



19 January 2025

Dear CMS Member,

It gives me great pleasure to enclose the Society's latest publication, which comes with best wishes for the New Year from the Society's Trustees and Officers.

Charles Wood's *Ascension Hymn* of 1913, published for the first time, is based on a stirring original hymn-like melody that the composer furnishes with typically colourful and sonorous harmonies. It is a splendid example of Wood's ability to achieve maximum effect while making only modest demands on the choral forces and will be attractive to choirs in both parish and cathedral settings.

Publications in the pipeline for later in the year include the *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in F* by Purcell's and Blow's highly gifted contemporary, Daniel Roseingrave, and the Eucharistic hymns, *O salutaris Hostia* & *Tantum ergo*, arranged from celebrated 8-voice madrigals of Pearsall.

May I encourage you to explore the varied resources on our website, which continues to expand as a free platform for useful liturgical music, for research and education. Our General Editor, Dr Geoffrey Webber, has prepared scans of no fewer than 38 past papers published by the Society for imminent upload. These constitute a fascinating archive, not just of the Society's educational outreach from its earliest years, but also as a valuable record of changing attitudes towards the selection and practicalities of good music in worship.

The 2024 AGM at the London Oratory on Saturday, 19th October, was a happy occasion, including a presentation to our Vice-President, and former Secretary, Dr Simon Lindley, in thanks for his outstanding service to the CMS and a fascinating talk by CMS member, Thomas Coxhead, Director of Music at Newport Cathedral, on the early works and development of Kenneth Leighton.

We are thrilled that Trustee, Michael Harris, retiring Organist and Director of Music at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, was awarded the MBE in the King's New Year's Honours List. We offer Michael warmest congratulations on this richly-deserved honour, which recognises not just his distinguished contribution to church music, but also his vital role at Royal occasions in Scotland's national life.

Finally, can I draw your attention to a new book by another Trustee, Revd Dr Victoria Johnson, recently appointed Dean of Chapel at St John's College Cambridge. *On Voice*, published in paperback by Darton, Longman and Todd, is a joyful exploration of the power of the voice in speech and song in Christian prayer and worship. It is an uplifting read, illuminated by the author's wide-ranging musical sympathies and experiences. Warmly recommended.

With all good wishes,

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

Professor Patrick Russill
Chairman