

## RSCM Celebration Day 2003 - Coventry Cathedral Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June [Eve of Pentecost]

It was Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June and several of us wended our way to Coventry Cathedral to enjoy a real mixture of music spread over the centuries and from all walks of church life, lead ably and enthusiastically by Geoff Weaver. The celebration day has three main thrusts or objectives:

- to celebrate the work of the RSCM in worship and song
- to gather for the AGM, and
- to present special and honorary RSCM awards to those who have specially contributed to the work of the RSCM over the years.

It is in this last respect that we congratulate Martin van Bleek [our NW Europe RSCM area co-ordinator] on receiving his award of Associate of The Royal School of Church Music [ARSCM]. The award was introduced by Professor John Harper and presented by Sir David Harrison. The summarised citation read out by for Martin was:

**Martin van Bleek** is a conservation architect in Holland. He is also a passionate amateur church musician. Not only does he direct the music of the English Church in Haarlem, the Anglican Singers in Amsterdam, and chairs the RSCM's North West Europe committee, but he also directs the European Cathedral Singers, who sing regularly both in Europe and in Britain. Our work in continental Europe is burgeoning, especially within the Anglican Diocese of Europe, and we acknowledge the important contribution of our volunteers in North-West Europe, co-ordinated by Martin van Bleek.

I can't say much about the AGM part of the day, since that clashed with the practice that we had before the service itself. That practice was a challenge for Geoff Weaver, since he had the Cathedral Choir and St Mary's Warwick in the quire [ie to the East] with a bundle of approx 300 extra choristers [ie us, belonging to choirs mainly from the Midlands, South-West, Southern England and NW Europe], who were sitting West of the transept. So, with choristers in front and behind him, Geoff met that challenge with panache; resulting in a good quality of music which supported the worship of the service; and a day for Martin and the other awards recipients to look back on with fond memories.

The service included the following music, grouped as indicated:

Organ music: Kyria, Gott Heiliger Geist [JS Bach], Les oiseaux et les sources [Messiaen], Veni Creator Spiritus [Kenneth Leighton]

### **I Gathering**

Veni Creator [Antiphon] - sung by Cathedral Choir, Pentecostal Kyrie [Rupert Jeffcoat], Hymn 'Let all the world' [Tune: Luckington]

### **II Liturgy of the Word**

Psalm 48 [Tune:Gonfalon Royal], Jubilate Deo [Gabielli], Response psalm 139 [sung by St Mary's Warwick], Magnificat [Howells - St Pauls Service].

### **III Prayer**

'Give us a new heart' [Bernadette Farrell - arr Paul Inwood], The Lord's Prayer [Music: South African - arr Geoff Weaver], 'The Spirit of the Lord' [Elgar].

### **IV Presentation of Awards**

'Come down O love divine' [Tune: Down Ampney - Descant John Bertalot]

### **V Sending out**

'Now go in peace' [Caribbean trad - arr Rupert Jeffcoat]

Organ music: Choral and Toccata 'Veni Creator' [Durufilé], Laus Deo [Jonathan Harvey]

The 2004 RSCM Celebration Day is on 12<sup>th</sup> June and will be held in Salisbury Cathedral with the service led by David Ogden. A limited number of places will be available for members of RSCM affiliated choirs in NW Europe, and anyone interested in enjoying the acoustic of that great cathedral, may express their interest to Martin van Bleek, who will co-ordinate our involvement in that celebration.

[written by Trevor Day]