

PROJECT TEAM

The project is also a great chance for keen amateur singers to benefit from the expertise of, and enjoy working with the skilled and charismatic project team:



Jane Dawson – Lead researcher on the project and John Laing Professor of Reformation History at New College.



Susan Hamilton – Vocal coach for the 'congregation' singers and the junior choristers, Professional singer, teacher and Director of Music at St Mary's.



Iain McLarty – Precentor and director of the Sang Schule singers, experienced freelance choral director and musician at Kelvinside Hillhead Church in Glasgow.



Jamie Reid Baxter – Scots language coach and leading expert on the music and language of Early Modern Scotland.



Martin Ritchie – Project coordinator and PhD student at New College, exploring worship in the early Reformed Kirk.

With thanks to the following for their support of the project:

College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Edinburgh



The Church Service Society

The Mission and Discipleship Council, Church of Scotland

We are also very grateful to Rev Jennifer Macrae and the Kirk Session of St Mary's Haddington for their support.



TIMETABLE

Saturday 19th March

09.30 Registration
10.00–16.00 A day of music rehearsal, Scots language coaching and a talk about the landscape of Reformation worship from one of the world's leading scholars of the period, Prof. Jane Dawson.

Friday 15th April

18.30 Registration
19.00–21.30 Rehearsal with balance and sound check

Saturday 16th April

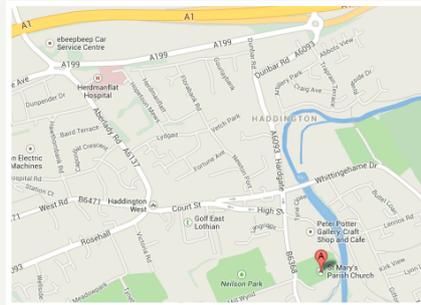
10.00 Registration
10.30–16.30 A day of recordings

Sunday 17th April

14.00–18.00 Completion of the recordings and then a recreation of a service from around the year 1600 in St Mary's Kirk, with highlights of an original sermon, prayers and the singing of our Psalms in their liturgical context.

Directions to St Mary's Church

Haddington is 20 miles east of Edinburgh along the A1. Travelling east, take the second exit to Haddington – St Mary's is signposted from the main road. Look to the South, and you will see the old church tower in the distance.



SINGING THE REFORMATION 2016



A unique chance to be part of a recording project to capture the Psalm singing culture of Reformation Scotland

Saturday 19th March
Friday 15th – Sunday 17th April
St Mary's Church, Haddington

SINGING THE REFORMATION

What is the project about?

During the spring of 2016, a unique opportunity is offered to keen amateur singers to be part of a recording project designed to capture the experience of Reformed Psalm singing in Scotland. In a partnership between New College, School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, the Church Service Society and St Mary's Parish Church in Haddington, Director of Music Susan Hamilton, will train a large 'congregation' to master 13 Psalm settings which were in use from the period 1564–1650, many of which are taken from the famous Thomas Wode illuminated part books.

Why and how?

Although there have been some notable recordings of Psalms from the period by groups such as Dunedin Consort, Cappella Nova and the University of Edinburgh Renaissance Singers, none have incorporated a large congregation singing in Scots and led by a 'Sang Schule' group including treble voices. For this project, we are delighted that the St Mary's choristers will be singing the treble part. In addition, we are including some previously unrecorded material that was popular in its time and also some of the iconic settings such as the Old Hundredth and Psalm 124, which have continued to be sung in the Kirk. The unique recordings will be a valuable resource for expanding our awareness of the sonic experience of worship in early modern Scotland and will be available on various websites to ensure the widest possible legacy from the project.

Music

Music will not be sent out in advance, but will be provided at the opening workshop day on 19th March.



THE WODE PSALTER

The Wode [pronounced 'Wood'] or St Andrews Psalter comprises an important set of manuscript partbooks containing musical settings from pre- and post-Reformation Scotland. **Thomas Wode**, who was a monk before the Reformation in Scotland, collected harmonisations of the 105 metrical Psalms from the 1564 Scottish Psalm Book into these partbooks along with other anthems and songs, creating the 'gold standard' for post-Reformation devotion and worship in Scotland.



As well as being the most important collection of early modern Scottish music, its many illustrations and illuminating marginalia provide valuable insights into Post-Reformation Scottish history and culture.

ST MARY'S HADDINGTON

The venue for the workshops is the historic church of **St Mary's Haddington**, Scotland's largest parish church, also known as 'The Lamp of the Lothians'. Dating from the 14th century, the church stands in a beautiful setting on the banks of the River Tyne.



Haddington is the also birthplace of John Knox, the zealous leader of Scotland's reformation. He is thought to have been born in Giffordgate, on the opposite bank of the river from St Mary's, in around 1514. He trained as a priest and was ordained in St Mary's.

The town's strong links with events in Scotland's religious history make St Mary's the perfect venue for this project spent 'singing the Reformation'.

*Leaflet designed & typeset by Hugh Hillyard-Parker
Photo of the statue of John Knox in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh
© Peter Backhouse*

SINGING THE REFORMATION

APPLICATION FORM

Name _____
Address _____

Postcode _____
Phone _____
Email _____

- I wish to take part in the SINGING THE REFORMATION project in Haddington, 19th March and 15th–17th April

Music

Music will be provided at the first session on Saturday 19th March. Music is included within the registration costs, along with a souvenir CD recording of the project.

Payment

- I enclose payment of £10, OR
 I would like a free place (available to those in full-time education)

Please return the form and your cheque (made payable to the Church Service Society) to:

Martin Ritchie
New College, School of Divinity
University of Edinburgh
Mound Place
Edinburgh
EH1 2LX

Email: wodesingers@gmail.com