

# The Director of Music



Our Cathedral Choir enjoyed a year of varied and interesting music-making. Under the leadership of Canon Dr Tom Clammer, the Cathedral's musicians worked hard to deliver a dynamic and exciting music programme.

Back in July 2017 we said farewell to our Organ Scholar, Claudia Grinnell, who left us following a year of excellent service both to the choir and Cathedral School, where she was highly valued. Claudia is now Assistant Organist at Winchester Cathedral. In September of the same year, we welcomed Dan Mathieson as our Organ Scholar.

The choir continued to give regular concerts at parish churches in the diocese, recently performing at Damerham, Mere, Codford, Shroton, Bradford on Avon and Sutton Veny. Salisbury Cathedral Junior Choir continued to sing strongly, meeting every Saturday morning in term time, and appearing at the Christmas Carol Service for BBC Radio Wiltshire, among numerous other events. The Salisbury

Cathedral Youth Choir and Chamber Choir went from strength to strength. The choir sang a live BBC Radio 3 broadcast to great acclaim in November 2017, featuring music for All Saints by Ernest Bullock and Basil Harwood. Still fresh in the memory as I write this, the Cathedral choristers took part in the Salisbury Musical Society's moving performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion.

The annual recording of Christmas carols for Jackie Lawson E-Cards was made during the Summer Term of 2017, an event which always feel strange with the sun beating through the Cathedral's windows, and a CD of settings of George Herbert texts was completed in February 2018 for release later in the year.

The Southern Cathedrals Festival in July 2017 took place in Winchester and showcased its usual variety of high quality liturgical music. The Saturday concert was a most memorable affair with all five choirs from the three Cathedrals on duty for a performance of Monteverdi's magnificent 1610 Vespers. Our choir returned to Salisbury for the Sunday services, where we said goodbye to the Year 8 Choristers and Claudia Grinnell.

Later in the year we said goodbye to a great friend of the Cathedral's Music, Ian Wicks, who left us to take up the position of Head Master at the Chorister School in Durham. His and his wife Elizabeth's contribution to the life of Salisbury Cathedral School and Salisbury Cathedral was very impressive. The RSCM Young Voices Service in March 2018 was once again a huge success, directed by Susie Lamb, Ian Wicks' popular successor as Director of Music at Salisbury Cathedral School.

The annual Remembrance-tide concert for the Choral Foundation took place in November and was followed (what seemed like very shortly after) by a wonderful performance of Handel's 'Messiah' with the City of London Sinfonia providing the faultless accompaniment.

The Christmas season once again saw the choir delivering liturgical music in a huge variety of services and events. December began with the Advent Procession – From Darkness to Light – which, as usual ran for three consecutive evenings. The BBC Wiltshire Service referred to earlier was recorded

for transmission on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and we hosted numerous charities and schools for their carol services. The choir delivered a hectic sequence of services over Christmas itself, and the Cathedral welcomed thousands through its doors.

Plan are now well advanced for this year's Southern Cathedrals Festival in Salisbury. We cherish the friendship between Chichester, Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals, a family to which our musicians, patrons, worshippers and audience members belong.

### David Halls

