



Edington Music Festival Association Newsletter

Summer 2006

Edington Music Festival 2006— the Festival Director writes:

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS of last year's 50th festival (and the subsequent re-living of the week through the BBC documentary shown in April) our attention is now firmly focused on the future, and I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the 2006 festival, which begins on Sunday 20th August.

This year's festival is based around St John's gospel, a theme which has been used before at previous festivals, but one which is so rich a resource it seemed time to re-visit it. In his writings, John is keen to give distinct examples of Jesus' life and mission such that we have reliable evidence with which to strengthen our own faith. In particular, there are Jesus' seven great 'I AM' sayings ('I AM the Bread of Life', '... the True Vine', '... the Resurrection and the Life', etc.), and these will form the daily themes throughout the week.

I am delighted that once again, through the generosity of the Festival Association, we have been able to commission a new work for this year's festival. Antony Pitts has, over recent years, been writing a number of pieces using these 'I AM' texts from St John's gospel, so it is particularly good that he will be writing this final piece in the set for us, an introit on the text 'Before Abraham was, I AM'. It will be sung by the Consort on the BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong on Wednesday.

During the course of the week we hope to cover as wide a range of music as possible, from the plainsong which underpins the daily offices of Matins and Compline right through to the present day. In particular, we will be celebrating the 350th anniversary of the death of Thomas Tomkins, the 250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart, and the 50th anniversary of the death of Gerald Finzi. Other highlights include John Sheppard's magnificent *Verbum caro factum est* on Tuesday evening (a service which will be recorded by BBC Radio 3 for broadcast on the Feast of St John the Evangelist, December 27th), James MacMillan's *Mass*, written for Westminster Cathedral, to be sung by the Nave Choir on Friday evening, and Giles Swayne's uplifting *Magnificat* at Evensong on Saturday.

On behalf of the festival committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Festival Association members for your continued support and the financial backing that we now enjoy. As we begin our next 50 years it is wonderful that the festival is known and loved by so many people. I look forward to seeing you all in August.

Edington Music Festival Association

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Edington Music Festival Association will be held in Edington Priory on Monday, 21 August 2006 commencing at 14.30 hrs.

JOY L COOKE
Secretary

AGENDA

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report: Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts
7. Change to Governing Document regarding Election of Officers
8. Election of Officers
9. Plans for 2006/2007
10. Any other business
11. Date of next AGM

Modification to the Association Governing Document

AT LAST YEAR'S AGM we approved in principle a change to the way in which officers are elected to the Association Executive Committee. The change agreed was that each officer would now be elected for a term of up to three years. These terms of service will be staggered to ensure that the minimum number of officers would change at any one AGM. (Previously all officers were re-elected each year which could mean that the Association might face a situation where all officers would change at the same time, thus risking loss of knowledge and the continued smooth operation of the Executive Committee.)

The new process is supported by the Charity Commission (the government body which oversees registered charities) and will require a minor change to the Association's governing document which will need to be

voted on at the forthcoming AGM. The exact wording of these changes has not yet been finalized but will reflect the proposal agreed at last year's AGM and will be available for review and comment shortly before this year's meeting.

Please direct any questions or queries regarding these changes to the Association Treasurer.

JUSTIN LOWE
Association Treasurer

Report on the Association's financial aims and status

AS I WAS preparing the accounts for the year 2005/2006 it occurred to me that a short report on the Association's financial aims and status would be of interest to members, particularly those who have not been able to attend recent AGMs.

First, I would like to pass on the thanks of the Executive Committee for the generosity of the membership; without your support we would not be in the good situation that we are. I am pleased to report that the Association finances are very healthy indeed, with funds of around £24,000 in the bank. These funds enable the Association to fund projects and initiatives to enhance the festival and to ensure its future existence.

Back in the early days, soon after the Association was formally established, the financial strategy was to fund small capital projects such as the purchase of robes and funding of commissions for the festival. A secondary aim was to establish a nest egg which would be able to underwrite the whole festival in the case of an emergency. For example, an outbreak such as foot and mouth which could cause the festival to be cancelled at the last minute would be financially disastrous for the festival. Such a 'reserves fund' is recommended as good financial practice by the Charity Commission. I am pleased to report that we achieved this reserves fund a few years ago and the future existence of the festival is protected (at least from a financial point of view).

Over recent years I am pleased to report that we have maintained and even increased our income through membership fees, donations, legacies and CD sales. This has enabled us to undertake more substantial commissions (such as the Bingham canticles in 2005), fund projects like the Schola CD

and, more recently, the Festival website (www.edingtonfestival.org).

Last year presented a slight change in direction where the Association ran an envelope scheme so that gift aid could be claimed on donations made during festival week. This resulted in an increased level of donations and possibly an extra £2,500 from the gift aid which we can now claim. The Executive Committee would like to extend their thanks to Allan Edwards (the festival Honorary Treasurer) who administered the collection and banking of these donations on behalf of the Association.

Looking to the future, the Association is likely to take on more and more of the financial burden of funding the festival. This will allow the Festival Committee to focus its efforts on the design and smooth running of the week. Also the Association will have a greater capability to fund more substantial projects which will add to the reputation of the festival and continue to ensure its longevity.

Once again I would like to thank the members for their continued support and generosity. Your support has already done a lot to enhance the festival and ensure its longevity and I look forward to your ongoing support into the future.

JUSTIN LOWE
Association Treasurer

Edington Parish News

IT WAS WITH REGRET that we heard of the death of The Reverend Jean Hall earlier this year. Jean was a retired assistant at Edington living in the new Vicarage from 2001 to 2004, having previously been associated with Kent NHS Trust as well as parish appointments in Bath and Wells.

The village of Edington was once again an entrant in the Village of the Year competition. As the Southern Region and Joint National winner of 1999 Edington had been invited to enter again to celebrate the 10th year of the competition. Edington was now in the West Region, however despite a first class presentation demonstrating a great deal of effort and enthusiasm Edington was unsuccessful in winning the regional section of the competition.

Earlier in the year the Bishop of Salisbury brought his choir to Edington Priory to sing the Bach St John Passion. To everyone's surprise one of the choir members was Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the departure of Peter Hullah, Bishop of Ramsbury. His successor is Stephen Conway, formerly Archdeacon of Durham, who was ordained as Bishop of Ramsbury by the Archbishop of Canterbury in St Paul's Cathedral in June.

Finally many of you will remember Mary

and Ted Bates who used to live in Erlestoke and were enthusiastic supporters of the festival for many years. They moved to East Yorkshire a few years ago. Sadly at the beginning of June Ted died after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the family.

A Retrospective by Paul Rose PART II

THE CLERGY *continued* ... We turn to those who have regularly helped among the Clergy in the first fifty years. When a regular Eucharist was introduced as a festival service the first two recruits were a young Curate from Torquay, wooed on a Tuesday morning in church by the offer of a Melton Mowbray pie from David Calcutt visiting for a simple Communion service, who seems to have survived; and the current Chaplain at King's Cambridge at that time.

PETER CAMERON was Chaplain at King's from 1960 to 1963. The team of three including the Vicar worked well together in 1962 and 1963, and were drilled by a server from All Saints Margaret Street. Peter subsequently went to Davyhulme near Manchester, and then back to the Cambridge district at Waterbeach and Landbeach, and finally to Chesterton in Cambridge itself in 1979.

DAVID STANCLIFFE, the current Bishop of Salisbury, assisted in 1968 and 1970. He had been at the great Church of St Bartholomew's Armley in Leeds: he was chaplain at Clifton College before becoming Provost of Portsmouth Cathedral, and became Bishop of Salisbury in 1993. He is the only Bishop I have ever met who sings his way right through the ordination service—including the parts other Bishops do not reach. Perhaps his appearances at Edington helped to rear a unique precedence!

CANON PIERS NASH-WILLIAMS, at the time Assistant Chaplain at Eton College from 1964 to 1966, and a former scholar of Trinity Hall Cambridge, came to help in 1965 and 1966.

CANON DAVID EVANS had been seen at Edington in shorts when a lay person. A former Minor Canon of Brecon Cathedral he emerged at the festival in 1969, and then began a long reign at the festival from 1973 to 1985. Now retired he has appeared in a minor supportive role in 2003 and 2005, but when he was a regular presence he fulfilled in his quiet way an important place, offering a hand in anything liturgical for which he saw a need. Latterly an incumbent and Rural Dean in the Diocese of Peterborough, he was for 18 years an administrator of the Samaritan movement and lived at Henley on Thames. Many years ago he used to bring his family—Jennie and three boys—to be at Edington with him.

PETER WILLS exercised a friendly pastoral ministry at Edington from 1972, coming to the festival most years until 1986. He spent a great deal of his life as a university-type Chaplain, both at St Matthias Training College in Bristol and at Sheffield University. He related very well to a number of the participants, both young and older. Perhaps slightly nervous and unsure of himself he kept in touch with some of the young people with whom contact was made when he was at the festival.

Still large as life and now embarking on a new life at Canterbury, BROTHER REGINALD-BOX, of the Society of St Francis came in 1987, stayed until 1996 and still appears for a day or so when he gets the chance. The festival has appreciated his influence and steadiness. He has been involved in writing some simple plainsong versions of offices, for use one imagines at Hillfield, which has been the headquarters of the Anglican Franciscans for many years. He was in their house attached to St Benet's in Cambridge when he first came to Edington and at that time was sometimes in demand to sing Evensong in King's College Chapel. As part of the former team many of us have missed his genial friarly presence at the festival as a Priest. His experience and wisdom derived partly, like Ralph Dudley, from 15 years in New Zealand, Australia and Melanesia from 1969 to 1984.

PAUL ROSE
Peterborough, October 2005

In the next issue, Paul will turn to those more recent members of the 'visiting Clergy'.

Compact disc offer

OUR 'CD OFFER' THIS ISSUE is *The Feast of St Edward, King and Confessor, at Westminster Abbey*. This disc, which will not be available in the shops until September, presents Matins, Eucharist and Evensong as they might be heard on the Feast of Saint Edward (13 October) at the Abbey.

Matins is centred around Stanford's Service in C (the Nunc dimittis from which will be sung at the opening Compline of this year's festival), Evensong around Purcell's Evening Service in G minor. The Evensong anthem is *The King and the Robin*, with music by Philip Moore (organist at Durham) and words by Andrew Motion. The Eucharist setting is Jonathan Harvey's *Missa brevis*, composed for the Abbey choir in 1995. Both new works are here recorded for the first time. Organ accompaniment is provided by our very own Robert Quinney.

If you would like a copy, please send a cheque for £12 (per CD) payable to *Edington Music Festival Association* to the Honorary Treasurer: Justin Lowe, 192a Bravington Road, London W9 3AP. Discs will be sent as soon as possible, but please allow two weeks for delivery (in case the Treasurer is abroad).