

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

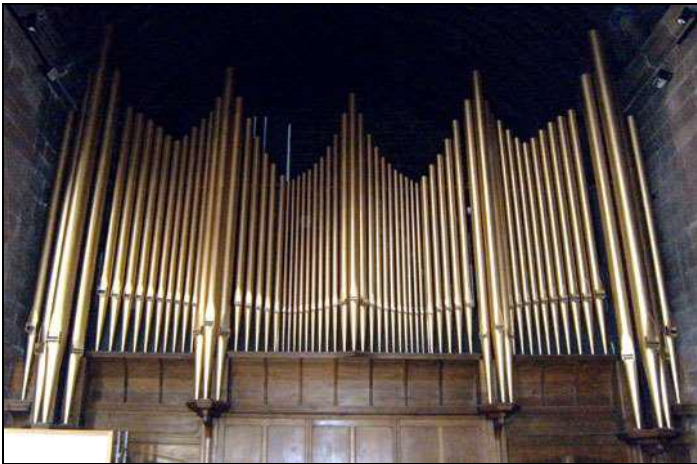
FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

LDOA 2022 visits/events planned so far are:

Saturday 5th March 2022 – visit to St Martin in the Bull Ring, and St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

St Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham

Our visit commences at 10.30am where Stephen Blair-Chappell will meet us and show us the IVP/68 organ. Originally a three-manual instrument built on the north side of the chancel by Harrison & Harrison in 1907, in 1954 it was restored and rebuilt in the north transept as a four-manual organ with an electric console by Compton.



The organ of St Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham

St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

A few minutes' walk takes us to St Philip's Cathedral.



The organ console of St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

A visit commencing at 12.30pm at the kind invitation of Ashley Wagner, Organist & Assistant Head of Music, to play the fine IVP/68 organ, originally by Schwarbrick, rebuilt by Nicholson. Visit ends at 3pm. See Appendix for addresses and locator map.

Saturday 14th May 2022 – visit to St Helen's, Etwell

Commencing at 2pm, today's visit is kindly hosted by LDOA member Steve Mansfield.

Steve is a very talented theatre organist who has a 'magic box' of samples from the Blackpool Tower Wurlitzer hooked up to the 3 manual Viscount organ in St Helen's. Steve will demonstrate a couple of key features of the theatre organ playing style and members will be invited to have a go. Members will then have a chance to play the organ either using the theatre organ registrations, aided by Steve, or the default 'church' registrations. This promises to be a fun visit. Steve is both a highly skilled and very entertaining musician; his extended medleys of well-known pieces and melodies, artfully registered and played from memory, armed with just his little book of titles/keys, are dazzling both to hear and watch close up.

We could then adjourn to the 'Hawk and Buckle' directly opposite the church.

Saturday 11th June 2022 – visit to St Andrew's Church Rugby and Rugby School

What promises to be a terrific day in Rugby, visiting two venues with no less than five 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 IIIP/48 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 1.30pm at the invitation of Director of Music Richard Tanner.

In the breathtakingly beautiful School Chapel, there is a magnificent IVP/55 Kenneth Jones & Associates organ, on which the opening recital was given by Nicholas Kynaston in 2001. Nicholson has recently carried out a refurbishment, and the re-opening recital by the international concert organist David Briggs took place on Friday 7th February 2020 at 7.30pm.

There is also a IIIP/32 Bryceson organ in the Temple Speech Room, a IIP/6 Harrison & Harrison organ in the Memorial Chapel, and a IIP/5 Škrabl of Slovenia organ in the Music School.

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

Visit to the Chapel of St John without Barrs, Lichfield, hosted by LDOA student member and Organist at St John's, Liam Condon, for our 2022 AGM, a workshop led by Liam, and an opportunity afterwards to play the IIP/18 Hill Norman & Beard organ.

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 IIIP/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.

St Chad's, 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 IIIP/40 organ originally by Norman & Beard, rebuilt by Nicholson in 1963, and then by H & H in 2011.

RECENT VISITS/EVENTS

Saturday 15th January 2022 – visit to Holy Trinity Wordsley and St Bartholomew's Penn

Our visit today was suggested by LDOA member Paul Hodgetts, who then liaised with Paul Carr. He generously agreed to host our visit to two venues in the Black Country at which he plays regularly.

Holy Trinity Wordsley

Our first visit was to Holy Trinity Wordsley, where Paul Carr has played for some services since 1999 and began his monthly *Sunday Afternoon Organ Music* recitals series in 2003. When Barrie Davis left in 2012, Paul was appointed Musician in Residence. Since 2018, Matt Davies, who we were pleased came along to this afternoon's event, was appointed Associate Organist.

Paul thoughtfully provided a handout detailing the history of the church, its organists and organs. The church was completed in 1831, but there was no organ until 1838, when a two manual instrument with mechanical action, built by Bevington & Sons, was installed in the west gallery. Much of the early Victorian pipework is incorporated into the present day organ. Nicholson & Lord made certain additions in 1882, and Banfield & Sons moved it to its present position in 1887. In 1910, the action

was changed from tracker to exhaust-pneumatic by Conacher & Co and the Choir division was added. The organ was inaugurated by Dr C H Moody, the Organist of Ripon Cathedral. Various additions and improvements were made until in 1982, a major reconstruction of the organ was undertaken by Tom Sheffield, including a new console. Trevor Tipple looked after the organ from 1999 until his retirement in 2017, before handing over care of the organ to Nicholson & Co, who completed a pedal chest restoration in 2018.



The chancel case of the organ of Holy Trinity Wordsley

The three manual organ now has a very comprehensive complement of 36 speaking stops, with thumb and toe pistons, and a 2-level memory system. The current specification is:

Pedal

Open Diapason Wood 16', Open Diapason Metal 16', Bourdon 16', Lieblich Bourdon 16', Octave Diapason 8', Bass Flute 8', Fifteenth 4', Tromba 16', Tromba 8'

Great

Double Diapason 16', Open Diapason 8', Hohl Flute 8', Gamba 8', Principal 4', Harmonic Flute 4', Twelfth 2²/₃', Fifteenth 2', Mixture III, Tromba 8', Clarion 4'

Swell

Open Diapason 8', Flauto Traverso 8', Viol Da Orchestra 8', Voix Celeste 8', Principal 4', Fifteenth 2', Contra Fagotto 16', Cornopean 8', Hautbois 8'

Positive

Stopped Diapason 8', Flute 4', Nazard 2²/₃', Wald Flute 2', Tierce 1³/₅', Crumhorn 8', Tromba 8', Tremulant

Paul then proceeded to demonstrate the various departments of the organ, including Flutes, Principals, Reeds and Pedals, and rounded off his demonstration with a superb performance of Saint-Saens' *Marche Militaire*

from the *Algerian Suite*, assisted as usual by his wife Hannah on page turning duties.



Paul Carr demonstrating the organ of Holy Trinity, Wordsley, with his wife Hannah on page turning duties

Paul then handed over to LDOA members, with Mike Rudd being first up playing music by Stanford and Parry. Next to Peter King, followed by Richard Syner keeping us all guessing as to what he was playing, which it transpired was his own skilful composition. Andrew Moser was followed by Paul Hodgetts playing the whole of Mendelssohn's *Sonata No 3*.



The ornate chancel of Holy Trinity Wordsley

Matt Davies, Associate Organ at Holy Trinity, closed our visit with a skilful improvisation. A fine versatile organ, with a very comprehensive specification, including a good choice of reeds and mixtures, the sound projecting well down the nave.

St Bartholomew's, Penn

A short drive back in the direction Wolverhampton took us to St Bartholomew's, Penn, where we were welcomed by

Revd Prebendary Ben Whitmore. Parts of the church date from 13th century, but it has been much added to and rebuilt over the centuries, including most recently when in 1871/2, the south aisle was extended, the lady chapel built, the chancel extended to accommodate the choir, and the original Walker organ installed to the north of the chancel. The present organ chamber was built in 1901.

Paul Carr first played here at St Bartholomew's as a 15-year-old schoolboy. The church has a Sunday morning choir and a Sunday evening choir, with two DoM's, Julia Bishop and Carly Birchell, supported by two organists, Paul Carr and Gary Cole. Paul Hodgetts plays for services occasionally when needed.

Again, Paul Carr thoughtfully provided us with details of the two manual organ, both in its original 1872 Walker & Sons form of 16 stops, and now after the 1974 rebuild by Nicholson, in its enlarged form with 21 stops, including 4 mixtures, tracker action but no registration aids. The current specification is:

Pedal

Open Diapason 16', Bourdon 16', Principal 8', Bass Flute 8', Choral Bass 4', Mixture II (19.22)

Great

Open Diapason 8', Dulciana 8', Stopped Diapason 8', Octave 4', Flute 4', Blockflute 2', Fourniture IV (19.22.26.29), Trumpet 8'

Swell

Open Diapason 8', Open flute 8', Principal 4', Fifteenth 2', Sesquialtera II (12.17), Scharf III (22.26.29), Contra Fagotto 16'



The chancel of St Bartholomew's, Penn, with organ case pipes draped in protective polythene dust sheets

With the sad news of the death of Francis Jackson earlier this week, Peter Morris added to Paul Carr's talk on the organ, reflecting on the occasion when Francis Jackson came to give the inaugural recital here after the 1974 rebuild. At the relaxed pre-recital meal they were enjoying, it was suddenly realised that the recital should have started some minutes ago! Peter recalls that Francis Jackson played music by Sweelinck, and Peter tried to replicate later the authentic registration Francis had used, but without success.



The console of the organ of St Bartholomew's, Penn

Paul Carr gave a brief demonstration of the various sounds of this organ, before handing over to LDOA members, reminding them to watch out for the lethal wooden ball at head height when gaining access to the organ bench.



Ian Boddington at the organ of St Bartholomew's Penn

First to Ian Boddington, playing Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, then to Angela Sones, playing J S Bach's *Prelude in E^b*, followed by Andrew Moser and Paul Hodgetts. Paul Carr treated us to Andriessen's *Theme & Variations*, showing just what a fine sound this organ is capable of, before Mike Rudd wound up our visit, playing a piece new to me, *First of three pieces – Op 22* by Neils W. Gade.

Two fine organs, and our gratitude to Paul Carr, and Hannah, for giving up their Saturday afternoon to host our visit. TS

[LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS](#)

Free Church Choirs Festival of Church Music

'In Harmony' Free Church Choirs has organised a festival of church music aimed at choirs or individual singers who wish to experience the thrill of singing in a very large choir on Saturday 21st May 2022. Festival Conductor Peter J Williams, and Organist Rufus Frowde.

See www.freechurchchoirs.org.uk for details and how to participate.

Music for Reflection

Details of the lunchtime Music for Reflection concert series will be listed when details are released.

[NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE](#)

2022 Subscriptions

The 2022 membership subscription was due on 1st January 2022. Subscriptions remain at £12 for individual members and £17.50 for joint membership (couples etc.). Membership is free to those in full time education.

So, a final reminder of payment arrangements for anyone who has yet to pay:

Bank transfers can be made to:
Lichfield & District Organists' Association
Lloyds Bank
Account number 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.

[MEMBERS' NEWS](#)

Liam Condon's York Minster Competition Prize-Winning Composition Premiere

LDOA Student Member Liam Condon for the last two years has been Organ Scholar at Lichfield Cathedral, and is now Honorary Assistant Organist. As reported in the last newsletter, he has just had success in a composition competition to celebrate the return of York Minster's Grand Organ, following a once-in-a-century refurbishment.

Liam won third prize for his composition *Veni ad Salvandum nos*, and he performed its premiere as the closing voluntary at the Lichfield Cathedral 10.30am Eucharist on Sunday 12th December 2021, which was also live streamed. If you missed the premiere of the composition, it's an impressive dramatic work of just over six minutes duration, and I would strongly recommend viewing the performance, which has been uploaded to YouTube and can be accessed (after 1 hour 16 mins 29 secs) via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYEmpDa8SEo>

Our congratulations to Liam on a fine composition and performance, which rightly received enthusiastic support from the Cathedral's congregation. TS

MIKE RUDD'S NEW JOHANNUS 'LIVE' III AGO ORGAN

LDOA Treasurer Mike Rudd is studying for his ARCO, and has recently replaced his aging Viscount organ with a state-of-the-art Johannus LiVE AGO, manufactured in Holland and supplied by their UK agents Church Organ World. The organ is located in a large first floor room above the garage/utility room, and the only way to gain access for the installation involved removal of an upstairs window.



Mike Rudd at his Johannus LiVE AGO digital organ

The three manual organ is provided with two sample sets as standard, and there is memory capacity to store up to five of the extensive range of sample sets of UK and European organs currently available. Mike has chosen three sample sets: William Hill & Sons (Holy Name Church, Manchester), Cavaillé-Coll (Notre Dame d'Auteuil, Paris), and Silbermann (Katholische-Hofkirche, Dresden). Switching between sample sets is at the touch of a button on the console, and loads within a few seconds, enabling the sample set to be matched with the genre of music being played.

The wooden stops can be drawn by pressing or pulling the stop, and there is an LED in the end of the stop knob to show whether it's 'on' or 'off'. To accommodate the different stop lists of the different sample sets, many Hauptwerk organs use touch screens, but Johannus have opted for a clever dynamic stop list solution, with small digital displays above the stops, showing the actual name of each stop in the particular sample set loaded. The disposition of the stops also mirrors that of the organ of the selected sample set, which means it takes a little getting used to locating the division/stops when switching between sample sets, e.g. between an English sample set

and a French sample set. The organ is provided with eight general thumb pistons and six thumb pistons per division, complimented by toe pistons.



The dynamic stop displays of the Johannus Live AGO organ

The sophisticated 8.1 audio system has four surround sound channels and four near field front audio channels. The reverberation system has four sampled listening positions, which enables you to select to hear the sound from four alternative listening positions – at the console, in the audience close to the front of the organ, in the middle of the church, or at the back of the church. The speaker system is entirely contained within the goal post shaped console, and comprises full-range amplifiers (80 watt), and bass amplifiers (160 watt) to ensure superb pedal notes without resorting to intrusive free-standing speaker cabinets.

As you would expect from such an installation, this impressive organ sounds very authentic, with the reverberation system being particularly effective, and is sure to give Mike years of pleasure, and encouragement to complete his ARCO.

PS. Wondering about the exercise weights by the side of the organ bench? It's an accountant's remedy for preventing the bench pushing backwards on the polished platform base of the organ! TS

IAO/RCO MATTERS

London Organ Day 2022 - POSTPONED

Note that The London Organ Day 2022 which was to have been held at St Peter's Church, Vauxhall, on Saturday 5th March 2022, has been postponed until later in the year.

Entitled *Vauxhall Extravaganza*, details of the new date will be available soon at: <https://iao.org.uk/london-organ-day/> and in the March edition of *Organists' Review*.

International Online Organ Festival

This is a major international event presenting more than 30 exclusive concert films starring the brightest names in today's organ scene, including Martin Baker, Wayne Marshall and Daniel Mount. Details should appear on the IAO website by the end of February.

IAO Festival 2022

Having now suffered two postponements because of the pandemic, the IAO has announced the dates of its Festival 2022 in Edinburgh, which are Friday 22nd to Tuesday 26th July 2022.

More details will appear later, but the programme will be similar to that published previously, with minor amendments.

During the Festival, the IAO-RCO Organ Playing Competition will be held. Six competitors will be chosen from submitted recordings to participate in the semi-final round on Saturday 23rd July. From there, three will be selected to go through to the final at St Cuthbert's Church on Saturday 24th July. The adjudicators will be David Hill MBE, John Kitchen MBE and organist/composer Naji Hakim. For full details and application form see:

<https://www.rco.org.uk/events/iao-rco-competition-2022>

Midlands Organ Day 2022

Will be based at Derby Cathedral on Saturday 3rd September 2022. More details later.

Yorkshire Organ Day 2022

Will be held at Bridlington Priory on Saturday 17th September 2022. More details later.

NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

Dr Francis Jackson 1917-2022

Following the sad news of the death of Dr Francis Jackson at the age of 104 on Monday 10th January, Peter Morris offers this tribute to a great man.



Francis Jackson at All Saints' Church West Bromwich

As Francis Jackson approached his centenary with playing and composing seemingly undimmed, it felt as though he would always be there. His 2013 autobiography, wittily entitled 'Music for a long while', aptly illustrates many of his characteristics – a thoughtful, gentle, subtle, hardworking organist and composer standing astride a century of cathedral music making and personifying all that was best of it. He had been a keen pupil of Sir Edward

Bairstow from 1928, when he became a York chorister, and succeeded him in 1946 as soon as he was demobbed after the war.

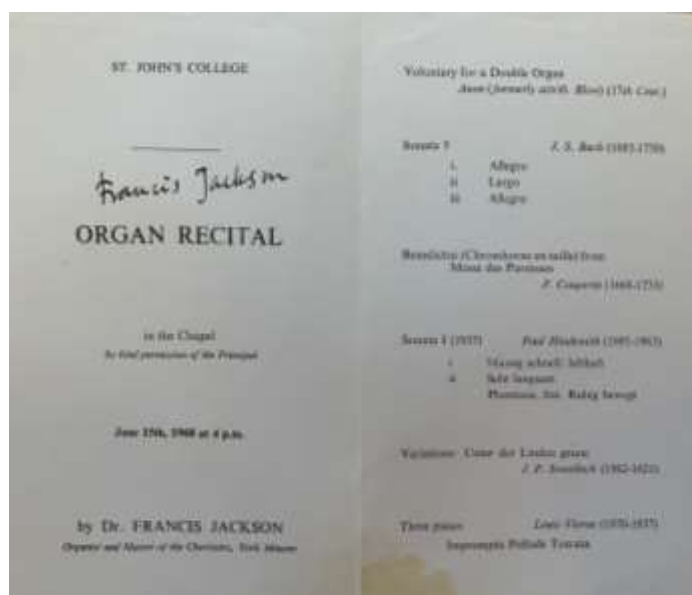
Thereafter, his career revolved around the organ loft at York. He was far from being one of those martinets who held many such positions in such places. He led by example and was generous with his time to all those with whom he was in contact. People mattered to him.

Similarly, his church music was accessible but full of integrity. Perhaps best known are the services of Eucharist and Evensong music in G major, known by him as 'Me in G.' His compositions, such as the 'Diversion for the Mixtures' are also standard works of high quality. The over 2000 organ recitals he gave, covered a huge repertoire with consummate skill. Registrations were perfectly judged and played with intelligence and good humour. I remember the first time I heard him play at a recital, in Manchester Cathedral in 1963, which included the *Reubke Sonata* in a towering and inspiring performance.

Priscilla, his wife, was a tower of strength and a good organiser. Occasionally, there were mistakes, as one afternoon when he encountered his assistant organist Allan Wicks on Leeds station. Allan (who was later my choirmaster at Manchester Cathedral) said to Francis 'I thought YOU were playing for Evensong tonight' Of course Francis's reply was 'Oh, I thought you were.....'

Francis was also responsible for the popularity of Widor's *Toccata* from the *5th Symphony*, which he chose as the concluding piece at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Kent in the Minster in 1961. Many organists must have found that a hard decision over the years. In 1964 came the iconic 'Great Cathedral Organs' recording performance of the Cocker *Tuba Tune* on the monster stop of the Minster organ – en chamade but out of sight and pointing down that enormous nave quite menacingly!

I first got to know Francis in 1968 when he came to Durham to give a recital (see programme below) on the neo-Baroque Harrison organ in St John's College, where I was the Organ Scholar. I learnt more about registration and articulation that day than I ever had!



Francis Jackson 1968 recital programme

An invitation to play at the Minster followed, and in 1971 he came to All Saints' West Bromwich to give one of the opening recitals of the organ we had just rebuilt.

He remained at the minster for almost 40 years of distinguished and inspirational service, and continued an active playing and composing life thereafter. We had the pleasure of visiting him at his home in the tiny Yorkshire village of East Aklam (do you recognise the title of his hymn tune for *For the fruits of his creation?*) and after telephone conversations in 2017, he also kindly gave me permission to perform at St Peter's Wolverhampton a choral piece he had just written.



Robert Sharpe and Francis Jackson at the Nave console after the 2021 Harrison & Harrison rebuild

'A tremendous musician and a true gentleman' was the verdict of a local York tribute to him. Nobody could ever disagree with that.

Peter Morris, LDOA Committee Member, and Walsall Borough Organist

The Queen's presentation to Thomas Trotter

An article in the December 2020 Newsletter covered the announcement on 22nd November 2020 of the award of Her Majesty's Medal for Music for 2020 to Thomas Trotter.

Commenting on the award, the Master of The Queen's Music, Judith Weir, said: "This medal salutes a world-famous organist who has done so much to widen and brighten the realm of this great instrument. Thomas Trotter's series of regular recitals over four decades as Birmingham City Organist is an inspiring example of civic engagement for all performing musicians."

Actual presentation of the medal to Thomas Trotter by The Queen took place at Windsor Castle on 8th December 2021.



Presentation to Thomas Trotter by Her Majesty The Queen at Windsor Castle on 8th December 2021

A New Organ for Richard McVeigh's 'Beauty in Sound'

During Covid-19 restrictions when we were deprived of live organ recitals, various virtual recitals were thankfully uploaded to YouTube by organists deprived of earning a living giving live recitals, and links to a number were included in our newsletters. Organist Richard McVeigh and his 'Beauty in Sound' videos featured prominently, with Richard playing virtual recitals using various Hauptwerk sample sets, running on a three manual Viscount console. As many of the organs he featured were four manual instruments, this set up proved restrictive, so in late 2020 he started talks with various organ building companies from around Europe about the concept of commissioning an entirely new custom-made organ console to be closely based on the newly refurbished Harrison & Harrison organ of York Minster.

He selected Renatus Ltd, and gave them as much space for innovation as possible, as he didn't want to be bound by inadequate existing practices for Hauptwerk organ consoles. He was clear that the new organ must not give any clue to the player that it is not a pipe organ – everything must be 'traditional', i.e. no launchpads, no illuminated buttons and certainly no touch screens!

Nearly 14 months later, he now has an impressive four manual organ, the result of much collaboration between the builder and Richard. He provided the 'high-level' requirements e.g. stop layout, thumb piston layout, changeable stop heads, colour, swell pedal design, and Renatus came back with the 'low-level' detail on how to do it. The organ has 137 Taylor Long-Throw Drawstop Solenoids, 4 UHT keyboards, 2 swell pedals with a hydraulic mechanism which adds weight to them, Kimber-Allen brass toe pistons, a 32-note concave pedalboard, and adjustable bench, 74 'golf tee' thumb pistons and a fully adjustable music desk (up & down, forwards & backwards)

Having shown in a previous newsletter LDOA member Paul Hodgetts' touch screens solution to accommodating the stops of different Hauptwerk organ sample sets, and in this newsletter the approach taken by Johannus using dynamic stop displays for LDOA Treasurer Mike Rudd's new organ, it's interesting to see the innovative approach taken by Renatus and Richard McVeigh whilst retaining the traditional physical drawstops. Renatus designed an interchangeable stop head especially for this organ, which

allows the stop heads to be swapped when going from Nancy to Rotterdam, and Haarlem to St Mary-le-Bow. They believe this is the only organ with this functionality

A short video of Richard McVeigh showing his viewers around the new organ console, including the innovative interchangeable stop head design, can be viewed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VBniwDv2uE>



Richard McVeigh's new 'Beauty in Sound' Hauptwerk organ

One of Richard's objectives was to use the organ for workshops and masterclasses, and to invite eminent organists to come and give recitals on the organ. Indeed, the inaugural recital on this new Hauptwerk organ was given by Martin Baker, an organist of international repute, on 18th December 2021, and this can be viewed on YouTube via:

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



Martin Baker giving the inaugural recital on Richard McVeigh's new 'Beauty in Sound' Hauptwerk organ

The video shows Martin Baker using three different sample sets, playing Bach and Sweelinck on the Marcussen organ of St Laurenskerk, Rotterdam, Widor on the Cavallé-Coll organ of Saint-Ouen, Rouen, and an improvisation on the organ of St Martin's Church, Dudelange, in Luxembourg.

Harrison & Harrison Ltd – major organ projects

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

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Harrison & Harrison have been awarded the contract for the renovation of the 4 manual/88 stop Walker organ of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Work in Durham enters the final stages with installation planned for after Easter 2022, anticipated for completion in autumn 2022.

Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA

Harrison & Harrison have been commissioned to build a new 4-manual/86-stop landmark instrument for Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA. The organ is to be entirely new, with installation planned for 2022.

The first container left the week before Christmas, and the installation team flew out early January, and a second container leaves shortly, with installation planned to take 10 weeks, followed by tonal finishing.

Christ Church, Alexandria, VA, USA

The new 2-manual 22-stop organ had been completed awaiting shipping for a year, and once the USA allowed UK citizens to travel, shipping and installation was completed just in time for Christmas, the voicing team travelling home on 20th December.

Bristol Beacon (formerly Colston Hall)

Project to restore the 1955 4-manual/94-stop Harrison & Harrison organ. Work continues at Durham, whilst awaiting completion of the Hall refurbishment.

Norwich Cathedral

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

The project is expected to cost £1.8m, inclusive of a new chamber organ. It is proposed that the fundamental sound and character will be preserved, whilst at the same time internally restructuring the instrument so that the sound is distributed more evenly to both sides of the pulpitem screen. Work on the soundboard grids is taking place in Durham, and dismantling of the organ will take place after Easter.

Nicholson & Co Ltd – major organ projects

Current projects:

St Mary's Church, Portsea

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

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

console designed in the style of Walker consoles of the 1880s.

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.

Leeds Town Hall

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

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.

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.

Future projects:

Charterhouse School

New three manual 50-stop organ for the chapel. The instrument will be built within the divided casework of the present organ, in the Giles Gilbert-Scott designed chapel. The casework is to be extended and remodelled to improve its appearance. The new organ will have electro-pneumatic action throughout, and will take tonal inspiration from the French Romantic school.

Henry Willis & Sons Ltd

Current projects:

- Liverpool Philharmonic Hall – 1939 Rushworth & Dreaper 3-manual 54-stop organ. Concert scheduled for Saturday 5th February 2022 with Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, including the Saint-Saëns *Organ Symphony* with Ian Tracey playing the newly restored organ.
- St Michael's Church of Scotland, Linlithgow – 1912 Henry Willis organ
- The University of St Andrew's – 1868 T C Lewis organ
- The Wesley Centre, Malton – 1877 Forster & Andrews organ

Appointments

St Alphege, Solihull

Following the departure of Director of Music Joe Cooper at the end of August to take up the position of Director of Music at Bangor Cathedral, LDOA member Angela Sones was appointed Interim DoM for September/October. Christopher Martin Thomas has now moved from Music Director at St John Keynsham to take up the post of Director of Music & Organist at St Alphege from November 2021.

RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

Peter Morris recital at Emmanuel, Wylde Green, Friday 3rd December 2021

For today's recital, Richard Mason welcomed back Peter Morris, he and Peter going back some 40 years. Peter is of course an LDOA Committee Member, Walsall Borough Organist and Organist Emeritus at both St Peter's Wolverhampton and St Matthew's Walsall, and currently Organist at St Michael's Tettenhall, where he is the driving force behind upgrading yet another local pipe organ.

Anthony Pinel is programmed to play Herbert Brewer's *March Heroique* later in the series, so Peter instead played Elgar's *Imperial March*, providing a stirring opening to the recital.

As we are now in Advent, next followed *Advent Chorale Preludes*, with first J S Bach's ever-popular *Wachet Auf BWV 645* followed by three pieces on the chorale *Heiden Heiland*, which Peter first played through the melody. First to J S Bach for *Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland (Orgelbuchkein) BWV 599*, and *BWV 659*, followed by Anton Heiller's take on the same chorale with *Variations on Nun komm', der Heiland Heiland*, getting its first outing by Peter today.

Then in total contrast, 'a palate cleanser' in the form of G B Nevin's featherlight *Will o' the Wisp*. Next to 18th century voluntaries by London based composers, but instead of John Stanley, this time three composers coincidentally named William Byrd, Henry Heron, and Starling Goodwin!



Peter Morris at the organ of Emmanuel Wylde Green,
with his wife Jane on page turning duties

The organ of Emmanuel is by Henry Willis III, but Peter closed with a tribute to Henry Willis I, playing Louis Vierne's *Carillon de Westminster*, a rousing close to a varied programme, and an opportunity to hear the full force of this fine Willis organ. TS

Angela Sones/Richard Hartshorn recital at Brownhills Methodist Church Saturday 18th December 2021

Hard on the heels of their recital of duets last Wednesday at St Alphege Solihull, today talented LDOA members Angela Sones and Richard Hartshorn were making a return visit to present a programme of light music organ duets at Brownhills Methodist Church, using the pipe organ and a Yamaha keyboard. A very seasonal setting provided by a display of over 20 decorated trees for the church's Christmas Tree Festival.

First to Tchaikovsky for five movements from the *Nutcracker Suite*, *Overture*, *March*, *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*, Angela using the celeste stop very effectively on the single manual keyboard, and finishing with *Waltz of the Flowers*.

Next, a change of mood with Bach/Vivaldi and *Concerto in G Major*, in three movements and originally composed for violin, with Angela on the organ and Richard using the very realistic harpsichord effect on the keyboard.

Then to more recent times and a piece often played at Christmas time, with Howard Blake's *Walking in the Air* from *The Snowman*, again with Angela on the organ and Richard on keyboard. Staying with the Christmas theme for the next pieces, with first J S Bach's *In Dulci Jubilo*, followed by Thomas Trotter's splendid arrangement of *Sleigh Ride*, with Angela on the organ and Richard on keyboard.

An opportunity for a bit of fun for the final piece, with Angela on the organ, but Richard moving to a very different sort of keyboard – a typewriter – in order to mimic the striking of keys, bell, and carriage return, in the days before word processors, for Leroy Anderson's *The Typewriter*. A well-received recital by Angela and Richard, followed by seasonal mince pipes and hot drinks. TS

Christopher Too recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 7th January 2022

Now in his final year, Organ Scholar at Jesus College, Cambridge, Christopher Too is studying organ with Margaret Phillips alongside his music degree.

He began playing the organ as a chorister at Bridlington Priory, supported by the newly-founded Dr Martin Clarke Young Organ Scholars Trust. In 2013 he won a music scholarship to Ampleforth College, and in 2018, gained his ARCO, and is now working towards his FRCO.

On leaving school, Chris spent a year as the Organ Scholar at Gloucester Cathedral under Adrian Partington. He went to Cambridge in 2019, spending his first year as Junior Organ Scholar at King's College, accompanying the world-famous choir for their daily pattern of services. He subsequently moved to Jesus College as an Organ Scholar, and takes up a post as Organ Scholar of Salisbury Cathedral in September 2022, after his graduation.



Christopher Too

In his introduction to his programme, Christopher explained that he would be playing the whole of the Duruflé *Suite*, with works by J S Bach between each movement, and requested we therefore hold our applause until the end of the recital.

After Bach's *Prelude & Fugue in C BWV 547*, to the first movement of the Duruflé *Suite*, *Prelude*, opening rather ominously, building grandly, before diminishing to end as it started. Next to Bach's *Fugue in G Major BWV 578*, before the delightful lilting melody of the second movement of Duruflé's *Suite* – *Sicilienne*. Then to a J S Bach piece new to me, *Fugue in B Minor*.

Finally, to the last movement of Duruflé's *Suite*, *Toccata*, a flamboyant and challenging work which drives on to its frenetic all guns blazing conclusion. Fulsome applause for a very talented young organist.

Richard Mason gave us an update on plans for the Willis organ, moving to Stage 2 of the work involving the West End organ.

Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 17th January 2022

With proof of Covid vaccination status being checked at the door, there was a delayed start to today's recital.

Thomas opened with J S Bach's well-known *Fantasia & Fugue in G Minor BWV 542*.

Wishing us a belated 'Happy New Year', Thomas had decided 'a new year deserved some new music', so today saw a first outing by Thomas Trotter of a work by a contemporary Austrian composer and organist Franz Danksagmüller, who he met about three years ago when they were on the jury together at the St Alban's Organ Festival. The composition *Estampie* is a form of dance and Thomas demonstrated the theme being played in three different styles. Described as 'mediaeval music with a modern twist', it's not to my taste, I'm afraid!

Next onto more familiar ground with the best-known of Franck's solo organ works, in the bi-centenary of the composer's birth, *Prelude, Fugue and Variation*, Thomas using the Swell Oboe for the beautiful melody of the Prelude.

To give his recently injured arm a brief respite, next to George Thalben-Ball's *Variations on a Theme by Paganini for Pedals*, using pedals only for all except the last of the of the ten variations. Immaculate pedal technique!

Finally, to Dupre and *Variations on a Noel*, with the ten variations reputedly composed in different cities whilst on a USA recitals tour, the final variation providing a thrilling and frenetic close to the recital, with the five closing chords being very much Full Organ!

Again, a rather disappointing turnout today, with what looked to be no more than about half of pre-Covid attendance. The next recital in two weeks' time will be at Symphony Hall, when Thomas announced he would be releasing his new CD, with a request that we 'bring plenty of money!' TS

Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Symphony Hall Monday 31st January 2022

A rare treat today with a visit to hear the Klais at Symphony Hall, the only recital scheduled here for the 2021/22 season. It also marked the release of Thomas Trotter's new CD – *Symphony Hall Sorcery*. All of today's pieces are to be found on the CD.

Thomas began with the familiar *Allegro vivace from Widor's 5th Symphony*, and it was not long before the En Chamades made their entry! Next was Derek Bourgeois' *Serenade*, composed by him for his wedding. Apparently just prior to his wedding day, his wife had a skiing accident, so the resultant composition was written in 11/8 time rather than 4/4 time to accommodate her limp. John Gardner composed his *Five dances for organ* for the late Catherine Ennis, whose father was Irish, and this influence was very evident in the *Jig*. Thomas used the Cor Anglais, located in the left-hand chamber, to imitate the sound of bagpipes. Thomas apologised that the Cor Anglais was 'having a bad day!' Then Gárdonyi's *Mozart Changes*, before the final scheduled piece, Thomas' arrangement of Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, arranged to take advantage of the full range of stops on the Symphony Hall Klais organ with a view to matching the original Dukas orchestration. Once again, the En Chamades were given a full airing. For an encore Thomas played Saint-Saëns' *Fantaisie in E flat major*. All today's pieces together with

Dances from Dansereye by Susato and Rachel Laurin's *Sweelinck Variations* will be found on the CD. A good attendance and a long queue to buy the CD at a reduced price, to be signed by Thomas before its official release by Regent Records on February 11th. John H Allen

LOCAL VACANCIES

Director of Music at All Saints' Church, Four Oaks

Notification of this vacancy was circulated to members by Richard Syner on 28th October, including the job specification. See: <https://allsaintsfouroaks.org.uk/director-of-music/>

We have been advised that the vacancy remains unfilled.

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Angela Sones

- Friday 25th March 2022 from 1pm to 1.45pm, organ recital at Leeds Minster
- Friday 1st July 2022 from 1pm to 1.45pm organ recital at Emmanuel, Wylde Green

Peter Morris

- Saturday 19th March 2022, from 12 noon to 1pm, organ recital at Shrewsbury Abbey
- Saturday 19th March 2022 at 7.30pm Concert by Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra, at Wolverhampton Grammar School, conducted by Peter Morris

Paul Spicer/Martyn Rawles

- Saturday 2nd April 2022 at 7pm, at St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham. Birmingham Bach Choir: *For Those We Loved – A Concert to Remember*, conducted by Paul Spicer, with Organist Martyn Rawles

Callum Alger

- Sunday 20th February 2022 from 4.30pm to 5pm, organ recital at St Paul's Cathedral, London
- Saturday 15th October 2022 from 12 noon to 1.10pm, organ recital at Victoria Hall, Hanley

Simon Lumby

- Tuesday 24th May 2022 from 1pm to 1.45pm organ recital at St Mary's, Melton Mowbray

Recitals In Local Area (To end of March 2022)

February 2022

Thurs 3 February 2022 • 1.15 to 1.55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral)

Frid 4 February 2022 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green
George Nicholls (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Frid 4 February 2022 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall Hanley
Graham Eccles (St Asaph)

Sat 5 February 2022 • 7.00 to 8.00 • Shrewsbury Abbey
Alessandro Chiantoni (St Anne's, Bergamo, Italy)

Sun 6 February 2022 • 3.00 to 3.30 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley – **ON-LINE ONLY**
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Frid 11 February 2022 • 1.10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
Anthony Pinel (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Mon 14 February 2022 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Monday 28 February 2022 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

March 2022

Thurs 3 March 2022 • 1.15 to 1.55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
John Cotterill (Birmingham)

Frid 4 March 2022 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green
Charles Francis (Birmingham Cathedral)

Sat 5 March 2022 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Shrewsbury Abbey
Tim Mills (Glasgow Academy)

Sun 6 March 2022 • 3.00 to 3.30 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Frid 11 March 2022 • 1.10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
Ashley Wagner (Birmingham Cathedral)

Frid 11 March 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Chad's Shrewsbury
Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

Sat 19 March 2022 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Shrewsbury Abbey
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Mon 14 March 2022 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Frid 18 March 2022 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall Hanley
Ashley Grote (Norwich Cathedral)

Frid 11 March 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Chad's Shrewsbury
John Keys (Nottingham City Organist)

Frid 25 March 2022 • 1.10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
David Hardie (Birmingham Cathedral)

Sat 26 March 2022 • 2.30 to 4.45 • St Peter's, Cradley
Cameron Lloyd, Damon Willets, David Lobban, Alec Walters

Mon 28 March 2022 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist) & Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir (Farewell to Paul Spicer)

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

LICHFIELD & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

President: Martyn Rawles, FRCO

Chairman & Newsletter Editor: Trevor Smedley, 01543 319329, e-mail: trevorsmedley@ntlworld.com

Secretary: Richard Syner, 01283 540276 e-mail: richard.syner1@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mike Rudd, 01543 480411, e-mail: mike.rudd@fotas.co.uk

Publicity Officer – Tony White, e-mail: t.white@btconnect.com

Committee Member – Peter Morris, 01902 822857, e-mail: morrisp@blueyonder.co.uk

Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for April 2022, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/03/22, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA

APPENDIX

Addresses and Directions for our visits Saturday 5th March 2022

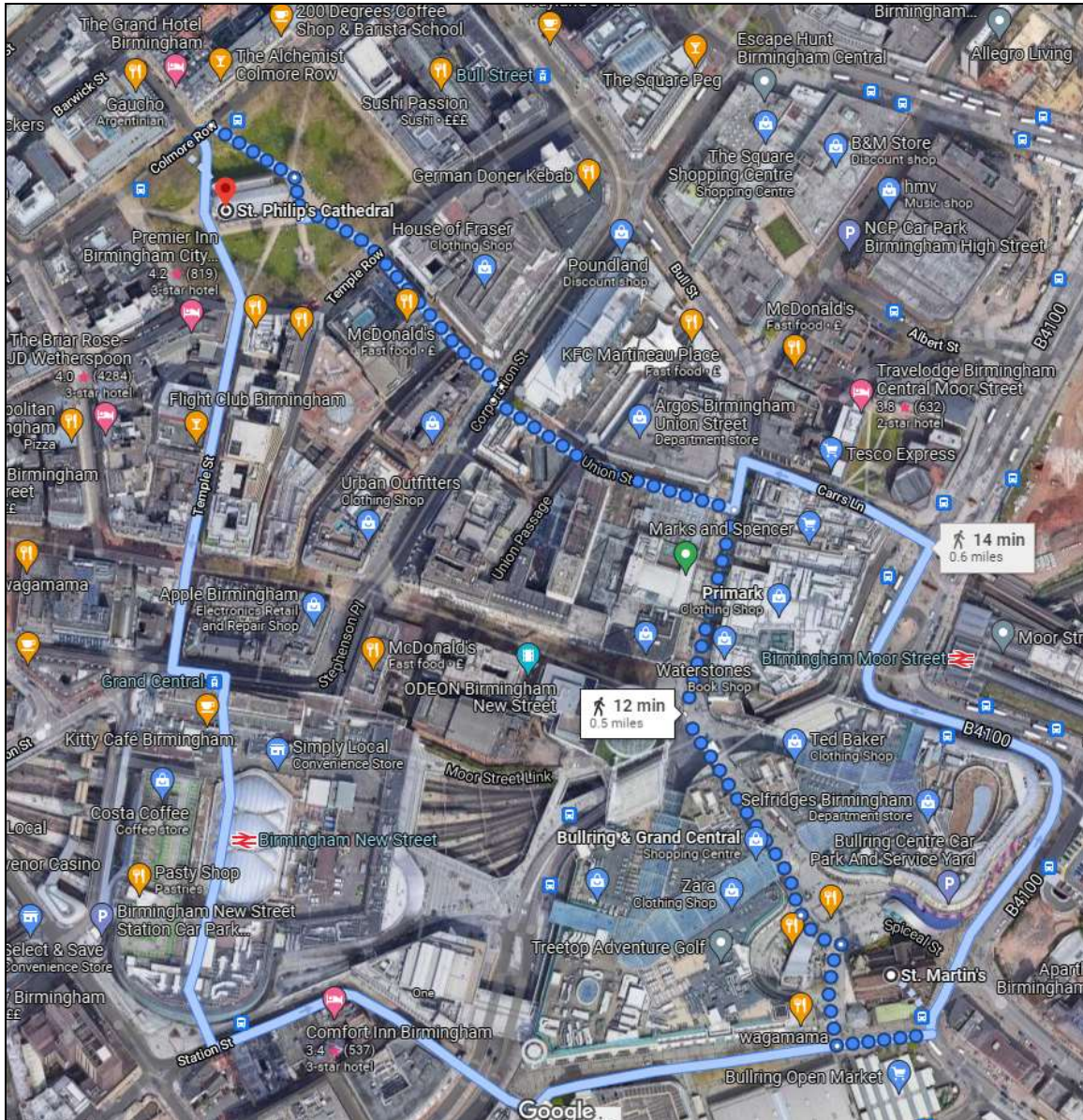
After the traffic congestion of our January visit, we strongly advise 'letting the train take the strain' for this visit! There are also roadworks/diversions around the city, not to mention congestion charging for older cars. Most members will be very familiar with the two Birmingham landmarks we're visiting today, but for any members not familiar, hopefully the following will suffice.

To St Martin in the Bull Ring (5-minute walk)

From New Street Station, follow the signs to The Bull Ring, where St Martin in the Bull Ring is located at Edgbaston Street, Birmingham B5 5BB.

To St Philip's Cathedral (12-minute walk)

Go up the steps to the Bull Ring Shopping Centre main entrance, past Waterstones, along High Street. At M & S, turn left into Union Street, cross over Corporation Street and into Cherry Street, which leads straight to St Philip's Cathedral, Cathedral Square, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB.



Locator map and route (dotted blue line) between St Martin's and St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

Return to Birmingham New Steet Station (5-minute walk)

On south side of Cathedral Square, head for Temple Street (down side of the Ivy Restaurant), which leads into Lower Temple Street and New Street Station.