



# Newsletter

March 2015

*Patron: Sir Trevor Garland*

*Past Patron: Dr I G Dicker*

## From the Director

Greetings!

This is the first TCS newsletter of 2015 so Happy New year - even though we are more than half way through Lent!

As usual we have been busy at the start of the year with the annual dedication service at St. John's Gordon in February. We have introduced some new music - Philip Moore's third evening service, which is based on plainsong is very appropriate for Lent. We have also sung Adrian Battan's Hear My Prayer - a five-part unaccompanied work which was quite challenging.

We recently sang a Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, North Ryde. We are now working on the combined choirs' Palm Sunday service at St John's Gordon and the annual Stainer's Crucifixion.

There is a large repertoire of music for Lent. Easter music is not as plentiful as Christmas but I suppose in today's secular society, the Easter Bunny does not have the same significance as Father Christmas!



After Easter we have our annual trip to Bowral and a new venue, Terrigal in the Central Coast.

2015 has no not brought any new tenors - so far - but we are hopeful that the advertisement for a Choral scholarship may bring some interest.

Best wishes

**Jim Abraham**

**DIRECTOR**

## **From the Chair**

Greetings All

This year seems to be flying by as usual and it will soon be Easter. I hope this Newsletter is distributed in time to alert you some of the Services we will be taking part in during this time. They are very much the same as previously and there is also a summary of the services for the year. Additions to this list will be announced as they appear.

We are again happy to be taking part in Easter services at St John's Gordon, who has incidentally just launched a fund raising appeal towards a new Hill, Norman and Beard organ for the church. We will be look forward to more music making in this lovely church, especially with a new organ.

We are well and truly back in harness this year and some of our activities, both serious and fun, are shown later in the Newsletter. You may notice we are still very keen to find additional choristers, especially tenors, and are still offering a choral scholarship to a young musician or two who can fill this gap for us. We of course acknowledge the fantastic work that is being done by our brilliant "lady tenors", Emma and Janet.

One beautiful service we took part in recently was at Holy Spirit Catholic church at North Ryde – "The Stations of the Cross". Although most of the music was simple, it was a very uplifting service. As part of that service we sang "Hear my Prayer O Lord", by Adrian Batten (1591 – 1637). That was NOT simple, but it was beautiful to sing!

In a weak moment recently, I followed up some publicity from National Pens that appeared in our PO Box and ordered some pens with our name and website printed on them. They are very good quality pens, in maroon, and we are selling them for the cost of a donation to TSC. I am actually very pleased with my "weak moment" purchase and we will have them available for anyone who is interested.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing many of you in the months ahead, as we sing praises to the Lord.

God bless

Jan Kneeshaw

**Secretary/ Chair**

**Check out our website and then tell your friends!**

**[www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au)**

*See details of the choir, news, coming events, music listings, contacts for bookings weddings and other events, information for interested choristers wanting to audition.*

**Would you like to consider joining us?**

Contact Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or the Director,  
Jim Abraham on 0405 817 276

# TCS Program for 2015

Come and join us for one of these events

Other activities will be announced as they arise.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>
<b>MARCH</b>	Sunday	29	7.0pm	Palm Sunday Service	St John's Gordon
<b>APRIL</b>	Friday	3	2.30pm	Stainer's Crucifixion	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	19	10.0am	Mass	St John's Dee Why
<b>MAY</b>	Sunday	3	11.30am	Anzac Day Service	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	17	2.30pm	Concert	St Jude's Bowral
	"	"	3.15pm	Evensong	"
	Sunday	24	3.0pm	Evensong	Holy Spirit Terrigal
<b>JUNE</b>	Sunday	7	6.0pm	Evensong	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	14	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
<b>JULY</b>	Sunday	12	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
<b>AUGUST</b>	Sunday	2	10am	Mass	St John's Balmain
	Saturday	29	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Sunday	13	10.30am	Mass	Christ Church St Laurence
	Sunday	27	9.0am	Divine Service	Scots' Kirk Mosman
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Sunday	11	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Sunday	1	9.30am	Mass	St John's Balmain
	Monday	2	7.30pm	Faure Requiem	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	22	10.0am	Mass	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	29	7.0pm	Advent Carol Service	St Alban's Leura
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Sunday	13	6.0pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Balmain
	Friday	18	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	St Peter's Cremorne
	Sunday	20	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Gordon
	Thursday	24	11.0pm	Midnight Mass	St John's Gordon

## TCS Committee

**Secretary/Public Officer:** Jan Kneeshaw

**Treasurer:** David Lewis

**Minutes Secretary:** Janet Long

**Membership Secretary:** Emma Ericson

**Social Secretary:** Nicola Leaney

**Ordinary Member:** Madeleine Rowles

**Librarian:** Lynn Bock.



Supported by Ku-ring-gai Council

# The Cathedral Singers

## EASTER SERVICES



**Passion Sunday – Sunday 29 March 2015**

**7.00pm**

**Festival of Lessons and Music for Passiontide**

**St John's Parish Choirs**

**The Jacobean Singers**

**The Cathedral Singers**

# *Stainer's Crucifixion*

**Good Friday**

**3 April 2015**

**2.30pm**

**St John's Church**

**Cnr Pacific Hwy/St John's Ave**

**Gordon**

## The Cathedral Singers

***Damian Arnold – Tenor***

***Craig Everingham – Baritone***

***Brett McKern – Organist***

***Jim Abraham – Director***

***Free entry***

***Donations to The Cathedral Singers encouraged***

*Enquiries to Jan Kneeshaw:*

## The Cathedral Singers Inc

PO Box 569 GORDON NSW 2072

email: [tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au](mailto:tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au)

Phone: 02 9144 4915 Fax: 02 9144 4915 Mobile: 0411 785 117

[www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au)

**TCS Re-Dedication Service at St John's Gordon**  
– 15 February 2015.



Photo – John Ross Edwards.

The Cathedral Singers formally renewed their ministry in a Dedication during the 9.30am Service of Holy Communion at the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, Gordon, on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

Mr Jim Abraham asked for God's help to lead The Cathedral Singers as Director and Organist, and Mrs Jan Kneeshaw also sought God's help to ensure the choir's smooth running as Secretary/Chair. Father Keith Dalby asked "for Almighty God to bless each singer, organist, director and administrator as they seek to follow Him, to know Him and to serve Him all the days of their lives through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The Singers chose the Mass in F by Harris as the setting of the service, while the chant for Psalm 32 was by Wesley. The St John's 9.30am choir joined in the leading of four appropriate hymns. During Communion the Singers' chosen anthem was "O Lord increase our faith" (Loosemore) and Jesu Dulcis, a 12<sup>th</sup> Century hymn, was sung by the St John's Choir.

Both choirs joined to sing Mozart's "Ave Verum" with organ and violins played by young church members, Katie McCormack and Andrew Wu. This was a thrilling and emotional experience for participants and for the congregation.

As usual, Dr Brett McKern and Nicola Chau were at the organ.

**JUNE HOWARTH OAM**

St John's Choir member and parishioner.

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**Support The Cathedral Singers**

**BUY A PEN!!!**

**Good quality pens available for a donation to TCS. Ask a committee member!**

The Cathedral Singers  
[www.cathedralsingers/org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers/org.au)



## An Evensong for Lent

Easter has rightly been called the Queen of Church Festivals. But before Easter there must be a time of preparation.

Lent is probably not the most popular season in the church's calendar, but it has been likened to a journey and one from which we stand to gain much. While we are looking forward to the exuberance of Easter we must experience an atmosphere that is sombre and penitential.

Thus it was that The Cathedral Singers provided a splendid Evensong at St John's Gordon on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The hymns were from the New English Hymnal – traditional Anglican Lenten fare. Plainsong was evident in the psalms and in the canticles. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis were sung to the Third Service by Philip Moore (b1943). His composition of faux bourdons based on a plainsong setting bears only slight traces of modernity. This moving setting was most sensitively sung and deserves a wide audience.

The unusual anthem, "Hear my Prayer" has been described as Adrian Batten's finest work. It runs the whole gamut from polyphony to madrigal and listening to it was a deeply moving spiritual experience and a real treat.

After an appropriate sermon from the Rector, Father Keith Dalby, Evensong concluded with processional singing of the litany, "The Story of the Cross".

This Evensong was a wonderful occasion and the parish expresses its gratitude to The Cathedral Singers and their Conductor, Jim Abraham for this part of our Lenten journey. Particular mention must be made of the fine organ playing of Nicola Chau, St John's most valued assistance organist.

### NIGEL HUBBARD

Parishioner – St John's Gordon.

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## TCS - "Rent a choir"!!!

Would you like us to help you or your family on your special day? We have an extensive repertoire of anthems, hymns and songs we could provide to assist you. Contact the Secretary on 9144 4915 for more details.



*"Thanks Jan, it was a blessing to have The Cathedral Singers perform at the wedding, filling the room with beautiful harmonies and excitement. Everyone was in fact quite impressed with the repertoire sung, and felt very comfortable singing the hymns with the choir leading."*

*"A huge thanks to you and the Choir for the beautiful singing & music at our wedding. It added a special touch to our ceremony and we had a lot of people comment to us how lovely the music was". – Sidoni*

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## FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS.....



### **The sublime:**

At Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde a feature each Friday evening in the season of Lent is the traditional celebration of the Stations of the Cross, led by different groups in the parish.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, we were privileged to experience the musical talent of The Cathedral Singers, who truly enhanced the solemnity of the devotion. The hymns sung in beautiful harmony, added to the spiritual and prayerful contemplation of the Lord's Passion and Death and were very much appreciated by the congregation.

Come again Cathedral Singers!

### **LOLA BROWN**

Holy Spirit North Ryde parishioner.

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### **The Ridiculous:**

After this uplifting service, we took the opportunity to have some social time and progressed to the local Italian restaurant. I don't suppose we should advertise the Stromboli, but the food was magnificent and the company was not bad either!

Imagine a metre long pizza, followed by a "doughnut" – so-called, filled with Nutella!!!

Has that spoilt your day?



Photos: Bob and Elizabeth, Emma, Nicola and Penny with the money counters.

Dave and Madeleine were left to work out the bill

## For whom the siren soundeth.

The RSCM Workshop with Evensong at St James King Street.

It is some years since the RSCM held a choral workshop with Evensong in Sydney. These took place in SAC, led by a guest director from an English Cathedral or from the USA – and attended by several hundred choristers from all parts of NSW. These festivals afforded the opportunity for choirs to learn and sing great service settings and anthems – and to meet each other.

On the afternoon of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015, church musicians from all over Sydney gathered at St James King Street to sing an Evensong consisting of English music spanning 6 centuries. This event was under the direction of Andrew Lumsden from Winchester Cathedral UK, the Evensong being preceded by a Workshop. There were approximately 85 choristers, some sitting in congregational seats and with 16 members of the SKS choir. -



St James organist Alistair Nelson, played 2 works by Herbert Howells, as a prelude and postlude respectively. The church choir, resplendent in their white surplices, were directed by Warren Trevelyan-Jones, Head of Music at SJ, sang Psalm 98 (Ivor Atkins) and responses by Kevin Leighton. The combined choirs performed the service setting of Stanford on A and the SS Wesley Ascribe unto the Lord. The congregation joined in the 2 hymns – “Let all the world in every corner sing Words – George Herbert 1593 - 1632 Music – Basil Harwood (1859 – 1949) Luckington - and the great hymn of praise – “How shall I sing that majesty” (words John Mason 1646- 94 and tune Cue Fen by Ken Naylor 1931 – 91 Descant by David Hill).



Lessons were read by Ross Cobb and David Russell (RSCM Chair and Dep chair respectively). Prayers were offered by Rev John Stewart, associate Rector, with the St James Rector Rev Andrew Sempell officiating.

However, during the singing of the first hymn a loud sound was heard that appeared to be coming from the organ pipes. It continued while the Magnificat had started but the conductor kept conducting, and the choirs kept singing. The siren grew louder - (think of the Titanic!). At the concluding line of the Mag the siren stopped, thus “Glory to God” rang out in all its glory!

Then followed the second lesson and the Nunc Dimittis while the firemen from 2 brigades checked the porch under the guidance of the Reverend Stewart. Suddenly the siren gave another burst, then ceased. At that moment the Rev Stewart appeared at the top of the aisle as the same time as the choir were singing “and to the Holy Ghost”. In his white vestments he presented a ghostly figure, particularly seen from the choir stalls, causing some of the singers to be somewhat alarmed.

The service continued without any further distraction. All participants seemed to enjoy the event and now look forward to the next workshop. Comments from individuals in the congregation were very positive - .... “a good blend” , “a good balance”, “excellent sound”.

**Footnote:** The church did not burn down, there was no sign of fire. Fortunately it was a false alarm!

Photography : Chris Shain

**Pauline Thomas - Alto.**



## Birthday Congratulations to our Patron!



Partying with Sir Trevor –  
 at Christmas in his official capacity as Consul to the  
 Solomon Islands when TCS sang carols –  
 at the birthday party, where TCS were guests  
 ...and relaxing with Woof at home.



Due to the generous donations from choir members, Dave, our Treasurer,  
 presented him on our behalf with a garden bench for more parties!



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### ARE YOU A TENOR???

This is a serious and perennial question.  
 If you are a tenor who can read music,  
 enjoys Cathedral style music - and a  
 challenge – WE NEED YOU!!!!  
 Think about getting in touch. Just look at  
 the potential benefits!  
 We might even be able to offer you a  
 Choral Scholarship.



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## COPELAND CROSSWORD COMPETITION

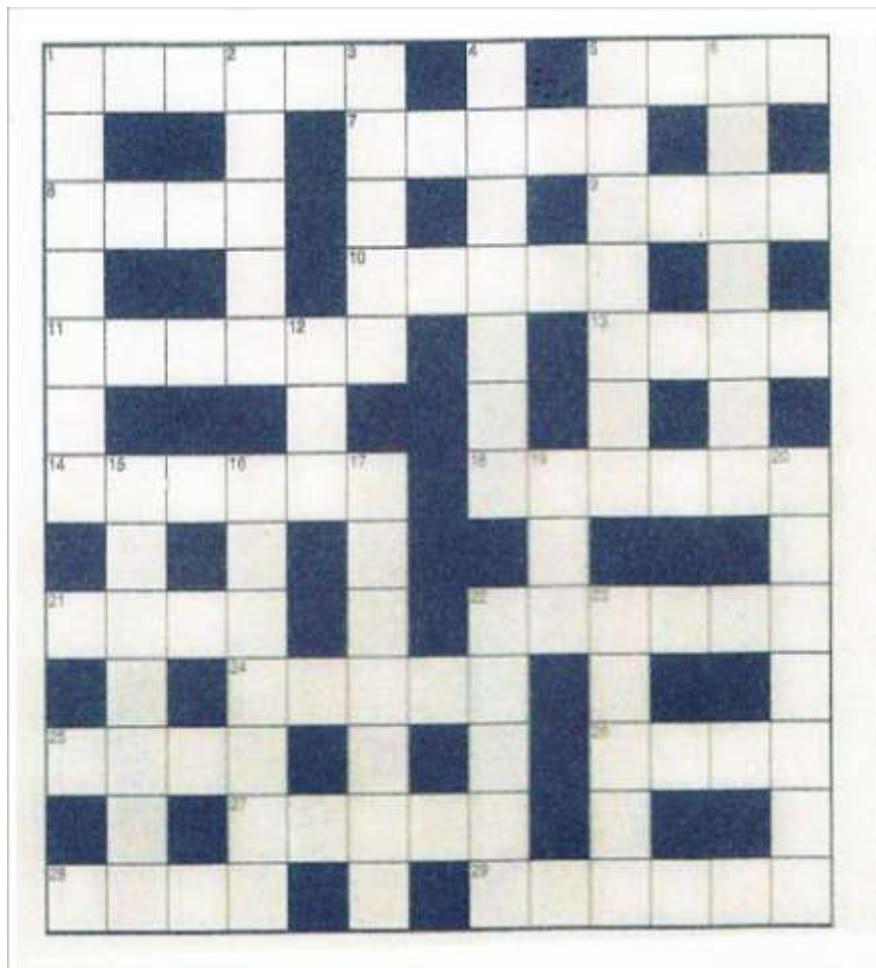
This cryptic crossword puzzle has a church music flavour and was composed by Brian Copeland, a basso in the Singers.

When you complete the puzzle, send your completed entry to the Cathedral Singers Crossword Competition, P.O. Box 569, Gordon 2072.

The first correct entry will win a Shampoo, Cut and Blow Dry from Cheveux Haircutters, which is conveniently located in the Hunter Arcade connection which links Wynyard Station to Hunter Street.

The solution will be published in the next TCS Newsletter.

*Ed. - Thanks to Brian Copeland for his brilliance in designing this.*



### ACROSS

- Quantities of paper used in the Prayer Book for a place to sing (6)
5. We surround the third person to be like one of the Magi (4)
7. National is the butt of jokes or commonly used for the Kingdom coming on bended knee. (5)
8. Perhaps the only Pop group mentioned in the Bible (4)
9. Once only by priest and people sung and not applicable in St. Columba's HQ. (4)
10. Key necessary to enter this dwelling (1,4)
- 11 & 14. "Verily, verily I say unto you" was written by this composer who has been decomposing since 1585. (6,6)
13. To read Southern tin (4)

14. See 11
18. Instruction booklet for organists? (6)
21. Julius Caesar asked the question but the brute did not answer. (2,2)
22. Seems like a Restoration monarch competing in MKR. (5)
24. Clever George and Henry wrote hymn tunes (5)
25. Dear arrangement is a necessary capability for choristers.(4)
26. Varied time for part of the repertoire (4)
27. Graze herd heard and composed in a country churchyard (5)
28. Go slowly embodies a healthy lunch. (4)
29. A chorister can sew (6)

**DOWN**

- SATB (7)
- The Queen’s domain is truly Bond’s boss. (5)
- Chosen by Paul to accompany him while Mark sails out. (5)
- Testament and the divine identity repetitively but singularly wrote “Guide me O thou great Jehovah” ((7)
- Pentecostal holiday in England when we sing Veni Creator. (7)
6. Drop an article in this Californian city for a Mexican singer/songwriter. (7)
  12. Friend in Paris (3)
  15. In Cornwall, emmets in skirts may be sung in church.(7)
  16. PTL in the Vulgate. (4,3)
  17. Early Christian leader who is remembered in King Street and Turramurra (2,5)
  19. To gain skill, Arthur drops Ben. (3)
  20. Protestant martyr puts the French before rising to pay.(7)
  22. Hangs around while some ladies wear them. (5)
  23. With a sibilant, this body of workers would not sing in harmony. (5)

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***Happy New Year***

**Top Ten Tips on how to be the perfect singer this year:**

- 1 Never disagree with your choral director
- 2 Never forget your glasses
- 3 Never eat crisps during rehearsal
- 4 Never forget your pencil
- 5 Always turn off your phone
- 6 Never have a different score from everyone else
- 7 Never get the giggles
- 8 Never book your holiday on the date of your concert
- 9 Always learn your notes with ChoraLine (!)
- 10 Always agree with your choral director

Reprinted from Choraline

## CD Order/Donation Form



**The Cathedral Singers**



**TCS Sings Evensong**



**Lo! The Star**

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque/money order for: (✓ Tick appropriate box/s)

- CD 3 "Lo! The Star" @ \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CD 2 "The Cathedral Singers" @ \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CD 4 "The Cathedral Singers Sing Evensong" @ 15 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Any 2 CDs - \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Any 3 CDs - \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- + Postage and handling @ \$5 per CD \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Donation for our ongoing ministry \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Total: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Cheques should be made payable to "The Cathedral Singers Donation Fund"***

***Banking details for direct transfers (please notify us by email):***

**Bank account details: BSB 814 282 A/c 504 371 53**

**Note: this is a new account.**

Postal address: The Cathedral Singers PO Box 569 Gordon NSW 2072

Please email us for further details: [tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au](mailto:tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au)

or ring Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or 0411 785 117

More details on our website: [www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au)

**All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible**

**ABN: 51 354 744 290**