

APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

Saturday 21st April 2018 – re-arranged visit to St Barnabas, Erdington, & 2018 AGM

Our originally planned visit in March had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions, so we are grateful to Reverend Freda Evans for accommodating this re-arranged visit.

St Barnabas, Erdington, was gutted by a devastating fire, believed to have been started by arsonists, in October 2007, which destroyed the roof and all but one of the notable stained glass windows. The church was imaginatively rebuilt, including a new glazed church centre/entrance, and rededicated in December 2012.



The rebuilt St Barnabas Parish Church, Erdington

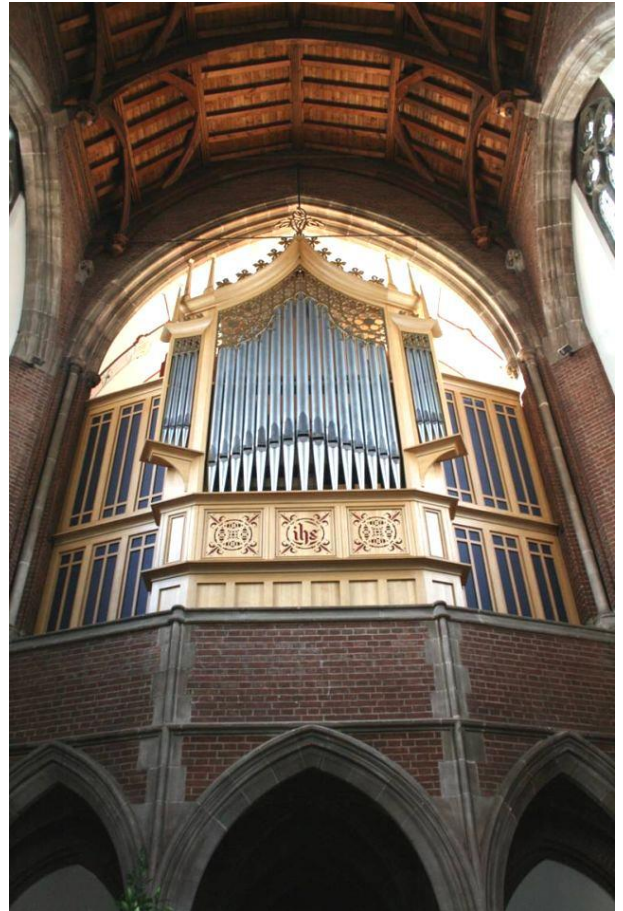
Our visit commences at 2pm with our 2018 AGM, followed by an opportunity for members to play the 3 manual Makin Westmorland Custom digital organ, which replaced the four manual 53 stop HN&B organ destroyed in the fire. St Barnabas Director of Music, Vincent Byrne, is an exponent of 'Silent Film Accompaniment', but it's uncertain at this stage whether Vincent will be able to join us for this re-arranged visit. There will however be an opportunity for members to view/acquire some more music scores from two fresh batches of music recently donated by our members.

Details of the location/car parking can be found in the Appendix to this newsletter.

Saturday 19th May 2018 – visit to Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green

Visit at the invitation of Director of Music Richard Mason, commencing at 2pm. There is a very strong musical tradition here at Emmanuel, as regards both the choir and

the organ, as those who have attended Andrew Fletcher's monthly recitals over the last seven years will attest. The main West Gallery organ is a 3 manual Willis organ, with 46 speaking stops, installed here in 1999, and playable from the same console is a 13 stop Willis choir organ located behind the East End Reredos, installed here in 2001.



The main Willis organ of Emmanuel Church Wylde Green

As part of the Association's commitment to include an occasional educational element to visits, Richard Mason has kindly agreed to give a short workshop on hymn playing, before handing over to members to sample the superb Willis organ.

Tuesday 12th June 2018 – visit to St Editha's Parish Church, Tamworth

Visit commencing at 7pm. We visited St Editha's in May 2014, where the 3 manual 33 stop Harrison & Harrison organ, dating from 1927, is believed to be one of the last organs built by Arthur Harrison himself, and indeed it was awarded a Grade 1 Historic Organ Certificate in 2014.

September 2017 saw the culmination of a £200,000 refurbishment project, and Phil Scriven gave the recital celebrating the completion of the restoration before a packed church on Friday 20th October 2017. Phil has a great regard for this organ, and returns annually to perform a recital at St Editha's.

Maurice Price spearheaded the restoration project, and having joined the LDOA following our attendance at the October 2017 recital, he kindly invited us to pay a return visit to sample the restored organ, an offer we are delighted to take up with today's visit.

Saturday 7th July 2018 - Members' Recital at All Saints' Church, Four Oaks

Following the two highly successful Members' Recitals of 2016 and 2017, we have kindly been invited back to All Saints', Four Oaks, by Revd Adrian Leahy and DoM Angela Sones, for a recital to be given by a number of our members on the fine 4 manual organ. Members' relatives/friends are welcome to attend this event, and an invitation will also be extended to members of All Saints' Church

An opportunity to prepare registrations in advance will be provided, so don't hold back; dust off your 'party piece', and put forward your name to volunteer to play to Richard Syner at richard.syner1@btinternet.com.

Note - deadline for volunteers 1st June 2018.

Saturday 15th September 2018 – organ crawl in Nottingham

We usually have one visit in the year a little further afield, and for 2018 this will be an organ crawl in Nottingham. We hope to visit the Albert Hall to play the magnificent 4 manual 59 stop Binns organ in the morning, followed by St Barnabas Cathedral at 12.30pm with its 3 manual 43 stop HN&B organ, then on to St Mary's for 3pm, home to a magnificent 2 manual 25 stop Marcussen organ.

Saturday 6th October 2018 – President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

President's Evening hosted by Martyn Rawles, commencing with attendance at the RSCM Lichfield Area Festival Evensong, then drinks and nibbles, followed by our annual treat playing the magnificent Hill organ.

Cathy Lamb has extended an invitation for any LDOA members who are singers to participate in the RSCM rehearsals/Evensong, for which there is a small charge. For further details/£ contact Cathy Lamb at: c.lamb@lichfieldcathedralschool.com

Saturday 17th November 2018 – visit to Stafford

Commencing at 1.30pm, a visit to St Mary's, Stafford, and also to the nearby church of St Chad's, the oldest building in Stafford.

St Mary's in fact has two organs, the historic Grade 1 Listed 4 manual 1909 Harrison & Harrison organ, which requires over £1m to restore it, and is no longer playable,

and the 3 manual Hill Norman & Beard organ currently used.

Annual Dinner 2018

Looking at 28th November or 5th December. Date and venue to be confirmed.

RECENT LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

Saturday 17th February 2018 – return visit to Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton, Coldfield

Following our 2017 visit to Holy Trinity, the PCC took a decision to replace their HN&B pipe organ, which was in a rather poor state of repair, by a 3 manual Allen L-343 Bravura digital organ with Willis voicing. Along with members of Holy Trinity Church and Birmingham Organists' Association, we were invited to pay a return visit today to hear a demonstration of the new installation by Holy Trinity Organist Bernard Salter, MA FGCM ARCO, followed by an opportunity for members to play the organ.

The organ has a very comprehensive specification, with some 62 speaking stops, plus 2 programmable stops per division, with a choice of sounds from a library of 200 samples. The organ has a full range of couplers and a 40 channel capture system of 10 general pistons and 6 divisional pistons per division. The speaker system comprises two stacks of speakers concealed in elegant wooden enclosures designed to fit with the interior of the church, one on either side at the back of the nave, plus chancel speakers.

With both very comprehensive programme notes and a video screening of information related to the pieces being played, Bernard demonstrated the main features of the organ, before opening his recital with three pieces from *The Mulliner Book*, followed by *Psalms Prelude (Set 1, No 1)* by Herbert Howells, serving to demonstrate a nice crescendo/diminuendo.

Whitlock's *Folk Tune* was followed by J S Bach's *Toccatina & Fugue in D Minor (Dorian)*, then to three pieces by Lefébure-Wély, *Andante*, *Choeur des Voix Humaines*, demonstrating the Vox Humana stop, and a piece in the style more usually associated with this composer, *Toccatina*.

Next to one of the major works in the programme Mendelssohn's *Sonata No1*, demonstrating the Clarinet in the second movement, and full organ in the final movement. Then in contrast, *Toccatina for Flutes* by Pietro Yon, with Bernard using just the chancel speakers for this delicate piece.

'*Le Cygne*' (*The Swan*) from '*Carnival of the Animals*' by Saint-Saëns was followed by *Rondeau from Orchestral Suite No 2*, used to demonstrate both the Harpsichord effect and the Cimbelstern.

Turning to Widor, a rousing climax to the recital was ensured, not by *Symphony No 5*, but by *Finale from Symphony No 8*, Bernard admitting to 'taking some liberties' with it. Not quite St Sulpice, but pretty good!

Although Bernard Salter had stressed in his introduction that he was a church organist, not a recitalist, his choice of programme and his accomplished playing did in fact provide a very substantial and most enjoyable recital. The great deal of hard work and preparation that clearly went into this event was much appreciated by a very sizeable audience, including 14 LDOA members, with Pat Neville and Richard Hartshorn taking advantage of the opportunity to sample the organ, whilst others sampled the excellent light lunch thoughtfully provided.



Pat Neville at the Allen organ of Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield

Whilst it's regrettable to see the demise of yet another pipe organ in our area, the Allen organ will undoubtedly meet the needs of Holy Trinity for many years to come, whether for services or recitals/concerts. TS

NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

News from February Committee Meeting

Changes come into force on 25th May 2018 to the EU General Data Protection Regulations, which will affect our Association.

We have now received guidance from the IAO General Secretary, Alan Taylor, as to what we need to do to meet our legal obligations following the changes, which are:

- Keep evidence of consent by members to us storing and using their contact details. This will require a consent form to be signed/dated by each member and returned to us to be kept on file.
- Ensure members know what to do if they wish to withdraw this consent. This will be addressed by an addition to our website.

Our Secretary, Richard Syner, will be contacting members shortly to seek their co-operation in completing and promptly returning these forms, as after 25th May 2018, we will be unable to legally contact members from whom we have received no completed form.

Next Committee Meeting

June 2018. Actual date tbc.

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Members

Simon Lumby

Multi-talented Simon Lumby started life as a professional musician before being ordained in 2003, and is currently serving as Parish Priest of St Aidan's, New Parks, in the Diocese of Leicester.

Simon was educated at Solihull School and Solihull Sixth Form College. At the tender age of ten, he had some very informal tuition by the late Sir George Thalben Ball, then later studied organ with Andrew Fletcher in Birmingham, and singing with Robert Anderson at the Royal Northern College of music in Manchester. He was Organist and DoM at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield from 1992-6.



Simon Lumby

As well as numerous organ recitals, including performances in the De Montford Hall, Leicester, the Cathedrals of Hereford, Coventry, Lichfield, Leicester and Liverpool, the Abbey of Ampleforth, St Giles' Cripplegate and St Bride's, Fleet Street, Simon also performed in 'Battle of the Organs' events with the late Carlo Curley. Simon has also given solo performances as both a pianist and singer, and has released two CD's, one of organ music, one of songs, and a third is planned. He directed the music for 'Stand up for Jesus', with Simon featured at the newly restored Willis organ of the Royal Albert Hall, and has also conducted many professional theatre shows, including *Miss Saigon* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Simon lives in New Parks, Leicester.

Bernard Salter

Bernard was a boy chorister at Chester Cathedral from 1952 to 1958. He began playing the organ in his local parish church when he left the choir at the age of 13. He was awarded the ARCO at the age of 17 and has been involved in church music and organ playing throughout his adult life. From 1976 until 1990 he was vicar of a church in Smethwick, and from 1996 to 2010 he was DoM at St James' Church Mere Green. Recently he has completed the examination for the Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians, and received his diploma in November 2017.

Bernard lives in Tividale.

We look forward to meeting both Simon and Bernard at our future events.

Peter Morris retirement

LDOA honorary member Peter Morris is retiring as Director of Music at St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, at Easter 2018, after 15 years in the post. Peter will however be seeing through to completion in 2019 the project recently commenced to rebuild St Peter's fine 1860 Willis organ.

Andrew Clayton appointment at St James' Hill

Our congratulations to LDOA member Andrew Clayton on his appointment as Director of Music at St James' Hill, succeeding Adewale Bamodue, who was our genial host when we visited in June 2012. We wish Andrew every success in his new post.

NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

New organ for Canterbury Cathedral

The present 'Father' Willis organ of Canterbury Cathedral was last restored in the 1970's, and is now in urgent need of repair. Harrison & Harrison have been awarded the contract to build a new organ, which will have 83 stops and over 4000 pipes.

Work has now commenced. Historic pipework by 'Father' Willis, currently just on the South side of the Quire triforia (roof space) will be restored. New pipes on the North side, replacing material removed in the 1970s, will result in a far more nuanced, balanced sound in the Quire. A new console (keys, stops and pedals) will sit in a new organ loft in the North Quire Aisle. This will improve sight-lines and decrease current sound delays, benefitting all who enjoy music within these walls. Removing current pipework provides an unmissable opportunity to access and repair historic stone, timber and stained glass in the Quire, ahead of the new organ's installation. Rain damage, leaks, lead damage and rotting timber will be repaired, with new access hatches created to simplify maintenance.

The project is expected to cost £3.8m, comprising £1.7m for the main organ, £0.3m for the console/loft, and £1.8m for conservation/enabling work. Voicing is planned for 2020, with completion expected in Spring 2020.

Opening Grand Recital of the Buckfast Abbey Ruffatti Organ

The new Ruffatti organs planned for Buckfast Abbey were featured in the December 2016 Newsletter. The installation has now been completed, and the opening Grand Organ Recital will be given by Martin Baker, Organist & Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral on Friday 20th April 2018. To showcase the new instruments, further recitals are planned for 2018, featuring some of the world's finest organists, including David Briggs, Vincent Dubois, Richard Lea/Matthew Searles, Matthew Martin and Richard Lester.

Steven Grahl to replace Stephen Darlington at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral since 2014, Steven Grahl will take up his appointment as Organist of

Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, in September 2018, succeeding Stephen Darlington, who has held the office for 32 years, Steven Grahl takes over a unique role. As well as being Director of Music for the Cathedral, and overseeing the world-class Cathedral Choir, he will also hold significant academic roles in the Faculty of Music in the University, as well as the College. Steven is the current IAO President and is also a Junior Fellow at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield Appointment

David Rice has been appointed Director of Music and Organist at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield, succeeding Stella Thebridge.



David Rice

David is studying for his MA at Birmingham University. He attended Cambridge University, where he graduated in 2016 with a BA in Music from Selwyn College, also gaining his ARCO in his final year. Whilst there he shared organ duties in his college chapel, and for a while he was Director of Music at nearby St James' Church. At the end of his course, David moved on to Tewkesbury Abbey for a year, where he was Organ Scholar, also organist at Dean Close School, Cheltenham. Then last summer he moved to Birmingham University to study for an MA in Music, with a particular focus on conducting.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

Evening Organ Recital Friday 4th May 2018

Martyn Rawles, Cathy Lamb and Maks Adach (Organ Scholar) will be joined by other organists, including student members of the LDOA, to present an informal and light-hearted organ recital commencing at 7.30pm, to raise funds for the Cathedral Choristers' Project Fund. Admission £10.

Lichfield Festival

Part of the 2018 *Lichfield Festival*, Timothy Wakerell, Assistant Organist at New College, Oxford, will be giving an organ recital at 2pm to 3pm on Monday 9th July. Admission £13. This event is sponsored by Jane Steeley & LDOA member David Cliffe.

Programme to include works by J S Bach, Mendelssohn, Cook, Bovet, Jongen and Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir.

Public and on-line booking opens 10th April 2018.

Music for Reflection

Details of the summer lunchtime *Music for Reflection* series has just been announced. The concerts take place on Wednesday lunchtimes at 1.15 – 1.50pm. Admission free with retiring collection. Details as follows:

- 18th July 2018 – Oliver Hancock, organ (Portsmouth Cathedral)
- 25th July 2018 – William Peart, organ (St Mary's, Warwick)
- 1st August 2018 – Maks Adach, organ (Organ Scholar, Lichfield Cathedral)
- 8th August 2018 - Edward Turner, organ (Derby Cathedral)
- 15th August 2018 – Lichfield Cathedral School String Quartet
- 22nd August 2018 – Ailsa Cochrane (mezzo-soprano), Paul Whitehead (piano). Part of the *Imagine Peace Festival*
- 29th August 2018 – Paul Carr, organ (Birmingham) Part of the *Imagine Peace Festival*

Evening Organ Recital Series

Recitals on Friday evenings commence at 7.30pm till 9.30pm. Tickets £10. Refreshments available during the interval. Details as follows:

- 21st September 2018 - Daniel Cook (Durham Cathedral)
- 28th September 2018 – Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral School)
- 5th October 2018 – Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)
- 12th October 2018 – Daniel Moulton (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

IAO/RCO/RSCM MATTERS

Yorkshire Organ Day 2018

To be held in York City Centre on Saturday 21st April 2018, with a provisional programme comprising:

- Registration at St Olave's Church Hall
- Recital by Daniel Cook (Durham Cathedral)
- Presentation by Robert Sharpe (York Minster) of the restoration of York Minster organ
- Buffet lunch in St Olave's Church Hall
- Presentation on 'York Organ Builders' by Max Elliott (researcher at York University)
- Masterclass on 'The Church Organists' Toolkit' by Keith Wright (St Olave's, York)
- Evensong at York Minster

Full details and booking information via: www.iao.org.uk/YOD.

IAO Music Festival 2018

This year's IAO Music Festival (previously known as Congress) runs from Sunday 29th July to Thursday 2nd

August 2018, and is based in Peterborough, where IAO President Steven Grahl is Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral. The Festival also includes a visit to Burghley House, and to Cambridge.

Further details and tickets for the whole Festival, or day tickets, are now available on-line via: www.iao.org.uk/festival-invitation

Midlands Organ Day 2018

The Midlands Organ Day is held bi-annually, and the next one will take place in Worcester on 6th October 2018, organised and hosted by the Worcestershire Organists' Association, with planning already well under way. A day comprising a symposium, presentations and demonstrations, will conclude with Evensong at Worcester Cathedral, followed by the Tenth Anniversary Recital given by David Briggs. More details to follow when finalised.

It promises to be a most interesting day, although regrettably it is on the same day as our evening visit to Lichfield Cathedral for President's Evening.

Workshop for Church Musicians

On Saturday 21st April 2018, from 10am to 1pm, the Birmingham Area RSCM is presenting a fun and practical workshop to help improve skills playing in a music group or worship band for instrumentalists of all levels and abilities. The workshop comprises improvising/playing by ear, transposing music, understanding chord symbols and using music technology.

Venue: St John's Hall, Knowle Parish Church, 1717 High St, Knowle, Solihull B93 0LN.

Cost: £5

Contact: stewart.wallace@kpc.org.uk

ST PETER'S STONNALL – REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

St Peter's Church Stonnall has organised a sponsored fundraising event on Saturday 5th May 2018. A number of musicians have already volunteered their services, but St Peter's has four half hour 'slots' still to fill. We have been requested to enquire if any of our members would be willing to offer their services to play the 2 manual 38 stop Viscount Jubilate 235 digital organ.

If you are willing and able to help, please contact Mike Neil directly to finalise arrangements on 01543 374430.

RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

Callum Alger recital at Emmanuel, Wyde Green, Friday 2nd February 2018

Today's recitalist was Callum Alger, currently Assistant Director of Music at St Peter's Collegiate Church Wolverhampton.

Callum was a chorister at St Matthew's Church, Northampton. In 2011, he was appointed as the Organ Scholar. In 2014, he became Organ Scholar at Portsmouth

Cathedral and worked in both the Cathedral and the Grammar School. He holds both ARCO and ATCL Diplomas and was a finalist in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition. From 2015, he was Director of Music at St Thomas's Church, Stourbridge.



Callum Alger

Callum is currently an undergraduate student at Birmingham Conservatoire, studying organ with Henry Fairs and David Saint.

Callum opened with J S Bach's North German influenced *Toccata & Fugue in E BWV 566*, then in a change to the published programme, *Canon in E flat Major*, followed by Elgar's *Chanson de Matin*, both beautifully played and registered. Then back to the programme with Schumann's *Mir sanfren Stimmen (No 3 of Six fugues on BACH)*

Callum closed his recital in some style with Cesar *Franck's Chorale No 1 in E*, with the hauntingly beautiful chorale played on the Vox Humana, restrained for the most part but then finally building to end with a dramatic climax. A confident performance by a very talented young man. TS

Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 12th February 2018

Today's recital by Thomas Trotter opened with Buxtehude's *Prelude, Fugue & Chaconne in C*, commencing with a pedal solo, then a short prelude, leading to a jolly fugue and the final *presto* chaconne.

Next to J S Bach and the *Partita: Ach, was soll ich Sünder machen*, with the simple harmonisation of the chorale, followed by seven simple variations and two larger ones, providing lots of scope for variations in registration and tempo.

Next to the centrepiece of today's recital, and the work I'd been most looking forward to hearing – Elgar's *Sonata in G*, played here in its entirety. Despite its famed inauspicious premier by Hugh Blair, it has rightfully become a staple of the organ repertoire, placing demands on the player for management of the many changes of registration required, with Thomas providing a masterclass in this skill.

Then finally to Wagner, for two contrasting works transcribed for organ by Lemare, with first the gentle *Romance to the Evening Star from Tannhauser*, followed by the thrilling *The Ride of the Valkyries*, providing a grand climax to a superb recital. TS

Peter Morris recital at Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 15th February 2018

With its extended pedal solo opening, J S Bach's *Prelude & Fugue in C Minor BWV 549* was perhaps not the ideal work for Peter to have to manage without his lost organ shoes, but the show must go on!

Having had a valve on the organ's humidifier stick open causing a flood, which brought down a dressing room ceiling, Handel's *Air from the Water Music* was an apt choice for the next piece! Purcell's *Trumpet Tune* and *Almand* were followed by two works by Vierne, the gentle stringy *Berceuse*, and *Carillon* with its distinctive repetitive chiming theme. Then to another *Carillon*, but this time by Herbert Murrill, written for Arnold Richardson, Wolverhampton Civic Organist 1938-73.

After John Stanley's well-known *Trumpet Voluntary*, Peter turned to a lighter vein. Having recently taken his grandson to the *Sealife Centre*, Nigel Ogden's jolly *Penguins' Playtime* came to mind as choice for the next piece.

Next to Rheinberger's *Introduction & Passacaglia* from Sonata No 8, with its beautiful distinctive theme, building to a very grand ending. Then one final 'blow out' for the Town Hall organ to end majestically with the very popular *Grand Choeur Dialogue* by Gigout.

Peter thanked Julie for hosting the Town Hall recitals on this her last time as host. With doubts about the future of lunchtime recitals at Walsall Town Hall, let's hope it's not also the last time for the lunchtime recitals! TS

Thomas Trotter and Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir concert at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 26th February 2018

Today, Thomas Trotter was joined by 24 members of the Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir, under the direction of their conductor, and LDOA honorary member, Paul Spicer.

Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice the Lamb* provided the opening to the concert, including fine soprano, alto, tenor and bass solos in the central section.

A brief respite for the choir, with next a solo organ performance by Thomas of Stanford's *Fantasia & Toccata in D Minor*, with its grand first page. After the more subdued ending, a pedal solo heralds the opening to the dramatic toccata, which becomes quite animated, before ending majestically.

Then a return to the choir for a performance of three pieces by Kenneth Leighton, the Yorkshire born composer and pianist, who started his musical life as a chorister at Wakefield Cathedral. In *Crucifixus pro nobis*, the tenor solo was particularly impressive, sung by Robin Morton, a lay vicar at Lichfield Cathedral since 2014. *God's Grandeur* was sung by the choir unaccompanied, before Thomas and the choir combined for *Let all the world in every corner sing*, providing an uplifting climax to the concert.

Another superbly professional performance by Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir, with the usual beautifully judged accompaniment by Thomas Trotter. TS

William Peart recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 2nd March 2018

The adverse weather conditions had clearly put off a number of the regulars from attending today's recital by William Peart, as there looked to be barely 20 in the audience.

William hails from Stourbridge and is active as an organist, pianist, baritone and choral conductor. In 2016/17, he was Organ Scholar at Gloucester Cathedral in his gap year, and is now at St Mary's Collegiate Church Warwick. He has now also returned to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for his final year, and subsequent to this recital, on 10th March 2018, he received his ARCO diploma at a prize-giving ceremony at Southwark Cathedral.



William Peart

In his return visit to Wylde Green, William opened with J S Bach's lengthy *Toccat, Adagio & Fugue in C BWV 564*, and in the toccata a lively test for the feet with the demanding extended pedal solo. After the sublime adagio, the work ends with the lively, tuneful fugue.

After the short *Schmucke dich, O liebe seele* by Brahms for manuals only, William closed his recital with Reger's dramatic *Choral Fantasia on Halleluja, Gott zu Loben*, with the usual Reger abundance of notes, including some very lively pedalling!

A most talented young man and a confident performance. Just a great shame the weather conditions prevented him receiving the support of many of the usual Wylde Green regulars. TS

Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 12th March 2018

Mendelssohn wrote six sonatas, which were published just two years before his tragic early death, and all have movements of quality with many memorable themes. Thomas chose *Sonata No 5* to open today's programme, with its gentle chorale, then *andante con moto* providing a contrast to the usual rousing opening to Thomas's recitals, but the *allegro maestoso* provided a majestic conclusion.

Next, to Corelli's *Concerto Grosso No 9*. The music publishers of the time took advantage of the popularity of Italian orchestral works to publish keyboard arrangements

of them, like the arrangement here for organ by T Billington.

There's a similarity in style to the voluntary in Corelli's work to that in John Stanley's *Voluntary in F Op 7 No 2*, so hence the inclusion here of John Stanley's work, with the reverberation chambers at the side of the main organ facilitating a very nice contrasting echo effect.

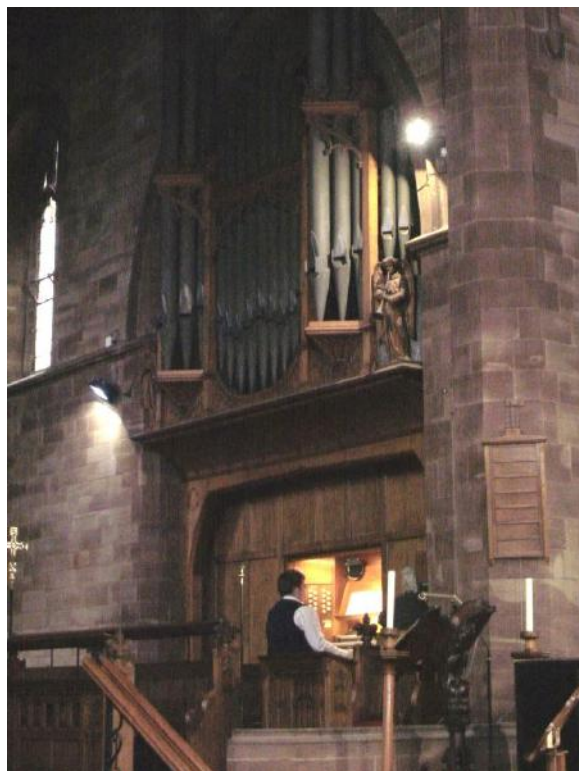
Tombeau de Georges Rouault was commissioned for Thomas Trotter by Symphony Hall 15 years ago from Sir James MacMillan. It opens with single notes of the first theme, before the second theme is added. Rather discordant with a jagged rhythm, the en chamade trumpets and a glissando provided what Thomas described as 'a fairground organ ending'.

The recital was ended in grand style with Liszt's dramatic *Prelude & Fugue on BACH*, but leaving just enough time for a contrasting encore with Moszkowski's gentle *Serenata op. 15*. TS

Alex Goldsmith recital at St Paul's, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Tuesday 13th March 2018

Members may recall our organ crawl to Newcastle-under-Lyme in September 2016, when our final visit of the day was to St Paul's, with its 4 manual 80 speaking stop William Hill organ, complete with Tibia Liquida stop, opening the flap of a cocktail cabinet in the stop jamb! Today was a rare opportunity to hear this organ in recital, played by one of our student members, Alex Goldsmith.

Alex is in his final year at Keele University, where he is studying for degrees in Maths and in Music, Today's public concert was given by talented students from Keele's Music Department, including a soprano, a violinist, and a guitarist providing accompaniment, as well as Alex.



Alex Goldsmith at the organ of St Pauls, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Alex closed today's concert, with first a confident performance of Handel's *Concerto in G Op 4 No 1, movements 1, 3 and 4*. *Master Tallis' Testament* by Herbert Howells followed, very nicely registered considering Alex had only 40 minutes preparation time on this organ. He finished with a flourish with the well-known *Toccata in G* by Dubois, providing an opportunity to hear full organ.

Alex is excellent at sight reading, and this sometimes means that on our visits he plays pieces with little prior practice, but with his finals coming up in May, today provided an opportunity for him to play pieces he has learnt to perform for his finals, so it was good to hear some very polished playing, eliciting favourable comments from Michael Rhodes (Victoria Hall, Hanley), who was in the audience.

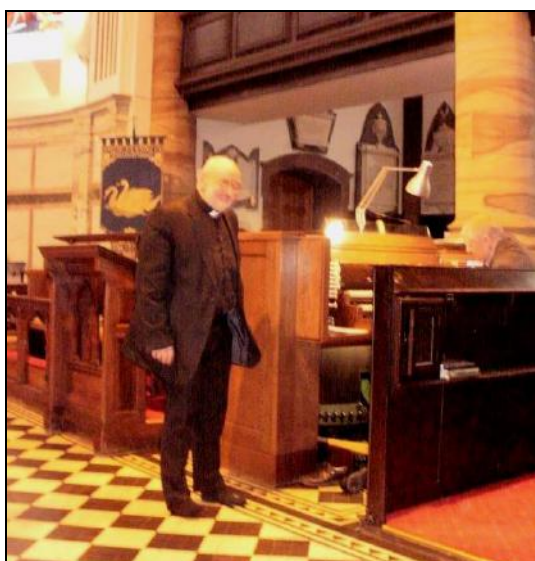
We wish Alex every success for his finals at Keele Chapel on 2nd May. TS

Stanley Monkhouse recital at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, Wednesday 14th March 2018

Tom Corfield opened this Lent recital series last week, and the series was continued today by LDOA member Stanley Monkhouse, the vicar of St Modwen's.

Stanley is a man of many talents. He was trained in church music at Carlisle Cathedral, and has been organist and choirmaster at churches in London, Nottingham, Dublin and Derby, as well as having given recitals at several English cathedrals. However, not only is he well-qualified as a musician, having gained his FRCO, LRCM and ARCM, but after Cambridge and King's College Hospital, London, for many years he taught anatomy to medical students in Nottingham, the College of Surgeons in Dublin, the new medical school in Derby, and in Limerick! He was ordained in 2006.

In his introduction, Stanley described his programme as 'quiet and introspective as befits Lent', and this certainly aptly described his opening piece, Franck's *Cantabile*. Next to *Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir BWV 686*, with J S Bach at his most austere.



Stanley Monkhouse taking his bow at the end of the recital

Next a return to Cesar Franck, and the major work of Stanley's programme, *Chorale No 2 in B Minor*, with the many registration changes skilfully chosen and managed.

After Georg Böhm's *Vater unser im Himmelreich* with its highly decorated theme over a gently throbbing accompaniment, to close his recital Stanley turned to Frank Bridges' *Andante con moto*, which as its title implies, gets quite lively, before ending quietly.

Whilst poor eyesight makes reading music scores rather taxing, it certainly didn't prevent Stanley from playing a most accomplished and well received programme. TS

Tony Westerman recital at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, Wednesday 21st March 2018

LDOA member Tony has played piano and organ since early childhood, and whilst a student had lessons with Dr Alan Spedding at Beverley Minster. In 1977 Tony moved to Ashbourne to run the music department at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, where he worked for 30 years, becoming Assistant Head, until his retirement. During his time at Ashbourne, Tony had organ lessons with Peter Gould at Derby Cathedral.

Of Mendelssohn's six organ sonatas, my personal favourite is *Sonata No 3*, and this was indeed Tony's choice to open today's Lent recital. He first played through the Lutheran chorale *Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir*, taken in the sonata by the pedals, then the sonata itself, with its majestic main movement followed in total contrast by the delicious *Andante Tranquillo*.

Next to *Ach, Welt ich muß dich lassen* by Tamsin Jones, a simple elegant tune dedicated to Tony following a visit by Tamsin. Then to J S Bach and *Sie Gegrüßet, Jesu Gütig BWV 768, variations I – IV* played on the manuals only, then the more substantial *variations X and XI*.

After the gentle *Chorale Prelude on 'Rockingham'* by Parry, Tony returned to J S Bach to end with *Valet will ich dire geben*, with the tune picked out in the pedals, whilst the manuals are kept busy weaving endless semiquaver imitations of the simple melody idea stated in the opening bars.



Tony Westerman at the console of St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

Another accomplished performance to end this Lent recitals series. We await with eager anticipation the

Summer Recital Series here at St Modwen's, which will be opened by Stanley Monkhouse on 6th June. TS

Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 26th March 2018

Today's recital was entitled '*Paris in the Spring*', and for once outside it was indeed a fine and sunny spring day! In his introduction, Thomas referred to his love of Paris and the many fine churches and organs in central Paris, whose organists over the years in many cases also became celebrated composers.

One such celebrated composer, Widor, provided the opening piece, with, in my personal opinion one of the best movements from his ten symphonies, the demanding *Allegro from Symphony No 6*. Beautifully crafted registrations, with impeccably managed changes.

Next, back in time to when eight members of the Couperin dynasty resided over the organ at St Gervais for over 150 years, and to the most well-known of the family, Françoise Couperin. His *Offertoire sur les Grand Jeux from Messe pour les Paroisses*, is in three sections, with the first employing powerful reeds, then a contrapuntal slow section using the Cornet in dialogue with a Trumpet, and finally a lively fugal caprice.

Thomas enlightened us to the fact that both Maurice Duruflé and his wife Marie-Madeleine played here at Birmingham Town Hall. *Prelude & Fugue sur le nom d'Alain* was Duruflé's tribute to Jehan Alain, killed in WW2, and premiered by Duruflé in 1942 in occupied Paris. Thomas demonstrated the two versions of the motif used in this work, the first in the Prelude with its rapid stream of delicate fluttering flutes, followed by the more lyrical motif recalling Alain's *Litanies*. The fugue uses a slower version of Alain's motif, but this is soon joined by a livelier second subject, to end on a note of triumph and optimism.

Although Gabriel Pierné succeeded Cesar Franck at Ste-Clotilde, he enjoyed greater success as a conductor and composer of ballet music. Here his *Trois Pièces* was featured, comprising *Prelude* with its rippling arpeggios, then the lyrical *Cantilene*, for which Thomas used the Cornopean for the solo, then the rather more substantial *Scherzando de concert*, in which the initial driving rhythm, after a brief lyrical interlude, returns to build to a grand chordal climax.

Next, to two works by Vierne. First, *Feux follets (Will o' the wisp)*, with its first theme in a darting irregular rhythm, leading to the second theme, creating a strangely spooky effect. Then to close, a frequent choice to end a recital, *Carillon de Westminster*, building to finish with a final resounding peal for the full organ.

Today's all French programme brought back many cherished memories of my trip with Worcestershire Organists' Association in April 2017, to hear a number of the magnificent Cavallé-Coll organs in Paris. TS

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Martyn Rawles

In addition to his recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Martyn will be giving a recital on Saturday 19th May from 4pm to 5pm at All Saints', Clifton.

Peter Morris

Following the Thursday 15th February recital at Walsall Town Hall, Peter is awaiting confirmation from the Council regarding future recitals. An update will be communicated when available.

However, a recital that is confirmed is being given by Peter on Tuesday 19th June from 1.15pm to 2pm at Hereford Cathedral.

Mervin Jones – Walsall Town Hall concerts

The well-supported concerts are held from 1.30 to 3.30pm on the second Thursday of every month, and include light organ music performed by Mervin, plus guest artists. Light refreshments and raffles.

Pat Neville - Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone

A lunchtime organ recital for St George's Day will be given on Monday 23rd April 2018 by Trinity Methodist Church resident organist Pat Neville from 12.45pm to 1.30pm. Bring your sandwiches – hot drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

Alex Goldsmith

Our student member Alex Goldsmith is currently Director of Music at St Thomas', South Wigston, Leicestershire, and he will be giving the following recitals:

- Saturday 9th June from 12.00 to 12.45pm at St Paul's, Bedford
- Sunday 12th August 4pm at St Andrew's, Aylestone

Simon Lumby

Having recently joined the LDOA, Simon is booked to give the following recitals:

- Sunday 20th May 2018 at 8pm at Mountsorrel Methodist Church
- Thursday 13th December 2018 from 1pm to 1.30pm at St Margaret's, Leicester.

St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

Having taken up his post as Organist at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent in May 2017, Tony Westerman, encouraged by Revd Stanley Monkhouse, lost no time in organising a series of well-supported organ recitals last summer. The success of last year has given rise now to two series of recitals for 2018, one series in Lent, which will have taken place by the time of publication, and the other in the summer. Recitals take place on Wednesdays at 12.30pm and last approx. 40 minutes. Details as follows:

Summer Series:

- 6th June 2018 – Stanley Monkhouse (St Modwen)
- 13th June 2018 – Nigel Gotteri (Sheffield)
- 20th June 2018 - Stefan Reid (Nottingham)

- 27th June 2018 – Adam Parrish (Chesterfield)
- 4th July 2018 – Tom Corfield (Derby)
- 11th July 2018 - Ben Bloor (Organist at the London Oratory and at Westminster School)
- 5th September 2018 – David Butterworth (Nottingham)
- 12th September – Cathy Lamb (Director of Outreach, Lichfield Cathedral School)
- 19th September – Ben Mills (Keble College, Oxford)
- 26th September – Jeremy Hampton (Derby)
- 3rd October 2018 – Tony Westerman (St Modwen)

Broadway URC, Walsall

Organised by our member Alan Taylor, Broadway URC Organist & Choir-director, this year's 'Coffee & Cake' organ recitals will be held on Saturdays, commencing at 11.15am. Details as follows:

- 9th June 2018 – Thomas Keogh (Holy Cross Priory, Leicester)
- 14th July 2018 – Martyn Noble (HM Chapels Royal)
- 11th August 2018 – Daniel Mansfield (Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral)
- 8th September, 28th Anniversary Organ Recital – Ashley Wagner (Worcester Cathedral)

All Saints' Church, Streetly

Concert presented by our Committee Member Chris Booth, at 7.30pm Saturday 28th April 2018 by Jean Martyn, International Concert Pianist/Organist and Finalist of *Britain's Got Talent 2011*. Proceeds to The Mayor of Walsall's Charity WHP Counselling for Children & Young Adults.

Tickets £10, under 16s free, from Chris Booth or The Parish office on 0121 353 3582.

Arthur Tipper

For some 35 years, Arthur was the Organist & Choirmaster at St Mary's Church, Tutbury. He was succeeded by Roger Sharp, but Arthur still plays at St Mary's on alternate Sundays. Roger Sharp and Arthur Tipper are giving joint organ recitals at St Mary's on the following Bank Holidays:

- Easter Monday 2nd April 2018
- May Bank Holiday Monday 7th May 2018, and
- Spring Bank Holiday Monday 28th May 2018

12:30 for soup and a roll, with the recital at 1 pm – £5 entrance – requests welcome

Recitals In Local Area (to end of May 2018)

April 2018

Sun 1 April 2018 • 2.00 to 4.30 • Fentham Hall, Hampton-in-Arden
Andrew Nix

Sun 1 April 2018 • 3.00 to 3.45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 2 April 2018 • 12.30 • 1st Mary's, Tutbury
Roger Sharp and Arthur Tipper (St Mary's, Tutbury)

Tues 3 April 2018 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Thurs 5 April 2018 • 1.00 to 1.30 • Solihull Methodist Church
Alexander Woodrow (Solihull School)

Thurs 5 April 2018 • 1.15 to 1.55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sat 7 April 2018 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Malvern Priory
Stephen Hargreaves (Walton-on-the-Hill)

Mon 9 April 2018 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Daniel Moulton (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

Frid 13 April 2018 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel, Wyld Green
Terence Atkins (St John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet)

Sat 14 April 2018 • 12.00 to 12.45 • Stoke Minster
Anthony Pinel (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Sun 15 April 2018 • 2.30 to 5.00 • Buttermarket, Shrewsbury
Kevin Grunhill (The Penistone Cinema Organ Trust)

Wed 18 April 2018 • 7.30 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Darius Battiwalla with The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Thurs 19 April 2018 • 12.15 to 12.55 • Worcester Cathedral
Jonathan Allsopp (Westminster Cathedral)

Frid 20 April 2018 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Andrew Kirk (St Mary, Redcliffe)

Sat 21 April 2018 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Jonathan Scott (Manchester)

Sat 21 April 2018 • 7.30 • St John's, Kenilworth
Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral/Liverpool City Organist)

Mon 23 April 2018 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Mon 23 April 2018 • 12.45 to 1.30 • Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone
Pat Neville (Trinity Methodist Church)

Wed 25 April 2018 • 1.10 to 2.00 • St Alphege, Solihull
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)

Thurs 26 April 2018 • 12.15 to 12.55 • Worcester Cathedral
John Pryer (Alexandra Palace)

Sat 28 April 2018 • 7.30 • All Saints', Streetly
Jean Martyn

May 2018

Tues 1 May 2018 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Carleton Etherington (Tewkesbury Abbey)

Thurs 3 May 2018 • 12.15 to 12.55 • Worcester Cathedral
Ashely Wagner (Worcester Cathedral)

Thurs 3 May 2018 • 1.15 to 1.55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Peter Stevens (Westminster Cathedral)

Frid 4 May 2018 • 7.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Martyn Rawles, Cathy Lamb, Maks Adach and LDOA student members

Frid 4 May 2018 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel, Wyldre Green
George Gillow (Gloucester Cathedral)

Frid 4 May 2018 • 1.00 to 1.40 • Friends Meeting House, Bournville
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)

Sat 5 May 2018 • 1.00 • St Laurence, Ludlow
William Peart, Ashely Wagner

Sat 5 May 2018 • 2.30 to 3.15 • St Peter's, Cradley
Andrew Crabtree (St Mary's, Alveley)

Sat 5 May 2018 • 4.00 to 5.00 • St Laurence's, Northfield
Kurt Rampton (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

Sat 5 May 2018 • 5.00 • Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon
Christopher Allsop (Worcester Cathedral)

Sun 6 May 2018 • 2.00 to 4.30 • Fentham Hall, Hampton-in-Arden
Joe Marsh (Howden-le-Wear, County Durham)

Sun 6 May 2018 • 3.00 to 3.45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 7 May 2018 • 12.30 • St Mary's, Tutbury
Roger Sharp and Arthur Tipper (St Mary's, Tutbury)

Sat 12 May 2018 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Malvern Priory
Paul Robinson (St Luke's, Wellington, New Zealand)

Sat 12 May 2018 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Jonathan Scott & Tom Scott (piano)

Sat 12 May 2018 • 7.30 • St Laurence's, Alvechurch
Keith Hearnshaw (Worcester)

Mon 14 May 2018 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Frid 18 May 2018 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Peter King (Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey)

Sat 19 May 2018 • 12.00 to 12.45 • Stoke Minster
Timothy Easter (Harpenden)

Sun 20 May 2018 • 2.30 to 5.00 • Buttermarket, Shrewsbury
Phil Kelsall (Tower Ballroom, Blackpool)

Wed 23 May 2018 • 1.10 to 2.00 • St Alphege, Solihull
James Lloyd Thomas (St Thomas', Stourbridge)

Wed 23 May 2018 • 7.45 • Repton School Chapel
Jeremy Woodside (Repton School)

Sat 26 May 2018 • 3.00 • St Andrew's Methodist Church, Worcester
Keith Hearnshaw (Worcester)

Mon 28 May 2018 • 12.30 • 1st Mary's, Tutbury
Roger Sharp and Arthur Tipper (St Mary's, Tutbury)

For a complete listing of organ recitals in the UK and further details go to: www.organrecitals.com

For details of recital organ specifications go to the National Pipe Organ Register at: www.npor.org.uk

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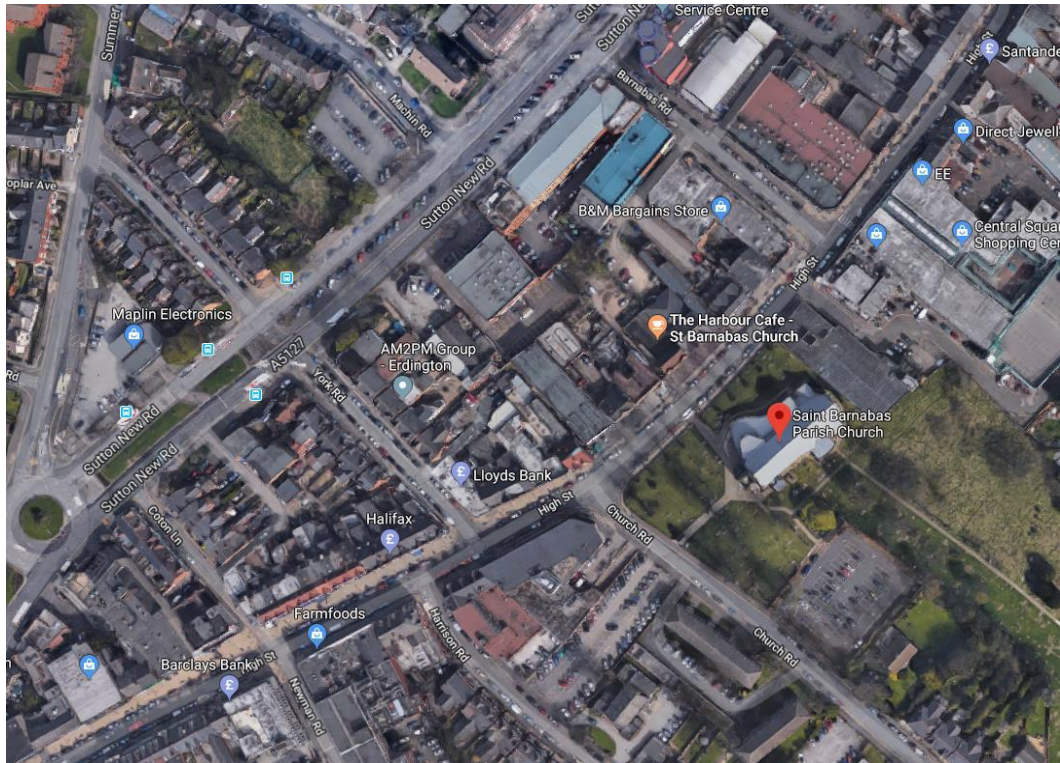
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Editorial Note - next newsletter is planned for June 2018, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/05/18, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA

APPENDIX

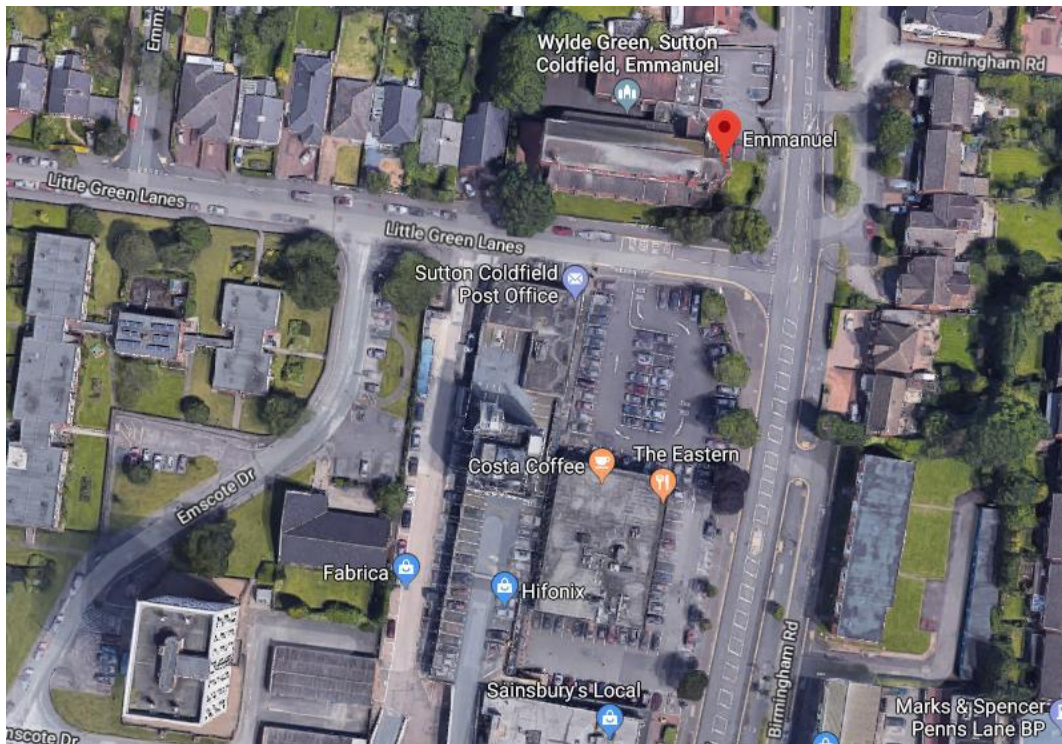
Directions for the visit to St Barnabas Parish Church, Erdington, Saturday 21st April 2018



Locator map for St Barnabas, Erdington

St Barnabas Parish Church, 152-156 High St, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6SY, is located at the corner of Erdington's High Street/Church Rd, with two pay and display car parks (see above map) accessible from either side of Church Rd.

Directions for the visit to Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Saturday 19th May 2018



Locator map for Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green

Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, is located at the corner of Little Green Lanes/Birmingham Road, B72 1DP. There is a small car park in front of the church, accessed from Birmingham Road, but there is ample parking either at Wylde Green shopping centre accessed from Little Green Lanes (see Costa Coffee on the above map), or in the side streets. Alternatively, it is just an 8 minute walk from Chester Road train station.