



THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

## **Reasons why larger parish churches and cathedrals benefit from RSCM affiliation**

1. **Voice for Life and Awards.** Many larger churches and a number of cathedrals recognise the value of the RSCM's awards examinations, which not only focus on singing ability but also on musicianship, background knowledge of the repertoire and religious knowledge and understanding. The intention, as part of the next phase of revisions currently underway, is that these Awards, particularly at Gold level, will gain external validation, enabling recognition by universities through UCAS points awarded. This will enable a higher level of retention of younger choristers.
2. **RSCM Shop.** Affiliated churches/cathedrals benefit from the generous discount available and also from a growing number of downloadable resources.
3. **Festivals.** By offering to host an RSCM festival, this acts as a valuable opportunity to showcase the church/cathedral, which in turn can attract interest in joining the choir, attending other events and spending money in the shop. Directors of music and organists can seek to increase their professional portfolio by leading and playing at such events.
4. **Belonging to area committees and networking.** Many musicians help to plan and deliver RSCM events locally. A number of chairs of committees are either Cathedral Directors of Music or Assistant Organists and realise the importance of networking with other musicians and churches in the area. They can add to the mission of the RSCM to raise musical standards by offering to lead events and/or to host them at their church or cathedral. Some churches and cathedrals are now adding this to the job description for new appointees.

It is in everyone's interests to have a strong wider landscape beyond the confines of a particular church.

5. **Advertising.** Affiliated choirs are able to reach RSCM members through area-run social media platforms. RSCM events held in their church/cathedral are also advertised nationally on the RSCM website and locally through area newsletters and emails to the membership of church music enthusiasts.
6. **CMQ** welcomes photographs and descriptions of events held by RSCM members which are published in the magazine and online internationally. This is an additional source of publicity for the church or cathedral and music staff involved. Sunday by Sunday is a valuable resource for choosing hymns, anthems and organ music.
7. **Recruitment.** Cathedrals and city/town churches rely on recruiting choristers from the local community and, where boarding is offered, beyond. CMQ is an ideal place to advertise a "be a chorister for a day" and affiliated choirs will also be able to do this on the local social media pages. RSCM areas also run recruitment and retention sessions, which increase awareness of the benefits of belonging to a good choir.
8. **Support.** The RSCM is able to offer specific help and advice. There is an experienced team available including the Director, Heads of Choral Music, Organ Studies, Congregational Worship and Ministerial Training, together with Regional Co-ordinators.