gilbert.

English poet George Herbert (1593-1633) was a contemporary of William Shakespeare (1564-1616) and John Milton (1608-1674). His poem *Let all the world* was first published posthumously in 1633. It is usually sung these days to the tune *Luckingham*, by Basil Harwood, No. 342 in HTC.

Norman Gilbert (1912-75) was a pupil of Sir Edward Bairstow. He was organist of St. Paul's, Llandudno, Wales, and music master at Headlands Grammar School, Swindon. He composed tunes for a number of popular hymns, but none are included in HTC. His tune for *Let all the world* is published in OUP's classic red book, "Oxford Easy Anthem Book".

Sunday 9 July, Choral Communion at 10 am

We presented to the St Swithun's congregation the setting of the Communion Service by Herbert Sumsion which will be sung in both Dublin Cathedrals next month.

Friday 14 July, RSCM Midwinter Dinner

The highlight event of the RSCM year in New South Wales is the famous Midwinter Dinner. This year it was held at All Saints Hunters Hill. The evening began with the resident choir, augmented by the St James Singers, under the direction of Warren Trevelyan Jones and accompanied by Alastair Nelson, singing Evensong. They canticles were very familiar to those of us who attended from St Swithun's – Brewer in D. The anthem was also very familiar – Henry Balfour Gardiner's setting of the Latin compline hymn "Te lucis ante terminum", known to us as *Evening Hymn*. The choir sang the Latin version.

Guest speaker at the dinner was John Cleary, veteran broadcaster and commentator on things religious. His support for church music in all its forms was made very clear.

Saturday 15 July, St Swithun's Day, Evensong at 5 pm

Our regular July Evensong featured canticles by Thomas Attwood Walmisley, and Malcolm Archer's anthem *And I saw a new Heaven*. We opened the service with Peter Hamilton's fine introit, *Praise ye the Lord* (Psalm 117: 1-2) and closed it with our first full choir presentation of Rutter's *A Clare Benediction*.

Saturday 15 July, Choir party at 7 pm

Following the Evensong high tea, the choir and invited guests stayed on in the church hall for further drinks and more food to mingle with the people travelling to Dublin.

The Old Hundredth

On the Sunday after St Swithun's day, we sang *All people that on earth do dwell*. This hymn is very old. The author is reputed to be William Kethe, about whom very little is known with any certainty. He was said to be a Scottish clergyman, sent to Germany and Geneva in the middle of the sixteenth century, at about the time of the Scottish Reformation. He had something of a reputation for writing metrical versions of the Psalms. Twenty-five of these were included in the *Anglo-Genevan Psalter* of 1561. His version of Psalm 100 is the only one to survive virtually unaltered.

John Daye, an English Protestant printer, collected many of the available metrical psalms, including a number of Kethe's, and published *The English Psalter* in 1562. Because many of those psalms were metricated by Thomas Sternhold and some others by John Hopkins, the collection was also referred to as the "Sternhold and Hopkins" psalter. Kethe's Psalm 100 was not included in *The English Psalter* until 1565. It was matched there with a tune by Bourgeois.

Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510 – 1559) was a French composer and music theorist of the Renaissance. He is most famous as one of the main compilers of Calvinist hymn tunes in the middle of the 16th century. One of the most famous melodies in all of Christendom, the Protestant doxology known as the Old 100th, is commonly attributed to him. This is the tune that was matched with Kethe's Psalm 100.



This remains the version we all know. It was harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams and sung at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, thus ensuring its survival for ever and ever. Amen.

“The Patrick Project” reaches its conclusion

This is the month when the choir sings services in the two Dublin Church of Ireland Cathedrals. From now on, choristers need to take special care to protect themselves from the ravages of seasonal illnesses. We need a fit and healthy crew to sing.

For travellers, a booklet is being prepared which will give information about Ireland, Dublin and the program while we are there. It will be distributed after the concert on Saturday 5 August. If you are travelling with us and are unable to attend the concert, please contact Brian Watson and arrange to pick up your copy.

We recommend that you pack music and robes in cabin baggage so you may be sure it actually arrives in Dublin with you.

Take your name badge with you: whether the blue and white choir badge or the gold parish badge, either will do very well.

Remember, black socks and shoes (with soles commensurate with moving like a cat over the paved floors of cathedrals – no clickety-clicking).

With nearly 70 regular parishioners missing for the next month or so, Swiz could suffer a substantial drop in its cash flow. We need to be sure that we have a viable church family to return home to, so make sure your weekly offering for the work of St Swithun’s parish continues while we are away. If, even after Belinda’s entreaty last Sunday, you continue to make your weekly offering in cash, consider making an arrangement to continue that regular payment while you are away by depositing your offering direct to the Church’s bank account: BSB 032-186, Account 115266, ref: service time.

Local Government elections are being held on Saturday 9 September for both Hornsby and Ku-Ring-Gai Councils. Voting is compulsory. If you will still be away on that day, Postal voting can be done online: www.votensw.info.

Music list for Dublin

Travelling choristers, please check your travelling folders and make absolutely sure that the following pieces are filed. Anne will not be taking spares to replace the copies you have left at home!

Evensong preces & responses

Peter Hamilton

Evensong canticles (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis)

Brewer in D

Walmisley in D Minor

Ireland in F

Noble in B minor

Murrill in E

Anthems

Grant us thy peace, Felix Mendelssohn

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, S. S. Wesley

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, S. S. Wesley

The Lord hath been mindful of us, S. S. Wesley

I will sing with the spirit, John Rutter

O Sing Joyfully, Adrian Batten

Dear Lord and Father, adapted from Hubert Parry

And I saw a new Heaven, Malcolm Archer

A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester, L. J. White

Richard De Castré’s Prayer to Jesus, Colin Brumby

A Clare Benediction, John Rutter

Psalms

67: v. 1-7

chant by

Joseph Barnby

90: v. 1-12

Edward J Hopkins

106: v. 1-12

Joseph Barnby

108: v. 1-13

Thomas Morley

119: v. 1-16
119: v. 89-96
127: v. 1-6

Edward J Hopkins
Peter Hamilton
Martin Luther

Your black folder

Two Eucharist booklets

Hymns from the New English Hymnal

(These last three items have not been handed out yet.)



Once in a lifetime opportunity

Peter Hamilton and Meg Matthews plan to publish a booklet of descants for selected hymns in Hymns for Today's Church. This is your opportunity to influence the choice of hymns deserving this special treatment.

If you want to list the numbers of the hymns which you think cry out for a descant (or for a more pleasing descant) please do so. Mind you, we don't guarantee that a descant will be found or written for EVERY hymn that you nominate.

Peter (peter.stives@bigpond.com)

& Meg (megwenya@gmail.com)

PS. You don't have to be a soprano to make these suggestions – all readers of *Sing Joyfully* are welcome to throw in ideas.

(Now, there is something you can do to while away the time on the long flight to Dublin. The contents list, with tune titles may be viewed on <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/HTC> – Ed.)



Choir program – 2017

Date	Venue	Time	
2017			
Sat 5 Aug	Swiz	5 pm	Farewell concert
Thu 14 Sep	Swiz	8 pm	Rehearsals resume
Sun 17 Sep	Swiz	10 am	First service after the trip
Sat 28 Oct	Swiz	5 pm	Evensong
Sat 25 Nov	Swiz	7 pm	Bach's Christmas Oratorio

Please stay continually alert for advice about additions/amendments.



The next issue of *Sing Joyfully* may be expected early in October when we shall hope to start publishing a record of the choir's visit to Ireland.