

## **JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER**

### **FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS**

#### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – visit to St Andrew’s Church Rugby and Rugby School**

What promises to be a terrific not-to-be-missed 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 IIP/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, then on 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 kind invitation of Director of Music Richard Tanner, and hosted by Ian Wicks, Head of Keyboard.



Rugby School Chapel’s magnificent organ

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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm. There is also a IIP/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.

**Note that Rugby School has requested details in advance of the number attending. Please advise Richard Syner at [richard.syner1@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.syner1@btinternet.com) not later than Monday 6th June if you plan to attend.**

See APPENDIX for full details of addresses, locations and arrangements for the day.

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – visit to the Chapel of St John without Barrs, Lichfield for 2022 AGM and workshop**

Commencing at 2pm, a 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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – visit to Shrewsbury Abbey and St Chad’s, Shrewsbury**

##### Shrewsbury Abbey

Two visits organised by Peter Morris with the first visit hosted by Organist Nigel Pursey, commencing at 11am with a demonstration by Nigel of the IIP/32 Hill organ, which has just had a £200k restoration by GO Organbuilders of Herefordshire. The re-opening recital on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 IIP/40 organ originally by Norman & Beard, rebuilt by Nicholson in 1963, and then by H & H in 2011.

##### October 2022

With the date for President’s Evening now fixed for November, we are looking at options for an October visit.

## Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

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

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

### 2022 Annual Dinner

Annual visit to local hostelry to be advised later.

### RECENT VISITS/EVENTS

#### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – visit to St Helen's, Etwell

One thing that we would not be complaining about on our visit to Etwell on Saturday 14th May, was the weather, sunny and warm bordering on the excessive, with glare which doesn't help driving.

I must admit to not having been to Etwell before, indeed I had to look it up - good job I did as had first assumed it was on the M6 towards Manchester - thank goodness for that map in our newsletter.



St Helen's Church, Etwell

As I seem to do these days, I arrived at Etwell hours too early, so I spent an hour or two lazing in the shade of a large tree just below the church. A pretty village with a

very handy chip shop just across the road, and plenty of grassed areas providing a facility for youngsters to play football. I had a grandstand seat! Much to my surprise, a youngster came up to me and said "Excuse me sir - but are you Boris Johnston?" Well, if I come to think of it, a suit and tie, a mop of white hair (it does need cutting!) fair enough, has to be a first....

Just before 2pm, a wailing from inside the church indicated the organ was open, so I joined the party in the nave, pleased to see about eleven all told, including new member Ian Halsall, joining us for the first time today. Excellent!

After introductions from the vicar, Steve Mansfield opened with a demonstration of the 'theatre organ in a box' samples of the Blackpool Tower Wurlitzer, and an explanation at some length of the many facets of the instrument, helped by Richard Syner and Mike Thompson. Most interesting was the novelty of how such sounds in an Anglican parish Church would have got through the faculty process of the Church of England.



Our host Steve Mansfield, demonstrating the Viscount digital organ of St Helen's, Etwell

Steve admitted it had been a long hard road, but they had got there eventually. I noted that as the 3-manual 59-stop Viscount organ could be played as a conventional electronic organ, (the Wurlitzer is a computer generated "sound sampler" which can be switched out if needed), it would be acceptable to the Diocese as such.

Richard Syner was up to having a go, and played a superb rendering of *Bring Me Sunshine*, most appropriate given the weather! Richard Hartshorn was next, using the original Viscount sounds (Wurlitzer sample off) with a fine improvisation.

Ian Boddington played a *Voluntary* by Thomas Mee Pattison - new to me but most interesting. Then Mike

Thompson put the organ through its paces with a sparkling *Blaze Away*, which got many of us toe tapping.



Ann Tomlin at the organ of St Helen's, assisted by Steve Mansfield

Last but no means least, Ann Tomlin gave *Puff The Magic Dragon* 'the Wurlitzer treatment', ably assisted by Steve.

There we finished more or less, albeit quite a few lingered discussing the technical merits of the organ - as you do! Great stuff! Certainly different this time, but then - why not? It is what makes our Association so interesting! Our next visit is Rugby, come one come all! Colin J Brookes

## LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

### Music for Reflection

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

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

Concerts commence at 11.30am, free admission.

### Evening Recitals Series

Dates and organists should be finalised and made available shortly.

## Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at Lichfield Cathedral

Lichfield Cathedral has a packed programme for the extended Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, including the stunning mediaeval cathedral illuminated in red, white and blue. See the Cathedral's website for details at: <https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/news/news/post/560-queens-platinum-jubilee>

## LICHFIELD FESTIVAL 2022

The Lichfield Festival 2022 runs from 7<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July 2022, and includes two events featuring LDOA members:

### Festival Memories with Paul Spicer

On Thursday 7<sup>TH</sup> July 2022 at 2.30pm at Wade Street Church, LDOA honorary member and former Festival Artistic Director (1990-2001), Paul Spicer is in conversation with current Festival Director Damian Thantrey, looking back over 40 years of Lichfield Festival history.

### Festival Organ Duet Recital

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 11am at Lichfield Cathedral, our honorary members Cathy and Ben Lamb will be giving a special organ duet recital featuring a selection of organ solos and duets, including works by J S Bach, Mozart and Samuel Wesley.

For details and how to book these two events see: <https://lichfieldfestival.org/>

## NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

### Committee membership

- Richard Syner announced at our Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 Committee Meeting that due to weekend work commitments he would be stepping down as Secretary at the July AGM. Having invited anyone interested in filling this vital and interesting role, no interest was received, so we made a direct approach to Paul Hodgetts. Paul regularly attends our visits, is a very capable organist who is ideally qualified for the role, and we are delighted to confirm that Paul has agreed to take over from Richard Syner as Secretary. This appointment will be put to the vote at the AGM.
- Trevor Smedley had previously announced that he would be stepping down as Chairman at the July 2022 AGM (whilst continuing as Newsletter Editor). We're delighted to announce that Peter Morris has agreed to take over the Chairmanship, and this appointment will also be put to the vote at the AGM.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022, via Zoom

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### New Members

Since the last newsletter, we are delighted to welcome two new members:

#### Ian Halsall

Ian plays the organ at Freemasons' events, mostly at Burton-on-Trent and Derby, and lives in Burton-on-Trent. Ian came along to our visit to Etwall.

#### Stephen Carleston

Stephen plays the organ and is Director of Music at St Augustine's Parish Church, Rugeley as well as Director of a new choir called Hawkesyard Singers. He lives at Handsacre, Rugeley.

We look forward to meeting Stephen at a future visit.

## IAO/RCO MATTERS

### London Organ Day 2022

The revised London Organ Day 2022 has been fixed for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022, and will be held at St Peter's Church, Vauxhall.

Entitled *Vauxhall Extravaganza*, if you are interested in attending, please visit the IAO website for programme and booking arrangements at: <https://iao.org.uk/london-organ-day/>

### IAO Festival 2022

Having now suffered two postponements because of the pandemic, the IAO has confirmed the dates of its Festival 2022 in Edinburgh as Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Full details of the festival programme and how to book are available via: <https://iao.org.uk/festival-invitation/>

### IAO Midlands Organ Day 2022

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

- Robin Jennings - Building a Modern Chamber Organ
- Andrew Scott - Head Voicer of Harrison & Harrison
- Jonathan Scott - A Master Class on Transcription
- The Apollon Duo - The Art of Baroque Accompaniment (The Apollon Duo comprises Alexander Binns and his wife Dora Chatzigeorgiou)
- Evening Recital by Jonathan Scott

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

For details and how to book see:  
<https://iao.org.uk/mod2022/>

### IAO Yorkshire Organ Day 2022

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

For details and how to book, see:  
<https://iao.org.uk/yod2022/>

## NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

### Tribute to Harold Britton 1923 – 2022

LDOA Committee Member Peter Morris has been Walsall Borough Organist since 2001, taking over from Harold Britton. Harold Britton sadly died in May, and Peter Morris has provided the following personal tribute to a local organist of international repute:

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Harold Britton. Harold was Borough Organist in Walsall Town Hall for a remarkable 44 years, from 1957 to 2001.



Harold Britton 1923 - 2022

Harold succeeded T.W. North (there have only been three of us since the organ opened in 1908) and gave regular monthly recitals in the Town Hall, often inviting guests and local musicians to join him on the platform.

He was born in Bristol, and his early teachers included Clifford Harker of Bristol Cathedral. He became a cinema organist on the Granada circuit in London and was told he would not be allowed to use sheet music. What a formative discipline! Later he was taught by Harold Darke, Fernando Germani and Marcel Dupré and became an internationally known recitalist. Pierre Cochereau, organist of Notre Dame, Paris invited him to serve on the jury of the International Chartres Organ Festival.

He deputised on a number of occasions for George Thalben-Ball at the Temple Church and served with him on the committee whose responsibility it was to rebuild the organ in Birmingham Town Hall. His recordings from the Royal Albert Hall, Organ Extravaganza and Organ Spectacular, have been highly acclaimed, and his compositions are also popular, if extremely difficult. They include a well-known set of *Variations on I got Rhythm* and on *God rest you merry Gentlemen*, as well as a *Fanfare*

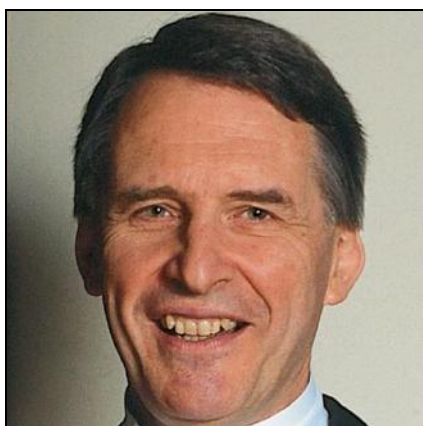
*March* for the Queen's visit to Walsall Town Hall, which was later played at a festival in Cologne Cathedral to an audience of 4000.

Harold was an amazing technician, with a phenomenal piano technique – especially in his left hand. I conducted him in exciting performances of Beethoven's *4th Piano Concerto* and also, at his 40th anniversary concert, in the Rachmaninov *Variations on a theme by Paganini* and a Handel *Organ Concerto*. He was a friendly, modest man, full of stories about organs he had played all over the world, and fiercely loyal to his Walsall audiences.

Peter Morris

### **Simon Preston Obituary**

Simon Preston CBE, who was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey from 1981 to 1987, and Sub-Organist between 1962 and 1967, has died aged 83.



Simon Preston, 1938-2022

Born in Bournemouth, he attended Canford School in Wimborne in Dorset. Originally a chorister at King's College, Cambridge, he returned to King's as organ scholar. After leaving the Abbey in 1967 he was organist of Christ Church, Oxford, from 1970 before returning to Westminster as Organist & Master of the Choristers. In 1987 he left the Abbey for a second time to pursue a career as an international concert organist. He also composed works for the organ.

His recordings include the complete organ works of J. S. Bach and the Saint-Saëns *Organ Symphony*. The Choir of Westminster Abbey made several acclaimed recordings under his direction. He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2009 Birthday Honours.

### **New organ recitals listing website launched**

Following the demise of Steve Smith's excellent organ recitals listing website, a new website has just been launched by Roger Wilcox, [www.organrecital.uk](http://www.organrecital.uk)

Roger Wilcox comments that one main objective of this website is to encourage more people to attend recitals by increasing awareness of what's on and where. It will be a big help if anyone making a welcome/introductory talk before a recital can mention [www.organrecitals.uk](http://www.organrecitals.uk) plus including a reference on printed programme notes and venue websites.

### **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. Reinstallation of the organ has commenced.

#### **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. Voicing and tonal finishing is continuing.

#### **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.



Scaffolding around the organ of Norwich Cathedral, with the Copeman Hart hire organ in the foreground

Dismantling work begins in early June, after the final concert, a *Battle of the Organs*, on 5<sup>th</sup> June, and is expected to take three weeks to complete. Building of the organ continues in the works. Completion expected by September 2023.

#### **Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks**

The Major General Commanding the Household Division and the Guards' Chapel Committee have taken the

decision to commission and install a new pipe organ to replace the current 1971 Hill, Norman & Beard organ. This new organ will support not only the Chapel's ceremonial and weekly services but also a greater programme of recitals and concerts which make use of the Chapel's facilities, including outreach initiatives for the local community and schools. They are seeking to raise £1 million from private donations to provide a new organ worthy of the Guards' Chapel.

#### Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries

Restoration of the 1901 Lewis & Co manual/21 stop organ. Reinstallation is underway.

#### **Nicholson & Co Ltd – major organ projects**

Current projects:

##### Leeds Town Hall

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

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

##### St Mary's Church, Portsea

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

The 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.

##### Manchester Town Hall Organ

Nicholson has been commissioned to undertake the historical reconstruction of the organ in Manchester Town Hall. The organ, the most significant surviving instrument of the few built in the UK by the Parisian organ builder Aristide Cavallé-Coll in 1877, was enlarged by him in

1893, and then rebuilt by the English firms Lewis & Co. in 1912 and Jardine & Co. in 1970. Nicholson's will be undertaking the work in an equal collaboration with the Dutch firm of Flentrop Orgelbouw. The organ was wholly dismantled in late summer of 2020, with completion due by the end of 2023 to coincide in 2024 with the re-opening of Waterhouse's much-loved building.

##### St Gabriel's, Pimlico

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

#### **Appointments**

##### James O'Donnell

James O'Donnell, Organist & Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey since 2000, has been appointed as Professor in the Yale School of Music and Yale Institute of Sacred Music. He will leave the Abbey this Christmas.

Recruitment for the role of Organist and Master of the Choristers will begin shortly, with the successful candidate expected to take up the post on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

##### Adrian Marple

Has been appointed DoM at Inverness Cathedral. Peter Morris advises that he was once a chorister and organ scholar at St Peter's Wolverhampton.

##### Simon Pearce

Has been appointed Organist & Master of the Choristers at St David's Cathedral

##### Claudia Grinnell

Has been appointed Sub Organist at Winchester Cathedral. She also was once a chorister and organ scholar at St Peter's Wolverhampton.

##### Jamie Rogers

Has been appointed Assistant DoM at Canterbury Cathedral

##### Anna Lapwood

Director of Music at Pembroke College, Cambridge, Anna has also been appointed as one of the Royal Albert Hall's four Associate Artists.

## RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

### Ashley Wagner recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Ashley Wagner FRCO is Organist & Assistant Head of Music at St Philip's Cathedral Birmingham, and indeed was our host for our LDOA visit to the Cathedral in March. Ashley was making his fifth visit to Emmanuel today.

Ashley opened with a flourish with Weber's thrilling *Jubel Overture*, arranged for organ by W T Best. This piece opens with loud chords, before quietening and eventually closes on full organ with the tune of the national anthem of what was the Kingdom of Saxony (1806-1910), and which sounds rather familiar, as it is also happens to be the tune of our very own national anthem! Ashley has uploaded to YouTube a clip of him playing this piece at Birmingham Cathedral, which you may like to take a look at via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNrXcD7Arno>

Next Ashley used the Willis apse organ to play the dreamy *Lied (from 24 pièces en style libre)* by Vierne, before turning to Duruflé for *Scherzo*. Then to a quirky piece, *Mr Mistoffelees* by Rachel Laurin, and suggested by the composer for Ashley to play in a competition, about a cat chasing mice, with possibly a nod to it being April Fools' Day today!

Having promised to use every stop on the Willis organ during the recital, for this next piece, Mozart's *Adagio for Glass Harmonica KV 356*, he chose the flute and string stops.

Finally, to Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, with Ashley playing the entire overture, providing a rousing close to a splendid recital.

It was good to see Andrew Fletcher in the audience lending his support, and commenting that it was one of the best recitals he had attended here at Emmanuel – praise indeed! TS

### Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Today's programme comprised music for Passiontide and Easter, opening with the powerful J S Bach/Widor *Final from St Matthew Passion from 'Bach's 's Memento'*. Next followed an Easter Day piece, which Thomas commented he'd never heard played live, and indeed Alan Rideout's *Three Resurrection Dances* was certainly new to me. The first dance was hoedown in style, the second comprised the odd combination of crashing chords alternating with a Vox Celeste, and the third dance was full all through, with a frantic ride to the climax.

Then to Handel's well-known *Messiah*, which though often associated with Christmas, was in fact written for Easter, with Thomas today choosing the beautiful *I know that my Redeemer liveth* and the rousing *Hallelujah Chorus*. Three short chorale preludes followed, written by Brahms in the last year of his life, with first *Herzlich tut mich verlangen*, the tune used for *O Sacred Head Sore Wounded*, then *Schmücke dich, o Lieber Seele*, and *Herzlich tut mich erfreuen*.

The Wanamaker Grand Organ, located in Philadelphia, Pensilvania, USA, is the largest fully-functioning pipe organ in the world, and is located within a spacious 7-story Grand Court at Macy's Center City (formerly Wanamaker's department store) and is played twice a day Monday through Saturday. Marcel Dupré played here and was given a plainsong theme on which to improvise. It is understood this theme was the basis for the *Symphonie Passion*, the third and fourth movements of which closed today's recital. *Crucifixion* is dark, growing in anxiety and pain, which is offset by the slow crescendo to the glory of the final crashing chords of *Resurrection*.

Requests slips handed out for the final recital of this series on 20<sup>th</sup> June 222. TS

### Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Today's recital was arranged to reflect the Commonwealth Games which take place in Birmingham later this year. All of today's composers originate from the Commonwealth.

The concert began with Percy Grainger's *Handel in the Strand*. Grainger was born in Australia in 1882 and left Australia at the age of 13 to study in Frankfurt. He became a USA citizen in 1918. *Handel in the Strand*, composed in 1911/12, was originally called *Clog Dance* but Grainger changed the name because the tune suggested Handel and the Strand in London was then the home of London musical comedy. Next Thomas played *The Bells are Calling* by Robert Ampt, the Sydney Australia Town Hall organist. This piece was composed in 2017 to mark the 175th anniversary of the city of Sydney, and gave Thomas the opportunity to use his 3-octave set of Whitechapel bells cast specifically for the Town Hall organ. Next *Walking Song* by Kevin Volans, born in South Africa in 1949 but moved permanently to Ireland where he became an Irish citizen in 1995. Then to Nigeria to hear *Obangiji* by Feda Sowande, 1905 to 1987, and born into a musical family – his father was an organist. Rachel Laurin is a Canadian organist and composer. Thomas commissioned music from her to mark his 800th lunchtime concert. Today he played her *Cantilene*, *Toccatina* and *Trumpet Tune* from 12 short pieces, composed from 2006 to 2018 and published in 5 volumes.

To finish we heard Healey Willan's *Introduction, Passacaglia & Fugue (1916)*. Willan was born in Eastbourne and emigrated to Canada in 1913, where he became organist of St. Paul's Toronto, moving later to St. Mary Magdalen, a church in the Anglo Catholic tradition. (During his time in England he was much involved with the Tractarian movement.) Today's piece was inspired by Max Reger's identically named piece, and was dedicated to Walter Alcock the organist of Salisbury Cathedral. Willan's composition was brought into the mainstream repertoire by a 1974 recording by the late Francis Jackson.

John H Allen

### Tony Pinel recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Today saw the return of Tony Pinel, born in Sutton Coldfield, and who stood in last November for James Lancelot who had to withdraw because of Covid isolation.

Tony was supported by the presence of John Pryer who taught Tony at the age of 12 and Andrew Fletcher who later taught Tony. Further support was offered by Marcus Huxley as Tony was Organ Scholar at Birmingham Cathedral.

Today's programme was changed from that original published. To open we heard the stirring *March on a Theme of Handel (Lift up your heads from the Messiah.)* Next some more gentle music, Bach's *BWV 658 – 'Von Gott will ich nicht lassen'*, one of the Leipzig Chorales. Then to César Franck's *Choral No. 2 in B Minor*. I noted 39 registration changes, thank goodness for sequencers! Next a 'lollipop' Edwin Lemare's *Rondo Capriccio*. Herbert Howells needs no introduction, nor do his *Psalms Preludes*. Today we heard *No. 1 from Set 1*.

Finally, a composer whom I had not heard of before. Denis Bédard was born in Quebec in 1950 and is now located in Vancouver. He has composed variations of many hymn tunes and today Tony played *Variations on 'Lasst uns erfreuen'*, which we know as the tune to the hymn *All Creatures of our God and King*, and the Easter Hymn *Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky*. A good attendance and next month we will hear the other member of the Pinel family, Tony's nephew Richard. John H Allen

#### **Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

When you have been City Organist for almost 40 years and you are giving your 813th Lunchtime Recital, it must be difficult to think of new themes for the recitals! Today's theme was *Invitation to the Dance*.

Thomas opened with Handel's *Organ Concerto Op 4 No. 2*. We have heard this before and the clever registration enhanced today's performance. Then to Mozart – *Adagio and Allegro K 594*. This was composed for a mechanical organ to be played hourly, at the request of the Field Marshal, in a mausoleum in which was a glass coffin which contained a wax effigy of Field Marshal Gideon, Baron of Laudon. (My choice would be the complete organ works of JSB!) Now to three related items from Austrian composers. Anton Heiller, born 1923 and died aged 55 from a heart attack. His *Tanz-Toccata* is a real challenge to play with multiple time changes for almost every bar. This was its Birmingham premier. Then to another Austrian composer - Franz Danksagmüller's *Estampie*. Finally in this section. Peter Planyavsky's *Toccata alla Rumba*, again a Birmingham premier. Planyavsky was a pupil of and is Heiller's biographer. Now to Saint-Saëns, his *Prelude and Fugue in B major*.

Finally, to a new composer for me – Jésus Guridi, born 1886 in the Basque region of Spain and into a musical family. His *Final* written in the last year of his life (1961), starts with a considerable similarity to the final movement of Vierne's *First Organ Symphony* and finishes with chords not far removed from those heard in the final movement of the Saint-Saëns' *Organ Concerto*. John H Allen

#### **Nathan Laube recital at St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The Organ Festival to celebrate the restoration by Michael Farley of the 'Father' Willis organ in St Peter's Collegiate

Church Wolverhampton was opened this evening by the prodigiously talented young American organist Nathan Laube. He has also given the opening recitals of rebuilt organs in Canterbury Cathedral and King's College, Cambridge.

His programme was not conventional, but he contextualised each piece with informative, interesting and relevant introductions. The Hollins' *Concert Overture in C minor* was a perfect start, characterised by such precisely articulated playing and imaginative registration that his admiration for the blind Victorian composer's ability to demonstrate new instruments that he could not see came through clearly.

Then came the Bach *Passacaglia & Fugue in C minor*, again played and registered very skilfully and appropriately. The counterpoint was brought out with crystal clarity throughout this demanding piece.

As at Canterbury, the piece de resistance was the Liszt *Piano Sonata in B minor*, 40 minutes of immaculate playing of this quintessential piece of piano music, arranged for organ by the player and using such an array of sounds that those of us who had created this organ really could not have hoped for a better performance. He had played this at the opening of the Canterbury organ, still available on YouTube, and will be playing it again at the Albert Hall in the Proms on Sunday 28th August – the only organist performing there this season. Finally, a breakneck transcription of the *William Tell Overture* tested the action of the organ to its utmost. It seemed to us all to have passed all the tests with flying colours. The entire concert was played unerringly from memory (I'm almost tempted to wonder why we spent money on putting in a music desk?).

PS. The next two concerts here are: Peter Holder of Westminster Abbey on 18 June and Callum Alger of St Peter's on 16 July. Peter Morris

#### **Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

Today saw the return of the trumpeter, Crispian Steele-Perkins. A table near the console contained trumpets of all sizes and ages. The display included a length of garden hose to demonstrate the effect of tubing lengths on the compass of the instrument!

The recital opened with Charpentier's *Prelude to the Te Deum* and played on the Piccolo trumpet. (Did you know that the theme to the BBC programme 'Antiques Roadshow' is played by Crispian on this very trumpet?) Then followed 3 short pieces by Handel played on a trumpet twice the length of the Piccolo trumpet. Then, using the modern valve trumpet he played the *Alleluia* from Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate*. After a brief history of the development of the trumpet, Crispian played the final movement of Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto*. Next four short pieces composed by Mozart when he was 9 years old.

Then a leap forward in time with Gershwin's *Someone to watch over me*, arranged by the American composer Joseph Turrin. To finish, a medley of Leroy Anderson's compositions. There was happily time for an encore – C S Lang's *Tuba Tune* with the trumpet playing the solo role.



Thomas was at his brilliant best, with well thought out and delightful accompaniment.  
John H Allen

## LOCAL VACANCIES

No vacancies currently notified to us.

## FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

### LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

#### Angela Sones

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 from 1pm to 1.45pm organ recital at Emmanuel, Wylde Green

#### Callum Alger

- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 5pm, organ recital at St Peter's Wolverhampton (see also St Peter's Wolverhampton Organ Festival 2022 below)
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 from 12 noon to 1.10pm, organ recital at Victoria Hall, Hanley

#### Simon Lumby

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 from 1.10 to 2pm, organ recital at Doncaster Minster
- See also St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent recitals listing below.

#### Broadway URC, Walsall

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

- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Maximillian Elliott (St Olave's, York)
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 – Daniel Greenway (Keble College, Oxford)
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022 – Thomas Keogh (Holy Cross Priory, Leicester)
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022 – Ashley Wagner (Birmingham Cathedral)

Free admission with retiring collection.

#### Liam Condon

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

#### Cathy Lamb

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 11am organ duet recital with Ben Lamb at Lichfield Cathedral
- See also St Modwen's Burton-on-Trent recitals listing below.

#### Ben Lamb

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 11am organ duet recital with Cathy Lamb at Lichfield Cathedral

#### Richard Syner

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

#### Martyn Rawles

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

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

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

- 1st June 2022 – David Butterworth
- 8th June 2022 - Tom Corfield (will include the premier of a work written for Tom by David Apprahmian Liddle)
- 15th June 2022 – Elli-Mae McGlone
- 22nd June 2022 – Edward Turner
- 29th June – Liam Condon
- 6th July 2022 – Alexander Binns
- 13th July 2022 – Cathy Lamb
- 7th September 2022 – Richard Syner
- 14th September 2022 – Simon Lumby
- 21st September 2022 – John Keys
- 28th September 2022 – Martyn Rawles

#### St Peter's Wolverhampton Organ Festival 2022

LDOA Student Member Callum Alger, DoM at St Peter's Wolverhampton, has organised an Organ Festival to inaugurate the 2019 restoration of the Father Willis organ at St Peter's, as follows:

- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Peter Holder (Sub-Organist Westminster Abbey)
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Callum Alger (DoM St Peter's Wolverhampton)

The concerts start at 5pm, with tickets priced at £10 each, or £25 for all three concerts, U 18s free. To book, see: [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com)

#### Recitals In Local Area (To end of July 2022)

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

#### June 2022

Wed 1 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent  
David Butterworth

Frid 3 June 2022 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel Wylde Green  
Richard Pinel (Jesus College, Cambridge)

Sat 4 June 2022 • 11.15 • Broadway URC, Walsall  
Maximillian Elliott (St Olave's, York)

Sun 5 June 2022 • 3.00 • Holy Trinity Wordsley - **ONLINE ONLY**  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 6 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Richard Pinel (Jesus College, Cambridge)

Mon 6 June 2022 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Tues 7 June 2022 • 12.30 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Anthony Pinel (St Chad's)

Wed 8 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent  
Tom Corfield

Thurs 9 June 2022 • 1.15 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sat 11 June 2022 • 7.30 to 9.30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Rachel Mahon (Coventry Cathedral)

Mon 13 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Darius Battiwalla (Leeds Town Hall)

Wed 15 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent  
Elli-Mae McGlone

Thurs 16 June 2022 • 1.10 to 1.55 • Kidderminster Town Hall  
Andrew Caskie (Worcester)

Sat 18 June 2022 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall Hanley  
Ian Tracey & Liverpool Cathedral Choir

Sat 18 June 2022 • 5.00 • St Peter's, Wolverhampton  
Peter Holder (Westminster Abbey)

Mon 20 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Rachel Mahon (Coventry Cathedral)

Mon 20 June 2022 • 1.00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Wed 22 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent  
Edward Turner (Derby Cathedral)

Mon 27 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Naji Tateno (Coventry Cathedral)

Wed 29 June 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent  
Liam Condon (Lichfield Cathedral)

Thurs 30 June 2022 • 12.15 • Worcester Cathedral  
Raymond Johnston (St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis, USA)

## July 2022

Frid 1 July 2022 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel Church Wylde Green  
Angela Sones (Sutton Coldfield)

Sat 2 July 2022 • 11.15 • Broadway URC, Walsall  
Daniel Greenway (Keble College, Oxford)

Sun 3 July 2022 • 3.00 • Holy Trinity Wordsley  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 4 July 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Paul Griffiths (Dubai)

Wed 6 July 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent  
Alexander Binns (Derby Cathedral)

Thurs 7 July 2022 • 1.10 to 1.55 • Kidderminster Town Hall  
James Lancelot (Tewkesbury & Emeritus Organist Durham Cathedral)

Thurs 7 July 2022 • 1.15 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
Travis Baker (St Mary's, Putney)

Sat 9 July 2022 • 12.00 to 13.00 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
Keith Hearnshaw (Concert Organist)

Mon 11 July 2022 • 11.00 to 12.00 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Cathy & Ben Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral)

Mon 11 July 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Stefan Donner (Vienna)

Wed 13 July 2022 • 12.30 to 1.10 • St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent  
Cathy Lamb

Sat 16 July 2022 • 5.00 • St Peter's, Wolverhampton  
Callum Alger (St Peter's Wolverhampton)

Sat 23 July 2022 • 12.00 to 13.00 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
Sean Tucker (St Stephen's, Bournemouth)

Mon 25 July 2022 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Thomas Corns (Sheffield)

Sat 30 July 2022 • 12.00 to 1.10 • Victoria Hall Hanley  
Dr Philip Smith & John Pryer

## LICHFIELD & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for August 2022, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/07/22, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA

## APPENDIX

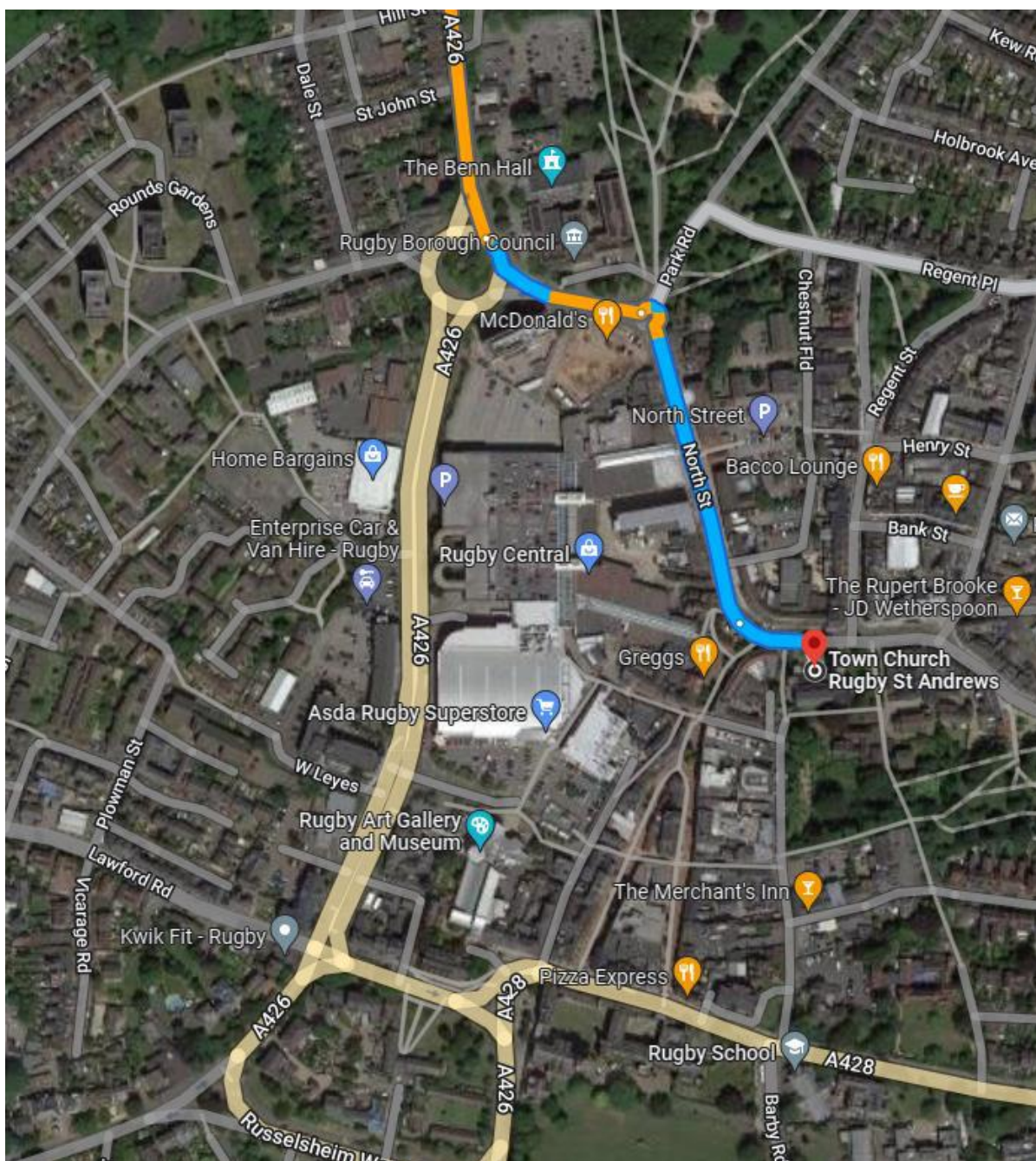
### Locator map, addresses and arrangements for our visit to Rugby Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**A further reminder that you need to advise Richard Syner at [richard.syner1@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.syner1@btinternet.com) not later than Monday 6th June if you plan to attend this visit to Rugby.**

The route to Rugby is via either the M6 or A5, to M6/J1, then take the A426 South for approx. 3 miles to Rugby.

#### St Andrew's Church, Rugby

Our visit to St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Rugby CV21 3PT, commences at 11am and finishes at 12.30pm. The church is located in the centre of Rugby. There is no car parking at the church, but the church has advised the nearest Pay & Display is on North Street, which leads into Church St. To access North St Car Park, referring to the locator map below, from the A426 turn left into Evreux Way (B5414), then first left into Park Road, first right down Regent Place, and first right into Chestnut Field, North Street Car Park is then down on the right. Probably more easily found is the Asda Car Park (see white roof in centre of map) accessed directly from the A426, where there's 2 hours free parking, small charge for 3 hours. Short walk from either car park through to church.



Locator map for St Andrew's Church, Rugby

## Rugby School

Our visit to Rugby School, Lawrence Sheriff Street, Rugby CV22 5EH, commences at 1.30 sharp. Return to the A426 and go the next large island in the centre of Rugby (bottom centre of above locator map), then keep in LH lane to take the first exit into Lawrence Sheriff Street A428. Take first right into Barby Road. We meet at Queen's Gate (Large ornate wrought iron gated entrance, just short distance down Barby Road on the right). For the car park we can use, continue about 400m down Barby Road, and on the RH side is the Collingwood Centre (No 15 on the site map below). This is barred and the keypad entry code is 1066 (opens automatically on exit). Please allow time to walk back up Barby Road to Queen's Gate to arrive at 1.30pm sharp. We will need to be taken as a party to register as visitors, so stragglers would complicate matters!

Refreshments will be provided during the afternoon, and we have been specifically requested to draw the attention of members to the Rugby School Visitor Policy, so please take a look at: <https://www.rugbyschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Safeguarding-Information-for-Visitors-2021-MASTER.pdf>



Map of Rugby School premises

The following link also takes you to view the above map online: <https://web.rugbyschool.co.uk/rugby-live/assets/File/9799%20Rugby%20how%20to%20find%20us%20flyer%20final%20June%202018.pdf>