



# Newsletter

**Patron: Sir Trevor Garland**  
**Past Patron: Dr I G Dicker**

**March 2020**

## From the Director

Happy New Year! We are back into the routine of Wednesday practices and have just had our Dedication service at St John's Gordon.

Just after Christmas, I came across an article written by Simon Jenkins (who I have previously mentioned). It was published on 27<sup>th</sup> December originally in the UK newspaper *The Guardian* but subsequently I have seen it posted elsewhere.

"I believe that on Wednesday something odd happened. Probably 2.7 million people went to a Christmas service in their local Anglican church, a total that has risen steadily over the past decade. On Sunday, however, the number will plummet back to a weekly 700,000 and falling." He goes on to point out that cathedral congregations have grown some 30% since 2000 while church attendance has fallen by a similar amount. There seems to be a two tier system - the haves and have-nots, the cathedrals and the parishes.



Some English cathedrals have been more commercial. Now almost all of them "charge" for admission with a turnstile rather than having donations. They all have bookshops, restaurants and concerts. Some, rather controversially in some peoples' minds, have had more unusual attractions to get people in - Gloucester had skateboarding and Norwich had a helter-skelter! Peterborough had 170,000 visitors in 3 months when they had Tim Peake's space capsule on show. The Dean said that it "not only attracted large numbers of visitors but also prompted questions about the relationship between science and faith and humanity's place in the universe". One argument is that churches need to be more community based. Jenkins argues "There is no reason...why churches should not revert to what they were in the middle ages: one stop shops for every local service, for advice, therapy and company for those in need."

Whilst Cathedrals are different from parish churches and Australia is different from England, I think there is a lot to be said for the churches opening their doors to other aspects of life. Many churches the world over do this but I suspect that some are rather inward-looking and not accepting of other viewpoints. There is also the practical problem of staffing. How many churches are left open during the day? It is easier with a building of great historical interest in a large city to get volunteers to go on duty.

One of the other aspects that brings people in is high quality music (in ANY style). This is where TCS has a role to play.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us, please encourage them.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/27/britain-churches-cathedrals-anglican>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/11/26/cathedrals-report-record-attendance-thanks-armistice-centenary/>

**Jim Abraham      DIRECTOR**



\*\*\*\*\*

## **From the Editor**

The Cathedral Singers are back in harness for 2020, rehearsing music for the many and varied churches where we sing. At present we are preparing to join others in singing at the dedication of the new organ at St John's Gordon on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm. This will be a very special and memorable event to which all are invited.

We are also preparing for several services at different churches soon. We will sing mass at St John's Balmain on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and a service of Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit North Ryde on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. We will be returning to join them on Maundy Thursday before our annual presentation of Stainer's "Crucifixion" on Good Friday, as advertised separately. Details of our program for the year to date are below.



Recently we had our annual re-dedication of TCS at Gordon, this year led by Fr Ernest Chau, Acting Rector at St John's, as shown in the accompanying photos. Some of us were also able to accept an invitation to sing at Princess Juliana Lodge at Turrumurra, presenting a short concert and then singalong with all the residents joining in. Great fun was had by all and it was good to use our talents in a different way

by giving others enjoyment.

We would be pleased to welcome more singers to this busy choir. Our program seems to fluctuate and at times we are very busy and other months not so much. Please contact me if you would like more details.

**JAN KNEESHAW**

Editor

9144 4915

0411 785 117

[Jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au)



**St John 's Dee Why December 2019**

## TCS Program for 2020

<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
March	Sunday	8	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	15	4.0pm	Evensong & Organ Dedication	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	22	9.30am	Mass	St John's Balmain
	Friday	27	7.0pm	Stations of the Cross	Holy Spirit North Ryde
April	Thursday	9	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Mass	Holy Spirit North Ryde
	Friday	19	2.30pm	Crucifixion - Stainer	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	26	11.30am	Ku-ring-gai Anzac Service	St John's Gordon
May	Sunday	10	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	17	8.0am	110 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Communion	St Martin's Killara
	Sunday	24	3.0pm	Concert	Holy Trinity Terrigal
	Saturday	31	5.30pm	Vespers & Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
June	Sunday	14	9.30am	Mass	St John's Balmain
	Saturday	28	3.0pm	Evensong	St Jude's Bowral
			3.45pm	Concert	St Jude's Bowral
July	Sunday	5	9.30am	Communion	Gordon/Pymble Uniting Church
August	Sunday	9	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	30	9.30am	Mass	St John's Balmain
September	Sunday	13	9.0am	Divine Service	Scot's Kirk Mosman
October	Sunday	11	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Saturday	17	5.30pm	Vigil Mass & Concert	St Joseph's Narrabeen
	Sunday	25	3.0pm	Evensong	Holy Trinity Terrigal
	Saturday	30	6.30pm	Vespers & Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
November	Sunday	8	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	22	10.0am	Mass	St Alban's Leura
December	Thursday	3	5.15pm	Evensong	St Andrew's Cathedral
	Thursday	10	5.15pm	Evensong	St Andrew's Cathedral
	Sunday	13	6.0pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Balmain
	Sunday	20	7.30pm	Christmas Eve Mass	Holy Spirit North Ryde

Check out our website and then tell your friends!

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

**Would you like to consider joining us?**

Contact Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or the Director,

Jim Abraham on 0405 817 276

Email: [jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au)





# Stainer's *Crucifixion*

✠ Good Friday

10 April 2020

2.30pm

St John's Church

Corner Pacific Hwy/St Johns Ave

Gordon

**The Cathedral Singers**

**Jim Abraham, Choir Director**

**Spencer Darby, Tenor**

**Craig Everingham, Baritone**

**Dr Brett McKern, Organist**

**Free Entry**

*Donations to The Cathedral Singers encouraged*

# How to support TCS

Anyone who would like to help us, please note the details of how to contact us. Donations can be by cheque or direct transfer and would be very much appreciated. You may also know that donations are tax deductible.



Our CDs are still available for \$5 each on application.  
They would make wonderful presents!



\*\*\*\*\*

## CD Order/Donation Form

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Donation for our ongoing ministry \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***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**



**St Andrew's Cathedral Evensong - December 2019**

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**

**ABN: 51 35 4 744 290**