

Schola Gregoriana



The Association for Gregorian Chant

Newsletter Autumn 2021

Resurgens...

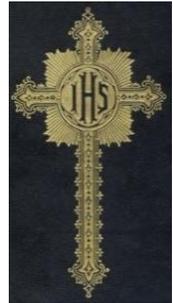


Associates News

We are delighted to welcome new Associates Jonathan Adams, Martin Reynolds, Livy Ruffle.

Requiem aeternam...

Please pray for Stephen Ryle, ER Hilton, and Mary Remnant (for whom a separate appreciation is provided later).



Please remember the Schola is here, even at difficult times.

For example, Schola Trustees are most anxious to ensure that Associates and their family members are supported in Requiem Mass arrangements, including musical help where that is possible (contact one of our regional directors). The Latin Mass Society provides some excellent information about organising an 'Old Rite' Requiem Mass. Careful planning well beforehand and swift action at the time will help ensure an appropriate outcome.

Please also think of the Schola when drawing up or amending your Will. We are a Registered Charity so bequests are not subject to Inheritance Tax, and we receive the entire sum which you leave to the Schola. It is wise to mention our Registered Charity number 287319, our formal name (Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge) and the Schola's current registered address, which can always be found on our website. All bequests will be most gratefully received, and will help support the work of the Schola.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Since March 2020, Schola Gregoriana has had its work as severely restricted as our own lives have been. Deprived of the liturgy for a time and with cancelled Chant Days that were scheduled in Cartmel and Finedon, as well as our treasured YCA weekend at Douai Abbey, it became clear that this was a time for intensified personal study. A positive response to a deeply disturbing situation.

As well as live-streaming performances of some of Bach's major harpsichord works, including the Goldberg Variations, I was able to work on aspects of the legacy of the chant. Its melodies shape so many Lutheran chorales used by Bach and I've long wanted to explore this more fully. Another personal passion is the use of chant by the composer Olivier Messiaen, particularly in

his *Méditations sur le Mystère de la Sainte Trinité*. These nine extraordinary pieces are as profound in their theology as in their musical creativity. The composer's deep Catholic faith pervades every page and it is interesting to note that in a lecture in Notre-Dame de Paris in the 1970s, Messiaen addressed the bishops

“... calling for the singing of Chant by all the faithful ...”

of France, calling for the singing of the Chant by all the faithful, but with renewed vigour and faster, forward-flowing phrases. He was convinced that there could be nothing more uplifting!

I also listened to every recording of the Schola, wonderful as they are. I edited a few highlights to enrich our channel on YouTube, as Mary Berry was one of the greatest conceivers of thematic projects ever! I have been fermenting an idea for some years of a recording of a liturgy in the Cathedral at Tours, during the time of the fabulous composer, Pierre de Manchicourt. He was a Canon there, before being head-hunted by Philip II of Spain to work in Madrid. I have enjoyed email exchanges and phone-call discussions about this with Dom

Daniel Saulnier, who also teaches at the university in Tours. The prospect of having his presence at a future recording of chant there, would be most inspiring.

As we see a progressive return to social gathering, it is time to renew our work supporting and teaching the chant wherever we can. In the meantime, during the first two weeks of August, I will be in the wonderful Benedictine monastery at Le Barroux in France to record some Bach on the new organ, for a CD to be issued later this year. I've been invited to play for the feasts of the Transfiguration and the Assumption too! One is able to follow the liturgies live-streamed on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/BEDrnFrnZ1I>

With my best regards to all...

Iain

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Traditionis Custodes

The natural setting for Gregorian Chant is the liturgy with which and for which it came into existence. It is, of course, perfectly possible to sing and listen to the chant in abstract - in the concert hall or in recordings - but Schola Gregoriana is very much aligned with the movement to promote chant in the liturgy, where it rightly belongs.

The 2007 *moto proprio*, '*Summorum Pontificum*' [SP] of Pope Benedict XVI enabled those concerned with the revival of Gregorian Chant in the context of the traditional liturgy to broaden the scope of their activities. As many Associates will be aware, Pope Francis has now (16 July 2021) issued a *moto proprio*, '*Traditionis Custodes*' [TC] which restricts the freedom for use of the traditional liturgy as enshrined in SP.

Whereas SP allowed priests to celebrate the 'old' liturgy without seeking episcopal approval first, the new *motu proprio* puts authorisation for liturgical celebrations firmly back with the bishops. Essentially, this is likely to mean that those bishops who have shown themselves to be well-disposed towards the old rite may continue to pursue a generous line, while those who are notoriously hostile to it will become still more entrenched.

It is far too early to assess the impact of TC, but it will be highly regrettable, from a chant perspective, if countries throughout the world become further divided into those dioceses where it is alive and well and those where it faces total extinction.

For further reading I attach links to:

- (i) TC
- (ii) The accompanying letter to the bishops
- (iii) Notes on the application of TC from the Latin Mass Society

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/20210716-motu-proprio-traditionis-custodes.html

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2021/documents/20210716-lettera-vescovi-liturgia.html>

https://lms.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource_documents/Trad_Cust_canonical_notes.pdf

Julian Berkeley



From Jeremy White, Membership Secretary

APPEAL FOR GIFT AID DECLARATIONS

Dear Associate

You will doubtless recall that Grey Macartney sadly died in 2019. He received and processed Gift Aid Declarations, and I have taken over as Membership Secretary, but despite the best endeavours of Grey's executors we have been unable to find any Declarations.

I cannot claim further tax refunds from HMRC without possession of declarations, so if you are able to sign a declaration I would be grateful if you would please complete the form at end and send it to me at 142 Brampton Road, St Albans AL1 4PY by 31 October so that I can proceed with a claim. There is no need to enter a figure for your donation as I shall enter the last amount you paid.

I'm sorry to have to put you to this trouble, but the Gift Aid tax claims yield several hundred pounds a year which is a valuable source of additional income.

Thank you!

Mary Remnant

From Jeremy White

It is with regret that we note that Dr Mary Remnant, a long-time Associate of the Schola, has died in a nursing home on the Isle of Wight.

A renowned specialist in the music of the Middle Ages, over the years she gave innumerable lectures and performances in her inimitable style, with slides and live performance on a bewildering array of instruments of all kinds, the fruit of her tireless study in her field.

Most recently she gave a lecture recital at the Schola's weekend in Lewes in 2013, and contributed accompaniment on bells and organistrum to our latest CD *Cohors Leta* and to the St Charlemagne project at the Temple Church.

She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

RIP

From Lindy Wiltshire

A beautiful Requiem Mass for Mary Remnant was celebrated at the Oratory in Knightsbridge. It was a huge pleasure to hear it, particularly the Dies Irae, sung by a properly trained choir. Mary Remnant knew Mary Berry well as she was an expert on early music, particularly that sung by pilgrims. She had copies made of medieval instruments made and would play them and sing at the many/lecture recitals that she did. I was in her backing group and saw her in action many times!

DATES and EVENTS

If you are aware of activities, please alert us so that we can keep Associates informed (alan.gardner@scholagregoriana.org).



Please also keep checking our website regularly – often activities take place at too short a notice to be included in the newsletter before the event takes place.

In the current circumstances we asked Associates to let us know about any Chant activities which might be of interest; we are most grateful for those responses, which are shown overleaf:

North

THE FEAST OF ST OSWALD CELEBRATED AT ASKRIGG: 4 Sept 2021

Following much early pandemic-related uncertainty, some twenty Associates and parishioners gathered in the Church of St Oswald, Askrigg, in Upper Wensleydale, in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This was the tenth such gathering organised by our Associate MaryRose Kearney, and we were there to celebrate the feast of St Oswald by practising and then singing Vespers of the feast, possibly the first time this Vespers has been sung in 400 years. (*See photo on website*) By happy coincidence we met on the day after the feast of St Gregory the Great, and on the day of the feast of the Translation of St Oswald's remains. The chant and texts of the Office had been researched by Alan Henderson who began the day by explaining how he went about reconstructing and producing the booklet, as well as giving us a potted history of Oswald, his life, and his cult. The chant itself was introduced and directed as usual at Askrigg by Philip Duffy, and it was the first opportunity he had had in eighteen months for face-to-face tuition.

It's fair to say that most of the participants were unfamiliar with singing the chant, but under Philip's amiable yet precise direction, plus a handful of old hands, we got there comfortably by the end of the day. Vespers was celebrated before a congregation of villagers and friends, and the day was widely appreciated by participants, congregation and the Vicar, Rev Dave Clarke.

Our thanks are due to MaryRose for undertaking the organisation (and I'm sure she can give advice to any other Associates wishing to organise such a day in their own parishes), to Alan and Philip for so skilfully imparting their specialist knowledge, and to local people who so handsomely accommodated those of us who had come from afar.

Bernard Marriott

Fountains Abbey, near Ripon – also Belgium

I sang first vespers of Mary Magdalen (at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Sunderland) last week with Dorothy Allen, a former member of the Schola, who is still confidently singing and accompanying chant well into her 80s.

I have two things to offer for the newsletter – if you need illustrations, the websites might offer what you seek:

1) BENEDICT BISCOP GREGORIAN CHOIR

The Benedict Biscop Gregorian Choir is to sing in **Fountains Abbey, near Ripon, North Yorkshire on the evening of 16 October** as part of the “Fountains by Floodlight” event. Every year the ruins of Fountains Abbey open, floodlit, on Saturday evenings in October and each week a choir sings for up to an hour in the cellarium.

Associates of the Schola Gregoriana would be welcome to sing with us. **Rehearsals in Jarrow, South Tyneside on alternate Saturday afternoons, 1:00 to 3:45pm, 31 July, 14 August and so on.**

Contact: Jonathan Adams, 07903 911771 / jonathan.adams@gregorian-choir.org.uk

Website: <http://www.gregorian-choir.org.uk>

2) SCHOLA GREGORIANA EUROPAEA

Come and sing with the Schola Gregoriana Europaea and celebrate the Assumption in Mechelen (Malines) and Leuven (Louvain), Belgium in 2022, from August 11 to 16.

- **August 14, 2022:** the Mass of the twentieth ordinary Sunday in the Cathedral of Mechelen and first vespers of the Assumption at the Basilica of Our Lady of Hanswijk in Mechelen (Malines)
- **August 15, 2022:** the Mass of the Assumption at the Collegiate Church of St. Peter in Leuven (Louvain) and second vespers, at the Park Abbey in Leuven (Louvain).

- Link to a YouTube video with views of the venues: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vbbgt6_SHaM

- Link to the Académie de chant grégorien (Brussels) for information and booking: https://www.gregorien.be/pages/index/act_malines_2022

The first 23 registrants will be able to stay at the Diocesaan Pastoraal Centrum Mechelen.

Three days of preparation (for August 15) are planned at Postel Abbey, July 15-17, 2022, to prepare the program for August 15. 27 rooms available at the abbey.

Both sessions will be **directed by Juan Carlos Asensio** - director of the Schola Antiqua of Madrid and a professor at the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya and at the Conservatory of Madrid.

If anyone would like to know about the experience of singing with them, I would be happy to have a conversation – email: jonathan.adams@gregorian-klaire.org / mobile: 07903 911771.

Jonathan Adams

East

St Cedd's Chapel 654AD - Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex.

An opportunity to sing in the very chapel that St Cedd built, where he worshipped with his brother monks (I have sung Compline here, and it is *wonderful*). A remote beautiful place.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapel_of_St_Peter-on-the-Wall

Accommodation is available in the adjacent ecumenical-Christian-based Othona community. I would describe this accommodation as 'basic-but-

decent’ – eg shared rooms (but single person supplement available), no ensuite facilities. Food is provided on a similar basis – ‘simple-but-decent’.

<https://www.othonaessex.org.uk/>

Costs would be about £135 (for a single person room) for a weekend (Fri & Sat nights), including accommodation, food, refreshments, musical director, attending priest, course booklet, etc, etc. Students half-price.

The normal pattern of rehearsals followed by appropriate services will no doubt apply, with Mass on Sunday morning.

There is a ‘Sunday evening worship’ at the Chapel every Sunday in August at 6pm; one option could be for us to sing Compline or Vespers as one of those.

At the moment this is a ‘moot arrangement’, to be shaped by the responses you give.

Please give a no-obligation declaration of intent with preferences:

- 1) August or a different time
- 2) Able to stay for the Sunday Vespers / Compline or not
- 3) Preference for single person room or not

alan.gardner@scholagregoriana.org

South

Young Catholic Adults Douai Abbey

For many years a group drawn from the Schola has supported the annual October residential weekend retreat of the Young Catholic Adults most recently at Douai Abbey, singing for Extraordinary Form Masses and Divine Office. Iain Simcock, our director, has built on the work of Mary Berry, Jeremy White and Chris Hodkinson bringing fresh light, leading and teaching chant to retreatants eager to attend workshops led by him and his helping assistants.

In July 2021, given the then and maybe in October the uncertain situation of the Covid outbreak, noting that most of our group are of vulnerable age groups coming from long distances to what will be only this year a single day event I decided sadly with the Chairman's reluctant approval I could not facilitate this event for 2021. Iain, a stalwart, would have been willing to attend even for a brief period. I have provisionally offered our services for 2022.

John Curran; 01509 852259; JPCsedate@aol.com

The **Ealing Abbey Lay Plainchant Choir** has been unable to meet or sing since the beginning of the Covid crisis last year. We also had to abandon plans for our annual visits to Quarr and St Cecilia's Abbeys on the Isle of Wight, and our planned invitation to Philip Duffy to return for another training session.

Nevertheless, although unable to meet in the flesh, we pioneered the use of Zoom as a means both of staying in touch and practising chant. We have continued to have weekly online rehearsals, where we have concentrated on practising the set Propers, some of which have been quite challenging.

Zoom is not ideal, as we cannot sing together as a Choir in view of the problem of internet latency. Our practice has been to mute ourselves while our Director, Fr Peter Burns, sings the chant and we accompany him privately. So we have no idea how we will sound when we are able to sing together openly as a Choir! Four of us have sung simple chants at a couple of Masses at a local care home, and we seem to have coped!

Some members have declined to participate in Zoom sessions on principle, and I hope that some at least of them will return when we are able to meet again. However, a solid core has continued to meet online, and we have actually picked up one or two new members via our website <https://www.ealpc.org/>.

So we are looking forward to meeting again and our monthly singing at Mass, and eventually organising other activities. But we are in the hands of the secular and Church authorities, so we don't yet know when that will be; but,

please God, may it be soon! In the meantime, we are always keen to welcome new members.

Patrick Martin; Tel: +44 (0) 20 8991 1081; +44 (0) 7535 833729 (m)

West

The *Schola Gregoriana Malverniensis* currently sings the 11:30 am Sunday Traditional Latin Mass at Most Holy Trinity, 70 New St, Ledbury HR8 2EE (Archdiocese of Cardiff). The Schola is voluntary, mixed, and sings both Gregorian Chant and polyphony. At present the full Schola typically sings twice each month, with a solo cantor singing on the remaining Sundays. It is hoped to form a Men's Schola shortly to sing one Sunday per month. Wednesday evening rehearsals (7:30-9:00) are held near Malvern.

Alastair Tocher; T: 01684 – 893 332; E: schola.uk@btopenworld.com;



ARE YOU BEING KEPT IN TOUCH?

Holding a full list of Associates' email addresses will enable fast notification of last-minute events, changes, etc. (The normal assurances regarding non-release to third parties etc do of course apply). If you have not received any emails since our last newsletter issue, we either do not have your address, or our records are faulty in some way. In that case, please email membership@scholagregoriana.org.

We are also sending out the newsletter by email where we can – this will reduce costs and will enable more frequent issues, we hope, when appropriate. **If you know of any who are not receiving a newsletter, please do let us know.**

SCHOLA INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

Directors of the Schola Gregoriana

Director: Iain Simcock - Iain.Simcock@scholagregoriana.org

Associate Director: Philip Duffy

Regional Directors

London: Jeremy White

South East: Matthew Ward

South West: Peter Wilton

North: Philip Duffy

Scotland: Alan Henderson

Please make contact with them, initially using info@scholagregoriana.org.

Trustees

Julian Berkeley (Chair), Julian Burling, Alan Gardner, Bernard Marriott, Alastair Tocher, Jeremy White

Membership Secretary, Subscriptions, and General Enquiries

jeremy.white@scholagregoriana.org

Web Site, Email Addresses, Facebook

Email for enquiries: info@scholagregoriana.org

Web site: www.scholagregoriana.org

<https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Schola-Gregoriana-of-Cambridge-170532176336149/>

Chant workshops check list

If you think a workshop in your parish / area might be fruitful, do please get in touch.

If you are thinking of *arranging* such an event, a check list is available. The hardest bit is ascertaining that a reasonable number of singers will attend. After that it is plain sailing. Do have a go! We will do all we can to help. Email info@scholagregoriana.org

Notification of future activities and material for future newsletter issues are always welcome from all Associates – please send to:

alan.gardner@scholagregoriana.org

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I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title First name or initial(s)

Surname

Full Home address

.....

Postcode Date

Please notify the charity if you:

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