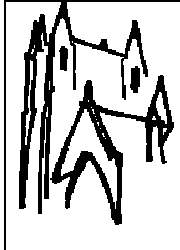


## Choral Training Day 2003



St Boniface



Nigel

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September the annual Choir Training Day was held at St. Boniface, Antwerpen. Once again the day was led by [Nigel Groome](#), (Assistant Regional Director of the RSCM and Director of Music at St. George, Beckenham Parish Church), assisted this time by the Belgian tenor [Bart de Kegel](#), who took care of the vocal coaching.



Bart

The day, attended by approximately 20 singers [some from as far a field as the UK], began with coffee and tea from 10.00 until 10.30, which gave everyone a chance to meet and catch up on the latest news from around the Archdeaconry.

At 10.30 Bart de Kegel led a very comprehensive warm-up, concentrating particularly on breathing and tone production with regard to the different vowel sounds. Bart's enthusiastic manner and (at times) colourful use of language made for a very stimulating workshop.

Following on from that Nigel Groome took over and presented us with a fascinating selection of music from a variety of sources which covered that period of time from 'Harvest to Candlemas'. Several of the pieces were easily accessible even to choirs with limited resources and what impressed me particularly was the way that Nigel managed to whip an anthem into shape in a very short time with a few well-chosen remarks. For those who attended and would like to know what the pieces were and where they can obtain copies (and for those who DIDN'T attend and would like to know what we sang), here is a list of the key works looked at that day:

<b>HARVEST</b> Barry Ferguson - Sing to the Lord of Harvest ( <i>Encore Publications - RSCM</i> )
<b>(ALL) SAINTS</b> Christopher Tye - Sing unto the Lord ( <i>16<sup>th</sup> Century Anthem Book - OUP</i> )
<b>ADVENT</b> Andujar Tollefsen - A Stable Lamp is Lighted ( <i>contained in "The Hymnal 1982" according to the use of the Episcopal Church, available from <a href="http://Amazon.com">Amazon.com</a></i> )
<b>CHRISTMAS</b> John Tavener - The Lamb ( <i>Chester Music</i> )
<b>EPIPHANY</b> Mendelssohn - There shall a star from Jacob come forth ( <i>3 Excerpts from "Christus" - RSCM Addington Press</i> )
<b>CANDLEMAS - PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE</b> Joh. Eccard - When to the temple Mary went ( <i>Novello NOV290160</i> )
<b>by request</b> Psalm 119 vv.33-40 - chant by Anthony Caesar ( <i>available from <a href="#">Martin van Bleek</a></i> )
<b>GENERAL</b> Sidney Campbell - Sing we merrily unto God our Strength ( <i>Novello NOV290253</i> )

It was generally agreed that this was one of the most interesting and satisfying Choral Training Days and many thanks to Bart de Kegel, Nigel Groome, and especially Karine Look, who kept throats well lubricated with coffee, tea and delicious biscuits!

Can't wait until next year ...

Patrick Hopper