

Deanery Church Music Contacts

Some background

The concept that news of a church music event or information about a new music resource can flow nice and easily from a central source to the musicians in a parish is an ideal that we are constantly chasing. Similarly, the distribution of news from the parish to the diocese is often an illusive goal.

We have regular publications on paper (Sarum Link) and via the internet (eBulletin). We also have a vibrant new website, regularly and efficiently updated. There are also regular mailings to clergy and PCC secretaries. Meetings and conferences are held regularly with the main business being dealt with at Deanery and Diocesan Synods.

Yet, how often do we learn of an event when it is too late? Not everyone will access publications in either format or attend meetings. The people that matter, those responsible for the use of music in worship, may not receive news because it gets lost in piles of information or they are busy enough with getting on with things.

With a diocese extending over 2000 square miles in which there are 574 places of worship, there is much need for help to make contact with those on the ground dealing with choice of music, training and recruitment.

The 19 deaneries provide a manageable number of contact points where the parishes within each area can be accessible by one contact or group of contacts. It is having the local knowledge that will be of benefit when information is being passed into a deanery and also out from the parishes.

What the church music contacts are expected to do.

Firstly, build up an email/phone/address contact list of the musicians in the parishes. There may be several people responsible for music in a parish, the organist, cantor, worship band leader, choir director. Clergy very often want to be kept in the picture and are sometimes providing direction themselves.

Not everyone uses email and it may be that contact is made via the postage service. Expenses may be available for stationary, printing and postage.

A comprehensive contact list of parish/benefice musicians will also mean that they can feed any information back to the DMCs about events they are organising. They may have visiting speakers, concerts, workshops that others would like to hear about. This is all about word of mouth and speaking to people.

Feeding back any concerns or needs from the parishes will also be important. Workshops at a deanery level are available free of charge and knowing the actual needs for certain training will be far better than bolt-on workshops.

Secondly, making contact with schools in the deanery so that information about *pipe up!* and the Diocesan Church Music Certificate can be made available. Getting information to music teachers is sometimes difficult. Again, posters, emails or leaflets arrive in the great pile of paper that school secretaries have to wade through. If information is accessible and easy to pass on to pupils or parents, we could see a significant increase of interest in the scheme.

Current projects

DMCs will be given full information about diocesan projects and will be able to access any support materials that they need in order to pass information on. Leaflets and posters can be printed free of charge at Church House and will be posted to the keepers.

At present, we are running five main projects:

[Diocesan Certificate in Music](#) – a free of charge distance learning ‘entry-level’ course with 16 modules available on the diocesan website.

[Music in Worship Day](#) – a bi-annual day held in different parts of the diocese with key-note speaker, a variety of useful workshops, resources and worship.

[pipe up!](#) – a support scheme for young musicians wanting to learn the organ with Saturday morning workshops spread over the diocese and events at major venues.

[Courses for Volunteer Organists](#) – day courses for pianists volunteering to play the organ in their parish church.

[The Diocesan Website](#) – music pages on this site now include a wide range of subject headings and information.

Workshops are going to be available and could encompass anything that may be needed by parishes. In the past these have included repertoire days, looking at how to use Psalmody, using a cantor, composition, organ playing skills and music management – using available resources well.

What to do next

If you have volunteered to be a DMC, firstly – thank you!

Both Chris Moorsom and I are very grateful for your willingness to take this on.

At this stage, we are still waiting for some deaneries to find a volunteer but those who have volunteered want to get going!

Could we ask you to make a start on the contact list for musicians in the parishes? These will need to be kept up to date as email addresses change. You may need to use the phone quite a bit so an allowance needs to be agreed. The Tindall Trust will cover your expenses and if travel is needed, the rate is 45p per mile.

We would like to make your contact details available on the diocesan website. Let me know if this might be a problem or if another email/phone number is better for you. We would also like to put you in touch with the other 18 CMCs in the deaneries. Again, we need your permission to share your contact details.

Could you let me know if you think you will soon need any printed material for distribution to parishes or schools? I will need a bit of notice to get this produced and sent to you. You might have some ideas about how to distribute or about the material itself? We are wide open for any suggestions as to how this scheme progresses so if you think we are missing the plot, let us know.

If you need any help at this stage with anything let us know.

Robert Fielding
Rev. Chris Moorsom

Diocesan Church Music Advisers

May 2012