



# Newsletter

July 2014

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

Past Patron: Dr IG Dicker

## From the Director

Looking back over the newsletters over several years, two themes keep occurring: tenors and finance! I am pleased that we can now combine the two and announce that we are offering a scholarship to a suitable student who sings tenor. For further details contact the Director or the Chair of the Committee. The lack of tenors is a world-wide problem and there is now quite a lot of music written for SAB. However, we prefer to be working with SATB and even SSAATTBB. We are grateful to various deputies who have helped us out in the last few months and also Emma Ericson and Janet Long who have deserted the altos and sung the tenor line. Funds in most choirs run on a shoestring and we thank those who have contributed to our funds. The timetable of services for 2014 has led to some periods where we are very busy and some weeks where we are fairly quiet. This gives an opportunity to work on new repertoire and we have celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Thomas Attwood Walmisley with a service at St John's Gordon featuring his music. We are also preparing for our weekend to Bathurst, singing at the Catholic and Anglican Cathedrals. Soon after that, we are at St Mary's Cathedral for Choral Vespers.

We have also finished the first part of a recording for a demonstration CD. This session, held at Pymble Ladies College Chapel included the accompanied works. We hope to have another session soon to record some unaccompanied music. In the meantime, check out the website which now has the final recording that we did for Wesley Impact – Abide with me.

Thankyou to all our supporters for all that you do.

**Jim Abraham**  
**DIRECTOR**

Check out our website and then tell your friends!

**[www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au)**

*See details of the choir, news, coming events, music listings, contacts for bookings weddings and other events, information for interested choristers wanting to audition.*

**Are you a tenor or bass? We need you!!!**

## From the Chair

Greetings All!

It seems to have taken a long time to get this Newsletter together, although we have been busy doing our regular round of singing in churches around Sydney and down to Bowral. There are articles in this edition that give an idea of what we have been doing. We are singing at Lady Gowrie Retirement Village this weekend and after that will be preparing to sing at the 2 cathedrals in Bathurst on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August. It would be great to see you there if you are in the area!

As we are now in a new financial year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given us donations during the last year. As you know, all donations to TCS are tax deductible and make a huge difference to our ability to continue our challenge to keep traditional church music alive and to offer it to churches all over Sydney and beyond. It is a wonderful privilege and we love it, but we do have our financial challenges.

At present we are having enormous problems in getting tenors to sing with us. We need a full 4 part chorus to be able to sing the full repertoire so their presence is essential.

In spite of our financial constraints we are now offering a scholarship for a tenor. Maybe you could help us achieve this. You may know someone who would be interested or you might be able to help financially.

Thank you again for your support

**Jan Kneeshaw**

Secretary/Chair - TCS

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## Major events and venues for 2014

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>AUGUST</b>	Saturday	16	5.00pm	Vigil Mass and Concert	St Michael and St John's Cathedral Bathurst
	Sunday	17	8.30am	Eucharist	All Saints' Bathurst
	Sunday	17	4.30pm	Evensong	All Saint's Bathurst
	Saturday	30	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Sunday	14	4.00pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	21	9.00am	Divine Service	Scot's Kirk Mosman
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Sunday	12	4.00pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Friday	17	7.00pm	Songs of Praise	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	19	3.00pm	Evensong	Mowll Village Chapel
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Monday	3	7.30 pm	Orchestral Requiem (Fauré)	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	23	10.00 am	Mass – Christ the King	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	30	7.00 pm	Advent Carol Service	St Alban's Leura
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Sunday	14	6.00 pm	Lessons and Carols	St John's Balmain
	Friday	19	7.30 pm	Lessons and Carols	St Peter's Cremorne
	Sunday	21	7.30 pm	Lessons and Carols	St John's Gordon
	Tuesday	24	11.00 pm	Choral Eucharist	St John's Gordon

## **Palm Sunday & Good Friday at St John's .**



As choir in residence at the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, Gordon, TCS plays an important role in singing some of the most beautiful services of the Anglican liturgy.

Holy Week each year commences with Palm Sunday; a remembrance of the triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. In keeping with the triumphal, festival mood the church is decked with Palm fronds and the mood is joyous.

For the evening festival this year, the Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord, the Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus were in attendance, with TCS, the Jacobean Singers, Parish Choir and 8am Singers.

To the stirring strains of All Glory Laud and Honour, a figure of 8 procession, with choirs, Order and clergy moved through the church. With the soaring hymns, incense, banners, swirling capes and a full choir, this service engages all senses in the worship of our Lord.

A mixture of the poignant and uplifting hymns, and anthems from Stainer's "Crucifixion" provided a most thoughtful start to this most holy of weeks.

The sense of celebration continued to supper in the church hall, always generously catered by the parish community, and provided a welcome opportunity for TCS to engage in fellowship with the parish, the Order and community.

In stark contrast to this high point is the sombre progression to Good Friday, and again TCS were an important part of the vigil of this day.

For the past few years, we have performed Stainer's "Crucifixion" as part of the afternoon vigil on Good Friday. This performance was instigated by Dr Brett McKern, the current Director of Music at St John's and former Director of TCS.

The 2014 performance of this work, led by current Director Jim Abrahams, included soloists Javier Vilarino and Damien Arnold. "Crucifixion" is a most beautiful work combining the sweetness of "Father Forgive Them", and "God so Loved the World" to the emphatic "The Appeal of the Crucified".

The beauty of this work is that there are passages for soloists, choir and congregation, culminating in the finale "All for Jesus" sung by all, and an appropriate ending to Holy Week.

### **Leanne Winter**

Parishioner - St John's Gordon

**TCS is available to sing at weddings and other events.**

**Contact us:**

By Mail: **PO Box 569 GORDON NSW 2072**

By email: **[tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au](mailto:tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au)**

By phone: 02 9144 4915    Mobile: 0411 785 117

**[www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au)**

## FESTAL EVENSONG

The Cathedral Singers were in fine voice for the special Evensong at St John the Evangelist, Gordon on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. The occasion was the combined celebration of the Queen's Birthday and Pentecost with music, familiar and enjoyable, appropriate to the occasion.

The Prologue was "Nimrod" by Elgar and the choir and Sanctuary party processed to "Thy hand, O God, has guided..." and the congregation joined in with enthusiasm for the British National Anthem (three verses) and in the later tributes of "I vow to Thee my country..." and "Jerusalem". Other music and prayers reprised the service last year for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration which in return recalled the Coronation of 1953 with Zadok the priest and special prayers.



Westminster Abbey at the Diamond Jubilee

The mystery of Pentecost was celebrated with hymns, prayers and readings from the Old and New Testaments and we were privileged to hear the maiden dissertation of our student minister, Jennifer Lum on the text from Ezekiel 37, 1-14.

The whole was wrapped by the beautiful and comforting words of the service of Evening Prayer and the music of the Organ.

A toast to the Queen and congratulations to Jennifer were offered afterwards in the Upper Room.

### Dr Sue Stevens

St John's Gordon.

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How many choir directors does it take to change a light bulb?  
Nobody knows, because nobody ever watches a choir director.

*The Cathedral Singers are always keen to welcome new members, and would encourage people to consider auditioning for this very active and committed choir.*

**At present applications are invited for a Choral Scholarship  
for a tenor**

*Interested persons could contact the Secretary, Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915  
or go to the website: [www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au).*

*Email: [tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au](mailto:tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au)*

*Any further enquiries should be to the Director, Jim Abraham on 0405 817 276*

**The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organist and composer celebrated at St John's Gordon Evensong  
on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**Thomas Attwood Walmisley**

1814-1856



Dr Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814-1856) was taught by his father T.F.G. Walmisley (Organist of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London), and his Godfather Thomas Attwood (a pupil of Mozart's who later became Organist of St Paul's Cathedral and the Chapel Royal and one of the original teachers of the Royal Academy of Music).

T.A. Walmisley was Organist of Croydon Parish Church (1830-33). He rejected an opportunity to compose for the London stage, becoming Organist simultaneously of Trinity and St John's Colleges, Cambridge (aged 19). He also deputised at King's College and at the University Church of Great St Mary's. At some stage he played for eight services a Sunday. On arriving in Cambridge Walmisley took the MusB degree in 1833. On matriculation in 1834 he became a member of Corpus Christi College before moving to Jesus College later that year. He was appointed Professor of Music in 1836, in which role he did much to foster the musical life of the University, showing great enterprise. He took the BA (in mathematics) in 1838 and became a member of Trinity College the same year. He took the degree of MA in 1841 and MusD in 1848. He compiled a collection of services and anthems called *Cathedral Music* that was edited and published posthumously by his father.

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Walmisley died at just 42 years of age. In his *Cathedral Organists Past and Present* (1921), John Ebenezer West suggested that Walmisley's early demise was 'hastened by an unwise indulgence in lethal remedies'. The composer and similarly Organist of Trinity College, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford commented that 'Walmisley ... was a victim of four o'clock dinners in Hall, and long symposiums in the Combination Room after; and being a somewhat lonely bachelor, the excellent port of the College cellars was, at times, more his master than his servant'. To be fair to Walmisley, though, Stanford was just four years of age when Walmisley died, and West yet unborn, so these are hardly first hand accounts.

T.A. Walmisley is chiefly remembered as composer of the Evening Service in d minor (*Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*) which remains popular in parish and cathedral, although he also composed anthems and Anglican chants. An example of each is sung this evening. He also wrote a symphony, two organ concerti, two overtures, three string quartets, piano and organ works, as well as other sacred and secular vocal music; although most of his music remained unpublished at his death. While commemorated by a memorial brass in the antechapel of Trinity College Chapel, Walmisley is buried in the churchyard of St Andrew's Church, Fairlight, East Sussex.

**With thanks to Dr Brett McKern**

Music notes by Dr Brett McKern © 2014. References:

Shaw, Watkins, *The Succession of Organists*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1991.

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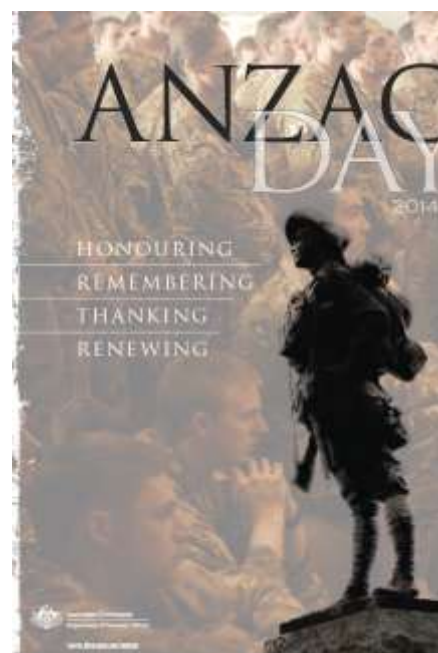
Picture from [http://www.editionhh.co.uk/ab\\_walmisley.htm](http://www.editionhh.co.uk/ab_walmisley.htm), accessed 26-6-2014, no acknowledgement given.

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## **Anzac Commemoration at St. John's Gordon "Honouring, Remembering, Thanking, Renewing."**

The Cathedral Singers were privileged to be asked to sing at this Service held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. The service had been arranged by the 2/18<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association in conjunction with the Rector, Fr. Keith Dalby, formerly a submariner in the Royal Australian Navy before he trained to become a priest.

It is quite surprising how remembrance of the Anzac landing in 1915 has continued to impact upon the Australian public. It has, of course, been broadened to include the recollection of the sacrifices made by Australians in many subsequent wars, both major and minor. World War I was regarded at the time as "the war to end all wars". Regrettably, that hopeful dream did not materialize. World War II broke out only 21 years after the conclusion of World War I. Probably, there are few families in Australia who have not suffered the loss of a member in either conflict, possibly even both. Perhaps part of the continuing challenge implicit in the Anzac commemoration is the contemplation of persistent human aggression, greed and inability or unwillingness to resolve issues without violence.



An old soldier from the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Peter Loxton, sang "Jerusalem", a stirring combination of the music of C. H.H. Parry and the poem by William Blake. To "build Jerusalem", be it "in England's green and pleasant land" or Australia's brown land of "drought and flooding rains", remains a yearning in the hearts of all who seek peaceful resolutions to contentious issues.

The Cathedral Singers sang of the "Valiant Hearts" of the men and women who went to war, prepared to give up their very lives for the cause of justice and freedom. That same boldness seems to be a vital requirement of any progress in human society.



The service was well attended and it was pleasing to have contributions made by the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, members of the 2/18<sup>th</sup> battalion, now known as the Ku-ring-gai regiment, and by children from North Shore schools. Representatives of several schools as well as returned soldiers' organisations laid wreaths in the chancel. A poignant moment was the superb trumpet playing of the Last Post by Ben Close, a cadet from Knox Grammar.

The wistful bugle call is a reminder of the frailty of human life and of our mortality. Prayers for peace and the assuaging of grief were offered in the Christian context of which sacrificial love is the centre.

The Cathedral Singers were gratified to contribute to the music.



The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Jennifer Anderson, in her Mayor's Message of 2<sup>nd</sup> May, expressed her appreciation of the service and wrote of the part played by the original 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the Battle of Pozieres in 1916. The battle was part of the series of battles centred on the River Somme which resulted in the death of more than 23,000 Australian soldiers. In 1934, a cross salvaged from the ruins of Pozieres was placed in the Warrior's Chapel at St. John's. It is a moving reminder of the price paid by our country in war. Mayor Anderson also referred to the intention of the Ku-ring-gai Council to establish a sisterly relationship with Pozieres with a view to co-operate in commemorative celebrations between 2014 and 2018.



As one who has stood on the hill above Pozieres and looked across the acres of the military cemetery, it was a privilege to sing at this service to honour the fallen. The words of Rudyard Kipling in his Recessional hymn encapsulate our hopes and prayers—"Lord God of Hosts be with us yet, lest we forget, lest we forget".

**Brian Copeland**  
TCS Bass

TCS are privileged to have been awarded a grant from Ku-ring-gai Council in 2013 -4 and are proud to be invited to be involved in community activities such as this Anzac Day service.



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**TCS Trip to Bathurst – 16/17 August 2014**

We will be singing at both Cathedrals –

<p style="text-align: center;">16<sup>th</sup> August <b>Vigil Mass and Concert</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Michael and St John's Cathedral</b> Cnr Keppel and William Streets Bathurst NSW 2795</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17<sup>th</sup> August <b>8.30am Eucharist</b> <b>4.30pm Evensong</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL,</b> <b>BATHURST</b></p>
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**An interesting question**  
**“What is Cathedral Style music anyway”??**

## New Organ - St John's Anglican Church Dee Why



With the retirement of Tim Swales from the position of Director of Music at St. John's Anglican Church Dee Why in 2013 it became apparent to the Rector, Father Steven Salmon, that a new organ was essential to attract another Director of Music to the Parish.

After the appointment of Tom Edwards as Director of Music in late 2013, serious investigations into the possibility of acquiring a new organ began. Father Steven was determined that the current pipe organ should remain and with this brief in mind quotes for a digitally augmented instrument were acquired. The selection of Ian Sell, to build and install the organ, was unanimously and eagerly, agreed upon by Father Steven, Tom Edwards and the Church Wardens. In February of 2014 the work began with the promise from Ian that the new hybrid organ would be ready for the Holy Week liturgies.

The arrival of the organ was eagerly anticipated in the Parish. The excitement was such that fund-raising activities achieved over half the \$80,000 cost of the instrument within six weeks of the appeal launch. The new console and keyboard arrived first and then came the intricate and delicate installation of the electronics and digital programming. The de-commissioning and installation was completed within one week and there was no interruption to the Parish's musical life. The synthesis of old and new was seamlessly accomplished and the organ was duly installed and commissioned at Easter.



A weekend of festivities celebrated the acquisition of the new organ, the program being a Friday night recital by internationally acclaimed organist David Drury, followed the next day by an afternoon Dedication Mass, and rounded off on Sunday by the participation of The Cathedral Singers at Evensong.

David Drury showcased the organ to a large and appreciative audience utilising the digitally augmented English and French organs, with the music of Dubois, Handel, Bach, Widor and Hollins. This was nothing less than a triumph. The Dedication Mass was very well attended with Father Steven officiating, Tom Edwards at the organ and the St. John's Choir singing Messe Breve No 7 in C by Charles Gounod.

On Sunday Evening the Cathedral Singers performed to their usual high standard, singing music by Ayleward, Kelly and Stanford concluding three spectacular days of astoundingly beautiful music, and the comprehensive initiation of a fine new instrument.

**Valda & Mark Ashover.** St John's Parishioners



Courtesy St John's Dee Why Website.

### St John's Anglican Church Dee Why

#### Music Festival

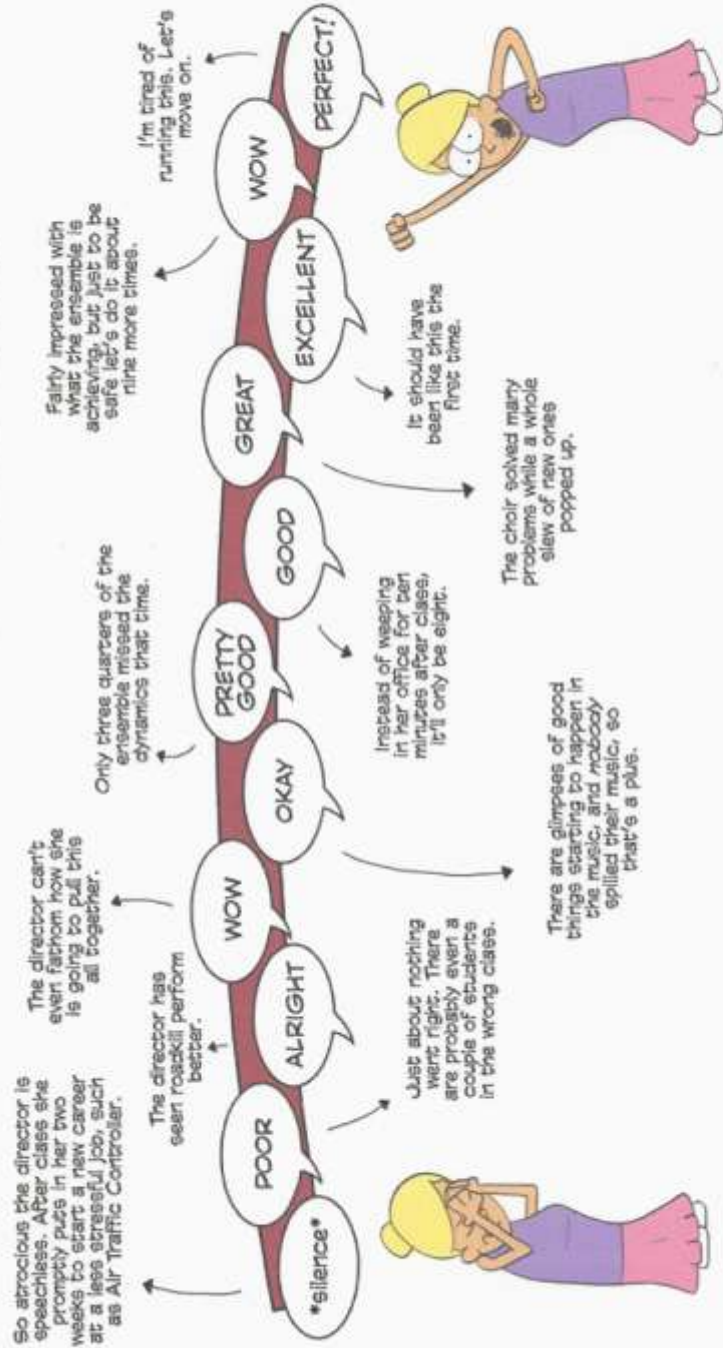
**20th and 21st September**

:Details - the Parish Office on(02) 9971 8694

[music@stjohnsdeewhy.org.au](mailto:music@stjohnsdeewhy.org.au)



# HOW TO INTERPRET CHOIR DIRECTOR FEEDBACK



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# CD Order/Donation Form



**The Cathedral Singers**



**TCS Sings Evensong**



**Lo! The Star**

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\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque/money order for: (✓ Tick appropriate box/s)

- |   |              |    |
|---|--------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD 3 “Lo! The Star” @ \$15 each _____                      | \$ _____     |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD 2 “The Cathedral Singers” @ \$15 each _____             | \$ _____     | 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD 4 “The Cathedral Singers Sing Evensong” @ 15 each _____ | \$ _____     |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any 2 CDs - \$25 _____                                     | \$ _____     |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any 3 CDs - \$30 _____                                     | \$ _____     |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> + Postage and handling @ \$5 per CD _____                  | \$ _____     |    |
| <br><input type="checkbox"/> Donation for our ongoing ministry _____                | <br>\$ _____ |    |
| <br>Total:  | <br>\$ _____ |    |

***Cheques should be made payable to “The Cathedral Singers Donation Fund”***

***Banking details for direct transfers (please notify us by email):***

**Bank account details: BSB 814 282 A/c 504 371 53**

**Note: this is a new account.**

Postal address: The Cathedral Singers PO Box 569 Gordon NSW 2072

Please email us for further details: [tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au](mailto:tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au)

or ring Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or 0411 785 117

More details on our website: [www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au)

**All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible**

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