

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

Saturday 9th March 2019 – visit to St James' Hill, Mere Green

Visit by invitation of LDOA member and DoM Andrew Clayton, commencing at 2pm with our 2019 AGM, followed by an opportunity to play the fine versatile 3 manual 44 stop Nicholson organ, the inaugural recital of the enlarged organ having being given by a certain young man by the name of Thomas Trotter on 11th March 1986!



The organ of St James' Hill, Mere Green

When the organ was built, between 1919 and 1922, it was expected the rebuilding of the church would be continued, and the organ was therefore built in anticipation of being in a larger building. In the event, the size of the church wasn't increased, so the organ is certainly more than capable of making its presence felt in this very nice acoustic, so members should enjoy playing this fine organ. There will once again also be donated organ music available for members to peruse/acquire.

See Appendix to this newsletter for address, location and car parking details for St James Hill.

Visit to play LDOA member Eric Lunt's 4 manual 64 stop Makin digital organ

In June 2018, our member Eric Lunt had installed in his home at Lichfield a superb 4 manual 64 speaking stop Makin Custom organ with external speakers, as designed and demonstrated by Prof. Ian Tracey.

This organ must be one of the highest spec. digital organs in our area. I had the pleasure of trying it in January, and Eric has very generously invited LDOA members to also come and try it, but as it's installed in a small upstairs bedroom, at any one time only the player plus, at a pinch, one other person can be accommodated. Eric is very keen for LDOA members to play the organ, so if you would like to take up Eric's offer, please contact Richard Syner at richard.syner1@btinternet.com, by Saturday 16th February. Richard will then provide a list of interested members to Eric for him to contact directly, and make mutually convenient arrangements for playing visits during March.



Eric Lunt's 4 manual Makin digital organ

Saturday 11th May 2019 – visit to the Black Country

Visit commencing at 2pm to St Mark's, Pensnett, known locally at the 'Cathedral of the Black Country', to play the 3 manual 45 stop organ overhauled in 1991 by Lloyd & Haynes. Then on for 3.30pm to St Peter's Cradley, by invitation of James Brookes, to play the 2 manual 31 stop Compton organ dating from 1933, which has recently been restored and brought back into full working order January 2018, after seven years of silence.

Wednesday 12 June 2019 – visit and Nigel Morris workshop

Commencing at 7.30pm, a workshop presented by Nigel Morris, Assistant Director of Music at St Chad's Cathedral

Birmingham and our Midlands Region representative on the IAO Council. Venue and topic of the workshop still to be finalised, with hopefully also an opportunity for members to play the organ.

Saturday 13th July 2019 – Members' Recital at All Saints', Streetly

At the invitation of Chris Booth, Director of Music, a return visit to All Saints' Streetly, for a recital given by a number of our own members, attended by members and their guests, with an invitation extended to members of All Saints' Church. Opportunity for preparation in advance of registrations on the 3 manual Allen digital organ, and plenty of time to bring your favourite pieces up to scratch!

Saturday 14th September 2019 – visit to Warwick

By invitation of Director of Music Oliver Hancock, a visit in the afternoon to St Mary's Church, Warwick. St Mary's Church has three organs; one located at the West End and another in the North Transept. The third instrument is a movable chamber organ. All three are regularly used for services and concerts. Since 1980, the 3 manual 45 stop West End Organ (newly built by Nicholson of Malvern to a specification drawn up by Andrew Fletcher in consultation with Roy Massey), and the remodelled 2 manual 27 stop Alfred E Davies/Nicholson Transept Organ, are both playable from the same console.

We are hopeful of combining the visit to St Mary's with a morning visit to another nearby church, and members of our sister associations of Coventry and Warwick have been invited to join us.

Saturday 5th October 2019 (provisional) – President's Evening

Today sees the RSCM Lichfield Area Massed Choirs Festival Evensong held at Lichfield Cathedral. We are hopeful Martyn Rawles will also be able to accommodate us for President's Evening, and our annual treat of the opportunity to play the magnificent Hill organ, but this date has yet to be confirmed.

Saturday 16th November 2019 – visit to the Wolverhampton area

Visit commencing at 1.30pm hosted by our Honorary Member and Walsall Borough Organist Peter Morris to St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton.

The fine 3 manual 52 stop Willis organ is currently undergoing a £250,000 rebuild, with enhancements including a four stop digital pedal unit. Whilst the pipework has still to be installed, the new organ console has just been returned, and Renatus of Bideford has certainly produced a work of beauty, as can be seen from the photo. When complete, the rebuilt Willis organ will make for a superb visit for us.

At Peter Morris's recommendation, we then make the short 2 miles/10 minutes' drive for a visit commencing at 3.30pm to nearby St Michael & All Angels, Tettenhall, hosted by John Taylor, where there is a 3 manual 47 stop Compton organ.



The new Renatus console for St Peter's, Wolverhampton
(Photo courtesy of Peter Morris)

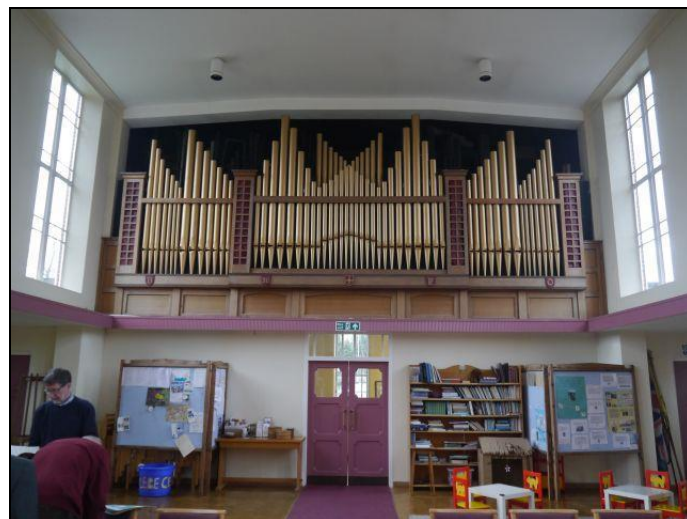
Hereford Cathedral – possible visit

As one of our talented student members, Henry Metcalfe, is the 2018/19 Organ Scholar at Hereford Cathedral, both we and Henry are keen to find a convenient date for an extra special visit during his time at Hereford, taking in a recital at the Cathedral and an opportunity for members to play the fine Willis organ. Hereford is rather further afield than our usual visits, so if there is sufficient interest in this event, we will look into the possibility of providing transport for members for a modest charge.

RECENT LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

Saturday 12th January 2019 – visit to Broadway URC, Walsall

Our visit today, attended by 12 members/guests, was at the kind invitation of IAO General Secretary, LDOA member and Broadway URC Organist & Choir Director, Alan Taylor, who in fact celebrates this year 50 years at Broadway.

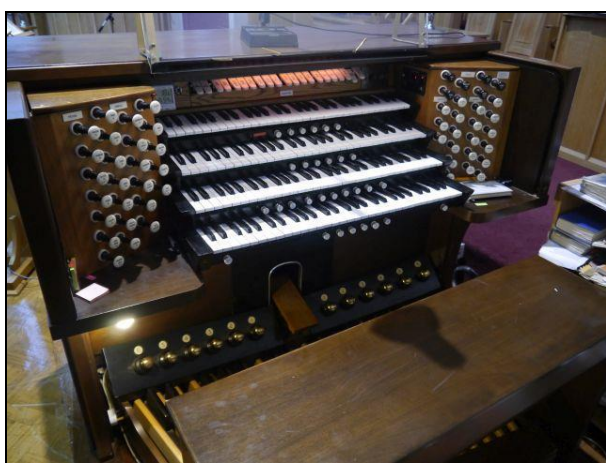


The organ of Broadway URC

The church, originally called Broadway Congregational Church, was dedicated in September 1959, and whilst provision was made for the installation of a pipe in the west end gallery, because of cost a pre-transistor electronic instrument made by the German firm of Vierling was acquired, eventually replaced in 1976 by a second hand Rodgers solid state electronic organ, which for a few

months was once used in Birmingham Cathedral. During 1988/9, the Rodgers became increasingly problematic and in 1989 the search for a replacement organ was embarked upon, the result being a 4 manual pipe organ of 51 speaking stops and over 2700 pipes. Dr Roy Massey, Organist & Master of the Choristers at Hereford Cathedral, writing after his recital at the 1990 Organ Festival, said "...I congratulate you most sincerely on the successful outcome of a terrific undertaking".

Building a large pipe organ would ordinarily have been prohibitively expensive for a church of this size and resources, so how did a church which had never had a pipe organ, manage to replace its electronic organ with a 4 manual 51 stop pipe organ at less than one tenth of the cost of a new organ of this size? Great credit for this is due to Alan Taylor and the team of church volunteers, who spent many hours dismantling various redundant organs in local churches and transporting the parts here, and to John Lloyd of local organ builder Lloyd & Haynes.



The console of the Broadway URC organ

Most of the Swell Organ originated in Pleck Methodist Church, which had become redundant. Unfortunately, both the church and the organ had suffered the effects of vandalism. Most of the Great and much of the Choir divisions' pipework had either been removed or damaged beyond repair, but the vandals had obviously not discovered how to open the Swell shutters! This pipework is by the Walsall-based firm of Nicholson & Lord. Purchase of the redundant and damaged Pleck organ is a good illustration of how the cost of creating the Broadway organ was kept so low, with Alan paying £100 for the organ, then selling the pipes damaged beyond repair as scrap for £93, resulting in a net of cost for the organ a mere £7!

Most of the Great and Pedal divisions came from St John's Methodist Church, Wolverhampton, originally the work of Nicholson's of Worcester, including the fine Violin Diapason on which the main chorus is based. The large-scale Edwardian Open Diapason (originally with leathery mouths), the pipes of the Choir Nazard, and the casework came from Halesowen Baptist Church. The Great Stopped Diapason and the pipes of the Solo Cornet came from King's Hill Methodist Church, Wednesbury, and the Solo Tromba and Pedal Trombone from Rowley Regis College. Finally, Broadway's Rodgers' electronic organ provided the console for the 'new' organ.

Various additions have been made in the years since its original 3 manual construction, but the most significant

modification, completed in 2005, saw the organ expanded to four manuals, with the addition of two completely new stops, a William Hill Vienna Flute and a Viola to the Solo Division. Following John Lloyd's retirement in 2007, the organ is in the care of Peter Spencer Ltd of Coventry. From the point of view of the performer, the most helpful recent change, in 2013, has been the installation of a capture system for the combination pistons, with a 64-level memory and provision for General as well as Divisional combinations, made possible as a result of a gift from Professor Alan Dronsfield. Like everything else about the organ, this capture system was second hand, from a 3 manual organ in a Stourbridge church, and so does not operate on the Solo Division, some couplers and the Choir Larigot.



Our host Alan Taylor demonstrating the organ of Broadway URC

Alan then proceeded to demonstrate the results of the efforts of all concerned with the organ project, by playing extracts from various pieces, starting with J S Bach's *In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729)*, to demonstrate the Great Chorus up to the Mixture.

Then to Couperin to demonstrate French Baroque, followed by demonstrations of the Cornet on the Solo Division, the organ's Romantic sounds using Vierendeel, the Tromba and Tuba on the Solo Division, and finishing in style by showing the crescendo towards the end of one of Alan's favourite works, Hendrik Andriessen's *Theme & Variations*. If you'd like to hear the whole of this work played by Alan on the Broadway URC organ, I can recommend listening to his audio recording via: <http://music.broadway.urcwalsall.uk/organ.html>

Then it was over to LDOA members to sample the organ for themselves, with Paul Hodgetts first 'up' getting proceedings under way with an accomplished performance of Vierendeel's *Carillon de Westminster*.

John Carvell, hoping to play *Tuba Tune*, then found out why Alan Taylor had recommended avoiding the treble end of the Tuba stop, as it currently has an action fault causing two pipes to sound at the same time when playing one key. Tony Parker was followed by our guest Warwick Wolseley playing an improvisation, Peter King playing a J S Bach prelude, then Pat Neville.



Paul Hodgetts at the organ of Broadway URC

Despite its mixed parentage, the pipework of the organ works surprisingly well together, due in no small part to it virtually all originating in organs built by Nicholson or Nicholson & Lord between 1900/10. The organ is equally at home used for both service and recital work, as evidenced by the many notable organists who have been enticed to perform recitals at Broadway.

A fascinating 38 page article by Alan Taylor describing the whole of the organ project in detail is available as a free download via:

<http://music.broadway.urcwalsall.uk/files/ORGAN2016.pdf>

Our thanks to Alan Taylor for hosting our visit and his skilful demonstration of the organ, and to Alan and Richard Syner for the very welcome hot drinks and cakes.

PS. See the listing of members' recitals in the newsletter for details of the organ recitals arranged by Alan at Broadway URC this summer. TS

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Member

Dennis Cornes

Dennis joined us in December, and has played the organ in churches where he lives in Brewood for some 50 years, as well as his electronic organ at home. Having only been discharged from hospital in January following an operation, we wish Dennis a speedy recovery, and when he is well enough to attend, we hope to meet him at our future events.

NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

2019 Subscriptions

The 2019 subscriptions were due on 1st January 2019, and Richard Syner sent out a reminder to members during December, giving details of how to pay. For anyone who has not yet paid, we would appreciate payment of your subscription without further delay. Payment details for members not having set up a standing order as follows:

Membership is £12 for single members and £17.50 for joint membership (couples etc.). Membership is free to those in full time education.

Bank transfers can be made to:

Lichfield & District Organists' Association, Lloyds Bank, Account No. 00430916, Sort code 30-95-04

Alternatively, cheques can be made payable to *Lichfield & District Organists' Association* and sent to: Mike Rudd, 8 Court Drive, Shenstone, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 0JG

GDPR

We have received clarification that, whilst we have not received completed GDPR consent forms from some members, membership of LDOA indicates that a contract exists between members and the LDOA, and this allows us to legally retain and use members' details to keep them informed of news, events, and activities of the association and the IAO. We have updated Clause 4 of our Data Privacy Notice posted on our website www.iao.org.uk/lichfield to reflect this clarification.

St Mary's, Lichfield

St Mary's, Lichfield opened again to the public in December on completion of the major refurbishment project. The church building has been tastefully redeveloped to hold the City Library on the ground floor. On the mezzanine floor is a flexible open space, integrating a 140 seater performance/art exhibitions and workshop area. The organ has been retained and is now open plan to the library and the rest of the building, so it will be interesting to hear the impact of this on the acoustic.



Photo of the St Mary's organ taken from the mezzanine floor above the library, following the refurbishment of St Mary's.

We have been in communication with St Mary's to enquire about gaining access again for LDOA members to practice, and after standing idle for almost two years, once the condition of the organ has been appraised and any work required carried out, they will be in contact with us.

Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday 19th February 2019 at 7.30pm.

NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

Rugby School Chapel organ rebuild

Rugby School Chapel is home to a superb 2001 4 manual 55 stop Kenneth Jones & Association organ, the inaugural

recital of which was given by Nicholas Kynaston. Having had the opportunity to play it in 2014, I can attest that it is a superb instrument in an architecturally breath-taking setting. See photos below I took on my visit.

Despite its size, the Choir, Great, Swell and the Pedal upperwork have tracker action, with just the Solo and remainder of the pedal organ being electro-pneumatic. In 2019, Nicholson will be undertaking a major rebuild, including replacement of the tracker action with new electro-pneumatic action and a new transmission installed. The console will be rebuilt with repairs and improvements to the woodwork, the addition of couplers and upgrading of playing aids, a new pedalboard, the pipework will be cleaned, and the sagging reed pipes repaired.



The organ of Rugby School Chapel



The oak console of the organ of Rugby School Chapel

The School also has a 3 manual 32 stop Bryceson organ in the Temple Speech Room dating from 1890, so we really must arrange a LDOA visit in 2020 when the rebuild work on the chapel organ has been completed.

Salisbury Cathedral organ restoration

After 140 years since its installation, the famous Father Willis organ is now in need of an extensive programme of repair and restoration - not surprising given that since its last overhaul in 1993 it has been used daily. The plan for the restoration is not to alter the unique sound of this magnificent instrument, but to put right what has become in need of repair and to do an extensive overhaul.

Harrison & Harrison of Durham, who have had the care of the organ since 1978, will carry out this important work, with a project cost of over £700,000. They will dismantle the organ in January 2019, and it will be out of action for the whole of the year while the restoration is carried out. A scaffold will be put over the full depth of both the north and south quire aisles and there will also be scaffolding in the quire itself, with a bridge between the two to enable the pipes to be lowered to the floor. In January 2020 the organ will be re-installed for tuning and voicing, which will take approximately three months.

There are some imaginative plans in the pipeline for when the organ is out of use, including the use of an Allen digital organ, more use of the piano and orchestras as well as unaccompanied singing.

Wolverhampton Civic Hall organ

Two years ago the council revealed plans to remove the organ, housed in the roof of the Grade II listed Civic Hall, as part of the refurbishment of the hall. In December 2018, it was confirmed in the Wolverhampton Express & Star that plans to restore Wolverhampton Civic Hall's historic Compton organ to its former glory have been scrapped after council bosses refused to pay the £2 million fees, and the 6241 pipes will be 'disposed of'. The project to relocate the organ lost its champion when Steve Tovey, Wolverhampton City Organist, died in September 2016.

Makin Digital Organ for Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

When you have the largest pipe organ in the UK, and a superb 2 manual 29 stop Willis organ in your Lady Chapel that would be the envy of many parish churches, what more could you possibly want? Well, the answer would seem to be 'the largest Makin digital organ ever built!'

ChurchOrganWorld has announced that the largest Makin digital organ ever built of 4 manuals and 115 speaking stops, currently owned by Mr Peter Clark of Liverpool, is to be installed at the west end of Liverpool Cathedral, replacing an old Makin organ.

Mr Clark's original intention was that the organ, dating from 1994 but since upgraded several times, would be left in his estate for ChurchOrganWorld to install in a suitable venue. However, Mr Clark has concluded that since his organ playing days are sadly now over, there is a unique opportunity to rehome the instrument now with him still being involved. The plan is to make the organ and its speakers fully mobile within the building, providing incredible flexibility to use alongside the mighty Willis. The cost of this project, which will involve two new bespoke mobile plinths, a few stop changes and console upgrade, will be of the order of £5000.

From the largest organ in the UK to the smallest!

From the large organs of Liverpool Cathedral to the smallest. A miniaturised version of a musical instrument that could be used to improve the quality of medical images has been manufactured by researchers at the University of Strathclyde. The Science and Engineering researchers have created a miniaturised pipe organ, based on the wide range of pipes seen in the full-sized instrument.



Miniature pipe organ

The device has been designed to improve images, such as those of fetuses, from scanners by broadening the range of frequencies used to emit sound waves. The researchers have demonstrated its ability to produce these frequencies and have created the best designs for the organ by using a 3D printer.

The study has been published in the journal 'IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control'. Professor Tony Mulholland, Head of Strathclyde's Department of Mathematics & Statistics and a partner in the research, said: *"Musical instruments have a wide variety of designs, but they all have one thing in common – they emit sound across a broad range of frequencies. So there is a treasure trove of design ideas for future medical imaging sensors lying waiting to be discovered amongst this vast array of designs. Around 20% of medical scans are performed using ultrasound. The scanner creates images by emitting sound waves with a frequency that lies above human hearing. The scanner operates at a single frequency - similar to a piano that can play just one note - and this accounts in part for the relatively poor resolution that one sees in ultrasound images. If we had a scanner that could emit waves across a broad range of frequencies, this would provide a marked improvement in the imaging capability."*

Prof James Windmill, of Strathclyde's Centre for Ultrasonic Engineering, who is also a co-author of the research, said: *"Developing wide bandwidth ultrasound systems could give significant improvements in imaging capability. Using high resolution 3D printers allows us to try new, three dimensional device designs with much faster development cycles. Musical instruments create sounds over a broad range of frequencies and have been carefully designed over the centuries to be very efficient at doing so. It is well known that the highest frequency pipes are the smallest in length, as in, for example, a piccolo, so to realise frequencies that are beyond human hearing - ultrasound waves - the length has to be very small indeed, of millimetres in length. This would be extremely difficult to construct using traditional manufacturing techniques such as those used to build musical instruments, but the key is to use a high resolution 3D printer."*

The multidisciplinary team of researchers developed and tested the designs using mathematical models and computer simulations to speed up the design process.

While its development is at an early stage, the technology could also have significant implications in the design of hearing aids, in underwater sonar and the non-destructive testing of safety critical structures such as nuclear plants.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

Details of the 2019 Lichfield Cathedral summer Music for Reflection events and Evening Celebrity Organ Recitals will be advised when finalised.

For full details of Lichfield Cathedral events and services see: www.lichfield-cathedral.org

IAO/RCO MATTERS

London Organ Day 2019

The 33rd London Organ Day will be held at Christ Church, Spitalfields, on Saturday 2nd March 2019, commencing with registration at 9.30am.

Hawksmoor's awe-inspiring church is home to the historic 1735 Richard Bridge organ, which had been silent since around 1960, unplayable through decay and neglect until June 2015, following a 50 year restoration project.

The day will include an interactive organ tour and recitals by Ghislaine Reece-Trapp and Richard Brasier, with a closing recital by Daniel Moulton.

Full details and booking on-line via: www.iao.org.uk/newsevents/london-organ-day

Organfest 2019

The next BIOS/IAO/RCO Organfest will take place in Cardiff from 6th – 8th September 2019, with venues including Eglwys Dewi Sant, St David's Hall, Llandaff Cathedral, St John the Baptist and the National Museum of Wales. Full details will be available soon via: www.organfest.org.uk

RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

Bernard Salter recital at Trinity Methodist Church, Monday 3rd December 2018

A nasty fall meant that LDOA member and Organist at Trinity Methodist Church Shenstone, Pat Neville, was unable to perform today's advent recital, and in her introduction, Pat thanked LDOA member Rev. Bernard Salter for stepping in at short notice to perform the recital.

Bernard opened with Bach's well-known *Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme*, followed by three pieces by anonymous composers from Thomas Mulliner's Book. Next, an improvisation on three carols – *Silent Night*, *Away in a Manger* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

Then to two pieces by J S Bach, the 1st Movement of *Concerto in A Minor* based on Vivaldi, followed by the 'Giant' *Fugue*. Then to a further improvisation on seven carols, with audience participation and a prize of a box of chocs for the only person to correctly identify all seven carols!

After Percy Whitlock's *Folk Tune*, Bernard returned to J S Bach, to close with *In Dulci Jubilo*, providing a rousing ending to a recital much enjoyed by all. Great credit to Bernard Salter for putting together an enjoyable programme with so little preparation time. TS

Samuel Bristow recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green Friday 7th December 2018

Today's recitalist, Sam Bristow, is currently a fourth year student at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and Organ Scholar at Birmingham Cathedral, but from September will take up the Organ Scholarship at Salisbury Cathedral. He has previously held organ scholarships at Coventry Cathedral and Cirencester Parish Church. He is increasingly active as a recitalist, having played in several of the UK's cathedrals, and in Europe.



Sam Bristow introducing his recital programme at Emmanuel Wylde Green

Sam opened in style with Widor's *Allegro Vivace (Symphony No 1)*, played with confidence and managing well the many registration changes required. Next to Whitlock and *Carol (Four Extemporisations)*, followed by Mozart's ever popular recital work *Fantasie in F Minor K608*. Then to Alain's gentle *Variations sur un them de Clement Jannequin*, followed by Marcus Huxley's *Variations on 'This Endrys Night'*.

Harking back to his time as Organ Scholar at Coventry Cathedral, Sam turned to a work by Paul Ledington Wright, Associate Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral, for the strident *Fanfare* then *Rumba on Veni Creator*, to bring the recital to a close with a flourish. Yet another very talented young organist to emerge from The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. TS

Peter Morris recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green Friday 4th January 2019

We used to have the pleasure of hearing LDOA honorary member and Walsall Borough Organist Peter Morris play monthly recitals at Walsall Town Hall, but now that they have been dropped, today at Emmanuel presented an all too rare opportunity to hear Peter play a recital.

The main Willis organ here at Emmanuel originally came from the Seventh Church of Christ Scientist, South Kensington, and coincidentally Peter Morris's predecessor as Walsall Borough Organist, Harold Britten, was the organist at the church when the organ was removed, so it's thanks to Peter's predecessor that this fine Willis organ eventually ended up here at Emmanuel!

Peter opened with Buxtehude's *Prelude & Fugue in D*, with the lively prelude followed by the more measured opening of the fugue before building to a grand climax.

Peter and his wife had recently performed a concert in France for organ and flute, the inspiration for the choice of Clérambault's *Suite du Deuxieme Ton*, Peter playing five of its seven delightful miniatures, using both the main and nave organs, to create a stereophonic effect with contrasting registrations for some of the pieces.

Staying in France, Guilment wrote eight organ sonatas, and his *Sonata No 1* has long been a favourite of mine. Whilst this does make appearances in recitals from time to time, most of the others don't seem to be much favoured, despite many being very worthy works. So, it was a welcome opportunity to hear *Sonata IV in D minor*, Peter playing all four movements of this fine work, finishing with the thrilling *Finale*.

Prompted by a concert performed in Coventry Cathedral by a visiting German choir, Peter's choice to close were two jazzy works performed by the choir's organist - Johannes Matthias Michel's *Intrada in Jazz* and *Komm, sag es allen weiter* – providing a jazzy ending to a very varied programme. Good to hear Peter on such fine form despite having only just come out of hospital.



Peter Morris taking his bow at the end of his recital at Emmanuel, Wylde Green

PS. In his introduction to Peter Morris, Director of Music Richard Mason announced the departure of organist Josh Roebuck, who is moving to Worcester Cathedral as Organ Scholar, with Dr John Burke returning to Emmanuel to take over organist duties. TS

Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 14th January 2019

One of J S Bach's favourite works was the monumental *Livre d'Orgue* by Nicolas de Grigny, and the influence of this work can be heard very clearly in the *Fantasia in G major BWV 572*, also known by its alternative French title of *Pièce d'Orgue*, which provided the sparkling opening to today's recital.

Next, to a composer who died last summer at the age of 90, Piet Kee. Thomas was introduced to him in the mid 90's by Peter Hurford, and indeed Thomas premiered his organ concerto. Thomas will shortly be playing two pieces by Piet Kee in Amsterdam, so hence a run out today for '*Passion Chorale*' (*O sacred head sore wounded*), followed by *Fantasia on Wacht auf* (*Sleepers awake*), a dramatic piece sounding rather improvisatory.

Next to Percy Whilock and the two middle movements of his *Sonata in C Minor*, with *Canzona* featuring the Cor Anglais stop, then the jolly *Scherzetto*. Lehar's best-known individual work, *Gold & Silver Waltz*, was followed by Hollins' *A Song of Sunshine*, played today on a fine winter's day, rather than in summer when it always seems to contrive to be cyclone conditions whenever Thomas programmes it!

Neptune is the only part of Holst's *The Planets* written for the organ, so hence Thomas's own arrangement for organ of *Jupiter*, including a brief appearance of his favourite Whitechapel Bells stop, to provide a grand climax to the recital. TS

Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Symphony Hall, Monday 28th January 2019

For the first lunchtime visit to Symphony Hall this year, the thunderous pedal entry of Liszt's homage to J S Bach, *Prelude & Fugue on B.A.C.H.*, provided the opening to today's recital. It calls on all the resources of both instrument and performer, and finally accelerates into what John Ogden referred to as '*a Mahlerian ride to the abyss*', with the *En Chamade Trumpets* much in evidence.

Next to Schumann and *Six Studies in Canonic Form*, with Thomas choosing to play the delicate third, mellow fourth and the elegant fifth studies.

Then to J S Bach himself for the centrepiece of today's programme with the 11 variations of *Chorale-partita: Sei gegrüsset, BWV 768*. The work is framed by two contrasting statements of the tune – a plain four-part harmonisation at the start, and an elaborate five-part harmonisation at the end - displaying the wide range of colours of the Klais organ.

Judith Weir is the current Master of the Queen's Music, and her contemporary work *Ettrick Banks* is loosely based on the traditional Scottish air of the same name, which

Thomas described as 'exhilarating to play, and hopefully to listen to.'

Henri Mulet's *Carillon-Sortie*, referred to by Thomas as a 'French pot-boiler', provided a thrilling climax to yet another masterful recital. TS

VACANCIES

Church Musician, St Matthew's, Perry Beeches

This position still remains unfilled. For details, see our website at: www.iao.org.uk/lichfield/links.

St Augustine's Church, Rugeley, is seeking a new organist and keyboard player.

St Augustine's is an open, inclusive church with a flexible liturgical tradition. We have a growing choir with an excellent director with whom our new organist/keyboard player will work closely. We are entering a new phase of music ministry. Our overall vision for music is to develop musical excellence both in our regular worship services, and as a means of bringing people from our wider community together to sing in a variety of settings. We recognise the value of music and singing as a means of fostering wellbeing, and are keen to explore the therapeutic value of music and singing. We have local connections with musicians in our schools, and are keen to explore the development of all age and young people's choirs.

A full role description and person specification is available at <http://www.brteamministry.org/work-opportunities/> For an informal conversation with the Incumbent about this post email davidmaevans1@gmail.com.

Organist and Choir Leader, St. Michael's Church, Brereton, The Parish of Brereton and Rugeley

St. Michael's is a small Church with a congregation of around 35-45. Music plays a key part in our worship, helping us reflect, worship God and uplifting us. Our current organist is retiring and we are looking for a new organist to enable our worship. So, if you love to play the organ, are interested in working with a traditional church which is also open to new initiatives, and would like to join a church that is trying to work out how music can be enhanced in our worship, then St. Michael's could be the place for you. We are keen to find an organist who can also lead, inspire and grow our small, loyal and enthusiastic choir.

Our Sunday 9:45am Holy Communion Service is traditional in style, with a small, robed choir - the Gloria is sung, as well as popular hymns. We also have monthly Evensong and occasionally other services requiring an organist. The organ is a two manual pipe organ, which is regularly maintained. We offer an annual retainer fee of £2,000 payable monthly, in addition to wedding and funeral fees.

For more information, please see: <http://www.brteamministry.org/work-opportunities/> for a role description, or contact Rev'd Georgina Holding: rev.georgeholding@hotmail.com / 01889 801077

Director of Music, St Mary's, Old Swinford, Stourbridge

St Mary's has a strong choral tradition with a mixed (children and adults) S.A.T.B. robed choir and a good 3 manual 35 stop pipe organ. There are currently two sung services each Sunday, monthly Choral Evensong, and a rehearsal each Friday evening in term time.

Our Director of Music has relocated and we seek to appoint as his successor an experienced choir trainer and competent organist.

Remuneration according to the RSCM scale, plus fees for weddings and funerals. For further information please contact: Parish Administrator John Sutton on 01384 441003 or via st.mary.os@btconnect.com

Organist & choir-leader required at All Saints' Church, Sudbury.

Wonderful well maintained 3 manual organ, and delightful appreciative choir and congregation.

Usually no evening services, with services on second, third and occasional fourth Sunday mornings. Twice a year there will be a Benefice service on the first Sunday morning of the month.

Choir practices are held before services on the second and third Sunday mornings. This arrangement was to suit the current organist, who has now moved to Stafford, and is the reason for the vacancy. Fees by negotiation with the PCC, and further information can be obtained by informal discussion with the organist.

Please email: jezzdutton@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Martyn Rawles

In addition to his Lichfield Cathedral duties, Martyn will be playing the following recitals:

- Tuesday 2nd April 2019 from 1.15 to 2pm at Cheltenham College Chapel
- Thursday 11th April 2019 from 1.15 to 1.55pm, making a return visit to the church in which he was a young chorister, St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.

Cathy Lamb

In addition to her Lichfield Cathedral School/Lichfield Cathedral duties, Cathy will be playing the following recitals:

- Wednesday 11th September 2019 from 12.30 to 1.15pm at St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent
- Saturday 23rd November 2019 from 12.00 to 1.10 at Victoria Hall, Hanley

Angela Sones

Angela will be giving a recital on Palm Sunday 14th April at 8pm at Mountsorrel Methodist Church.

Simon Lumby

Simon will be giving the following recitals:

- Thursday 28th March from 1 to 1.30pm at Bishop Street Methodist Church, Leicester
- Sunday 16th June 2019 at 8pm at Mountsorrel Methodist Church.

Alex Goldsmith

LDOA student member Alex will be giving a recital with George Gillow on Saturday 14th September from 12.00 to 1.10pm at Victoria Hall Hanley.

Callum Alger

Following his success in the IAO/RCO 2018 Music Festival at Peterborough, LDOA student member Callum will be performing the following recitals:

- Thursday 21st February 2019, from 1.05 to 1.45pm at Wells Cathedral.
- Thursday 7th March 2019 at 1.15pm at St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham, part of the 'Thursday Live' series of recitals organised by Paul Carr.
- Sunday 5th May 2019 from 4.45 to 5.15pm at Westminster Cathedral, London, the cathedral where he will be taking up his appointment as Organ Scholar in September 2019.
- Saturday 15th June 2019 at 1pm at St Laurence, Ludlow, with Josh Roebuck
- Friday 21st June 2019 from 1.15 to 2pm at St Mary's, Warwick
- Saturday 20th July 2019 at 11.15am at Broadway URC, Walsall.

Richard Syner

See recitals listing below for St Modwen's

Tony Westerman

See recitals listing below for St Modwen's

Stanley Monkhouse

See recitals listing below for St Modwen's

St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

Following the very successful recitals series of 2017 and 2018, LDOA member Tony Westerman has lost no time in fixing dates for the 2019 recitals at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent on Wednesdays at 12.30pm, lasting approx. 40 minutes. The recitals include six given by LDOA members, as detailed below:

Music for Reflection:

- 3rd April 2019 – Tony Westerman (St Modwen)
- 10th April 2019 – Stanley Monkhouse (St Modwen)
- 17th April 2019 – Tom Corfield (Derby)

Summer Recitals:

- 5th June 2019 – Peter Gould (Portsmouth)
- 12th June 2019 – David Butterworth (Nottingham)
- 19th June 2019 – John Keys (Nottingham City Organist)
- 26th June 2019 – Tom Corfield (Derby)
- 3rd July 2019 – Ben Mills (Keble College, Oxford)
- 10th July - Hans Uwe Hielscher (Wiesbaden Lutheran Cathedral)
- 4th September – Richard Syner (Burton-on-Trent)
- 11th September – Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral School)

18th September – Tony Westerman (St Modwen)
25th September – Stanley Monkhouse (St Modwen)

Broadway URC

LDOA member and Broadway URC Organist & Choir-director Alan Taylor is noted for fostering the careers of talented young organists, giving them recital opportunities on the fine 4 manual organ at Broadway. Alan has secured the services of more talented young organists to give recitals for summer 2019. The Saturday morning 'Coffee & Cake' recitals commence at 11.15 am, with details as follows:

- 15th June 2019 – Dylan McCaig (Organ Scholar, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)
- 20th July 2019 – Callum Alger (Acting Director of Music, St Peter's Wolverhampton, and an LDOA student member)
- 24th August 2019 – William Fox (Sub Organist, St Paul's Cathedral, London)
- 14th September 2019, Anniversary Celebration – organist t.b.a.

Recitals In Local Area (to end of March 2019)

February 2019

Frid 1 February 2019 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel, Wyld Green
Nicholas Morris (St George's, Hanover Square)

Frid 1 February 2019 • 1.15 to 2.00 • St Mary's, Warwick
Samuel Bristow (Birmingham Cathedral)

Sun 3 February 2019 • 3.00 to 3.45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Thurs 7 February 2019 • 1.15 to 1.55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 11 February 2019 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Frid 15 February 2019 • 1.15 to 2.00 • St Mary's, Warwick
Mark Swinton (St Mary's, Warwick)

Sat 16 February 2019 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Malvern Priory
Gary Sieling (Reading)

Sat 23 February 2019 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Donald MacKenzie (Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square, London)

Mon 25 February 2019 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Thurs 28 February 2019 • 12.15 to 12.55 • Worcester Cathedral
Peter King (Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey)

March 2019

Frid 1 March 2019 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel, Wyld Green
Ashley Wagner (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

Frid 1 March 2019 • 1.15 to 2.00 • St Mary's, Warwick
Mark Swinton (St Mary's, Warwick)

Sat 2 March 2019 • 5.00 to 6.00 • Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon
Paul Dewhurst (Leeds Minster)

Sun 3 March 2019 • 3.00 to 3.45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Tues 5 March 2019 • 7.30 to 8.30 • St Andrew's, Netherton, Dudley
Paul Carr (Birmingham). 'Pipes & Pancakes' event, with the £7 admission charge including a pancake supper.

Thurs 7 March 2019 • 1.15 to 1.55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Callum Alger (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

Thurs 7 March 2019 • 12.15 to 12.55 • Worcester Cathedral
James Lancelot (Organist Emeritus, Durham Cathedral)

Mon 11 March 2019 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Symphony Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist) & the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir

Thurs 14 March 2019 • 12.15 to 12.55 • Worcester Cathedral
Matthew Martin (Keble College, Oxford)

Thurs 21 March 2019 • 7.30 • Emmanuel, Wyld Green
Featuring Josh Roebuck (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire). Poulenc's *Organ Concerto*, plus organ works by Alain and Duruflé, plus Duruflé *Requiem* for small orchestra and organ

Thurs 7 March 2019 • 12.15 to 12.55 • Worcester Cathedral
Yvette Murphy (London)

Sat 23 March 2019 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Michael Rhodes (Victoria Hall, Hanley)

Sat 23 March 2019 • 2.00 to 4.00 • St Peter's, Cradley
Damon Willetts & Cameron Lloyd

Sat 23 March 2019 • 11.00 • St Mary's, Stafford
Harry Hitchen

Mon 25 March 2019 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Sat 30 March 2019 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Malvern Priory
Stephen Moore (Llandaff Cathedral)

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

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

[LICHFIELD & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION CONTACTS](#)

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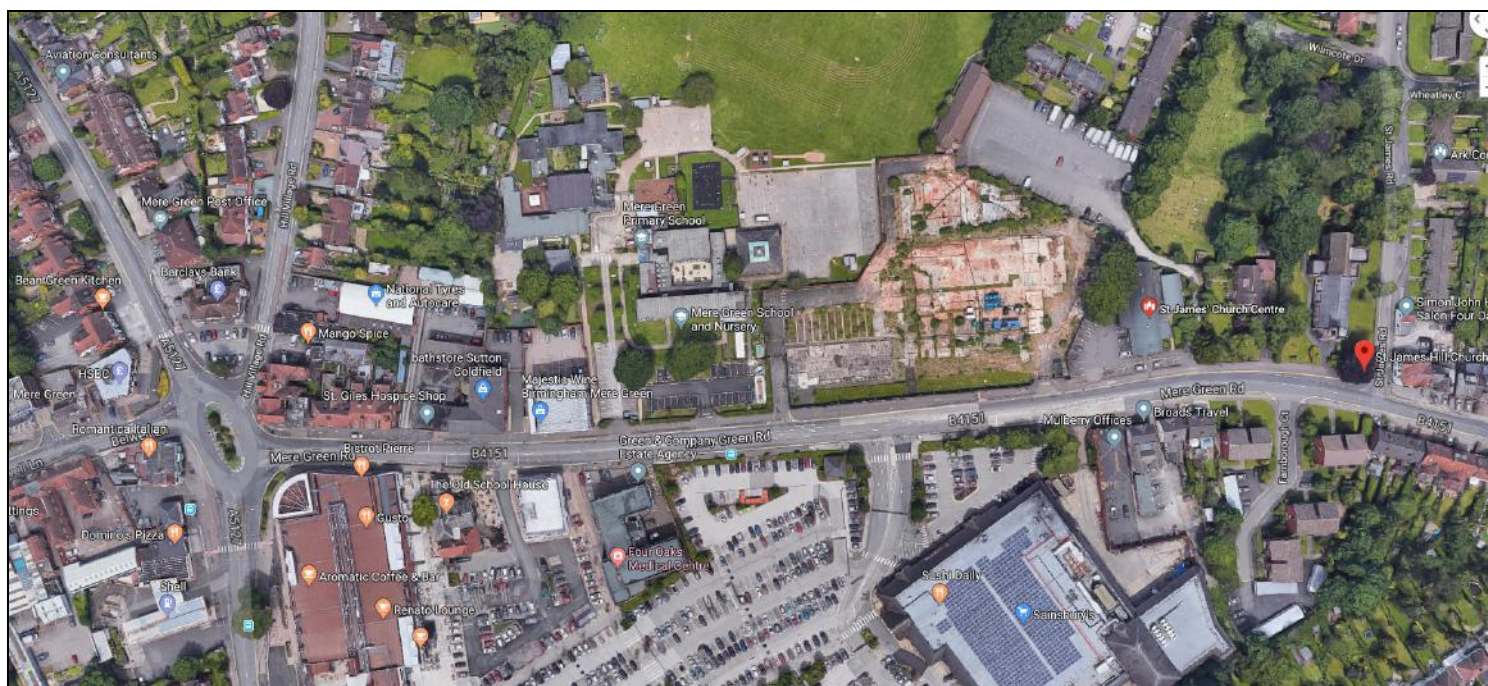
Committee Member – Chris Booth, 01922 685221, e-mail c_booth1990@yahoo.co.uk

Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for April 2019, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/03/19, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA

[APPENDIX](#)

[Directions for the visit to St James Hill, Mere Green on Saturday 9th March 2019](#)

St James Hill Church, Mere Green Rd, Mere Green, Sutton Coldfield B75 5BW, is accessed from the A5127 Lichfield Road by taking the B4151 Mere Green Rd exit at the Mere Green roundabout. The St James Church Centre is at No 61 some 400 meters along on the left, with some parking spaces at the centre, but more parking available to the rear at weekends. The church is next to the Church Centre, at the junction of Mere Green Road and St James Road.



[Location of St James Hill Church, Mere Green \(marked with red map pin centre right\)](#)