

AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

[FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS](#)

Covid-19 and 2021 visits

With the move to Step 4 of the Government's roadmap, we have resumed our activities, but we are experiencing a degree of understandable reluctance on the part of some venues, who have yet to fully resume their normal activities, to host visits from organisations such as ours.

Saturday 11th September 2021 - POSTPONED

Unfortunately, the visit to Rugby postponed from 2020 and rearranged for September 2021, which promised to be a terrific day in Rugby visiting two venues with no less than five organs between them, has yet again been postponed.

A few weeks ago, Director of Music at Rugby School Richard Tanner was optimistic our visit would be able to go ahead as planned, but with the delay to Step 4 and the impact of Covid-19 infections on schools over the last few weeks, he has just advised us that he doesn't know what the situation will be regarding visitor access to the School when pupils return in September. He has therefore requested that we postpone our visit until next year, when they can be more certain about the visitor access situation.

We're very sorry for the disappointment, but we are looking to come up with an alternative visit for September.

Saturday 25th September 2021 – IAO Midlands Organ Day

Not an LDOA event, but an event in Northampton being hosted by Northampton & District Organists' Association, to which members of Midlands organists' associations are invited. See Page 5 for details/booking information if you are interested in attending. See also flyer attached.

October 2021 – President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

Our President, Martyn Rawles, is not yet in a position to confirm whether Lichfield Cathedral will be able to accommodate a visit from us in October, although Saturday 9th October has been pencilled in as a possibility.

Saturday 13th November 2021 – visit and presentation by Stephen Alliss

Commencing at 2pm, a visit and presentation by Stephen Alliss, Head Tuner of organ builder Harrison & Harrison. Stephen has been heavily involved in many major UK cathedral organ restorations over the last few years, as well of course his responsibility for tuning the Hill of the

Lichfield Cathedral, so it should make for a very interesting presentation. Venue t.b.c.

Tuesday 30th November 2021 – LDOA Annual Dinner

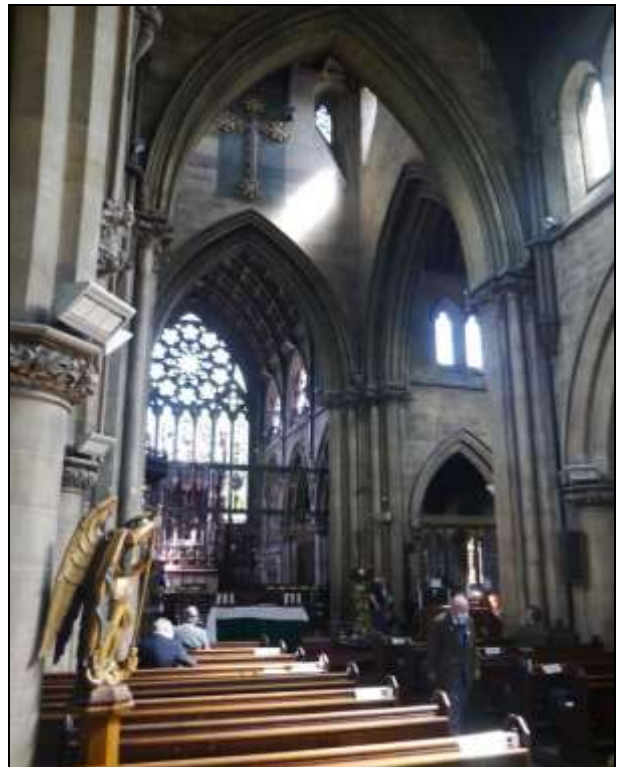
Annual Dinner at local hostelry. 7pm for 7.30pm. Venue and other details t.b.c.

[RECENT EVENTS](#)

Saturday 26th June 2021 – AGM and visit to St Paul's Burton-on-Trent

Our visit to St Paul's this afternoon was planned to follow after Step 4 of the government's roadmap on 21st June, but in the event, postponement of Step 4 by four weeks meant that we had the choice of either delaying our visit, or putting up with masks and social distancing. As the visit was to also include our AGM postponed from 2020, we decided, with the much-appreciated cooperation of St Paul's, to go ahead with our visit, and get our AGM 'out of the way' to comply with our legal duties.

We anticipated that the need to comply with Covid-19 restrictions would put off some members from attending, and indeed this was the case, so we were grateful to the eleven members who did come along and support us.



[View down the nave of St Paul's, Burton-on-Trent](#)

This substantial church is located in St Paul's Square, just across from Burton Town Hall. It is a wonderful example of Victorian ecclesiastical art and architecture, and an ideal setting for richly ordered worship.

Designed by J M Teale of Doncaster and E B Denison, later Lord Grimthorpe, it is a cruciform building in the Geometrical Gothic style with a three-bay chancel with aisles, a five-bay nave with aisles, north and south transepts and a square central tower that houses a ring of ten bells. It has a family likeness, through Denison's friendship with Gilbert Scott, to Doncaster Parish Church, the ground plan and the tracery of the large windows being almost identical, though on a slightly smaller scale.

Between 1889 and 1901 the chancel and south transept were enriched by George Frederick Bodley who did much work in the area (notably Holy Angels Hoar Cross and St Chad's Burton). He adapted the south chancel aisle for use as a chapel, added a sacristy on the north side, and an internal porch at the south transept door. The chancel and sanctuary roof were painted to Bodley's design, and a canopy was added above the original large circular stone pulpit. A western narthex was added in 1910 as a memorial to Baron Burton, who had died the previous year.

The two west bays of the nave and the narthex were converted into a church hall in 1979, and at the same time several items were added from the former chapel of ease of St Margaret, including a wooden lectern by Morris and Co, a painting of the Crucifixion which was placed by the south door, and statues of Alpha and Omega which were added to the south chancel aisle chapel.

The west tower is of three stages and has a balustrade with urns and round windows with radial glazing bars. The apse has wide Doric pilasters at the opening and between the windows. The nave arcades have tall Doric piers without an entablature, the flat ceiling has a deep cove, and the nave galleries cut across the high, arched windows of the aisles.

Following our AGM (for details of which see 'News from the Committee'), Tony Westerman, LDOA Member and Organist of St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent, led us into the nave to give us a brief history of the organs of St Paul's. Progressing down the nave, your eyes are drawn to the magnificent ornate G F Bodley casework of an organ in the South Transept. This was one of two cases that used to house a Hope Jones organ, but this case is now sadly empty.

In 1894-5 the original 1871 three-manual organ by William Hill & Sons of London was moved to Trinity Methodist Church, in George Street in 1896, and then in 2012 to Sankt-Afra-Kirche in the Berlin suburb of Gesundbrunnen. The Hill organ was replaced by a four-manual organ, one of the first to be built by the Hope-Jones Electric Organ Company Ltd, and housed in two cases by G F Bodley. Whilst Tony Westerman never actually heard this organ, people who had said it sounded even more impressive than the 4-manual 32 stop specification would suggest. The Hope-Jones organ was itself replaced in 1985 when parts were removed to the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust's Museum in Manchester.



The G F Bodley case in the South Transept of St Paul's, Burton-on-Trent

The church now contains an 1874 Conacher organ formerly in Central Methodist Church, Chesterfield. It is sited in the north chancel aisle, and although the G F Bodley case in the chancel gives the appearance that it speaks to the south, the Great Organ actually speaks to the west through the North Transept grille, and is louder in the nave than at the console, which is sited to the right of the crossing.

Whilst still at Chesterfield, the 1874 Conacher organ was enlarged in 1904, a blower added in 1914. In 1936, Abbott & Smith rebuilt and enlarged the organ, and in 1954 Compton cleaned and overhauled it. After the move to Burton, in 2009 it was restored after water damage by LDOA member and local organ builder Mike Thompson.



The console of the Conacher organ of St Paul's Burton-on-Trent

The current specification is:

Great

Bourdon 16, Open Diapason I 8, Open Diapason II 8, Hohl Flute 8, Salicional 8, Principal 4, Wald Flute 4, Fifteenth 2, Mixture III, Tromba 8, Tromba 4 (ext)

Swell

Open Diapason 8, Gedact 8, Gamba 8, Voix Celeste 8, Gemshorn 4, Piccolo 2, Mixture III, Contra Oboe 16, Oboe 8 (ext), Horn 8

Pedal

Acoustic Bass 32, Open Diapason 16, Bourdon 16 (Gt), Echo Bass 16, Octave 8 (ext), Flute 8 (ext), Trombone 16 (ext Gt), Fagotto 16 (Sw), Tromba 8 (Gt)



The G F Bodley chancel case of the organ of St Paul's, Burton-on-Trent

Tony Westerman then proceeded to demonstrate the organ, playing arrangements of *Ein Feste Burg* by four different composers, Praetorius, Pachelbel, Walther and Merkel, showing that the organ speaks well into the nave despite having to largely project sound through the grill in the North Transept.



Tony Westerman demonstrating the organ of St Paul's Burton-on-Trent

Paul Hodgetts can always be relied upon to get playing by members under way, this time with Buxtehude's *Tocatta & Fugue in F*. Then over to Mike Rudd for *Reflection* by Dan Bishop followed by *Praeludium in E Minor* by Arnold M Brunckhorst. John Carvell was followed by Ian Boddington, a new member who we were delighted was able to join us today for his first visit.



Ian Boddington at the organ of St Paul's, Burton-on-Trent

Paul Hodgetts made a return visit to the console to play Stanford's *Six Preludes & Postludes, Set 1 No 1*, followed by Trevor Smedley playing Mendelssohn's *Sonata No 3 Andante*, with Colin Brookes closing today's visit with his customary improvisation.

Our thanks to Tony Westerman and St Paul's for hosting today's visit. TS

NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

2021 AGM

Held on Saturday 26th June 2021 at St Paul's, Burton-on-Trent. Items of note:

- Membership has increased slightly from 78 at the beginning of 2020 to 81 currently. We're grateful to members for 'sticking with us' through the last 15 months.
- We have resumed our visit activities and look forward with optimism to some interesting and enjoyable events.
- Having been obliged to cancel last year's AGM due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year's AGM required us to review both the 2019 and 2020 accounts, which were duly approved.
- Despite both reduced income and expenditure due to limited events, finances are in good shape, and so the 2022 subscription rates will remain unchanged.
- Having been co-opted to the Committee to replace Chris Booth, Peter Morris was formally elected to the Committee, where his wide experience and contacts in the Midlands organ world will be invaluable to us.
- The remainder of the Committee confirmed they were willing to serve for a further year and were duly re-elected. Trevor Smedley confirmed he would be looking to hand over the Chairmanship by the 2022 AGM. Anyone interested in joining the committee is invited to contact our secretary, Richard Syner, for an informal discussion.

Next committee meeting

September 2021 – date t.b.c.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Callum Alger/St Albans International Organ Festival Competition 2021

Callum Alger, LDOA student member and Interim Director of Music at St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, was successful in making it through from 60 international entrants to be one of the finalists of the competition which forms part of the St Albans International Organ Festival 2021, of which Thomas Trotter is the President. The twelve finalists comprised three from the UK, four from the USA, and one each from France, The Netherlands, Austria, Lithuania and Germany. Due to Covid-19 travel restrictions the competition had to take place virtually.

Each entrant was asked to submit a video-recorded performance, which had to be a balanced programme with a total timing of 40 minutes, including:

- J S Bach: *Fantasia in C minor BWV 562*
- Saint-Saëns: *Prelude and Fugue in B major op 99 no.2*
- The commissioned work by Roxanna Panufnik
- Plus, own-choice work(s).

Each performance was shown on a big screen in St Albans Cathedral, over three successive evenings 7th, 8th and 9th July 2021. The videos were also streamed online for viewing around the world and to the Competition Jury, which comprised: David Hill (UK), Bine Bryndorf (Denmark), Pieter van Dijk (The Netherlands), Rie Hiroe (Japan), Todd Wilson (USA), Franz Danksagmuller (Austria/Germany) and Jean-Baptiste Robin (France).

In addition to the set pieces, using the Willis organ of St Peter's Wolverhampton, Callum gave a superb performance of his chosen work, Reger's *Phantasie über den Choral 'Halleluyah! Gott zu loben bleibe meine Seelenfreude'*.

The results were announced at a virtual/live streamed event on Friday 16th July. From a very strong international line-up, unfortunately none of the three UK entrants won any of the six prizes awarded, the winners being:

- Peter Hurford Bach Prize of £1000 for the best performance of *BWV 562* went to Daniel Chang (USA)
- A prize of £800 for the best performance of the commissioned work *Gloria cum Jubilo* by Roxanna Panufnik went to Mona Rodestvenskyte (Lithuania), achieved despite having had Covid and using an electronic keyboard for much of her practice time, leaving just a couple of weeks practice on a pipe organ
- The Douglas May Award of £800 for the best performance of a single work went to Magdalene Moser (Austria) for her performance of Georg Muffat's *Tocatta Decima*
- Three equal prizes of £1500 for the three most outstanding overall performances went to: Mitchell Miller (USA), Quentin du Verdier (France) and Mona Rozdestvenskyte (Lithuania)

John Carvell appointment

John hosted our January 2017 visit to play the fine 3-manual Norman & Beard organ of St Luke's Cannock, and at the AGM he announced that he has been appointed Assistant Organist at St Luke's. Our congratulations to John on his appointment.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

Lichfield Cathedral 'Music for Reflection'

After over a year bereft of organ recitals at Lichfield Cathedral, our President, Martyn Rawles, has confirmed the excellent news that the 2021 'Music for Reflection' series will take place on Tuesdays at 11.30am – 12.15pm, admission free with retiring collection.

LDOA student member and Lichfield Cathedral Organ Scholar Liam Condon opened the series on 20th July, and the remaining organ recitals of the series are as follows:

- 3rd August 2021 – Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)
- 10th August 2021 – Luke Fitzgerald (Coventry Cathedral)
- 17th August 2021 – Jonathan Allsopp (Southwell Minster)
- 24th August 2021 – Lucy Morrell (St Mary's, Warwick)

Lichfield Cathedral Evening Organ Recitals Series

Martyn Rawles has also confirmed that the evening organ recitals are back. They will run on Friday evenings commencing at the slightly earlier time than normal, 7.15pm, until around 8.30pm. Unfortunately, there will be no refreshments or interval this year, and tickets at £10 are available on the door. Dates and recitalists as follows:

- 10th September 2021 – Liam Condon (Organ Scholar, Lichfield Cathedral)
- 24th September 2021 – Paul Carr (Birmingham)
- 1st October 2021 – Martyn Rawles (Organist & Assistant Director of Music, Lichfield Cathedral)
- 15th October 2021 – Cathy Lamb (Director of Music Outreach, Lichfield Cathedral School)

IAO/RCO MATTERS

IAO Music Festival 2021

The IAO regrets that its five-day Music Festival planned for July 2021 in Edinburgh cannot go ahead this year as a 'live' event. This is primarily due to difficulties with capacity and availability of venues, some of which will still be in use as part of continuing efforts to combat the pandemic.

The IAO/RCO Organ Competition, which our student member Callum Alger won in 2018, and planned to be part of the postponed five-day Festival, took place this year as an online only event on Saturday 24th July 2021.

IAO President John Kitchen gave an online recital on Friday 23rd July from St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, where the

'live' competition was to have been held. His programme included three of Parry's preludes on hymn tunes (*Melcombe, Christe Redemptor Omnium and Dundee*), movements from Guilain's wonderful *Suite du Second Ton pour le Magnificat*, along with other works by Callaerts, Cor Kee and Praetorius. It can still be viewed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNZNc6nGn3w>

The competition adjudicators were Gerard Brooks (RCO President), John Kitchen (IAO President) and Ann Elise Smoot (Director, Oundle for Organists) and the six finalists were:

Merle Hillmer (studies Master of Church Music in Leipzig), Joshua Hughes (recent graduate of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire), William Peart (Freelance career, studying in Berlin), James Short (Organist in Residence, St Mark's English Church, Florence), Ashley Wagner (Assistant Head of Music at Birmingham Cathedral) and Wenying Wu (studies Church Music at the Franz Liszt University of Music, Weimar, and recitalist in Germany and China)

The competitors each submitted video recordings lasting approx. 35 minutes of works of their own choice, and recorded on organs also of their choice.

The results announced by John Kitchen were:

- 1st Prize: Wenying Wu, 'awarded for her very challenging programme played with extra-ordinary flair and sensitivity'.
- Joint 2nd prizes: Merle Hillmer and Ashley Wagner

Great credit is due to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire that four of the six finalists had studied there. For me, I enjoyed most the programme and performance of William Peart, even though he was not one of the prize winners.

The competition recitalists' performances can be viewed (all 3 hours 33 mins, if you have the stamina!) via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulX-p0eVNEs>

IAO Midlands Organ Day 2021: Saturday 25th September 2021

Northampton & District Organists' Association has now confirmed that, with the support of the IAO, the 2021 Midlands Organ Day will go ahead as a live event on Saturday 25th September 2021. at St Matthew's Church Northampton.

The day will commence at 10am and will be structured around insightful masterclasses on liturgical playing facilitated by Richard Pinel, Fellow and Director of Music at Jesus College, Cambridge, Andrew Reid, Managing Director of Harrison & Harrison, and Jonathan Kingston, Director of Music at St. Mary & St. Giles, Stony Stratford. Callum Alger, Interim Director of Music, St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton will also demonstrate the organ.

Then at 7pm, the N&DOA Centenary Organ Recital, given on the historic J. W. Walker organ at St. Matthew's, Northampton by Andrew Reid and Callum Alger.

The day will also include the chance to try a number of other fine organs in the town

For programme details and to purchase tickets see: <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/midlands-organ-day>

IAO AGM

It is proposed to hold AGMs (for both 2021 and 2020) on 2nd October this year. This will hopefully be a 'live' event at St Chad's Metropolitan Cathedral in Birmingham, but the alternative would be an online event on the same day. Nearer the time, details will appear on the IAO website and be sent to all Friends & Partners of the IAO by email.

Organists' Review Magazine

Sarah Beedle has decided to step down from her role as Editor of *Organists' Review* at the end of this year. Professor David Saint said "She has done a terrific job over the last eighteen years and we shall now begin the difficult task of finding her replacement." An advertisement will appear in the next edition of the magazine.

NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

Roger Fisher Obituary

Organist Emeritus of Chester Cathedral for almost 30 years, the death was announced of Roger Fisher on 3rd June 2021, at the age of 84.



Roger fisher at his home organ in Trelogan

Born in Woodford, Essex in 1936 Roger attended Bancroft's School, and in 1957 went on to the Royal College of Music, studying with Herbert Howells and Harold Darke. He gained ARCM, FRCO and CHM diplomas and also won the Geoffrey Tankard Prize for Organ playing. He attended Christ Church, Oxford, having gained an organ scholarship.

He lived in Hereford and was the Assistant Organist at Hereford Cathedral from 1962 to 1967 and Assistant Lecturer in Music at the College of Education. In 1967, he became Organist & Master of the Choristers at Chester Cathedral. In 1970, he started recording for occasional BBC broadcasts and record labels such as EMI, Decca and RCA.

He retired from the Cathedral in 1996 to concentrate on a career as a recitalist, teacher and advisor on organs, including for the Lichfield Diocese. Moving to Trelogan in north-east Wales, he designed and installed yet another organ, the Old Chapel becoming not only a home, but also a teaching and popular intimate performance venue. From January 1997 until the end of 2004, he was Features Editor of *Organists' Review*. He has concentrated on frequent extensive recital tours of Europe, Scandinavia, North America, and South Africa, but sadly in 2019 he suffered a stroke.

His funeral service was held at Chester Cathedral on 22nd June 2021, at which an eloquent and personal eulogy was given by Philip Rushforth, the current Director of Music.

York Minster's Refurbished Organ

Following the once-in-a-century refurbishment of the instrument which took place between 2018 and 2021, there are two fascinating video presentations on YouTube of the restored organ:

- Book launch event: *The Organs of York Minster 1236 – 2021*. A presentation on 19th June 2021 by author of the book, Nicholas Thistlethwaite, with DoM Robert Sharpe, and with demonstration of the sounds of the completed organ by Assistant Director of Music Ben Morris. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UozuevC9tg>
- The second presentation is entitled: *Restoring the Grand Organ: An Evening with the Experts* on 3rd July 2021. The presenters are Robert Sharpe, Andrew Scott (Harrison & Harrison Head Voicer), Robert Woodland (internationally renowned grainer, guildler, and painter), describing the restoration work carried out on the organ, interspersed with organ excerpts played by Ben Morris showcasing the phenomenal results achieved. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Qvb5SFXVeg>

The organ returned to regular use during worship in March 2021, but the inaugural recitals have been moved to summer 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They continue an annual tradition established at the Minster in the 1950s, and celebrate a musical heritage of organ music at the heart of worship at the cathedral which dates back centuries.

The cathedral will welcome internationally renowned organists for the Thursday evening recitals on the following dates:

- Thursday 21 July 2022
- Thursday 28 July 2022
- Thursday 4 August 2022
- Thursday 11 August 2022
- Thursday 18 August 2022

Full details of the organists for each date will be announced later this year, with tickets for all performances released in 2022.

New Thomas Trotter CD

A new CD by Thomas Trotter on the organ of King's College Cambridge was released on 11th June 2021, entitled *Durulfé: - Complete Organ Works*, and can be also be viewed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLBkWYLIMYs>

Harrison & Harrison Ltd – major organ projects

I'm again indebted to Stephen Alliss, Head Tuner at Harrison & Harrison, for the status of their following major projects:

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Harrison & Harrison have been awarded the contract for the renovation of the 4 manual/88 stop Walker organ of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, anticipated for completion in autumn 2022. Work is progressing well now that the asbestos problem has been dealt with. Reservoirs are in the process of being leathered and some of the unit chests are almost complete, having had the motors re-leathered and new magnets fitted.

Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA

Harrison & Harrison have been commissioned to build a new 4-manual/86-stop landmark instrument for Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA. The organ is to be entirely new, with installation planned for 2022. The organ continues to grow on the building room floor, or rather one side of the organ does; it won't all fit at once! The cases look very fine, even in their un-varnished state.

Bristol Beacon (formerly Colston Hall)

Project to restore the 1955 4-manual/94-stop Harrison & Harrison organ. Now approaching completion of the first portion of the work.

Norwich Cathedral

Now 75 years on from when the 4-manual/105-stop Norman & Beard organ was first restored, ciphers are an increasing mechanical problem. All the pipes need removing, cleaning and restoring, the mechanisms within the organ itself need renewing and modernising, the worn-out key action needs replacement, and the unreliable and outdated electronics of the console brought up to date.

The project is expected to cost £1.8m, inclusive of a new chamber organ. It is proposed that the fundamental sound and character will be preserved, whilst at the same time internally restructuring the instrument so that the sound is distributed more evenly to both sides of the pulpitum screen.

Work starts in September in the factory, with on-site dismantling between October and March.

Nicholson & Co Ltd – major organ projects

Current projects:

Radley College, Oxfordshire

Nicholson has been commissioned to build a new organ for the chapel. This will, once again, be sited in the centre of the west gallery, within a new oak case. The organ will have three manuals and 53 stops, with mechanical action to the manuals and electro-pneumatic action to the Pedal Organ. This £1.5m project is part of a £6m buildings expansion project, and construction commenced in 2020, with installation expected to be completed by the end of 2021, and the official opening of the organ early 2022.

St Mary's Church, Portsea

The organ of St Mary's Church in Portsea was built by the London firm of J.W. Walker & Sons for the new church in 1889, and proved to be the first of a series of major contracts in what became a golden period for Walker's.

The project will be the first comprehensive restoration in the organ's life. Alongside the obvious goal of returning the entire instrument to first-class condition, the principal objective will be to conserve and restore the Victorian heritage of this instrument. The pipework will be returned to its original pitch, scaling, pressures and voicing. The wind system and all soundboards and chests will all be thoroughly restored, with new three-stage electro-pneumatic key actions of traditional design being provided throughout. The 1965 console will be replaced with a new console designed in the style of Walker consoles of the 1880s. Completion by end 2021.

St Gabriel's, Pimlico

Nicholson's will be rebuilding the 1894 J J Binns 3-manual 36 stop organ afresh. The main priority will be to ensure the reliability of the organ for many decades to come. New slider soundboards with new electro-pneumatic actions are to be provided, along with a wholly new winding system. Significant tonal revisions will be undertaken to bring the tonal centre of gravity of the organ back down towards a Romantic ethos, without trying to replicate the original Binns scheme. A rather unsatisfactory 1970 pipe front in the north aisle will be replaced by a new case of period style.

Future projects:

Manchester Town Hall Organ

Nicholson has been commissioned to undertake the historical reconstruction of the organ in Manchester Town Hall. The organ, the most significant surviving instrument of the few built in the UK by the Parisian organ builder Aristide Cavallé-Coll in 1877, was enlarged by him in 1893, and then rebuilt by the English firms Lewis & Co. in 1912 and Jardine & Co. in 1970. Nicholson's will be undertaking the work in an equal collaboration with the Dutch firm of Flentrop Orgelbouw. The organ was wholly dismantled in late summer of 2020, with completion due by the end of 2023 to coincide in 2024 with the re-opening of Waterhouse's much-loved building.

Bute Hall, University of Glasgow

The Bute Hall is the graduation hall of the University of Glasgow and was designed by George Gilbert Scott. In

1901, a four-manual organ by Lewis & Co. of London was built in a fine case in the west gallery of the hall. The organ was dramatically rebuilt in 1962 by Hill, Norman & Beard, with many tonal changes. As phase two of a planned three-phase project to restore the organ, Nicholson will be undertaking major work on the instrument. The console will be removed for complete restoration and upgrading, including a new piston capture system and modern playing aids. A new solid-state electrical transmission will also be installed.

St Barnabas, Kensington

The organ in St Barnabas' Church, Kensington, was built by Joseph Walker of London in 1856, and rebuilt by Walker in 1879, and 1934. In 2001, Nicholson & Co. re-wired the instrument and fitted a new solid-state transmission and piston capture system. The organ is to be completely restored, with full workshop restoration of all soundboards, chests, actions, wind system, pipework and console. The 1934 scheme included a number of 'prepared for' stops which were never installed and these are now to be provided.

Leeds Town Hall

Nicholson has been commissioned to reconstruct the organ of Leeds Town Hall. In what will be one of the most significant concert organ projects of recent times, the instrument will retain the façade and about half the pipework of the present organ, but will otherwise be entirely new. The aim of the work is to create a modern and versatile concert organ for the city of Leeds, with an inspiring musical character that reflects the organ's majestic appearance. The organ will have 103 speaking stops, with six manual divisions (three of which will be enclosed) playable from a four-manual console. The specification has been drawn up in consultation with the city organist Darius Battiwalla.



Leeds Town Hall organ

The present organ was built by Gray & Davison in 1858, rebuilt by Abbott & Smith in 1905 with a move towards a more opaque sound, and then rebuilt again and reduced in size in 1972 by Wood, Wordsworth & Co. in a radical three-manual scheme that sought to emphasise clarity and brilliance.

The reconstruction of the organ forms part of a wider building refurbishment project by Leeds City Council that began in 2019. The present instrument will be played

publicly for the final time in October 2021 before being dismantled, to include taking down the casework and 32' facade pipes for the first time since 1858. Completion of the new organ is scheduled for November 2023. The consultant for the project is Dr William McVicker.

Henry Willis & Sons Ltd

Current projects:

- Liverpool Philharmonic Hall – 1939 Rushworth & Dreaper 3-manual 54-stop organ
- St Michael's Church of Scotland, Linlithgow – 1912 Henry Willis organ
- The University of St Andrews – 1868 T C Lewis organ
- The Wesley Centre, Malton – 1877 Forster & Andrews organ

ON-LINE RECITALS

Whilst many live organ recitals have now resumed, some are still being streamed live and uploaded to YouTube. A small selection of these is shown below:

- Jonathan Scott, concert organist, is continuing to live stream regular superb recitals via YouTube, with his brother pianist Tom Scott joining him for some recitals. For his most recent offering on Saturday 17th July 2021 see:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLWwciFs_pl
- *Sunday Afternoon Organ Music* at Holy Trinity Wordsley. Paul Carr is continuing to perform a short programme at 3pm on the first Sunday of the month online. The videos are hosted on *Sunday Afternoon Organ Music's* Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/SundayAfternoonOrganMusic/>
- Paul Carr's 'Thursday Live' series of recitals on the first Thursday of the month at St Chad's Cathedral continue to be broadcast live, featuring both Paul Carr and David Saint, and the most recent recital on 1st July 2021 can be found via:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cA27pLtMnsY>
- Gert van Hoef, the young Dutch organist, is continuing to give regular recitals, which are live streamed on YouTube.
- Richard McVeigh continues to give frequent excellent on-line recitals via *Beauty in Sound* on YouTube.

RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

Ben Bloor recital at St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent Wednesday 2nd June 2021

Ben Bloor is the Organist of the London Oratory Church where he accompanies the professional adult choir for weekly Mass and Vespers and oversees the famous Downes/Walker organ. He combines this with a busy freelance recital career and the post of School Organist at Westminster School, where he teaches organ and plays for services in Westminster Abbey. Previously, he held organ scholarships at Derby Cathedral, St George's Chapel Windsor Castle, New College Oxford and Westminster Cathedral, and was the Assistant Sub-Organist at Rochester Cathedral. Ben holds a First-Class

Honours degree in Music from the University of Oxford and the Limpus prize for highest marks in the 2013 FRCO examinations. He is a recipient of the Worshipful Company of Musicians' Silver Medal for his contribution to organ-playing. Ben is a Junior Fellow of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire where he takes organ lessons with Henry Fairs.

Ben was due to have played here in 2020, and indeed this is his first live recital for 14/15 months, so warned us that 'he might be a bit rusty!'

Ben opened with two works by J S Bach, the dramatic *Fantasia & Fugue in G Minor BWV 542*, followed by *Trio super 'Herr Jesu Chris, dich zu uns wend BWV 655*. Next to Duruflé and *Choral varie sur 'Veni Creator'*, the plainsong melody of which is familiar to English audiences as the tune for *Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire*. Then to Schuman's *Six Studies in Canonic Form Op 56, Nos. 4, 5 and 6*.

To close, Ben chose W T Best's superb arrangement of Mendelssohn's *Overture to St Paul*, which, as Tony Westerman deservedly observed, provided a stunning climax to the recital. Needless to say, no sign of any rust in Ben's performance! TS

Carl Jackson recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green Friday 4th June 2021

Today's recitalist, Carl Jackson, is Director of Music of the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace. He attended Harrow County School for Boys between 1970 and 1977, which he combined with studies as a Junior Exhibitioner at the Royal Academy of Music. After a gap-year at the Academy, he then read music at Downing College, Cambridge, where he served as organ scholar between 1978 and 1981. His teachers included Malcolm Hill, Alan Harverson and Peter Hurford. After graduating in music from Cambridge, he moved on to Goldsmiths' College where he obtained a teaching qualification. He took over as Director of Music at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court in 1996. He was appointed MVO in the 2012 New Year Honours list.

The opening fanfares of John Cook's *Fanfare*, written for a pageant at Hampton Court, provided an appropriate celebration of the resumption of recitals here at Emmanuel, followed by Jongen's *Chant de May*, and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Three Impromptues*. This year is the centenary of Jeanne Demessieux's birth, and so next came her *Twelve Chorale Preludes*, which Carl described as being 'accessible to ordinary organists', playing *Rorate Caeli, Tu es Petrus, Attende Domie*, finishing with the toccata *Veni Creator*.

Next to *Tongues of Fire* by Arthur Wills, who was one of Carl Jackson's teachers, and written for a recital Wills gave at King's College Cambridge in 1974. Rather discordant and tortured so won't be making it to the 'To Learn' list! Then in total contrast, to *The Heart of Peace* by Mons Leidvin Takle.

Finally, to *Obangiji*, a hymn based dramatic unmistakably African work by Fela Sowande, a Nigerian composer who came to London.

So, a rather different programme from the usual fare, with no work by J S Bach, and with all but one of the pieces new to me! TS

Tom Corfield recital at St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent Wednesday 9th June 2021

Tom Corfield is a well-respected local organist, having been Assistant Organist at Derby Cathedral for over 30 years, and as well as being a regular recitalist here at St Modwen's, can often be spotted in the audience with his wife Rosemary, on duty today as page turner.

Tom opened with a rippling flourish with Salomé's *Grande Choeur in G*, followed by two different Lutheran celebrations of communion, with first Messiaen's *Le Banquet Céleste*, followed by a more traditional approach with J S Bach's *Schmucke dich, o lieber Seele BWV 654*. Tom lived for three years in Norwich when Organ Scholar at Norwich Cathedral during Heathcote Statham's time, and his 'little masterpiece' *Rhapsody on a Ground*, was used by Tom to display the colours of the St Modwen's organ.

Next to Vierne's 'whimsical flight of fancy' *Impromptu from 24 Pièces de Fantasie*, then onto very familiar ground to close with Stanford's lively *Postlude in D Minor*.

A beautifully played and registered programme as always with Tom Corfield. TS

Liam Condon recital at St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent Wednesday 16th June 2021

Liam Condon, LDOA student member and coming to the end of his second year as Organ Scholar at Lichfield Cathedral, was making a welcome return visit to St Modwen's having played here in 2020. Liam is also a visiting music teacher at Lichfield Cathedral School where he teaches piano, theory and organ. I gather Liam is off to Keele University in the autumn to take a teacher training course, but will still be involved with music making at the Cathedral.

Liam graduated from Royal Holloway, University of London with a degree in Music, where he was Organ Scholar under the tuition of Rupert Gough. Alongside his degree, Liam was Director of Music of St Michael & St Mary Magdalene Church in Bracknell. He studied for and gained his ARCO during lockdown, completing the qualification in January 2021.

For today's recital, Liam decided on a very English feel, so for once, no J S Bach work! Frank Bridge's *Allegro Marziale e ben marcato from 6 Organ Pieces*, the fanfares of this work full of vigorous rhythms and energy ensuring a bright opening to the recital. After John Stanley's *Voluntary IV in F Major Set 2 Op 6*, next came one of Liam's favourite composers, Mendelssohn and *Sonata No 4*, Liam delighting us with all four sumptuous movements.

Next to a quintessential English composer Elgar, for *Imperial March Op 32*, written for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897, in which Liam recovered calmly from a troublesome page turn. Then to an unpublished work of Herbert Howells, *Tranquillo Ma Con Moto – Six Short Pieces for Organ*, followed by Leighton's *Paeon*, an

exciting work full of barely-controlled energy and dissonance. Finally, to *Capriccio*, a cheerful, lively piece by John Ireland, to finish the recital on full organ.



Liam Condon taking his applause at St Modwen's

A very mature, confident and talented young organist. TS

Karen Thompson recital at St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent Wednesday 23rd June 2021

After a LDOA student member last week, today's recitalist was another LDOA member, Karen Thompson, a well-known local accompanist, pianist, teacher of piano, organ and singing theory in schools and privately.

She started to play the piano at the age of approximately five, and at thirteen took up the organ, tutored by Mike Thompson a well-known local organ builder and organist, and also an LDOA member, who she later in fact married. She subsequently had more organ lessons at Lichfield Cathedral, tutored by Jonathan Rees Williams, and studied singing with Coral Gould, gaining her ALCM in 1993.

Karen opened with a stand-alone fantasia by J S Bach, *Fantasia in C BWV 570*, followed by a highly ornamented choral-prelude *Vater unser im Himmelreich* by Georg Boehm, an important figure in Bach's development.

Next to Léfébure-Wély, not in his usual flamboyant style, but the serene *Andante, Choeur de voix humaine*, and in the absence of a voix humaine stop, Karen used the St Modwen organ's 16' Shalmey stop played an octave higher. Then to Pietro Yon, but not the piece for which he is most well-known, *Toccatina for Flutes*, but *Toccatina on Creator alme siderum*, the final Georgian hymn-based movement of an Advent suite. Malcolm Archer's *Thornbury Fanfare* and John Stanley's *Voluntary II in A Minor* were followed by John Rutter's *Elegy*, in the elegant style of his chorale works.

In his introduction Tony Westerman promised us a slightly different from normal programme, and in total contrast to the rest of her programme, that certainly applied to Karen's final offering. *Saints on a Spree* is a 'lollipop' by the well-known cinema organist Nigel Ogden, mainly using

the tune *When the Saints Go Marching In*, with excerpts of 'Widor's Toccata' and 'Brahms Lullaby' thrown in for good measure, intended to leave us with a spring in our step!
TS



Karen Thompson taking her applause at St Modwen's

Edward Turner recital at St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent Wednesday 30th June 2021

Edward Turner was appointed as Assistant Director of Music at Derby Cathedral in September 2017, having previously held posts at Worcester College, Oxford, Tewkesbury Abbey, Dean Close School, Cheltenham and Southwell Minster. He accompanies the Cathedral Choir, plays for most choral services at the Cathedral, directs the Cathedral's Voluntary Choir and assists in the training of the boy and girl choristers.

Despite being local, this was Ed's first recital at St Modwen's, and he opened with the vibrant *Praeludium in D* by Buxtehude, followed by *Andante & Variations in D* by Mendelssohn, which Ed described as 'a beautiful and simple tune showing the colours of this organ'.

Next to a work by Simon Preston, rather better known as a consummate performer than a composer. *Alleluyas* opens with exultant fanfares, which lead on to an andante, sounding very Messiaen-like, before building with a jagged rhythm to a strident climax. Then onto more familiar ground with Frank Bridges *Adagio in E*.

To close, Ed chose one of his favourite composers and indeed one of his favourite pieces, Duruflé's *Choral Varie sur Veni Creator*, exploiting every facet of the great plainsong hymn *Veni creator*, and providing a full organ climax to the recital.

Unusually for St Modwen's recitals, Ed played an encore, and for those who attended last week's recital, it would have sounded rather familiar, as coincidentally Nigel Ogden's *Saints on a Spree*, was also Karen Thompson's choice to close her recital!
TS

Angela Sones recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green Friday 2nd July 2021

Until recently, LDOA member Angela Sones was Director of Music at All Saints' Church Four Oaks for some 26 years, performing her Silver Jubilee Recital there in June 2019.

Angela began learning the organ at the age of 13 with Barry Draycott and went on to study with David Saint and Andrew Fletcher at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. She won the BMI organ prize in 1995 and graduated Bachelor of Music in 1997, and has since participated in a number of prestigious masterclasses. She now has a private teaching practice in piano, organ and theory, and is in demand for organ recitals, the next being at Howden Minster on 2nd August.

With Richard Hartshorn on page turning duties, Angela opened brightly with the lively *Trumpet Tune in D* by David N Johnson, with alternating passages for Trumpet and Principal Chorus. Next to J S Bach's wonderful *Passacaglia & Fugue in C Minor BWV 582*, with its 20 variations building to a terrific climax. Then to the exquisite aria by Dan Locklair, 'The Peace may be Exchanged' (*Rubrics*).

A change of mood with a lively dance *A Frolic for the Organ*, a composition by Angela's friend and long-time mentor Andrew Fletcher, who it was great to see was in the audience today lending his support. Then to Vierne for *Impromptu from 24 Pieces de Fantaisie Suite No 3 Op 54*, with its rippling runs.

Finally, to a staple of the organ repertoire, Franck's *Choral No 3 in A Minor*, providing a superb close to the recital.



Angela Sones taking her applause at Emmanuel Church

Emmanuel DoM, Richard Mason, announced that the 2021/22 recitals programme had now been published, and that £35k had been raised for cleaning of the West End Willis organ – and maybe even a Great Trumpet rank! Olivier Latry, one of the Organist Titulaires of Notre Dame in Paris, performed a fantastic recital here a few years ago, and Richard Mason intends to hold him to his promise to make a return visit to play a recital if ever a Great Trumpet was added!
TS

Matthew Gibson recital at St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent Wednesday 7th July 2021

In his welcome to Matthew Gibson, Tony Westerman thanked him for agreeing to swap duties with Ben Mills, who had a clash of commitments today, otherwise Tony would have been called into service as today's recitalist. For those of you who've heard Tony play recitals here at St Modwen's, that may have been a concern to Tony, but rather a treat for the rest of us!

Matthew is a teacher and musician. He recently gained his PGCE in Secondary (Music) from UCL's Institute of Education after spending a year as Musician-in-Residence at Kimbolton School. In September 2021 he will take up the post of Director of Music at The Laurels School in London.

Matthew opened with one of my favourite works by J S Bach, *Prelude in B Minor BWV 544*, which for me could have been taken at a slightly slower pace to let it 'breathe' a little more.

Next to a composer who greatly influenced Bach, Buxtehude, and *Ciacona in E Minor BuxWV 160*, a richly decorated melody supported by a cleverly-constructed accompaniment. After N de Gringny's *Recit de tierce en taille*, followed *Grand Choeur* by Th. Salomé, with the trumpet-like opening making repeated appearances in different forms throughout the piece. *A Fancy* by William Byrd was followed by the ever-popular tribute to Tallis by Howell's, *Master Tallis's Testament (from Six Pieces for Organ)*, nicely registered by Matthew.

To close Matthew turned to two pieces by Stanford, with first a tribute to the last of the great Tudor composers, *On a Theme of Orlando Gibbons Op 105 No 1*, followed by the dramatic *Postlude in D Minor Op 105 No 6*, the dramatic opening leading to a gentler central section before building to a triumphant conclusion.

The recital was particularly well-attended, presumably swelled by Matthew's local connections from his time as Organ Scholar at Derby Cathedral and Trent College. TS

Ben Mills recital at St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent Wednesday 14th July 2021

Ben Mills is a freelance organist, working in the Oxford-London area, and today was making a return visit to St Modwen's.

He has recently completed his undergraduate studies in Music at the University of Oxford, where he held the Organ Scholarship at Keble College. He has previously held posts as Organ Scholar at St Mary Magdalene, Newark, and at Southwell Minster. He has completed his ARSM and ARCO Diplomas. In the new academic year, he will move to London to begin postgraduate Organ Performance studies at the Royal Academy of Music.

Ben opened with a composer who rarely features at St Modwen's recital, Max Reger. *Tokkata and Fugue in D Minor* has a dramatic chromatic opening then quietens before building, being Reger, with lots of notes to a full organ climax.

After Alain's *Variations sur un theme de Clement Jannequin*, on to more familiar ground with two pieces by J S Bach, with first *Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele BWV 654*, and then a change of mood with the lively *Trio super Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend' BWV 655*.

Ben's choice to close was a staple of the organ repertoire, Franck's *Choral No 3*, as also chosen by Angela Sones to close her recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green earlier this month. A dramatic work reflecting the turmoil in Franck's life at the time in 1890. TS

Rachel Mahon recital at Lichfield Cathedral Thursday 15th July 2021

Rachel Mahon is based at Coventry Cathedral, where she was Assistant Director of Music and since September 2020 now the Director of Music, responsible for training and conducting the Cathedral Choir and running the music programme. Prior to this, she was Assistant Organist at Chester Cathedral where she worked regularly with the Cathedral Choir.

Rachel has held organ scholarships at St James Cathedral, Toronto and Truro Cathedral, then at St Paul's Cathedral in London from 2014-2016, where she made history as the first female organist on staff in its 1400-year history. As one of the full-time organists, she gave recitals and regularly played and conducted for services, working with the world-famous Cathedral Choir in the daily cycle of worship as well as services of National significance. She combines life as a Cathedral musician with a busy international recital schedule, touring as soloist and with Sarah Svendsen as part of Organized Crime Duo.

Today's recital was part of the 2021 Lichfield Festival and was sponsored by LDOA member David Cliffe, and Jane Steeley.



Rachel Mahon

With console video screening, Canadian born Rachel opened with *Petite Suite* by the Canadian organist/composer Gerald Bales, comprising a strident *Introduction*, then a gentle *Intermezzo*, before fanfares of the *Finale*, ending with full organ.

William Byrd's *A Fancy*, was followed by *Chant de Paix* by Langlais, a peaceful dreamy work as the title implies. Next to J S Bach and *Praeludium in D BWV 532*, then Percy Whitlock's gentle *Andante Tranquillo from Five Short Pieces*. Franck's dramatic *Fantaisie in A* provided an opportunity for Rachel to explore some of the wonderful colours of the Hill organ.

To close Rachel returned to her native Canada and to Rachel Laurin, the Quebec based Canadian organist/composer, for *Symphonie No 1 Op 36.*, with first the dream-like third movement *Aria*, followed by the flashy fourth movement *Toccata*, to close the recital with a terrific flourish. A stunning performance! TS

Liam Condon recital at Lichfield Cathedral Tuesday 20th July 2021

The return of the *Music for Reflection* series at Lichfield Cathedral was much anticipated and most welcome.

Following his splendid recital at St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent in June, today's opening recital by Organ Scholar at Lichfield Cathedral and LDOA student member Liam Condon gave him the opportunity to display his talent on home ground.

Liam opened with *Paeon (from Six Pieces for Organ)* a stormy vigorous toccata by Herbert Howells, a celebratory work played before the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981. Then the highly ornamented chorale by J S Bach, *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Her BWV 663*.

I'm indebted to LDOA member Eric Lunt's informative and eloquent programme notes for pointing out that John Ireland achieved his FRCO at the tender age of 16, at the time the youngest student ever to do so. It's therefore surprising he wrote so little for the organ, but his *Capriccio* is a bright piece, with a triumphant conclusion, a work chosen by Liam to close his St Modwen's recital. Then to Vierne's delightful miniature, *Berceuse (from 24 Pieces en Style Libre)*.

Finally, to an all too rarely heard work, Parry's *Fantasia & Fugue in G Op 188*, with the dramatic soaring opening to the fantasia leading to a majestic climax. The fugue makes considerable technical demands on the player in building to the final climax. A wonderful way to close the recital!

Liam is to be congratulated on both his programme and superb performance, setting the bar high for the remaining organists in this *Music for Reflection* series. TS

Alexander Binns recital at Lichfield Cathedral Tuesday 27th July 2021

Today's recitalist was Alexander Binns, Director of Music at Derby Cathedral, prior to which he was Assistant Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Alex is a young man with a most impressive CV. He is a prize-winning graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he studied the organ with David Titterton and Susan Landale, and conducting with Patrick Russill and Paul Brough. Alongside his studies at the Academy, Alexander held the organ scholarships at

Southwark Cathedral, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and St Marylebone Parish Church. Prior to studies in London he held the organ scholarship at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. As an organist Alexander has performed at many prestigious venues including Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, the Royal Festival Hall, Snape Maltings, and abroad in France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Poland and the Netherlands.

Alex chose to open with J S Bach's lengthy and challenging *Prelude & Fugue in E Minor BWV 548*, the pattern of chromatic notes in the fugue giving rise to its nickname of 'The Wedge'. Turning then to a composer who began his musical education at King Edward VI School in Birmingham, Harrison Oxley, for two contrasting pieces. *Elegy for Organ* is stately and reflective at first but then builds majestically to a climax before resolving into a peaceful tranquil conclusion. In contrast, *A Clarinet Tune* uses a delightful solo clarinet to 'top and tail' a more reflective central section.

Next to a young British composer with dual Arab and Irish heritage Tarik O'Regan, currently based in San Francisco as Composer in Residence with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and his composition *Colimaçon*, a rather strident work with a jagged rhythm.

Finally, to two works by William Harris, one time Assistant Organist at Lichfield Cathedral (1911-1919), for first *Prelude in E Flat*, a beautiful piece paying homage to J S Bach, then finishing with probably the composer's most frequently performed work *Flourish for an Occasion*, providing the closing flourish to the recital promised by the title.

Alex has been described with good reason by *The Organ* magazine as 'one of our finest young players'. TS

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Angela Sones

- Monday 2nd August from 1pm to 1.45pm, a concert at Howden Minster (Yorkshire)
- Saturday 18th September 2021 from 2.30pm – 3.15pm at Brownhills Methodist Church, with Richard Hartshorn.

Richard Hartshorn

- Saturday 18th September 2021 from 2.30pm – 3.15pm at Brownhills Methodist Church, with Angela Sones.

Martyn Rawles

See Lichfield Cathedral recitals, and St Modwen's recitals series below.

Cathy Lamb

- Sunday 29th August 2021 organ recital from 5.30pm to 6.30pm at Leeds Minster

- See also Lichfield Cathedral recitals, and St Modwen's recitals series below.

St Modwen's Parish Church, Burton-on-Trent

Having been one of the few local venues to hold live recitals in 2020, LDOA member and St Modwen's Organist Tony Westerman arranged a recitals series for 2021 on the fine Hill Norman & Beard organ, including recitals by no less than four LDOA members. The recitals are on Wednesdays at 12.30 – 1.15pm, and admission is free with retiring collection. Details of the remaining recitals in the series are as follows:

- 1st September 2021 – Alexander Binns (Derby Cathedral)
- 8th September 2021 – Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral School)
- 15th September 2021 – Mary Cobbold (Holy Trinity, Millhouses, Sheffield)
- 22nd September 2021 – John Keys (Nottingham City Organist)
- 29th September 2021 – Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

Broadway URC, Walsall

Broadway URC Organist & Choir-director, Alan Taylor, has advised that the Saturday morning 'Coffee & Cake' organ concerts planned for July and August have been cancelled due to concerns about the rising Covid-19 infection rates. The one below planned for September at 11.15am, with coffee and cake served before the concert and a retiring collection, is also doubtful, so please check before attending:

- Saturday 11th September 2021 – Thomas Keogh (Holy Cross Priory, Leicester)

Liam Condon

See Lichfield Cathedral recitals

Peter Morris

- Friday 3rd December 2021 at 1pm, organ recital at Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green

Callum Alger

- Callum Alger, LDOA student member and Interim Director of Music at St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, is due to perform at the IAO Midlands Organ Day at St Matthew's Church Northampton on Saturday 25th September 2021. For details see: <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/midlands-organ-day>
- Thursday 30th September 2021 organ recital from 1pm to 2pm at St Mary's Church. Stoke D'Abernon.

Simon Lumby

- Saturday 8th January 2022 from 12 to 12.45pm organ recital at St Paul's, Bedford.

Recitals In Local Area (To end of September 2021)

August 2021

Sun 1 August 2021 • 3.00 to 3.20 • Holy Trinity Wordsley – **ON-LINE ONLY**
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Tues 3 August 2021 • 11.30 to 12.15 • Lichfield Cathedral
Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

Tues 3 August 2021 • 11.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Shean Bowers (Bath Abbey)

Wed 4 August 2021 • 7.45 to 9.00 • Derby Cathedral
Simon Hogan (Chelmsford)

Thurs 5 August 2021 • 1.15 to 1.45 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham Cathedral – **ON-LINE ONLY**
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham) & Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 9 August 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Mark Swinton (St Mary's, Warwick). Advanced booking recommended.

Tues 10 August 2021 • 11.30 to 12.15 • Lichfield Cathedral
Luke Fitzgerald (Coventry Cathedral)

Wed 11 August 2021 • 7.45 to 9.00 • Derby Cathedral
Jeremy Lloyd (Rochester Cathedral)

Mon 16 August 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Paul Leddington Wright (Coventry). Advanced booking recommended.

Tues 17 August 2021 • 11.30 to 12.15 • Lichfield Cathedral
Jonathan Allsopp (Southwell Minster)

Wed 18 August 2021 • 7.45 to 9.00 • Derby Cathedral
Francesca Massey (Rochester Cathedral)

Thurs 19 August 2021 • 12.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Sebastian Heindl (Hochschule für Musik, Leipzig)

Thurs 19 August 2021 • 3.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Frid 20 August 2021 • 12.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
James Lancelot (Durham Cathedral)

Frid 20 August 2021 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham)

Frid 20 August 2021 • 3.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

Sat 21 August 2021 • 12.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Daniel Moulton (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

Sat 21 August 2021 • 1.00 to 2.00 • St Laurence, Ludlow
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sat 21 August 2021 • 3.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Martin Baker (Cambridge)

Mon 23 August 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Rachel Mahon (Coventry Cathedral). Advanced booking recommended.

Tues 24 August 2021 • 11.30 to 12.15 • Lichfield Cathedral
Lucy Morrell (St Mary's, Warwick)

Wed 25 August 2021 • 7.45 to 9.00 • Derby Cathedral
Alexander Binns (Derby Cathedral)

Mon 30 August 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Geoffrey Woollatt (Manchester Cathedral) Advanced booking recommended.

September 2021

Wed 1 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen, Burton-upon-Trent
Alexander Binns (Derby Cathedral)

Sat 4 September 2021 • 1.00 to 2.00 • St Laurence, Ludlow
Jonathan Scott (Manchester)

Sun 5 September 2021 • 3.00 to 3.20 • Holy Trinity Wordsley – ON-LINE ONLY
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 6 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
David Henning (St Martin's Episcopal Church, Houston, Texas, USA). Advanced booking recommended.

Wed 8 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen, Burton-upon-Trent
Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral School)

Frid 10 September 2021 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Liam Condon (Lichfield Cathedral)

Mon 13 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Daniel Greenway (Liverpool). Advanced booking recommended.

Wed 15 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen, Burton-upon-Trent
Mary Cobbold (Holy Trinity, Millhouses, Sheffield)

Sat 18 September 2021 • 12.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Daniel Greenway (Liverpool)

Sat 18 September 2021 • 2.30 to 3.15 • Brownhills Methodist Church
Angela Sones, Richard Hartshorn

Mon 20 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
James Lancelot (Durham Cathedral – Organist Emeritus). Advanced booking recommended.

Wed 22 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen, Burton-upon-Trent
John Keys (Nottingham City Organist)

Frid 24 September 2021 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 27 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Oliver Hancock (St Mary's, Warwick). Advanced booking recommended.

Mon 27 September 2021 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Wed 29 September 2021 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen, Burton-upon-Trent
Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

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

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Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for October 2021, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/09/21, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA