



2 December 2023

Dear CMS Member,

It gives me great pleasure to enclose our latest published titles - Louisa Bagot's *If we believe Jesus died*, Paul Trepte's *A Golden String* and Rupert Jeffcoat's *Missa Verbum supernum & Tantum ergo* - issues which demonstrate the range of church music which the Society seeks to support: historic material of exceptional interest and worthy of practical revival in worship, together with new composition combining imagination and practicality.

Issues in the pipeline include Tallis's Corpus Christi respond, *Homo quidam* and three carol arrangements by Martindale Sidwell.

Thanks are due to our General Editor, Dr Geoffrey Webber, for his indefatigable and scrupulous work, not just on our hard-copy titles, but also on our free music downloads and lectures and papers on our web-site – a treasury which continues to grow. Please do check it if you have not done so recently.

On 14 October, the AGM of the Society was held at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, where we were honoured by the presence throughout the whole event of our President, Archbishop Bernard Longley. Presentations were made to his predecessor as President, Dean Emeritus Michael Tavinor and to John Roch, our outgoing Treasurer. Heartfelt thanks, warmly expressed on the day, are due to both for their invaluable contribution to the Society. The day concluded with His Grace celebrating Mass in the Cathedral, which included the Society's edition of Howells's *Mass in the Dorian Mode*, beautifully sung by the Cathedral Choir under its Director of Music, Prof. David Saint, with John Pryor at the organ.

On this same occasion, our long-serving Secretary, Dr Simon Lindley, stood down after more than three decades of service to the Society in that role. The debt the Society owes to Simon is incalculable and will be properly recognised at the next AGM, which will be at the London Oratory next October. The date will be advised both in the next newsletter, planned for early summer next year, and on the website.

Going forward, our Treasurer, Kim Gilbert (details below), will be the contact point for all membership and business matters.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the Society, and to wish you, on behalf of myself and the Trustees and Officers, a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Russill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prof. Patrick Russill
Chairman, Church Music Society