

**FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 – Vierne Day in Derby**

Not an LDOA event, but Derby & District Organists' Association has kindly invited LDOA members to join them for an event they have organised to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Louis Vierne's birth in 1870.



Louis Vierne

**At St John's Church, Bridge Street, Derby, DE1 3HZ**

2.00 pm: *24 pièces en style libre* – a Workshop led by David Cowen

3.45 pm: Tea or Coffee

4.00 pm: Vierne in context – a talk by Stephen Johns and Tom Corfield

5.30 pm: Sandwich Tea

**At Derby Cathedral:**

7.00 pm: a Vierne recital given by Alex Binns and Ed Turner

Admission: £12 for the whole event: £6 for the recital (Afternoon session free for DDOA members). For further information and details see [www.derbyorganists.co.uk](http://www.derbyorganists.co.uk)

Afternoon Workshop with David Cowen at St John's Church, Derby. David is a specialist in the 19th and early 20th century French repertoire. He is Associate Organist at Leicester Cathedral and has extensive performing and teaching commitments in the Leicester region.

DDOA welcomes players for this part of the day, particularly, but not exclusively, from student organists. If you would like to work with David, we ask that you prepare two pieces from *24 Pièces En Style Libre*.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 – AGM and visit to Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield**

At the invitation of Stella Thebridge, a visit to Holy Trinity Parish Church Sutton Coldfield, commencing at 2pm with our 2020 AGM, then an opportunity to play the 3 manual Allen L-343 Bravura digital organ with Willis voicing. The organ has a very comprehensive specification, with some 62 speaking stops, plus 2 programmable stops per division, and with a choice of sounds from a library of 200 samples. See Appendix for map/directions.



The Allen Bravura organ of Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield, with David Rice, DoM of Holy Trinity in 2018

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – talk and visit to All Saints Alrewas**

Courtesy of Rev John Allan and LDOA member Chris Greenhalgh, an evening visit commencing at 7.30pm with a talk by Stephen Alliss, Head Tuner at Harrison & Harrison. When he was Director of Music at St Michael's Lichfield, and St Mary's Lichfield, Stephen was also an LDOA member. He is now responsible for the tuning of a number of major organs, including of course the Hill organ at Lichfield Cathedral. Having worked on the new organ at Canterbury Cathedral in 2019, he will spend the beginning of 2020 assisting the tonal finishing of the recently overhauled organ at Salisbury Cathedral, so is well

qualified to offer a unique insight into the organ tuner's world.

Then an opportunity to play the two manual 1882 Brindley & Foster organ, which is little changed from that originally installed.

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – visit to St John the Baptist, Armitage**

Visit commencing at 2pm to St John the Baptist, Armitage, courtesy of Organist and LDOA member Liz Shaw, to play the historic 1789 Samuel Green 3 manual 31 stop organ, which used to be in Lichfield Cathedral, before being moved here in 1865 and installed by Holdich.

This interesting organ has Samuel Green's version of 1/5th comma meantone tuning, and is the only extant 18th century ex-cathedral organ in virtually original condition remaining in the UK today.

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Members' Recital at All Saints' Four Oaks**

A return visit courtesy of Rev Adrian Leahy and LDOA member and Director of Music Angela Sones to All Saints Four Oaks for our Members' Recital, commencing at 2pm.

An opportunity to renew acquaintances with the superb 4 manual 60 stop organ, and members willing to offer their services to play a 'slot' in this recital are invited to contact Richard Syner.

Members are invited to bring along partners/guests to this event, to which members of All Saints' Church will also be invited. Raffle and refreshments at the interval, with retiring collection.

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 visit to Rugby**

What promises to be a terrific day in Rugby, visiting two venues with no less than 5 organs between them!

First, at the invitation of Director of Music Dr Richard Dunster-Sigtermans, a visit commencing at 11am to St Andrew's Church in the centre of Rugby, where there's a 3 manual 48 stop organ, completely rebuilt by Hill, Norman & Beard in 1963, and more recently overhauled by Peter Spencer in 2005-7.

Then, with plenty of eateries in the centre of Rugby to choose from for lunch, a five-minute walk takes us to the prestigious Rugby School, the home of rugby, but also home to no less than four organs. Visit commencing at 1pm at the invitation of Director of Music Richard Tanner.

In the breathtakingly beautiful School Chapel, there is a magnificent 4 manual 55 speaking stop Kenneth Jones & Associates organ, on which the opening recital was given by Nicholas Kynaston in 2001. Nicholson has just carried out a refurbishment, and a re-opening recital by the international concert organist David Briggs is planned for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm, if you'd like to hear this organ played in advance of our visit.

There is also a 3 manual 32 stop Bryceson organ in the Temple Speech Room, a 2 manual 6 stop Harrison &

Harrison organ in the Memorial Chapel, and a 2 manual 5 stop Škrabl of Slovenia organ in the Music School.

### **Other 2020 visits/events in the pipeline**

President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral, a November visit, and our Annual Dinner at a local hostelry.

### **RECENT LDOA VISITS/EVENTS**

#### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – visit to Derby**

##### **St Luke's Church, Derby**

Having been warned that St Luke's Derby was having boiler problems, and that there would be no heating in the church, a creditable 14 members turned up with scarves on a January day to visit St Luke's, where we were welcomed by Churchwarden Barry Brough. Until his move to St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent a few years ago, LDOA member Tony Westerman had been Organist & Choirmaster here for over 18 years, so he was able to provide us with a brief history of the church and its organ, providing helpful copies of its history.

The first worshippers used a wooden hut, which came from the grounds of a local hospital in 1867, and it was into this hut holding 100 people, that Ian Abbott, previously employed by William Hill, installed his first instrument. Frances Alice Moss was largely responsible for the founding and funding of the new church, and the foundation stone was laid in 1870, the church being consecrated in 1871 by George Augustus Selwyn DD, 91<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Lichfield. At this time, the area was very industrialised, with textile mills, a foundry, and rows of terraced houses for the workers.



The East End chancel with high altar of St Luke's Church Derby, and with the organ just visible on the north side

The church has a large nave with a lofty ceiling, an apsidal chancel, and beneath the chancel a crypt, still used for weekday services, and which Barry Brough lead us down a winding staircase to view. A slender 140ft high tower houses the heaviest ring of bells in Derbyshire.

The original small Abbott organ was moved into the new church, but was clearly inadequate for a church seating 600-700 people, and in 1881 the present organ was provided by Isaac Abbott, his Op 62. It was hand blown until 1912. Adkins did work on the organ in 1918, then

John Poyser worked on the organ for many years. In 1982 he was asked to clean the instrument and restore it to a playable condition, but a few weeks after the work was completed, the boiler chimney collapsed during a gale, crashing into the organ chamber, damaging pipes and covering the organ with dirt and water yet again.

Tony Westerman recalls that when he first began playing this organ in the mid 1990's, it was playable but in poor condition. Ingress of grit from the friable sandstone from which the church is made, and then in 2000 storms again deluged the organ, led to Peter Collins carrying out work on the Great and treble Pedal chests. The work on the latter was however only partially successful. In 2003 Ed Stow cleaned the Swell and continued to look after the organ until in 2015 Malcolm Spink of Leeds carried out the most recent phase of the organ's restoration, but the recent lack of heating in the church has not helped. Indeed, when Tony tried out the organ today, there was a persistent cypher on the Swell, and Tony warned us that whilst the pedals have been electrified, the manuals tracker action is still heavy, particularly when coupled.



Tony Westerman demonstrating the organ of St Luke's, Derby



Angela Sones at the organ of St Luke's Church, Derby, with Mike Rudd on page turning duty



The organ of St Luke's Church, Derby

With the Swell cypher now cleared, Tony played a short improvisation to demonstrate the 31-speaking stop 3 manual organ, and it does indeed have a fine quality to the sound, helped by the favourable acoustic of this spacious church.

Tony then handed over to LDOA members, with Mike Rudd first up playing three pieces from J S Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*. Peter King followed with *Introduction & Fugue in B<sup>b</sup>* by Maurice Greene, then Angela Sones also playing Bach, *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam BWV 684*, followed by Paul Geoghegan with his customary improvisation.

Our thanks for Barry Brough for providing access to the church.

### St Osmund's Church, Derby

A short drive down London Road took us St Osmund's Church, which was consecrated in 1905, and where we were met by Kath Cawdell, with very welcome hot drinks after the chill of St Luke's. Richard Syner set out music, kindly donated by LDOA member Colin Brookes, for members to peruse.

In the absence of anyone from the church who could provide any history of the much-travelled organ, Trevor Smedley contributed some details extracted from the NPOR.

The organ dates originally from 1875, when it was built for Christ Church Brixton by Hunter, a builder not often encountered in the Midlands. Alfred Hunter, a Londoner, was born in 1827, apprenticed to G M Holdich, and then went to work for Henry Bevington, before joining J C Bishop in the early 1850's. Along with a fellow craftsman at Bishop's, they set up their own company in 1856 in Lambeth. From 1881 Alfred ran the company, now relocated to Clapham, on his own until his son Robert joined him, and the company became A Hunter & Son. The NPOR records 258 Hunter organs, many in Greater London, but there will have been many more, and the company was eventually bought by Henry Willis III in 1937. Willis did some alterations to the organ in 1919, whilst it was still at Brixton, and then in 1996 it was moved to Queen's Hall Methodist Church, Derby, by Matthew Copley, with modifications including incorporating some pipework from the previous fire damaged Conacher organ.

In 2013, the Queen's Hall Methodist Church became redundant, and the organ was moved once again, to St Osmund's by Ed Stow (Derby), replacing a Bishop & Sons organ, Ed was assisted in the installation by John Maxwell-Jones, who is both an LDOA and a DDOA member, and joined us for today's visit. The 4' Clarion rank that used to be in the original Hunter organ, and which had been in storage, was re-installed on the Swell. The 30 stop 2 manual organ is located on the gallery, and has electric action to the pedals, with tracker action for the manuals and stops.



Peter King at the organ of St Osmund's Church, Derby,  
with Richard Syner assisting

Karen Thompson was first to negotiate the tight access down the side of the organ to the console, followed by John Carvell, Angela Sones (*Toccata*, from J S Bach's *Toccata, Adagio & Fugue*), Peter King, Paul Geoghegan, Mike Rudd (Buxtehude's *Prelude BuxWV 150*) and Trevor Smedley (Mendelssohn's *Sonata No 1*, final movement).

Our thanks to Kath Cawdell for looking after us and providing much appreciated hot drinks.

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Tony Westerman appointment

St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent Organist Tony Westerman is a member of both our association and Derby & District Organists' Association. At the DDOA AGM on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Tony was elected as Chairman, taking over from Margaret Eades.

Our congratulations to Tony on his appointment.

### Henry Metcalfe appointment

Our student member Henry Metcalfe commenced reading for a Degree in Music at King's College, London in September 2019, and has just completed an enjoyable first term. An attraction of King's College for Henry was the many opportunities for organists presented by being based in London, and having been Organ Scholar at Hereford Cathedral for 2018/19, he has now been appointed Organ Scholar at St Mary's Bourne Street.

Whilst Henry no longer has the privilege of playing the splendid Willis organ of Hereford Cathedral, he does now have at St Mary's a fine 3 manual 40 stop organ originally by Lewis & Co, but rebuilt in its present form by Henry Willis in 1928, with some further work carried out by Mander in 1984, and followed by a major restoration by Harrison & Harrison in 2006.

## NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

### 2020 Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2020. Membership is £12 for individual 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 number 00430916  
Sort code 30-95-04

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

Despite a great deal of time and effort being expended, it took until June last year to obtain subscriptions from all members, so for any members who have yet to pay, can we please request your co-operation this time in paying without further delay.

### Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm.

## [NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD](#)

### **Martin Baker resigns as Master of Music, Westminster Cathedral**

Martin Baker has resigned as Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, the diocese has announced. In a brief statement, the Diocese of Westminster said that his resignation had taken effect on New Year's Eve. The statement said: "Yesterday it was announced: 'It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Martin Baker as Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral with effect from 31 December 2019. We take the opportunity to thank him for his dedication and service over the past two decades and wish him the very best in his future career'.

"Today the Diocese will start to address these new circumstances created by Mr Baker's resignation. A further announcement will be made in the coming weeks."

It is understood that Martin Baker, who has served as Master of Music since 2000, had urged Cardinal Vincent Nichols not to approve changes to the Westminster Cathedral Choir School timetable, which parents argued would put the cathedral's musical heritage at risk.

The changes saw the school become five-days-a-week boarding rather than seven, with parents having to take children home on Friday evening and return them on Sunday morning before the 10.30am Mass. The boys no longer sing at Mass on Friday or Saturday. David Heminway, chair of the governors, said in a letter to parents last May that it was "becoming increasingly difficult" to recruit boys, and that parents had said they wanted to see their children more.

PS. As our student member Callum Alger is the Organ Scholar at Westminster Cathedral, Martin Baker's sudden departure means that they now have only two organists instead of their usual four, which must be presenting Callum with a challenge, but also an opportunity to which he will no doubt rise!

### **Orgelkids – an interesting approach to stimulating the interest of children in the organ**

There have been a number of initiatives in the UK to stimulate interest in the organ by children, such as the WOOFYT (Wooden One Octave For Young Technologists) idea, and Derby & District Organists Association CATO (Children And The Organ) initiative, but a project that has garnered international interest and has just reached the UK sounds particularly promising.

In 2008, retired organ builder Wim Janssen built a small pipe organ in the form of a kit that could be taken into schools, ideally at primary level, or used in public outreach events. In less than one hour, a fully functioning pipe organ with a two-octave keyboard and two ranks of pipes can be assembled without using tools. What is more, all the action, even inside the windchest, can be seen. An educational programme called Orgelkids was set up in the Netherlands to promote understanding of how traditional pipe organs are built and function based on this organ. Dutch organbuilders Verscheuw Orgelbouw refined the prototype organ and made plans available. The Orgelkids idea has taken off all over the world, with some 40 organ

kits in use, and has now arrived in the UK, The Orgelkids UK organ was launched at the Bloomsbury Organ Day in January 2019, and was first used in a school in October 2019.



The Orgelkids organ kit will fit into the boot of a standard car, and can be assembled by a class of schoolchildren, or a group of adults, to give a fully functional musical instrument with almost all of the essential features of the 'King of Instruments'. The kit is made using traditional organ building materials: oak, leather and brass. Once assembled, the organ is pumped by hand and either one, or both, of the ranks of pipes sound by pulling out the appropriate sliders. The action of the keys to open the pallets can be observed through a window. No tools are required for assembly. The UK organ builder At the Sign of the Pipe ([www.signofthepipe.com](http://www.signofthepipe.com)) offers the Orgelkids organ for sale or hire in the UK. Purchase price (June 2019): £4500.

The English-language pages of the Orgelkids website (<http://www.orgelkids.nl/?lang=en>) gives extra background information on the organ, including a video.

### **End in sight for two major UK organ restorations**

Two major cathedral organ restoration projects by Harrison & Harrison are nearing completion:

#### **Canterbury Cathedral**

Commenced in 2018, a project by Harrison & Harrison to restore and enhance the Father Willis organ of Canterbury Cathedral is nearing completion, which will effectively result in a new organ of 4 manuals and 83 stops, plus an existing Nave division of 6 stops. Now at the voicing stage, a sold out event to be held in the Quire is planned for 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 when Organist & Master of the Choristers,

David Flood, will explain his vision for the instrument and Head Voicer Andrew Scott will explain what 'voicing' an organ entails and show some of the pipes at close range. With the help of David Flood, Andrew will play some of the pipes to give an idea quite how splendid the new quire organ is going to sound when completed.

### Salisbury Cathedral

In a £700,000 project commenced a year ago, Harrison & Harrison are restoring the 4 manual 65 stop Henry Willis organ of Salisbury Cathedral. The work involves cleaning, restoration, with new electro-pneumatic actions, conservative revision of the wind system, and consolidation of the 1934 Pedal chorus. Voicing is planned for January/February 2020, and Head Voicer Andrew Scott is scheduled to give an introduction to the process of 'voicing' of the newly restored organ, to be held in the Quire on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### Hugh Blair: Worcester's Forgotten Organist

This title of a new book by Kevin Allen is an account of the life and career of Hugh Blair, whose career never really recovered from his dismissal from Worcester Cathedral, following a drinking scandal, leading him to pursue a career in London. With 320 pages, the book is priced at £30, and is available from the author Kevin Allen, 2 Milford Court, Gale Moor Avenue, Alverstoke, Hants, PO12 2TN, or via: [allenkevcar@aol.com](mailto:allenkevcar@aol.com)

## LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

### 2020 Organ Recitals

Details of the 'Music for Reflection' summer lunchtime recitals and the autumn evening organ recitals will be listed once released.

### Lichfield Cathedral Chorus Concert

Lichfield Cathedral Chorus, under Director of Music Ben Lamb, will join forces with a large Darwin Ensemble Chamber Orchestra and an array of talented soloists to present Elgar's moving *The Kingdom Op 51* at 7.30 on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 at Lichfield Cathedral.

## IAO/RCO MATTERS

### IAO London Organ Day 2020

The 34<sup>th</sup> London Organ Day will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Union Chapel and St John's, Islington, with the theme of *Bach Kaleidoscope*, charting Bach performance on the organ in the UK over the last two centuries.

The day commences with registration at 9.30am and ends with a recital by Martin Baker which is expected to finish at 5pm.

Full details and booking on-line via:

<https://iao.org.uk/newsevents/london-organ-day/>

### IAO Music Festival 2020

The next IAO Music Festival will take place in Edinburgh, where the new IAO President Dr John Kitchen is based, from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The programme will include:

- A celebrity recital on the Reiger organ of St Giles Cathedral by Naji Hakim
- Visits/recitals on the organs of Paisley Abbey by Andrew Forbes, and Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum Glasgow by John Kitchen
- A performance by John Kitchen in Greyfriars Kirk of Couperin's *Messes pour les Paroisses*, with a plainsong choir
- A recital by John Kitchen at Usher Hall
- An organ recital in Canongate Kirk by Paul Stubbings
- The Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments and a concert by the Kellie Consort in St Cecilia's Hall, University of Edinburgh
- A talk by Paul Baxter, MD of Delphian Records, about the recordings he has made with the choir of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral
- Organ Competition in conjunction with the RCO in St Cuthbert's Church

Full details, and on-line booking arrangements are available via: <https://iao.org.uk/festival-invitation/>

Alan Taylor advises that early booking of hotel accommodation in the centre of Edinburgh is essential.

### IAO Midlands Organ Day 2020

- The 2020 Midlands Organ Day will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in Northampton. The event will be based at St Matthew's Church and All Saints' Church, and have a theme of 'Liturgical Playing', based on masterclasses lead by Simon Johnson and Richard Pinel
- Evening organ recital by Simon Johnson and Richard Pinel at St Matthew's Church, Northampton, on the Walker organ, which celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020.

### Lyme Regis Winter Organ Course 2020

Based at St Michael the Archangel, Lyme Regis and St Mary's Axminster, this annual course runs from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, with the theme *German Romantic music from Mendelssohn to Karg-Elert*, and with tutors including our past president Phil Scriven, and Peter King. For more details, see the South Wessex Organ Society website: <https://sworgansociety.org/tutorial-team/winter-organ-course-2020/>

### RCO announces new National Organ Day for 2020

The Royal College of Organists (RCO) has announced plans to hold a National Organ Day on Saturday 18 April 2020, as the centrepiece of a year of outreach to promote the organ as an instrument, and improve access to those interested in learning to play.

The RCO is appealing to every building in the UK which houses an organ to open its doors on 18 April, creating a

unique opportunity for people to hear and explore the wealth of organs, large and small, to be found throughout the UK.

At a time when fewer people regularly hear an organ being played, the RCO hopes this day of musical celebration will inspire new generations of enthusiasts to consider playing the "King of Instruments".

The day, which coincides with International Day for Monuments and Sites (also known as World Heritage Day) will include a series of national events organised by the College, including talks, workshops and performances designed to appeal to schools, colleges, music venues, churches and people of all ages. These will take place in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Truro, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

Full details of how to participate in National Organ Day will be released shortly. A pack containing downloadable posters and suggestions for activities will be available, and venues will be able to register their participation so that their details can be included in the promotional activity for the day. The RCO will also be compiling photographs and reports from around the UK as a record of the inaugural National Organ Day.

Details will be found at [www.rco.org.uk](http://www.rco.org.uk) as soon as they are available, and College Members will be kept informed through RCO e-News, January's edition of RCO News, and via their usual pages on Facebook and Twitter.

## RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

### Pat Neville recital at Trinity Methodist Church Shenstone, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

For last year's Advent/Christmas recital, Pat had had a nasty fall, and LDOA member Bernard Salter stepped in at short notice to give the recital. Thankfully this year Pat was able to give the recital herself and it was so well-supported that additional chairs had to be set out.

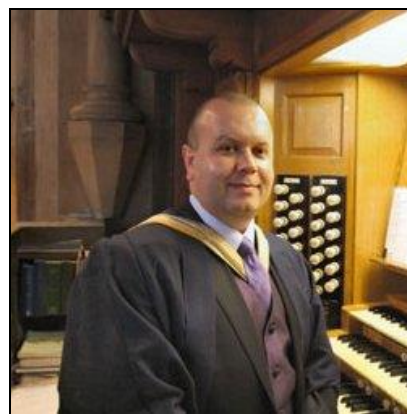
Playing Christmas carol inspired works by various composers, including four by Noel Rawsthorne and two by W S Lloyd Webber, audience participation was required guessing the carols on which some of the pieces were based, and the singing of two seasonal hymns.

Enthusiastic applause as usual in appreciation of Pat's hard work learning the pieces for the recital. TS

### Darren Hogg recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Emmanuel DoM Richard Mason has known today's recitalist, Darren Hogg, since he played for him at Bannersgate. Darren was born and educated in Birmingham and trained at Birmingham Conservatoire from 1989 to 1993, studying organ, harpsichord and piano accompaniment with David Ponsford and David Saint. Whilst at the Conservatoire, he won BMI Organ Performance Prize and the Gordon Clinton song Competition Piano Accompaniment Prize. He is currently Organist at Halesowen Parish Church and St Leonard's Church Frankley. As a freelance musician, he has played

for services at many churches throughout the country and regularly gives recitals.



Darren Hogg

For this season of Advent, Darren opened with the flashy *Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'* by Andrew Carter. Then followed three settings from the *18 Leizig Chorales* by J S Bach, *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 659-661*. Next to another lively work, this time courtesy of Flor Peters, *Toccata, Fugue and Hymne on 'Ave Maria Stella'*.

A return to J S Bach for the popular *In Duci Jubilo BWV 729*, followed by Mark Blatchly's *Versets on 'Away in a Manger'*, with the theme followed by three variations. To close, Darren chose a work new to me, but with which I was quite taken, *Postlude on Mendelssohn (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)* by David Willcocks, from 'The Oxford Book of Christmas Organ Music', which would certainly make a very nice closing voluntary for an Advent service.

A very 'full on' recital, which gave a good workout for the organ and its now repaired blower. TS

### Sing Carols with Thomas Trotter and Lichfield Cathedral Choir at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Not a Thomas Trotter organ recital, but a concert in which he was joined by Lichfield Cathedral Choir, directed by Ben Lamb and Martyn Rawles, for a well-attended seasonal sing-along and Yuletide music, introduced by broadcaster Jeremy Nicholas.

After audience participation in three carols, the choir under the direction of Martyn Rawles sang *A Spotless Rose* by Howells, then John Rutter's *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*. Following audience participation in two more carols, and a reading by Jeremy Nicholas, it was back to the choir directed this time by Ben Lamb for Poulenc's *Quem Vidistis* and *Come, see the infant King* by Disraeli Brown.

Having contributed his usual superbly judged accompaniment to the singing, it was over to Thomas for a solo 'spot', playing Garth Edmundson's thrilling *Toccata: Vom Himmel hoch*.

A final contribution from choir, audience and Thomas with, of course, *O come all ye faithful*, to end a splendid concert and send everyone home full of the joy of Christmas. TS

**Richard Dawson recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green,  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

Richard Dawson was scheduled to give a recital at Emmanuel for the 2018/19 series, but illness forced him to cancel, Ashley Wagner standing in at less than 24 hours' notice. Thankfully, no such problem this time!

Our contact with Richard Dawson in fact goes back ten years, to June 2010, when Richard Mason hosted a visit to Emmanuel by our Association, and called upon his then Organ Scholar and chorister, Richard Dawson, to play Duruflé's *Prelude et Fugue sur le nom D'Alain*. Even then it was very evident that he was a young man with a promising future career.

Richard is currently the Director of Music at Barnard Castle School in County Durham. Prior to this, he was the Deputy Director of Music & Head of Academic Music at Brighton College, Musical Director of the Esterházy Chamber Choir and Director of Music and Organist at St Paul's Church, Brighton.

Richard read music at the University of Oxford, when he was also the Organ Scholar at Keble College. He was also organist at the Church of St Mary Magdalen, Oxford, Conductor and Manager of the Oxford University Student Chorus, as well as Founder and Director of the 8-16 voice chamber choir, the Henry Ley Singers. He is in demand as an organ recitalist, liturgical organist, piano accompanist, choral conductor, and tutor of organ, piano and music theory.



Richard Dawson taking his bow at Emmanuel Wylde Green

Richard was programmed to play what he was due to play on his aborted visit, but in a change to the published programme, he opened with two J S Bach pieces he first learnt here at Emmanuel with Andrew Fletcher, who happened to be in the audience today. First, *Prelude &*

*Fugue in G Major BWV 541*, followed by *Trio Sonata No 1 in E Flat BWV 525*.

Next to two pieces with a York connection, both scores being purchased by him in York, starting with *Impromptu Op 5*, Francis Jackson's first published composition, and with Richard's copy signed for him by the composer. It opens quietly then builds to a dramatic climax before quietening to a hushed close. Then to one of my favourite pieces, Guilmant's *Sonata No 1*, with the delightful *Pastorale* flanked by lively opening and closing movements, and providing a thrilling climax to the recital.

A nicely constructed programme, superbly performed. TS

**Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall,  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

For his first Birmingham recital of the New Year, Thomas Trotter opened with Buxtehude's *Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne BuxWV 137*, with its arresting opening pedal solo to the *Prelude*, the jolly fugue and the final *Chaconne*, with its emphatic repetitions of the theme in the pedals.

Next to J S Bach, who made his famed extended visit to hear Buxtehude play in Lübeck, and *Chorale-Partita: O Gott, du frommer Gott BWV 767*, its opening chorale being followed by eight variations. As Thomas is due to make a recording in March where he spent his university days, King's College, Cambridge, so as usual we were to be the guinea pigs for three pieces by Duruflé. First *Prelude sur L'Introit de l'Épiphanie*, followed by *Scherzo Op 2*, which unusually for a scherzo begins and ends rather dreamily. Then finally *Fugue sur le Carillon de Soissons*, the organ of which cathedral was Duruflé's favourite instrument, but now sadly silent since a storm three years ago blew in the Cathedral's west window, destroying the mechanism and many of the pipes.

Finally, to music by Wagner, described by Thomas as 'heroic and epic', eminently suited to a town hall recital, and arranged by the master of transcriptions for organ, Edwin Lemare. First the haunting *Pilgrims' Chorus*, followed by the melodic *Romance to the Evening Star*, with a grand finale featuring a spectacularly registered *The Ride of the Valkyries*. TS

**Callum Alger recital at St Alphege, Solihull,  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

Despite the challenge of covering for the loss of Martin Baker at Westminster Cathedral, fortunately Westminster Organ Scholar and LDOA student member Callum Alger was able to fulfil his recital commitments at both St Columba's URC, York last Saturday and today at St Alphege, Solihull.

The splendid historic church of St Alphege is home to a fine 3 manual 42 stop organ, which owes much to a major rebuild by Hill Normal & Beard in 1936, and ongoing maintenance by Nicholson since then. The console is sited below the organ in the chancel, but the console is hidden from the audience's view so, unusually for a lunchtime recital, we had the benefit of two screens showing a view of the organist at the console. This is a large church but the generous amount of carpeting in the church is not particularly helpful to the acoustic.



For today's recital, understandably Callum had made full use of the first three pieces played at his York recital a few days ago for the first three pieces programmed for today, opening in style with J S Bach's *Fantasia & Fugue in G Minor BWV 542*. Schumann's elegant *Canon in A<sup>b</sup> Major*, originally written for a pedal piano, followed. Next to Elgar's *Vesper Voluntaries*, with Callum playing all eight tuneful pieces, written for a small organ in Worcester, so mostly gentle works as befits the title, but closing with a satisfyingly bold final piece.

Finally, to the lively *Fanfare (from Four Extemporisations)* by Percy Whitlock, with Callum using the Choir organ, which speaks directly into the south aisle for the reeds of the fanfare, and making full use of the Bombarde for the rousing climax.

A very well-supported lunchtime recital, and a confident, well-balanced, and beautifully played programme, with nicely chosen and managed registrations. Callum is an exceptionally talented young organist, with a very bright future ahead of him, whose career progression we watch with great interest. TS

### **Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Jonathan Dove is best-known for his work in the opera house, but he is also one of the most successful composers of contemporary church music, and Thomas Trotter commissioned him in 2014 to write a work to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic organ in St Laurence's Church, Ludlow. *The Dancing Pipes* was the result, the jagged dancing rhythm of which ensured a lively opening to today's recital.

Next to more traditional fayre with J S Bach's *Trio Sonata No 4 in E Minor BWV 528*, unusually for the six sonatas this one having a slow first movement. Thomas observed that in registering the *Trio Sonatas*, he always has in mind them being played by three solo instruments, perhaps two violins and a cello, in the style of chamber music, the light dancing rhythm being very much evident in the final movement.

When the music of Bach was rediscovered in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Franz Liszt became one of his most fervent admirers, and wrote *Prelude & Fugue on BACH*, Liszt's own imaginative homage to the Master. Despite its title, it bears little resemblance to a Baroque *Prelude & Fugue*, but rather a dramatic tone-poem, building to a thrilling climax.

Next to Mendelssohn, and two movements from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with first the gentle *Nocturne*, arranged for organ by George Bennett, Organist at Lincoln Cathedral, followed by the lively *Scherzo*, arranged for organ by the Canadian organist Samuel Warren.

In the year of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vierne's birth, Thomas will be playing a whole programme of his works later in the year, but today *Carillon de Westminster*, one of Vierne's best-known works, was the choice for today's thrilling full organ finale. TS

## **VACANCIES**

### **Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield**

It is understood from Revd John Routh that progress has finally been made in their search for a Director of Music/Organist, with an appointment expected shortly.

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

As there has been no success with filling this position, the job specification is being reviewed. For more information, contact Rev'd Georgina Holding:

[rev.georgeholding@hotmail.com](mailto:rev.georgeholding@hotmail.com) /01889 801077

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

The vacancy remains unfilled. See our website [www.iao.org.uk/lichfield](http://www.iao.org.uk/lichfield) for details, or contact Alan Smith: [alansmith54@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alansmith54@tiscali.co.uk) /01889 567437

## **FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS**

### **LDOA Members' Recitals/Events**

#### Martyn Rawles

In addition to his Lichfield Cathedral duties, Martyn will be joining Paul Carr, Robert Sharpe and Paul Jeffcoat to give a *Birmingham Bach Choir Centenary Organ Recital* at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, from 2 to 3pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

#### Cathy Lamb

In addition to her Lichfield Cathedral School/Lichfield Cathedral duties, Cathy will be giving a recital on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 from 1.15 to 1.55pm at St Mary Redcliffe.

#### Angela Sones

Angela Sones is giving the following recitals:

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 from 1.10 to 1.50pm at St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham. (Bach, Reger, Franck)
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 1pm at Howden Minster, in Yorkshire's East Riding.

#### Callum Alger

LDOA student member Callum Alger, now Organ Scholar at Westminster Cathedral, will be performing the following recitals:

- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 4.45 to 5.15pm at Westminster Cathedral
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 from 1.10 to 2pm at St George's Hannover Square, London, as part of the London Handel Festival.
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 from 4.45 to 5.15pm at Westminster Cathedral

#### St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

LDOA member Tony Westerman has already fixed the following dates for the 2020 recitals at St Modwen's, although details of the recitalists have yet to be confirmed:

- Music for Reflection: 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Summer Recitals: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

#### Broadway URC, Walsall

LDOA member and Walsall URC Organist & Choir-director Alan Taylor has so far arranged the following 'Coffee & Cake' organ recitals for 2020, commencing at 11.15am:

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - Thomas Keogh (Holy Cross Priory, Leicester)
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – William Peart (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Paul Carr (Birmingham), to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organ.

#### **Recitals In Local Area (to end of March 2020)**

##### **February 2020**

Sat 1 February 2020 • 7.30 • Derby Cathedral  
Alexander Binns, Edward Turner

Sat 1 February 2020 • 12.00 to 12.45 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
Catherine Ennis (St Lawrence Jewry)

Sun 2 February 2020 • 3.00 to 4.45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Thurs 6 February 2020 • 1.15 to 1.55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
Rachel Mahon (Coventry Cathedral)

Frid 7 February 2020 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel Wyld Green  
Ben Markovic (Worcester Cathedral)

Mon 10 February 2020 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Tues 11 February 2020 • 7.00 to 9.00 • Solihull School Chapel  
David Briggs (Concert Organist)

Wed 12 February 2020 • 1.00 to 1.30 • Holy Trinity, Stratford-upon-Avon  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sat 15 February 2020 • 11.00 to 12.00 • St Chad's, Stafford  
Geoff Milsom (St Chad's, Stafford)

Sat 15 February 2020 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Malvern Priory  
Jonathan Hope (Gloucester Cathedral)

Sun 16 February 2020 • 2.30 to 5.00 • The Buttermarket Shrewsbury  
Len Rawle (Chorleywood)

Tues 18 February 2020 • 1.00 to 1.40 • St Andrew's, Rugby  
Philip Bricher (Holy Trinity, Northampton)

Thurs 20 February 2020 • 12.15 to 12.55 • Worcester Cathedral  
Eleanor Carter (Clare College, Cambridge)

Frid 21 February 2020 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Frid 21 February 2020 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Mary's, Warwick  
Mark Swinton (St Mary's, Warwick)

Sat 22 February 2020 • 12.00 to 1.15 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
James Lancelot (Durham Cathedral – Organist Emeritus)

Mon 24 February 2020 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

##### **March 2020**

Sun 1 March 2020 • 3.00 to 4.45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sun 1 March 2020 • 6.30 to 7.00 • St Bartholomew's, Penn  
Gary Cole (St Bartholomew's, Penn)

Mon 2 March 2020 • 1.10 to 1.55 • St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham  
Angela Sones (All Saints', Four Oaks)

Thurs 5 March 2020 • 1.15 to 1.55 • Worcester Cathedral  
Jonathan Hope (Gloucester Cathedral)

Thurs 5 March 2020 • 1.15 to 1.55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)

Frid 6 March 2020 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel Wyld Green  
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)

Frid 6 March 2020 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Mary's, Warwick  
Oliver Hancock (St Mary's, Warwick)

Sat 7 March 2020 • 12.00 to 12.45 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Sat 7 March 2020 • 5.00 to 6.00 • Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon  
Alexander Woodrow (Leeds Minster)

Sun 8 March 2020 • 6.30 to 7.00 • St Bartholomew's, Penn  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Wed 11 March 2020 • 12.30 to 1.15 • St Modwen's, Burton-upon-Trent  
David Butterworth (Nottingham)

Sat 14 March 2020 • 12.00 to 1.15 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
Philip Rushworth (Chester Cathedral)

Sun 15 March 2020 • 2.30 to 5.00 • The Buttermarket Shrewsbury  
David Ivory (Bury St Edmunds)

Sun 15 March 2020 • 6.30 to 7.00 • St Bartholomew's, Penn

Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Frid 20 March 2020 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury

Carleton Etherington (Tewkesbury Abbey)

Frid 20 March 2020 • 1.00 to 1.40 • Friends Meeting House, Bournville

Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sat 21 March 2020 • 2.00 to 3.00 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

Martyn Rawles, Paul Carr, Robert Sharpe, Rupert Jeffcoat - Birmingham Bach Choir Centenary Organ Recital

Sun 22 March 2020 • 6.30 to 7.00 • St Bartholomew's, Penn

Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 23 March 2020 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Sat 28 March 2020 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Malvern Priory  
Manuel Torregrosa (Murcia Cathedral, Spain)

Sat 28 March 2020 • 2.30 to 5.00 • St Peter's, Cradley  
Cameron Lloyd, Damon Willetts, Alec Walters, David Lobban

Sat 29 March 2020 • 6.30 to 7.00 • St Bartholomew's, Penn

Paul Carr (Birmingham)

For a complete listing of organ recitals in the UK and further details go to: [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com)

For details of recital organ specifications go to the National Pipe Organ Register at: [www.npor.org.uk](http://www.npor.org.uk)

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**Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for April 2020, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/03/20, 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 Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

In the centre of Sutton Coldfield, just up the hill from the Gracechurch Centre, Holy Trinity Parish Church, Church Hill, Mill St, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1TF has a private car park, accessed from Mill Street (A5127), up Church Hill, the cul-de-sac that runs up by the side of the church grounds to the church and the Trinity Centre.

