



Press release

Dean of Westminster to be the next Chair of the RSCM Council

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, will succeed Lord Gill as the next Chair of the RSCM Council.

The RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) was formed in 1927 at Westminster Abbey by Sir Sidney Nicholson, to improve the quality and provision of music in parish churches. Today the RSCM provides support to those worshipping in numerous countries around the world, including to over 3000 affiliated churches in the UK. It is committed to promoting the study, practice and improvement of music in Christian worship in all traditions and denominations. From small beginnings, the RSCM now provides support to vast numbers of clergy, musicians and congregations in churches large and small, with worship bands, instrumental groups, choirs – whatever their resources, or style of worship.

Dr Hall will draw on a life-long passion for music in worship and his experience as a former Chief Education Officer of the Church of England. He said: 'It will be an honour to commit some of my time for the next few years to supporting and encouraging Church music, through the RSCM, founded of course here at the Abbey. I am passionate about supporting church musicians – whatever their tradition – as through music they enhance our experience of worship. Music has the ability both to unite our Christian brothers and sisters, and also to take us spiritually beyond what words alone can achieve.'

Hugh Morris, the incoming Director of the RSCM who takes up his post on 1st August said: 'I am absolutely delighted that John Hall has been appointed as Chair of the RSCM Council. I am honoured to be able to work with such a distinguished figure, as we develop the mission

and work of the RSCM. I share with him a passion both for music and for education as paths of development for the church, and am excited by all the possibilities ahead.'

Lord Gill, who led the Council from 2010 until June this year added: 'I am delighted at this appointment. The Dean of Westminster will be an outstanding chairman of RSCM. Under his leadership RSCM will go from strength to strength.'

Dr Hall's appointment coincides with the RSCM launching a completely new website which highlights the extensive training opportunities and support available to clergy and church musicians. For more information visit www.rscm.org.uk.

For more information on Dr Hall's work as Dean of Westminster visit www.westminster-abbey.org

Ends

26th July 2018

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