

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

[FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS](#)

Saturday 17th September 2022 – visit to Shrewsbury Abbey and St Chad's, Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury Abbey

Two visits organised by Peter Morris with the first visit hosted by Organist Nigel Pursey, commencing at 11am with a demonstration by Nigel of the IIP/32 Hill organ, which has just had a £200k restoration by GO Organbuilders of Herefordshire. The re-opening recital on 15th October 2021 was given by James McVinnie. Opportunity then for members to play.



The Hill organ of Shrewsbury Abbey

St Chad's, Church Shrewsbury

The second visit is to St Chad's Shrewsbury, with its central hall, a sweeping double staircase to the gallery (more like a country house than a church), and its unique circular nave. The visit commences at around 1.45pm, hosted by Director of Music Anthony Pinel, to play the fine IIP/40 organ originally by Norman & Beard, rebuilt by Nicholson in 1963, and then by H&H in 2011.

See APPENDIX for details of addresses and locations.

Tuesday 11th October 2022 – Annual Dinner

With President's Evening fixed for around the time we normally have our Annual Dinner, it was decided to bring forward our Annual Dinner to October. So, the Annual Dinner for members and guests will be at The School House, Church Hill, Weeford, Nr Lichfield, WS14 0PW. 7 for 7.30pm.

Our recently appointed Secretary Paul Hodgetts will send out a request in due course for names of those wishing to attend and menu choices (no Christmas fayre this time!)

Saturday 26th November 2022 – President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

We have had confirmation from Martyn Rawles that Lichfield Cathedral can accommodate President's Evening on Saturday 26th November 2022, following the 6pm Advent Carol Service.

President's Evening will therefore commence at approx. 7.30pm and finish at 9pm. As last year, we will ask for members wishing to play to advise us in advance what they plan to play, so that we can sort out a running order to make best use of playing time available to us.

[RECENT VISITS/EVENTS](#)

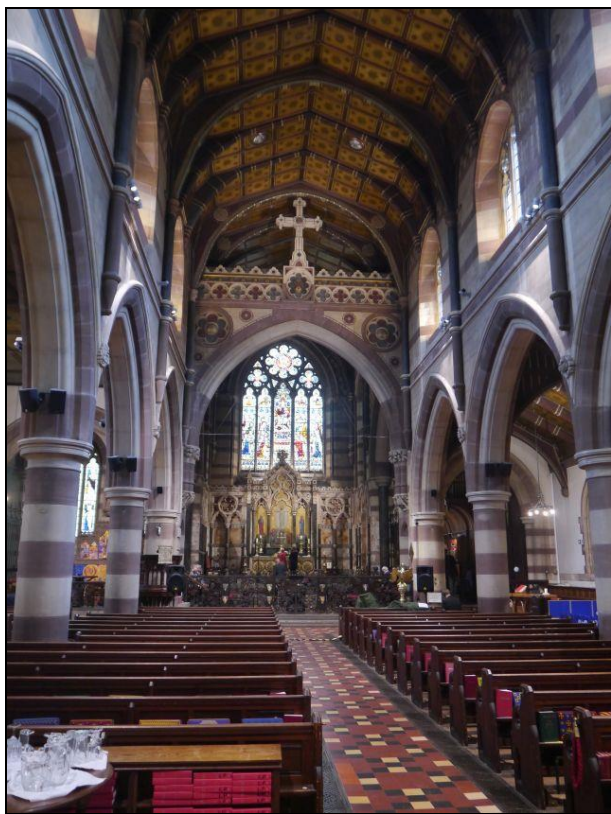
Saturday 11th June 2022 – visit to Rugby

After twice being postponed due to Covid restrictions, our much-anticipated visit to Rugby finally took place today. It was well-supported by 15 members, and we were pleased to welcome Laurence Rogers, Newsletter Editor of the Derby & District Organists' Association, as a guest.

St Andrew's Church, Rugby

Our visit to St Andrew's in the centre of Rugby was at the kind invitation of Director of Music Dr Richard Dunster-Sigtermans.

There has been a place of worship on the site since the 14th century, although the only remaining part of that building, the tower, is Rugby's oldest structure. St Andrew's is Grade II listed, but over the years there have been several modifications and rebuilds. The last part of the building to be completed, in 1899, was the North East Tower with a spire, and with a ring of eight bells in this tower and five bells in the West tower, St Andrew's is the only church in the world with peals of bells in two towers that are both regularly rung in the English full circle tradition.



St Andrew's Church, Rugby

We were welcomed today by Assistant Organist Des Jones, who was on hand to open up the organ for us, before leaving us to our own devices.



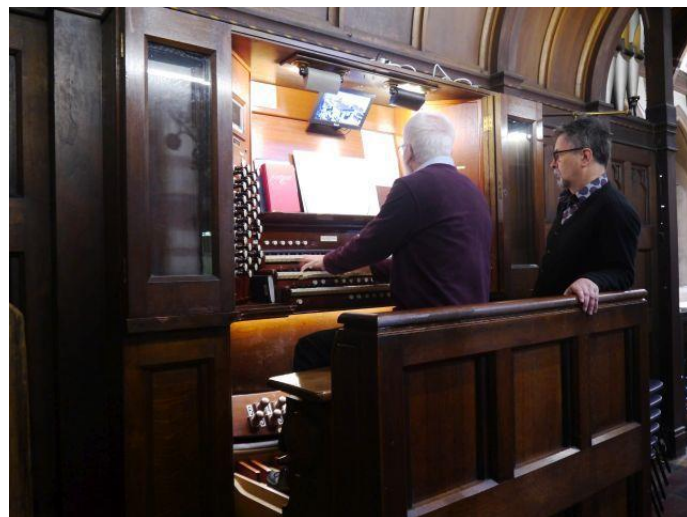
The organ of St Andrew's Rugby

Trevor Smedley gave a brief history of the organ, which has its origins in a small instrument of 19 stops built in 1664 by Ralph Dallum for the church of Norton-by-Galby, Leicestershire, subsequently rebuilt in 1710 by the famous builder 'Father' Smith, and finally purchased in 1792 by Rugby Parish Church. Initially the organ stood in the western gallery of the old church, but after the rebuilding of

the Parish Church by Butterfield, the organ was reconstructed by Bishop & Son and placed in its present position in the south transept. At this point the instrument contained 32 speaking stops, but the result wasn't satisfactory and further alterations were made in 1892 and again in 1905 by Foster & Andrews. The same firm overhauled and enlarged the organ in 1915 including the provision of a new case, further additions were made in 1926 and the number of speaking stops increased to a total of 43. In 1963 there was a major overhaul of the organ by Hill Norman & Beard, and additions were made to the choir manual and pedals, bringing the total number of stops to 48. The most recent work on the instrument took place in 2007, and it now has a total of 50 stops.

The church was open to the public this morning for refreshments, so we had an audience listening to our members play. Mike Rudd was first up to try out the organ, followed by Andrew Moser, Paul Hodgetts (Mendelssohn *Sonata No 4*) Laurence Rodgers and Peter King. Angela Sones played a recital here in the 1990's and was next up playing Grayson Ives *Intrada*.

The organ is certainly in need of a little tlc, with the Choir organ being particularly noisy, but this substantial organ with powerful reeds has the potential to be a fine sounding instrument.



Andrew Moser at the organ of St Andrew's, Rugby, assisted by Richard Syner

Rugby School

With no shortage of choice for cafes in Rugby town centre for lunch, we made our way to take up the kind invitation to visit Rugby School by DoM Richard Tanner.

We were met at Queen's Gate by Rugby School Head of Keyboard, Ian Wicks, where after a brief welcome, he led us past the plaque commemorating the exploits of William Webb Ellis, who was credited with originating the game of rugby here in 1823. Our first port of call was to the breathtakingly beautiful School Chapel, with its ornate Butterfield architecture and magnificent stained-glass windows throughout.

Ian gave us a brief history of the organs of Rugby School Chapel. The present 4-manual 55-stop 2001 Kenneth Jones & Associates organ replaced an earlier 4-manual 59-stop Norman & Beard/Walker organ. The opening

recital was given by Nicholas Kynaston in 2001. Nicholson has recently carried out a major rebuild, which involved replacement of the mechanical action to the Choir, Great, Swell and to the pedal upperwork by electro-pneumatic action (the Solo organ and remainder of the Pedal organ already had electro-pneumatic action). The console was rebuilt with repairs and improvements to the woodwork, the addition of couplers and upgrading of playing aids, the replacement of the straight/concave pedalboard with a new RCO pedalboard, cleaning of the pipework and repairs to the sagging reed pipes.



The breathtakingly beautiful Rugby School Chapel with the organ on the left

I was fortunate to be able to attend the re-opening recital by the international concert organist David Briggs, which took place on Friday 7th February 2020 at 7.30pm in front of a packed chapel.



Ian Wicks giving us a brief history of the magnificent Kenneth Jones & Associates organ of Rugby School Chapel

Ian Wicks went on to demonstrate the organ, and proved himself to be an accomplished organist, unsurprisingly

since he has previously been Organ Scholar at Exeter University Chapel, and subsequently Headmaster of The Chorister School Durham Cathedral, and 17 years as Director of Music at Salisbury Cathedral School.



Ian Wicks demonstrating the organ of Rugby School Chapel

Ian then handed over to members to put the organ through its paces, with Angela Sones first up, skilfully hand registering Thalben-Ball's *Elegy*, an excellent choice to demonstrate the colours of this organ. Next followed Andrew McMillan playing the final movement of Mendelssohn's *Sonata No 2*, followed by Paul Hodgetts demonstrating full organ in playing Wagner's *Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

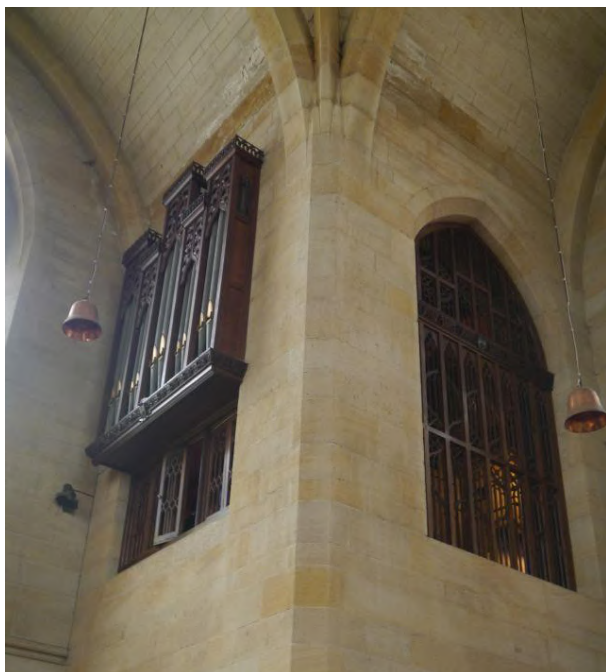


Paul Hodgetts at the organ of Rugby School Chapel, with Ian Wicks acting as registrant

Laurence Rogers was next up, followed by Andrew Moser (Buxtehude) and finally Stephen Carlestone with an improvisation.

Whereas the previous organ was enclosed in an organ chamber to the north of the chancel, Kenneth Jones' design allows the majority of the pipework to be in the main case in front of the chamber, and behind the grill in the chancel, which enables the organ to speak directly into the chapel.

Then a short walk through to the Memorial Chapel, where the walls are adorned with plaques filled with names of the Rugby School students who have fallen in the world wars. Here there is a delightful 2-manual 6-stop Harrison & Harrison organ in an elevated position, dating from 1923.



The Harrison & Harrison organ of Rugby School Memorial Chapel



Peter King at the organ of Rugby School Memorial Chapel

We heard briefly Charles, one of Ian's students, practising before handing over to members, with Richard Syner first to climb the spiral stone stairs and around the back of the organ to the cramped organ loft, followed by Peter King, Mike Rudd (*Sicilienne* by Maria Theresia Von Paradis) then Karen Thompson. The organ is beautifully voiced to suit the acoustics of the intimate setting of this chapel.

Retracing our steps back through the grounds, and across Barby Road brought us next to the Temple Speech Room, home to a 3-manual 32-stop Bryceson organ dating from 1890. It was originally installed in New Big School, now the School's Macready Theatre, against the western wall, where it was used for concerts and recitals for nearly 20 years. In 1909, the organ was moved en masse by Norman & Beard to the newly completed Temple Speech Room. In 1912 a new oak case was added, designed by Sir Thomas Jackson and donated by the Cair family. The organ was fully restored in 1995 and in 2000 following smoke damage from a fire. It is almost certainly the largest extant Bryceson organ in the world, and as such is historically very important. Tonally it is typical of the late Victorian period of organ building. The most remarkable fact about the organ is the survival of not only the original pipes without alteration, but also the complete survival of the original Barker lever mechanism and console.



Ian Wicks demonstrating the Bryceson organ of Rugby School Temple Speech Room

Ian Wicks demonstrated the organ by playing the same piece Angela Sones played at St Andrew's Church, *Intrada* by Grayson Ives. Warning us that the organ, being tracker action, and placement of both Great and Swell stops on the right-hand jamb with few playing aids, wasn't particularly comfortable to play, Ian handed over to members to try out the organ. Angela Sones was first up, followed by Andrew Moser, Andrew McMillan (*Prelude in A* by Henry Smart), and finally Laurence Rogers.

Then on to our last port of call, to the study of DoM Richard Tanner, adjoining which is a room containing both a grand piano and a 2-manual 5-stop practice organ built by Škrabl of Slovenia in 2007. Angela Sones chose J S Bach's *Trio Sonata No 6* (1st movement, as I recall) to very ably demonstrate this delightful little organ, with its light mechanical action. Other members followed Angela, whilst some were tempted to indulge in the delicious cakes and hot drinks generously provided by Ian Wicks.



Angela Sonnes demonstrating the Škrabl practice organ, with Rugby School Director of Music Richard Tanner

Our thanks to Richard Tanner for inviting us to visit Rugby School, and to Ian Wicks for giving so generously of his time this afternoon to look after us, providing assistance with registrations to make the most of four fine but very contrasting organs, and the very welcome refreshments. Thanks are also due to my brother-in-law James Mead, Head Groundsman at Rugby School, for making the initial introductions for us to Richard Tanner. TS

Saturday 16th July 2022 – visit to the Chapel of St John without Barrs, Lichfield for 2022 AGM and workshop

The visit was at the kind invitation of the St John's Chapel Organist/LDOA Student Member Liam Condon, and despite the very warm weather today, the event was well-supported by around 20 members/guests, including, we were delighted to see, our two youngest student members brothers George and William Eardley-Taylor, accompanied by their grandparents.

St John's dates from 1135, and originally provided hospitality for travellers who arrived in Lichfield after the gates (barrs) had been closed for the night, St John's being outside the walls of the city, and hence the term 'without barrs'.

Our visit opened with the 2022 AGM, for which see 'News from the LDOA Committee' for a summary of this meeting. Following the AGM, it was over to Liam Condon to lead a workshop on choosing repertoire suitable for a small organ. Liam explained that being Organ Scholar for two years at Lichfield Cathedral and for the last year Honorary Assistant Organist he had the magnificent Hill organ at his disposal, and previously whilst Organ Scholar at Royal Holloway, University of London, a 3-manual 43-stop Harrison & Harrison organ. However, in his early days as an organist, he had played small organs, including one by Percy Daniel and a J W Walker 2-manual 19-stop

instrument whilst Director of Music at St Michael & St Mary Magdalene Church at Bracknell. So, Liam was well used to selecting music for a small organ, the problem faced by many organists with only modest instruments at their disposal.

Liam briefly summarised the history of the organ at St John's Chapel, which started life as a 2-manual 13-stop organ built by Nicholson & Lord. In 1972 Hill Norman & Beard built a new 2-manual 18-stop organ, incorporating pipework from the earlier organ, with Richard Greening, Organist & Master of the Choristers at Lichfield Cathedral at the time, as consultant. The organ has direct electric action, thumb pistons to the great and swell but no generals. Unusually, the keyboards slide back to save space, although the few inches saved provide no real benefit actually!



Liam Condon leading his workshop for LDOA members at St John's Chapel, Lichfield

Liam chose Frank Bridge's *Allegro Marziale (No 3)* to demonstrate repertoire suited to this small organ. The piece certainly showed that although the organ is small, it packs quite a punch, the reeds being quite fierce. In moving from the Hill organ in Lichfield Cathedral to this organ, Liam commented that he finds the lack of generals the main challenge.

For ideas on church service repertoire to match your ability and organ, Liam recommended referring to the ABRSM Grade 1 to 8 listings, Trinity College London listings etc. He also recommended learning how to improvise, as he found this to be the best way to explore the colours of an organ new to you. Liam followed with two contrasting pieces, one a liturgically appropriate piece - Stanford's *Prelude on 'Christ be with me'*, the other a liturgically inappropriate piece – *The Elephant from Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saëns (the piece he played in his recent St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent recital). To close his

presentation, Liam chose the well-known rousing piece by Karg-Elert, *Nun Dankett Alle Gott*.

Then it was over to LDOA members to try the organ, with first George Eardley-Taylor followed by his brother William, both of whom know this organ as they have organ lessons here with Liam. They were followed by John Carvell, Peter King, Richard Syner (J S Bach *Prelude & Fugue in B Flat Minor*, BWV 867), Andrew Moser and Paul Hodgetts, playing a piece out of Anna Lapwood's new *Gregoriana* volume that Liam had brought along.



Our newly appointed Secretary, Paul Hodgetts,
at the organ of St John's Chapel Lichfield

Our thanks to Liam Condon for hosting the event and presenting the workshop, and to St John's for the invitation to visit. TS

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

Music for Reflection

The lunchtime 'Music for Reflection' concert series has had to be scheduled around essential works to the Lady Chapel floor, so a different pattern of dates for this year:

- Tues 16th August 2022 – Robert Webb (violin) and Helen Jones (piano)
- Thurs 18th August 2022 - David Humphreys (organ)
- Tues 23rd August 2022 - Ailsa Cochrane (mezzo-soprano) and Paul Whitehead (piano)
- Thurs 25th August 2022 - Liam Condon (organ)
- Tues 30th August 2022 - Charles Francis (organ)
- Thurs 1st September 2022 – Nicholas Freestone (organ)

Concerts commence at 11.30am, free admission.

Evening Autumn Recitals Series

The Autumn Evening Organ Recitals Series has been announced, and dates/organists are as follows:

- Tues 6th September 2022 – Katherine Dienes-Williams (Guilford Cathedral)
- Tues 20th September 2022 – Peter Stevens (Westminster Cathedral)
- Tues 4th October 2022 – Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)
- Tues 18th October 2022 – Darius Battiwalla (Leeds City Organist)

Recitals are at 7.30-8.45pm, accompanied by video console screening, and admission is £10 payable preferably by card on the door.

NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

2022 AGM

Our 2022 AGM was held at St John's Chapel, Lichfield, on Saturday 16th July 2022, and of particular interest to members generally were the following appointments to the LDOA Committee:

Chairman – Peter Morris was appointed as the successor to Trevor Smedley, who stood down after six years as Chairman. Peter was a chorister at Chester and Manchester Cathedrals, is Walsall Borough Organist, Organist Emeritus at both St Peter's Wolverhampton and St Mathew's Walsall, Organist at St Michael's Tettenhall, Musical Director of the Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra, Chair of Wolverhampton Music Education Hub, and in 2000 was awarded the Medaille d'honneur of the Confederation Musicale de France.

Secretary – Paul Hodgetts was appointed as the successor to Richard Syner, who stood down after seven years as Secretary. Paul is a business software engineer, holds degrees in IT, Business Administration and Physics, is a very capable organist working towards his ARCO, and also hosted a Zoom event for us during the Covid lockdown, featuring the 4-manual Hauptwerk home organ he built. Richard Syner has kindly agreed to remain on the Committee until the end of 2022 to provide a smooth handover of duties to Paul.

The following Committee Members were reappointed to serve for a further year:

Trevor Smedley - Newsletter Editor
Mike Rudd - Treasurer
Tony White - Publicity Officer

MEMBERS' NEWS

More Callum Alger successes

Advanced Postgraduate Diploma

Our congratulations to Callum Alger, DoM at St Peter's Church Wolverhampton and an LDOA student member, on yet another success.

Callum has passed with distinction his Advanced Postgraduate Diploma (Professional Performance) Course at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Studied though a time of disruption due to Covid, an outstanding achievement.

New CD release

Following his 2019 debut CD *Klangreden*, Callum now has a new CD due for release in July 2022 on the Regent Records label, entitled *Maestoso*, featuring the organ works of Elgar and Bairstow, played on the 1895 Walker organ of St Matthew's Church, Northampton.

Liam Condon Appointment

LDOA student member and Lichfield Cathedral Honorary Assistant Organist Liam Condon, having now completed his PGCE in Music with OAKS course at Keele University, has secured an appointment at Coventry Cathedral as their Acting Assistant Director of Music while Rachel Mahon, Director of Music, is on Maternity Leave - Luke Fitzgerald (current Assistant DoM) will act as Director of Music. Our congratulations to Liam on this prestigious appointment.

IAO/RCO MATTERS

IAO Festival 2022 Organ Competition

The Organ Competition, run as part of the IAO Festival 2022, was held in Edinburgh from 22-26th July. The final five young organists included two local lads, Ashley Wagner (Organist, Birmingham Cathedral) and Charles Francis (Organ Scholar at Birmingham Cathedral, and currently studying at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)



Charles Francis (2nd from right) winner of the IAO/RCO Organ Competition 2022, with judges David Hill, John Kitchen and Naji Hakim

The winner of the competition was Charles Francis, who will shortly be joining Callum Alger at St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, as Assistant Director of Music. LDOA made a donation towards the prize fund, so it was gratifying to see that the winner was a local lad. You can hear this talented young man in recital, as Charles Francis is playing a lunchtime recital at Lichfield Cathedral at 11.30am on Tues 30th August 2022, and also at St Peter's Wolverhampton at 1.15pm on Friday 23rd September 2022.

IAO Midlands Organ Day 2022

The Midlands Organ Day will take place on Saturday 3rd September 2022 in Derby Cathedral. Provisional details of the day are:

- Robin Jennings - *Building a Modern Chamber Organ*
- Andrew Scott, Head Voicer of Harrison & Harrison – *The evolution of H&H Tonal Architecture. To nick or not to nick - that is the question!*
- Jonathan Scott - *A Masterclass on Transcription*, with LDOA members Richard Syner (on doing transcriptions) and Paul Hodgetts (performing Wagner's *Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*)
- The Apollon Duo - *The Art of Baroque Accompaniment* (The Apollon Duo comprises Alexander Binns, DoM of Derby Cathedral, and his wife Dora Chatzigeorgiou)
- Evening Recital by Jonathan Scott

The Organ Day sessions will feature the new chamber organ, and the Jonathan Scott offerings will be based on transcriptions. Jonathan will use the Compton for the evening recital - ideal for transcription work.

For details and how to book see:

<https://iao.org.uk/mod2022/>

IAO Yorkshire Organ Day 2022

Will be held at Bridlington Priory on Saturday 17th September 2022. It features Paul Hale, Colin Wright, and Daniel Cook.

For details and how to book, see:

<https://iao.org.uk/yod2022/>

NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

New organs planned to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

In a recent interview by David Saint for the *Organists' Review* magazine, Daniel Moulton set out his exciting plans for new organs at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

They currently have a recently installed 2-manual 18-stop Flentrop organ, the sort of organ Bach, Brahms and Buxtehude would have known.

The students also enjoy regular and continuing access to organs at St Chad's Cathedral (Walker), St Phillip's Cathedral (Nicholson), Symphony Hall (Klais), and the historic organ of Birmingham Town Hall (Hill), as well as the 2014 Garnier organ in the University of Birmingham. Therefore, the new organs planned for the RBC are aimed at complementing the organs already available to students.

Two organs are planned, both made by William Drake Ltd. In 2024, first an organ which will closely resemble a romantic organ, with three manuals, one of them a coupler manual, a swell box, an abundance of registrations aids, and around 18 stops. The tonal inspiration will be mid-19th century English organs such as those by John Nicholson and William Hill, great for learning English French and German music of the period, whilst also helping students develop their organ management skills

Then in 2025, a mobile organ inspired by the Italian *organo di legno*, with all the pipes made from wood, with an 88442 specification, which will be ideal for the music of Italian and English composers such as Frescobaldi and Byrd.



The Flentrop organ of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

The RBC has a magnificent Bradshaw Concert Hall, but with no organ, so Daniel plans to commission for the hall a symphonic organ of around 40 to 50 stops, suitable for playing great swathes of mainstream repertoire, but also powerful enough to underpin the RBC symphony orchestra when required.

The RBC currently has 16 first-study organ students, and Daniel commented that *'I'm confident that with our new home, and with several new organs imminent, RBC's reputation as a leading centre for organ studies in the UK will continue to grow.'*

Sounds like a promising venue for an LDOA visit in a few years' time!

York Minster Inaugural Organ Recitals

The Grand Organ of York Minster returned to use in March 2021 following the £2m refurbishment – the first of its kind since 1903 – but the inaugural recital series to celebrate its return was delayed until summer 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Details as follows:

- Thurs 21st July 2022 – Nathan Laube (International recitalist)
- Thurs 28th July 2022 – Benjamin Morris (Assistant DoM York Minster)
- Thurs 4th August 2022 – David Briggs (International recitalist)

- Thurs 11th August 2022 – Margaret Phillips (Concert organist/teacher)
- Thurs 18th August 2022 – Robert Sharpe (DoM, York Minster)

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:

York Minster

Completed last year of course, but after a stunning inaugural recital on Thursday 21st July by Nathan Laube, the Minster hosted a champagne reception for the H & H team as a mark of their gratitude for their work on the organ.

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. Installation has reached the stage where the pipework is beginning to be installed. The iconic en chamade reed was on the agenda for w/c 25/07, and Stephen Alliss is planning a site visit to assess the revised access to this stop!

Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA

Harrison & Harrison were commissioned to build a new 4-manual/86-stop landmark instrument for Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA. The voicing team returned from a ten-week stint on site on 7th July. Everyone in the US is delighted with the result and are looking forward to the official opening weekend in October.

Bristol Beacon (formerly Colston Hall)

Project to restore the 1955 4-manual/94-stop Harrison & Harrison organ. Work continues at Durham.

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.

On site dismantling is complete, and work continues a pace in the workshop as they aim to have the instrument packed for shipping in the first week of the new year.

Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks

The Major General Commanding the Household Division and the Guards' Chapel Committee have taken the decision to commission and install a new pipe organ to replace the current 1971 Hill, Norman & Beard organ. This new organ will support not only the Chapel's ceremonial

and weekly services but also a greater programme of recitals and concerts which make use of the Chapel's facilities, including outreach initiatives for the local community and schools. They are seeking to raise £1 million from private donations to provide a new organ worthy of the Guards' Chapel. Building work continues in the workshop.

Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries

Restoration of the 1901 Lewis & Co manual/21 stop organ has reached the voicing stage, and the finishers are currently on site.

Nicholson & Co Ltd – major organ projects

Current projects:

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 Leeds City Organist Darius Battiwalla.

Work on dismantling the organ has commenced, and completion of the new organ is scheduled for November 2023. The consultant for the project is Dr William McVicker.

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 completed project was the first comprehensive restoration in the organ's life. The inaugural recital on the restored organ was given by Thomas Trotter on 16th July 2022, and can be heard via:

<https://soundcloud.com/theorganproject/sets/the-organ-project-inaugural-recital-16th-july-2022>

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.

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:

St Barnabas Church, Kensington

Complete restoration of the 3-manual 45-stop Walker organ. Completion planned for 2024.

St Mildred's Church, Addiscombe

New 2-manual 35-stop organ for the west gallery. Completion 2024.

Gloucester Cathedral

Refurbishment and renewal of the organ to commence in 2024, and is due to be completed in time for the Three Choirs Festival at Gloucester in 2026.

Charterhouse School Chapel

New 3-manual 50-stop organ, but utilising good quality pipework from the existing H&H organ. Completion scheduled for Christmas 2027.

Appointments

Following the announcement by Westminster Abbey that James O'Donnell will be leaving this Christmas to take up his appointment as Professor in the Yale School of Music and Yale Institute of Sacred Music, it has been announced that his replacement as Director of Music will be Andrew Nethsingha. He is currently Director of Music at St John's College, University of Cambridge.

RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

Richard Pinel recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 3rd June 2022

The penultimate recital in this year's series saw the return of Richard Pinel, DoM at Jesus College Oxford. From memory this is the first time that a recital has taken place with all the music played from an iPad. Alongside Richard sat Anthony Pinel – uncle Tony - who turned the pages using a remote control!

The recital opened with César Franck's *Choral No. 3 in A minor*. The Orgelbüchlein Project organised by William Whitehead provided the next three pieces, *Wohl dem, der in Gottes Furcht steh* by Simon Johnson, *Ach Gott, wie manches Herzeleid* by Peter Shepherd, William Whitehead and Timothy Byram-Wigfield, and finally *Liebster Jesu, wir*

sind hier by Matthew Martin. Then to Percy Whitlock, a favourite of Andrew Fletcher, whom we were pleased to see in the audience. Whitlock's *Fantasia Choral No.1* was a delight to hear. The recital ended with Duruflé's *Toccata* from his *Suite Opus 5*. This gave the organ a good workout and required Tony Pinel to rise from his seat to make registration changes. We look forward to the final recital to be given by our own Angela Sones. John H Allen

Maximillian Elliott recital at Broadway URC, Walsall, Saturday 4th June 2022

This morning's recitalist, Dr Maximillian Elliott, is currently serving as Music Secretary at York Minster, Assistant Director of Music at two historic churches in York (St Olave and All Saints North Street) and as one of the Diocese of York's two Organ Advisers (alongside his colleague Robert Sharpe). Having graduated from the University of York with a first-class BA in Historical Archaeology in 2013, and an MA with distinction in Historical Archaeology in 2015, Max then undertook doctoral research and completed a PhD thesis in 2020 entitled '*Thou shalt buzz no more*': an examination of the organ-building industry in nineteenth-century York; its origins, growth and prominence. He was also President of the York & District Organists' Association from 2017 until 2019

Max opened with Andrew Carter's *Fanfare Joyeuse & Reverie*, followed by J S Bach's *Prelude & Fugue C minor BWV 549*, always a super piece to hear, and beautifully played. Next to Francis Jackson's *Praeludium in E*, before a return to J S Bach for *Schmücke dich o liebe Seele* - what a treasure.

Then to Alan Gray's *Allegretto in F* - what a wonderful quiet well-constructed piece - followed by another very familiar J S Bach work *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*, played beautifully. Finally, to Healy Willan's *Prelude on O Filii et Filiae* - what a climax!

Today's programme included many pieces new to me, but I enjoyed them immensely. Max excelled himself - may we hear more of him in the future. Peter Edwards

Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall 6th June 2022

Today's recital celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II with music of a distinctly royal theme. With LDOA honorary member John Stormont pressed into service as a last-minute stand-in for Thomas's normal page turner, Thomas opened with Walton's *Crown Imperial*, a coronation march for George VI.

Next to four 16th century pieces from Elizabeth I's era with *What Care You?* (Bull), *The Queen's Command* (Gibbons), *La Mi Re* (anon) with the three notes repeated in LH, and *Coranto: 'Battle'* (Bull). Then to W T Best, renowned for performing hugely popular 19th century organ recitals at St George's Hall, Liverpool, for *Variations on 'God Save the Queen'*. On coming to London, J C Bach was Music Master to the 18-year-old Queen Charlotte, with *Concerto No 6 Op 1* being dedicated to her, and closing with *God Save the Queen* theme and variations.

Then to a lighter vein with two great exponents of British light music Eric Coates for *Princess Elizabeth March*, the final movement of his *The Three Elizabeth's Suite*, followed by Ronald Binge's *Elizabethan Serenade*.

Having opened with William Walton, Thomas assured us he 'would have every stop drawn' for the climax of Elgar's *Pomp & Circumstance March No 1*, made famous of course by the BBC's *Last Night of the Proms*. TS

Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 20th June 2022

For the last recital before the summer break, the programme comprised pieces selected from the 60 audience requests received from this series of lunchtime recitals, opening with Percy Grainger's lively *Handel in the Strand*, arranged by Stockmeier.

Next to Buxtehude's *Prelude & Fugue in D Major*, followed by the gentle *Prière a Notre Dame*, from Boellman's best-known work *Suite Gothique*. Kevin Vollans' contemporary very repetitive work *Walking Song* seemed an unlikely inclusion in a requests programme, but obviously somebody must like it! Then to Karg-Elert's *Valse Mignonne* and an opportunity for Thomas to draw the Whitechapel Bells stop.

Next to the longest work of the programme with Healy Willan's *Introduction, Passacaglia & Fugue*. The *Passacaglia* opens softly before building to a grand climax then diminishing to *ppp* marked *quasi Chorale*. The elegantly constructed fugue builds to a full organ climax. Then to something completely different, with Derek Bourgeois' *Serenade*, with its uneven tempo.

To close the recital, and the series, a work reckoned to be one of the most difficult pieces in the organ repertoire, Duruflé's *Toccata*, providing a challenging climax to the recital.

In his closing remarks, reminding us that the next series starts on 26th September, Thomas thanked his page turner Mia, and stand-in John Stormont, before fitting in an encore in the form of Leroy Anderson's *The Typewriter*, and another opportunity to make use of the Whitechapel Bells stop! TS

Liam Condon recital at St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent Wednesday 29th June 2022

Liam Condon is one of our talented student members and is currently Honorary Assistant Organist at Lichfield Cathedral, where he had previously had been Organ Scholar for two years, and also Organist at St John's Hospital Chapel, Lichfield. He was awarded his ARCO in January 2021.

Making his third visit to St Modwen's, and with LDOA member David Perry again on page turning duties, Liam opened with a flourish with one of his favourite works, Mendelssohn's *Con Moto Maestoso from Organ Sonata No 3*. Next to J S Bach for chorale prelude *Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her BWV 663*, with its simple melody upon which Bach had based no fewer than nine compositions.

Then, in the 200th anniversary this year of the composer's birth, to Cesar Frank's gentle romantic piece *Cantabile*, followed by a late addition to the programme, the comedic *Pizzicato* from the ballet *Sylvia* (arr. Tracey) by Delibes, followed by *Scherzo* by Duruflé.

The recital series is themed *Melody, Rhythm and Whimsy*, with Liam now offering today's *Whimsy* element with *The Elephant* from the *Carnival of the Animals* (arr Setchell) by Saint-Saëns, originally written for piano and double bass, but working surprising well here on the organ with the pedals providing the ponderous gait of the elephant.

Finally, to something completely different, for Parry's challenging *Fantasia & Fugue in G*. The fantasia opens with steadily increasing tension, indicating the high drama that is to follow. The fugue theme is relatively simple, though the development of the fugal structure is extremely complex and calls for great dexterity, duly supplied by Liam.

Tony Westerman rightly remarked on Liam being a young man who, over the course of his three visits to St Modwen's, he had seen develop into a seasoned recitalist.

TS

Angela Sones recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green Friday 1st July 2022

LDOA member Angela Sones opened today's recital dramatically with Vierne's *Allegro*, the first movement of *Symphony No 2*.

Next to J S Bach's *Trio Sonata No 6 BWV 530*, arguably the most challenging of the six trio sonatas, which I spent many hours learning when having organ lessons with Angela! All three movements beautifully articulated.

Then to *Largo, Allegro, Aria & Two Variations* by Michael Christian Festing. The lilting largo, is followed by a spritely allegro, then an aria and two variations.



Angela Sones taking her bow at Emmanuel Wylde Green

Angela's favourite genre of music is French Romantic, and having opened with Vierne, unsurprisingly she turned to

Widor to close her recital with *Allegro from Symphony No 6*, premiered by Widor. Angela referred to her memorable masterclass with Sofie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin at St Sulpice, played on the organ for which Widor composed his symphonies. A challenging work with lots of registrations changes, performed in grand style.

A terrific programme, with a performance to match. TS

Cathy/Ben Lamb recital at St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent, Wednesday 13th July 2022

For the final recital before the summer break, on a warm summer's day, LDOA honorary members husband and wife team Ben and Cathy Lamb were the organists.

Drawing on their Lichfield Festival recital programme at Lichfield Cathedral two days previously, they opened with Mozart's *Overture to The Magic Flute*, as arranged by Ben and reconfigured to suit the St Modwen's organ, with Cathy taking the treble and Ben the bass. Next to Debussy's *Clair de Lune* (arr. for Organ and Piano by W Reddick), with Cathy on the organ and Ben on piano.

In her introduction to the next piece, Cathy described J S Bach's *Grand Triple Fugue BWV 522* as fiendishly difficult as a solo piece, but rather less so played as a duet. First though came Samuel Wesley's *Duet for Organ as an Introduction to the Grand Triple Fugue BWV 522*, followed by J S Bach's *Grand Triple fugue BWV 522*, played here as a duet. As English organs at that time had no pedals, a duet arrangement was a practical way of overcoming that deficiency.

Next, to a beautifully registered solo by Ben, with Boëllmann's gem *Prière à Notre Dame* from *Suite Gothique*, before handing over to Cathy to close the recital with a solo performance of *Toccata* by Dubois, providing a thrilling climax to the recital.



Ben and Cathy Lamb taking their bow at St Modwen's

In 17 years of marriage, they have rarely performed together, which is a great pity because they make a splendid team. TS

Callum Alger recital at St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, Saturday 16th July 2022

The last recital in the Organ Festival Series 2022 at St Peter's Collegiate Church Wolverhampton was given on

Saturday 16 July – the day before the hot weather really hit.

There was a large audience to hear the Church's Director of Music, Callum Alger, take his turn at the fully visible movable console. Callum's reputation is widening rapidly considering he has only recently completed his graduate studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and his performance was very much appreciated by all present.

His pieces were entertainingly announced in his relaxed and welcoming style, engaging directly with the audience. We were to hear a concert which emphasised West Midlands connections.

First up was Mendelssohn, with a virtuosic performance of his *1st Sonata*. The complex outer movements were very well registered, and the slow central movement brought out the especially beguiling tone of the organ's restored Willis flutes.

The Birmingham theme continued with the *Elegy* by George Thalben-Ball, Thomas Trotter's esteemed predecessor. Another Willis texture, reminiscent of the rich diapason sounds of Birmingham Town Hall organ in its previous incarnation. Then came a special commission from David Bednall – a lively '*Toccata for Lady Wulfrun*', whose statue, by Charles Wheeler, stands outside the west doors of the church she founded 1028 years ago. The toccata, donated by tenor lay clerk Simon Bennett, was a cheerfully discordant and rumbustious paean, given a lively first performance by Callum, who had of course only fairly recently received the music.

Paul Spicer, who has just retired from the Conservatoire, was one of Callum's teachers there. His *Prelude in Homage to Maurice Duruflé* was a clever imitation of the 20th century French organ style and harmonies in a largely gentle and thoughtful idiom.

Lastly came a spirited performance of Elgar's 1895 *Organ Sonata* – dedicated to Charles Swinnerton Heap whose memorial is in Walsall Town Hall. The first performance was in Worcester Cathedral, with the ink barely dry on the manuscript. In the Wolverhampton performance both the organ and the organist stood up brilliantly to the challenge. Callum's recording of this work, and the Bairstow *Sonata*, at St Matthew's Northampton, has just been released on a CD by Regent Records. Peter Morris

LOCAL VACANCIES

No vacancies currently notified to us.

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Peter Morris

- Friday 9th September 2022 at 1.15pm, an organ recital by our newly appointed chairman at St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, on the recently refurbished Willis organ.

- Sunday 2nd October 2022 at 4pm, orchestral concert at St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton. Handel *Organ Concerto in F* and Saint-Saëns *Organ Symphony* performed by the Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Peter Morris with organist Callum Alger.

Callum Alger

Saturday 15th October 2022 from 12 noon to 1.10pm, organ recital at Victoria Hall, Hanley

Simon Lumby

See St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent recitals listing below.

Broadway URC, Walsall

Presented by Alan Taylor, LDOA member and Broadway URC Organist & Choir-director, Saturday morning 'Coffee & Cake' organ concerts at 11.15am (refreshments from 10.30am) are as follows:

- Saturday 6th August 2022 – Thomas Keogh (Holy Cross Priory, Leicester)
- Saturday 27th August 2022 – Ashley Wagner (Birmingham Cathedral)

Free admission with retiring collection.

Angela Sones

Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 1pm, organ recital at Tewkesbury Abbey

Richard Syner

See St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent recitals listing below.

Liam Condon

Thursday 25th August 2022, 11.30am to 12.15pm organ recital at Lichfield Cathedral

Martyn Rawles

- See St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent recitals listing below.
- Tuesday 4th October 2022, 7.30 to 8.45pm organ recital at Lichfield Cathedral

St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

Presented by Tony Westerman, LDOA member and St Modwen's Organist, the Wednesday lunchtime concert series at St Modwen's includes no less than five LDOA members of the eleven performers. Recitals commence at 12.30 to 1.10pm, free admission with retiring collection. The remaining recitals in the 2022 series are as follows:

- 7th September 2022 – Richard Syner
- 14th September 2022 – Simon Lumby
- 21st September 2022 – John Keys
- 28th September 2022 – Martyn Rawles

St Peter's Wolverhampton

LDOA Student Member Callum Alger, DoM at St Peter's Wolverhampton, has organised a series of lunchtime concerts commencing in September at St Peter's, hopefully featuring the organ every other week, at 1.15pm. Dates and organists as follows:

- Friday 9th September 2022 – opening recital by Peter Morris, recently appointed LDOA Chairman
- Friday 23rd September 2022 – Charles Francis, having taken up his new post of Assistant Director of Music at St Peter's.

Also at St Peter's, on Sunday 2nd October 2022 at 4pm, is an orchestral concert featuring Handel's *Organ Concerto in F* and Saint-Saëns' *Organ Symphony*, performed by the Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Peter Morris with organist Callum Alger.

Recitals In Local Area (To end of Sept 2022)

Recital listings are provided in good faith. Please check directly with venue websites to confirm details before travelling to events.

August 2022

Mon 1 August 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Manuel Piazza (New Haven, CT)

Tues 2 August 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Shaun Turnbull (Rippon Cathedral)

Thurs 4 August 2022 • 1.15 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Frid 5 August 2022 • 1.10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
Terence Atkins (St John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet)

Sat 6 August 2022 • 11.15 • Broadway URC, Walsall
Thomas Keogh (Holy Cross Priory, Leicester)

Sat 6 August 2022 • 12.00 • Shrewsbury Abbey
Sean Montgomery (Hebden Bridge)

Sun 7 August 2022 • 3.00 • Holy Trinity Wordsley - **ONLINE ONLY**
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 8 August 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Michael Stephens-Johns (Guildford Cathedral)

Wed 10 August 2022 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Derby Cathedral
Alexander Binns (Derby Cathedral)

Thurs 11 August 2022 • 1.10 • Kidderminster Town Hall
Tim Morris (Kidderminster Town Hall)

Thurs 11 August 2022 • 1.15 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Peter King (Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey)

Frid 12 August 2022 • 1.10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
Ben Markovic (Birmingham Cathedral)

Mon 15 August 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Mark Swinton (St Mary's, Warwick)

Wed 17 August 2022 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Derby Cathedral
Ben Bloor (London Oratory)

Thurs 18 August 2022 • 11.30 to 12.15 • Lichfield Cathedral
David Humphreys (Peterborough)

Thurs 18 August 2022 • 1.15 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Stephan Klemm (St Wendel, Germany)

Frid 19 August 2022 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall Hanley
Donald Mackenzie (London)

Frid 19 August 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
David Thomas ((Shrewsbury)

Sat 20 August 2022 • 12.00 • Shrewsbury Abbey
Tom Edwards (Rendcomb College)

Sat 20 August 2022 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall Hanley
Gert van Hoef (Netherlands)

Mon 22 August 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Carolyn Craig (New Haven, CT)

Wed 24 August 2022 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Derby Cathedral
Jeremiah Stephenson (London)

Thurs 25 August 2022 • 11.30 to 12.15 • Lichfield Cathedral
Liam Condon (Lichfield Cathedral)

Thurs 25 August 2022 • 1.15 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)

Frid 26 August 2022 • 1.10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
Kris Thomsett (Newcastle Cathedral)

Sat 27 August 2022 • 11.15 • Broadway URC, Walsall
Ashley Wagner (Birmingham Cathedral)

Mon 29 August 2022 • 12.00 • Great Malvern Priory
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 29 August 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Anthony Gritten (Royal Academy of Music)

Tues 30 August 2022 • 11.30 to 12.15 • Lichfield Cathedral
Charles Francis (Birmingham Cathedral)

Wed 31 August 2022 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Derby Cathedral
James Thomas (Bury St Edmunds)

September 2022

Thurs 1 September 2022 • 11.30 to 12.15 • Lichfield Cathedral
Nicholas Freestone (Worcester Cathedral)

Thurs 1 September 2022 • 1.15 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Daniel Cook (Durham Cathedral)

Frid 2 September 2022 • 1.15 • St Mary's Church, Warwick
Oliver Hancock (St Mary's, Warwick)

Sun 4 September 2022 • 3.00 • Holy Trinity Wordsley
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 5 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Richard Brazier (London)

Tues 6 September 2022 • 7.30 to 8.45 • Lichfield Cathedral
Katherine Dienes-Williams (Guildford Cathedral)

Tues 6 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Ashley Wagner (Birmingham Cathedral)

Wed 7 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent
Richard Syner (Burton-upon-Trent)

Wed 7 September 2022 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Derby Cathedral
Edward Turner (Derby Cathedral)

Frid 9 September 2022 • 1.15 • St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Sat 10 September 2022 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall Hanley
Daniel Greenway (London)

Mon 12 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Kai Krakenberg (Husum, Germany)

Wed 14 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent
Simon Lumby (Leicester)

Wed 14 September 2022 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Derby Cathedral
Steven Grahl (Christ Church, Oxford)

Frid 16 September 2022 • 1.15 • St Mary's Church, Warwick
Wyatt Smith (Seattle, USA)

Mon 19 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Wyatt Smith (Seattle, USA)

Tues 20 September 2022 • 7.30 to 8.45 • Lichfield Cathedral
Peter Stevens (Westminster Cathedral)

Wed 21 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent
John Keys (Nottingham)

Frid 23 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Frid 23 September 2022 • 1.15 • St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton
Charles Francis (Birmingham Cathedral/St Peter's, Wolverhampton)

Sat 24 September 2022 • 7.30 • St Mary's, Melton Mowbray
Keith Hearnshaw & Friends. A celebration of Carlo Curley's life.

Mon 26 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral
Luke Fitzgerald (Coventry Cathedral)

Mon 26 September 2022 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Wed 28 September 2022 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent
Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

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Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for October 2022, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/09/22, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA

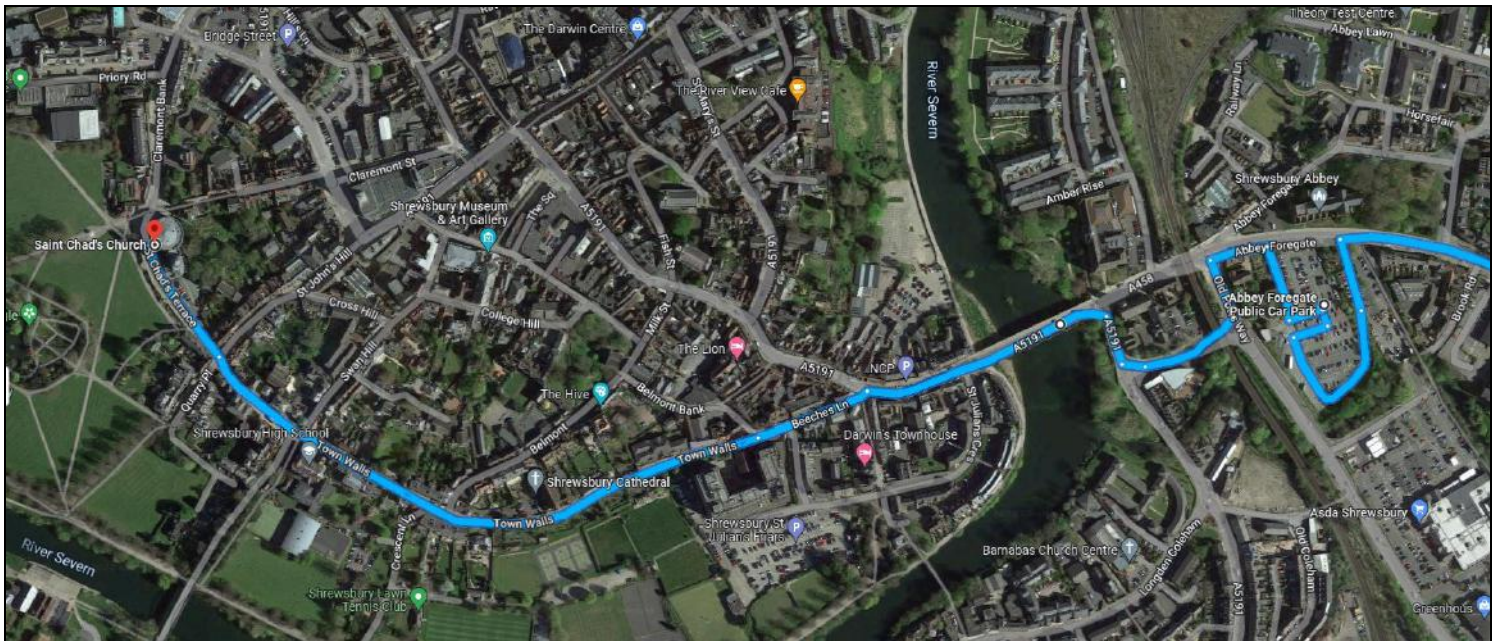
APPENDIX

Locator map, addresses and arrangements for our visit to Shrewsbury Saturday 17th September 2022

Shrewsbury is accessed from the Midlands via the M54/A5. On reaching the roundabout just-outside Shrewsbury, get into the LH lane to follow the A5 ring road round to the west. At the 1st roundabout, take the 4th exit sign-posted A5064 to Shrewsbury, then at the next roundabout take the 3rd exit sign-posted Shirehall, into Abbey Foregate. Continue to follow Abbey Foregate until you see Shrewsbury Abbey ahead on the right, with the Abbey Foregate Car park entrance on the left immediately opposite the Abbey.

Our visit to Shrewsbury Abbey commences at 11am, and it has been suggested to us that, as our second venue St Chad's Church has limited car parking and is only a 14 min walk from here, we leave the cars here for the day. Charges 50p/hour or £4 for the day, and looks to be a cashless/mobile phone app. payment system.

Our second venue is St Chad's Church, 1 St Chad's Terrace, Shrewsbury SY1 1JX, with the visit commencing at 1.45pm. The route to St Chad's is a 14 min/0.7 mile walk, with town centre cafes nearby. Referring to the locator map below, cross over the River Severn via English Bridge, and bear left up Beeches Lane, which leads into Town Walls. Continue on Town Walls, past Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Cathedral on the right, and on to St Chad's Terrace, where you'll see the tower of St Chad's Church on the right.



Locator map for Shrewsbury Abbey and St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury