

## OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

### FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

#### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

We are delighted to announce that our President, Martyn Rawles, has now confirmed Lichfield Cathedral is willing to accommodate what is always one of the highlights of year of visits. It was hoped it would follow the annual RSCM Lichfield Area Massed Choirs Festival Evensong at 5.30pm, but concerns about Covid-19 for a massed choir event has sadly resulted once again in its postponement. However, Martyn has confirmed that as things stand currently, he will still be able to host our President's Evening event commencing at 6.00pm. We'll be in contact with members should circumstances change.



The console of the Hill organ of Lichfield Cathedral

To comply with Lichfield Cathedral's Covid-19 protocol, we will need to wear masks, and for this year will have to forego our customary refreshments. Martyn also requires advanced information on the number attending and who wishes to play, as only two people are allowed in the confined space of the organ loft at any one time.

To enable us to comply with Martyn's request, please email Richard Syner at [richard.syner1@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.syner1@btinternet.com) by **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October** if you plan to attend, to confirm also whether or not you wish to play the superb Hill organ, and for the benefit of members downstairs, what you plan to play.

#### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – visit to All Saints' Church Alrewas and presentation by Stephen Alliss

A visit to All Saints' Parish Church, Church Rd, Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent, DE13 7BT, commencing at 2pm with a presentation by Stephen Alliss, Head Tuner of organ builder Harrison & Harrison. Stephen has been personally involved in many major UK cathedral organ restorations over the last few years, as well of course his responsibility for tuning the Hill organ of Lichfield Cathedral, so it should make for a fascinating insight into his work. Then an opportunity for members to play the 1882 2-manual 19-stop Brindley & Foster organ, rebuilt by Hawkins in 1977.



The organ of All Saints' Church, Alrewas (2011)

All Saints' Church can be found by following the A38 north towards Burton-on-Trent, then taking the A513 Alrewas turn. Follow the slip road round to the left, and at the roundabout take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit towards Kings Bromley. After 0.6 miles, turn right into Kings Bromley Road, then just before the bridge over the canal turn left into Mill End Lane, which becomes Church Road. The church is on your right.

#### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – LDOA Annual Dinner

After some 18 months of Covid-19 restrictions, finally an opportunity for members to get together and socialise over good food and wine at our Annual Dinner.

This year it is being held at The Owl at Lichfield, London Road, Lichfield, WS14 9QH, 7 for 7.30pm. For those not familiar with its location, the venue is on the southern outskirts of Lichfield going south on the London Road/A5206, on the RH side just before the A38 roundabout. The meal is from the *Festive Menu*, priced at £24.95 for three courses. Richard Syner will send out menu details shortly, with a request that you advise him the names of members and guests attending and their menu choices by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November at the latest.

Do please join us for a relaxing and enjoyable evening.

### RECENT VISITS/EVENTS

#### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – visit to St Matthew’s Walsall

Having had the visit to Rugby School postponed until 2022 due to Covid-19 concerns for the start of the new academic year, we were indeed indebted to LDOA Committee Member Peter Morris for arranging at short notice a visit to St Matthew’s Walsall, where he is Organist Emeritus.

Peter welcomed us and gave a brief history of the church and its organs. The earliest surviving reference to a church on this site is 1220, and the inner crypt, which dates from this time, is the oldest man-made structure in the town. The church has undergone many changes over the intervening years, particularly in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.



Interior of St Matthew’s Church, Walsall

Peter handed out copies of an interesting article he wrote on the organs for the magazine 'The Organ'. The first mention of an organ came in 1473, but the first specific record of an organ was in 1697, built by Bernard ('Father') Smith, but then replaced in 1773 by an organ built by

Samuel Green, who of course also built an organ for Lichfield Cathedral in 1789. The action became unreliable and in 1845/6 the organ was rebuilt by J C Bishop & Sons, who also moved it from its position above the centre of the chancel to its present position on the north side of the chancel. Further work carried out by Bishop in the 1880's and 1890's included addition of a pedal department, increasing the number of stops to 40, and installing tubular pneumatic action. The organ was rebuilt by J J Binns & Co in 1908, including the conversion from manual blowing to electric.

In 1953 the organ was rebuilt by J W Walker, including the addition of a new Solo organ, which resides in its own swell box and comprises a Walker 'Positive' organ, and a new 4 manual stop-tab horseshoe console, an unusual feature for an organ of this size.

In 1999/2000, the organ was rebuilt at a cost of £134,000 by Nicholson to a scheme by Roger Fisher and Peter Morris, Organist of St Matthew's at the time. This included a new solid state transmission system and piston capture system, winding modifications, and revoicing of all the choruses and some new pipework, including a Civic Trumpet added to the Solo, named in recognition of being part funded by Walsall Council. The 4-manual organ now has a very comprehensive 74 speaking stops, with a choice of no less than three 8' Open Diapasons on the Great, and a good choice of reeds on all division, not to mention the impressive Civic Trumpet on the Solo.



The organ of St Matthew’s, located in the North chancel chamber gallery



The four manual stop-tab console of St Matthew’s, Walsall

Whilst Peter was trying out the organ before we arrived, a cypher had developed, but we were fortunate to have amongst our members attending today Midlands organ builder Mike Thompson, whose services were called upon to silence the cypher, Mike pushing down the tuning wire of the offending reed pipe to prevent the tongue vibrating.

Cypher duly silenced, to demonstrate the organ Peter used Whitlock's *Hymn-Prelude on Darwell's 148<sup>th</sup>*, a very appropriate choice as of course John Darwell, the composer of the well-known tune to the hymn *Ye Holy Angels Bright*, was vicar here at St Matthew's until his death in 1789. The organ projects well down the nave of the church, with Peter drawing the forceful but not overbearing Civic Trumpet to good effect.

Then it was over to members to put the organ through its paces, with John Carvell 'up' first, followed by Richard Syner playing Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, providing another opportunity to sample the Civic Trumpet!

Next to Paul Hodgetts playing Stanford's *Allegretto from Op 101 6 Preludes & Postludes Set 1 No 1*. Having silenced the cypher, next to play was Mike Thompson with Jeremiah Clarke's *Trumpet Voluntary*, followed by a return to the organ by Paul Hodgetts for Guilman's *Sonata No. 1 (Pastorale & Final)*, ably assisted by Richard with the many registration changes required for this thrilling and all too rarely heard work. Finally, to Trevor Smedley to close proceedings playing J S Bach's *Prelude in B Minor BWV 544*.



Richard Syner at the organ of St Matthew's, Walsall

With only nine members attending, there was plenty of time for those who wanted to sample this fine versatile organ to do so, not to mention the delicious cakes thoughtfully provided by Peter's wife Jane. Our thanks to Peter Morris for organising and hosting a splendid visit, to Peter's wife Jane for the cakes, and to the members of St Matthew's church for making us so welcome on their Heritage Open Day. TS

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Callum Alger appointment

LDOA student member Callum Alger, having been Interim Director of Music at St Peter's Collegiate Church Wolverhampton for the last year, has now been appointed Director of Music. He is also Area Team Leader for the RSCM Lichfield Area. Our congratulations to Callum on his appointments.

### Liam Condon appointment

LDOA student member Liam Condon has been Organ Scholar of Lichfield Cathedral for the last two years, albeit that the first year was badly disrupted by Covid-19 restrictions. Liam has been a great asset to the Cathedral and has now been appointed as Honorary Assistant Organist, so he will continue to have an involvement in the Cathedral by playing for occasional services and accompanying the Cathedral's Chamber Choir. He is currently studying a PGCE in Music with OAKs, based at Keele University. Alongside the PGCE, Liam is also Chapel Organist at St John's Hospital Chapel, Lichfield, and is the accompanist to the Lichfield Cathedral Chorus.

### Angela Sones appointment, and recent recital at Howden Minster

LDOA member Angela Sones, having spent 27 years as Director of Music at All Saints' Four Oaks, from September will take up the position of Acting Director of Music at St Alphege Solihull.

Angela is also increasingly in demand as a recitalist, and her forthcoming recitals are listed under *LDOA Members Recitals/Events* later in this newsletter. She has already given an organ recital on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 at Howden Minster, and you might like to take a look at the video of Angela's superb recital there, which has been uploaded to YouTube. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4jQ6ODz7v0>

## NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

### Next committee meeting

October 2021 – date t.b.c.

## LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

### Lichfield Cathedral Evening Organ Recitals Series

Martyn Rawles has confirmed that the evening organ recitals are back. They will run on Friday evenings commencing at the slightly earlier time than normal, 7.15pm, until around 8.30pm. Unfortunately, there will be no refreshments or interval this year, and tickets at £10 are available on the door. Liam Condon and Paul Carr gave the September recitals, and the remaining dates and recitalists are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 – Martyn Rawles (Organist & Assistant Director of Music, Lichfield Cathedral)

- 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Cathy Lamb (Director of Music Outreach, Lichfield Cathedral School)

### **Lichfield Cathedral Chorus Concerts**

- Christmas Concert – 7pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Lichfield Cathedral
- Carol Concert with Salvation Army Cannock Citadel Band – 7 pm Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Lichfield Cathedral

### **Visit to Lichfield Cathedral by Bromley & Croydon Organists' Association**

Bromley & Croydon Organists' Association, one of our sister associations affiliated to the IAO, visited a number of venues in the Midlands in the first week of August, including Birmingham Cathedral, and on Friday morning 6<sup>th</sup> August, they visited Lichfield Cathedral, a visit hosted by Martyn Rawles. Martyn kindly invited a member of the LDOA Committee to come along to meet his visitors, and Trevor Smedley went along to represent our association.

The BCOA party of about a dozen was led by their President Norman Harper, who until 2018 was Director of Music at St George's Metropolitan Cathedral, Southwark, and their Hon. Secretary Christopher Town.

Proceeding into the Quire, Martyn gave a brief history of Lichfield Cathedral, and its organs. He apologised for the visitors not being allowed to play the organ due to the Cathedral's Covid-19 protocol related to the limited space at the console, and instead he retired to the organ loft to demonstrate the Hill organ, the visitors remaining in the Quire.

Martyn used a number of pieces with Lichfield Cathedral connections for his demonstration, with first *Organ Voluntary No 10* by John Alcock, Organist of Lichfield Cathedral 1750-61, followed a *Triple Fugue* by J S Bach, using a hand-written arrangement by Ambrose Probert Porter, Lichfield Cathedral Organist & Master of the Choristers 1925-59. Next, to demonstrate the Clarinet stop, *Intermezzo* by Clement Charlton Palmer, Assistant Organist at Lichfield Cathedral 1890-97, born in Barton-under-Needwood.

In his brief history of the organs of Lichfield Cathedral, Martyn covered the last major work on the Hill organ, carried out in 2000 by Harrison & Harrison to re-instate the Hill scheme of 1908, with certain carefully selected additions, most notably the 13 stop Nave Division. So, for his final piece Martyn chose *Fanfares for Chad*, composed by LDOA honorary member Paul Spicer, to celebrate both the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lichfield Cathedral and the Harrison & Harrison improvements, premiered here by Robert Sharpe in December 2000 at one of the inaugural recitals celebrating the completion of the 2000 work. As the piece was chosen to demonstrate the antiphonal effect of the newly installed Nave Division, Martyn suggested it would be best-appreciated by the visitors moving into the crossing/nave area. Demonstrating many varied colours of the Hill organ, it builds to end in a thrilling blaze of glory, making full use of the Nave Division. If you're not familiar with this superb composition, see it on YouTube played by Stephen Moore to open his Llandaff Cathedral recital, via: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj39qqzPLik>

The visit closed by the visitors joining a conducted public tour of the Cathedral. Having been able to play the organs at their other Midlands venues, it was a great shame Covid-19 protocol prevented them from sampling the superb organ of Lichfield Cathedral. TS

## **IAO/RCO MATTERS**

### **IAO AGM**

The 2021 IAO AGM will be held at 2pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 in the Grimshaw Room, St Chad's Metropolitan Cathedral, Birmingham. It will be followed by a short recital in the cathedral, ending at 3.30pm.

To allow suitable arrangements to be made, those planning to attend should please notify the General Secretary in advance via email to [secretary@iao.org.uk](mailto:secretary@iao.org.uk).

Please also note the following:

- Entry will not be available before 1.40pm.
- Face-coverings should be worn inside the building.
- Please come prepared to provide evidence, if requested, that you have been double-vaccinated (your NHS blue card will suffice) or have recently had a negative Covid test.

### **London Organ Day 2022**

The London Organ Day 2022 will be held at St Peter's Church, Vauxhall, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Entitled *Vauxhall Extravaganza*, the event utilises the recently restored Lewis organ, a Hammond organ, harmonium, and pipe organ with live-looping. The performers are IAO President Dr John Kitchen, Anne Page, Pam Hulme and Midlands organist Jean Martyn.

### **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 22<sup>nd</sup> to Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

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

### **Yorkshire Organ Day 2022**

Will be held in Hull. More details to follow when available.

## **NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD**

### **Thomas Trotter injury**

Just as he was resuming playing after eighteen months of cancelled recitals, unfortunately Thomas Trotter had a fall the end of August whilst out jogging, which has resulted in a broken bone in his upper left arm. Consequently, he has had to withdraw from all his recitals for the next few weeks, including of course his fortnightly lunchtime recitals in Birmingham. Organists are being approached to stand in for Thomas until he is able to resume playing.

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

### **Director of Music Appointments**

The following notable appointments have been announced:

- Ronny Krippner has been appointed Director of Music at Ripon Cathedral
- Simon Johnson has been appointed as Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral
- David Newsholme is Director of Music at Canterbury Cathedral
- Joe Cooper has been appointed Director of Music at Bangor Cathedral
- Jonathan Newell is now Director of Music at Brasenose College, Oxford
- Ed Jones has been appointed as Director of Music at Wakefield Cathedral

### **The Organ Manual online magazine**

In 2019, 14-year-old Anna Hallett published a report '*Inspiring Organists of the Future - Does More Need to be Done?*', and having concluded that indeed it did, the enterprising schoolgirl went on to create, with assistance, *The Organ Manual* website. Anna has been stunned by the reception of the report and site, and over the last two years it has developed into an invaluable source of information for aspiring organists.

Together with Alex Trigg, currently Junior Organ Scholar of St John's College Cambridge, *The Organ Manual* has now been transformed into a tri-annual free online publication. The first edition came out in September, with the 42 pages containing some interesting articles that are well worth reading. The online magazine can be accessed via:

<https://theorganmanual.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/organ-manual-online-magazine-september-2021.pdf>

### **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, anticipated for completion in autumn 2022. Work is progressing well with installation due after Easter 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. It is now being dismantled on the building room floor ready for packing. It is due to ship so that assembly on site can begin in the New Year.

#### **Christ Church, Alexandria, VA, USA**

The new 2-manual 22-stop organ has been completed awaiting shipping for some months, and finally looks set to leave the works now that the USA is allowing UK citizens to travel. Hopefully installation will be completed before Christmas.

#### **Bristol Beacon (formerly Colston Hall)**

Project to restore the 1955 4-manual/94-stop Harrison & Harrison organ. Now approaching completion of the first portion of the work, and discussions are ongoing about an installation date.

#### **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 pulpitum screen.

Work has begun in Durham with soundboard grids being made and reservoir carcasses being cut and assembled. Site work is scheduled for dismantling but the window is fluid.

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

Current projects:

#### **Radley College, Oxfordshire**

Nicholson has been commissioned to build a new organ for the chapel. This will, once again, be sited in the centre of the west gallery, within a new oak case. The organ will have three manuals and 53 stops, with mechanical action to the manuals and electro-pneumatic action to the Pedal Organ. Presently the organ is being installed in the chapel and the tonal finishing will begin in September, with completion expected by the end of 2021, and the official opening of the organ early 2022.

#### **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. The factory side of the organ building is now almost complete.

#### St Gabriel's, Pimlico

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

Future projects:

#### 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.

#### 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.

The organ will be dismantled in November/December 2021 and completion of the new organ is scheduled for November 2023. The consultant for the project is Dr William McVicker.

#### Henry Willis & Sons Ltd

Current projects:

- Liverpool Philharmonic Hall – 1939 Rushworth & Dreaper 3-manual 54-stop 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

#### Ian Imlay 1937-2021

Those members who went on our organ crawl to Leicester in June 2015 may remember our host at the second venue, St Nicholas, was Ian Imlay, Organist at St Nicholas. Sadly, Ian Imlay passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 aged 84 after a short illness.

Ian Imlay was organist at St Nicholas for over 60 years, a position he held until his death, and also played for Leicester University's graduation ceremonies for more than 30 years. He was named a Distinguished Honorary Fellow of the University, and in 2017 was awarded the MBE for his services to music. He was an active member of the Leicester & District Organists' Association, and inspired by Captain Sir Tom Moore, in June of this year Ian challenged himself to play 84 hymns to celebrate his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, raising more than £1000 in sponsorship for charity.



Ian Imlay, Organist of St Nicholas Leicester, with Andrew McMillan on page turning duties at our visit in June 2015

A *Musical Thanksgiving Evening* for Ian's life will be held at Leicester Cathedral on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

#### Shrewsbury Abbey's 1911 Hill Organ Restoration

Shrewsbury Abbey has a fine William Hill & Sons organ, installed in 1911, designed for the restored and extended Abbey. However, Hill's 1911 scheme for the organ was not completed. Keys stops were omitted, and there was no front casework. Winding initially was manual. The actions were entirely tubular pneumatic, the latest technology of the day.

By the 2010s, the actions were increasingly failing, winding systems were leaking, the whole organ was overdue a thorough clean, woodworm infestations were increasing, and it was still lacking the punch it needed. It was realised that, completed and renovated, this organ would potentially be magnificent, of regional and even national importance. The whole 2020 scheme will cost the Abbey around £200,000. Years of fund raising together with donations/grants from funds and charities has covered nearly all of this cost, however donations are still most welcome.

Carried out by GO Organbuilders of Herefordshire, the scheme of work was to:

- Convert the original tubular pneumatic actions to electro-pneumatic
- Electrify and restore the console to original condition
- Complete Hill's 1911 stop specification with a tuba added
- Restore and lift reservoirs/blowers above head height to gain storage space
- Erect new east end platforms for the missing pipework and raised winding
- Clean and repair all existing pipework; eradicate woodworm infestations



The Hill organ of Shrewsbury Abbey

This is the most significant work on the organ since its original installation, and after nearly 110 years, this scheme finally realises Hill's 1911 specification, with minimal change.

The re-opening recital planned for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 6.30-8.30pm was to have been given by Thomas Trotter, but due to injury he has had to withdraw, and James McVinnie (St Andrew's, Holborn) has stepped in to give the recital.

## RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

### Martyn Rawles recital at Lichfield Cathedral Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

Our president, Martyn Rawles opened his recital with a work by a composer with whom I'm unfamiliar, Alexandre Pierre Francoise-Boëly (1785-1858) but according to Eric Lunt's most informative programme notes, he was a talented pianist and organist, and also excelled as a viola player. He had passion for Bach at a time when his music had fallen from grace, which seems to led to his dismissal as organist of St Germain-l'Auxerrois in Paris for the 'austerity' of his playing. His *Fantaisie et Fugue en si bémol majeur* sets off at a lively tempo and leads into the delightful four-part fugue, before closing with a reprieve of the opening. A fine piece deserving of greater exposure.

Next onto more familiar ground with Mendelssohn's *Sonata No 6 in D Minor Op 65*, with the opening *Chorale* followed by four variations, then a four-part *Fugue*, and ending quietly with the pastorale-like *Finale: Andante*. Next followed Mozart with *Fantasy & Fugue in C (K383a)*.

Finally, to Saint-Saëns, coincidentally the one-time pupil of the composer of the first work in today's programme Boëly, for *Improvisation No 7 (From Sept Improvisations Op 150)*. Entitled *Allegro Giacoso*, this jaunty movement is as Eric Lunt observed, reminiscent of an old French Noel, and providing a thrilling closing flourish to the recital.

Yet another stunning faultless performance by Martyn Rawles. TS

### Luke Fitzgerald recital at Lichfield Cathedral Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Luke Fitzgerald has recently been appointed as the new Assistant Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral.

Luke has spent the last five years as a student and organist at Cambridge University, graduating with a starred first BA degree in Music in 2019 before continuing to an MPhil, which he completed in 2020. An undergraduate organ scholarship at Gonville and Caius took Luke on frequent tours around the world and involved making several recordings and radio broadcasts under Geoffrey Webber, as well as playing for the regular round of choral services, after which Luke went on to work with Stephen Layton and his choir in the role of Associate Organist at Trinity College. Most recently, Luke has completed his musical 'tour' around Cambridge's rich choral tradition by taking on the role of Assistant Organist at Jesus College for 2020-21 under Richard Pinel, returning to the college where he was fortunate to have been a chorister.

Luke commenced with probably the most well-known of Buxtehude's 19 organ preludia, *Praeludium in C (BuxWV 137)* often referred to as *Prelude, Fugue & Chaconne*, with its distinctive pedal solo opening, leading to the fugue and finally the cheerful chaconne.

Next to one of J S Bach's most-loved Leipzig chorales, *Chorale Prelude 'Schmücke Dich, O Liebe Seele' (BWV 654)*, followed by the delicious *Cantabile (No 2 from Trois Pièces Pour Grand Orgue)* by Cesar Franck.

Luke's choice to close his recital was Percy Whitlock's *Plymouth Suite*, written after he'd attended the IAO Congress at Plymouth in 1937, in which each of the five movements was dedicated to an organist present at the event. Although the programme showed all five movements being played, in the event *Salix* was omitted perhaps due to time pressure, but *Toccata* provided a lively finish to the programme. TS

### **Jonathan Allsopp recital at Lichfield Cathedral Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

Jonathan Allsopp is Assistant Director of Music at Southwell Minster, where he is the principal accompanist for the cathedral choir, trains the boy and girl choristers and directs the Minster Chorale. Prior to university he was Organ Scholar at Hereford Cathedral, then in 2017 he graduated with first class honours in Music from the University of Durham, where he was Organ Scholar at Durham Cathedral, and held the Thomas Beecham Scholarship. Until 2019 he was Organ Scholar at Westminster Cathedral. He is a FRCO, and maintains an active freelance career performing recitals at many cathedrals and churches across the country.

*Prelude & Fugue in D Major 'Hallelujah!'* by Franz Schmidt provided a flamboyant opening to the recital, before the fugue builds gradually to a massive chordal ending.

Next to J S Bach and one of my favourite Bach work, *Prelude & Fugue in D Minor BWV 544*, taken at just the right tempo to allow it to breathe. Next to Widor for *Andante Sostenuto* (From *Symphonie Gothique*) for a calming interlude before Jongen's dazzling and powerful *Toccata pour Grand Orgue Op 104*.

Finally, to Percy Whitlock, for an arrangement for organ by Riley of the rousing concert piece *March Dignity & Impudence*, originally written for the Municipal Orchestra in Bournemouth but played many times by Whitlock on the four-manual Compton organ in the Bournemouth Pavilion.

A superb and nicely-constructed programme, brilliantly performed, and gratifying to see well-supported by at least ten LDOA members. TS

### **Lucy Morrell recital at Lichfield Cathedral Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

Lucy Morrell has just finished a post as the Organ Scholar at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick.

Prior to moving to Warwick, Lucy was the Organ Scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where she regularly accompanied and conducted the choir at Evensong as well as being involved with the training of the choristers. During her time at Windsor, Lucy was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to play preservice music for two Royal Weddings and a Garter Day Service. Lucy read Music at Girton College, Cambridge, where she was the Organ Scholar for three years. She has played for services in various UK cathedrals, and at the start of 2017, Lucy gained her ARCO. This September, she will be moving to Dulwich College, where she will take up a post as Teacher of Music, as well as playing at various churches in and around London.

Lucy opened her programme with two works by J S Bach, *Prelude & Fugue in C Minor BWV 546*, and *Chorale Prelude 'Aus Tiefer Not Schrei' ich Zu Dir' BWV686*. Then followed one of the most popular of Mendelssohn's organ works, *Sonata No 3*, with first the majestic *Con moto maestoso*, followed in total contrast by the gentle *Andante tranquillo*.

After another staple of the organ repertoire, *Master Tallis's Testament* by Herbert Howells, Lucy provided a grand climax to both her recital and the splendid 2021 *Music for Reflection* series, with *Intrada* by Grayston Ives, written for Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral in 1977. TS

### **Alexander Binns recital at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

Today's recitalist was Alexander Binns, Director of Music at Derby Cathedral, prior to which he was Assistant Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Alex is the youngest Cathedral DoM in the UK, and a young man with a most impressive CV. He is a prize-winning graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he studied the organ with David Titterton and Susan Landale, and conducting with Patrick Russill and Paul Brough. Alongside his studies at the Academy, Alexander held the organ scholarships at Southwark Cathedral, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and St Marylebone Parish Church. Prior to studies in London he held the organ scholarship at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. As an organist, Alexander has performed at many prestigious venues including Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, the Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall, Snape Maltings, and abroad in France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Poland and the Netherlands.

Alex opened with *Trumpet Tune* by Philip Tordoff, a tuneful piece new to me, in a traditional format but with a quirky ending. Next followed the last of J S Bach's six trio sonatas, *Trio Sonata in G BWV 530*, a tricky piece played with beautiful articulation and accuracy. Then to Mozart's *Fantasia in F minor K594*, written originally like K608 to be played by a mechanical clock, but now firmly established in the organ repertoire.

Then to a contemporary piece we heard Alex play at Lichfield Cathedral in July, *Colimaçon* by Tarik O'Regan, a British composer with dual Arab and Irish heritage. Noel Rawsthorne's well-known *Prelude on Londonderry Air* followed.

Finally, to *Cannonade* by Claude Bénéigne Balbastre, a very lively and brash piece, with the requisite canon effect created by holding down a group of notes. TS

### **Cathy Lamb recital at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Those of us who have attended recitals given by Cathy Lamb know that we are in for an exciting but probably exhausting experience, given Cathy's boundless energy. Today's recital was no exception and as we arrived, we were given a cheery wave!



Her recital opened with the two-page *Archbishop's Fanfare* written by Francis Jackson (happily still with us and God willing will be 104 on October 2) for the enthronement in York Minster of Donald Coggan as Archbishop of York on September 13 1961. In my humble opinion, no organ recital is complete without Bach. Today Cathy delighted us with his *Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor BWV 582*. Next, we heard the whimsical *Funeral March of a Marionette* by Charles Gounod as arranged by W T Best. This enabled Cathy to explore the more 'unusual' stops on the organ. Finally, we heard the *Trois Pieces* by Jehan Alain. The final piece, *Litanies*, is often played, but today we also heard the *Variations sur un thème de Clément Jannequin* and *Le Jardin suspendu*. The recital was well supported and the audience gave Cathy well-deserved and prolonged applause. Once again, our thanks to Tony Westerman for his comprehensive programme notes.

John H Allen

### **Liam Condon recital at Lichfield Cathedral Friday 10th September 2021**

Following two years as Organ Scholar of Lichfield Cathedral, LDOA student member Liam Condon has been appointed an Honorary Assistant Organist at the Cathedral, and having given the opening recital of the lunchtime *Music for Reflection* recitals, was also this evening entrusted with giving the opening recital of the *Evening Recital Series*.

Liam opened with one of his favourite works, J S Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in G Major BWV 541*, with the *Prelude* marked *Vivace*, certainly providing a lively opening, which continues through to the bright *Fugue*. Next to perhaps one of Georg Böhm's best-known works, the delightful *Chorale Prelude: Vater unser im Himmelreich*.

Rachel Laurin is a Canadian organist, composer and improviser, and Liam chose three short contrasting pieces from her *Douze Courtes Pièces Pour Orgue Op 43*, playing *No 2 Toccatina*, *No 5 Moto Perpetuo*, and *No 6 Trumpet Tune*, intended to show different colours of the organ. Then to Jehan Alain's *Le Jardin Suspendu JA71 (AWV63)*, a dreamy evocation of oriental hanging gardens in the form of a chaconne, played in a high register all through.

Finally, a real *tour de force*, with Liam playing for the first time in recital the whole of Vierne's *Symphony No 2 in E Minor Op 20*. The distinctive dramatic opening to the *Allegro* is followed by the *Choral*, which although starting calmly enough, becomes quite intense and agitated, then the delicate *Scherzo*, which always reminds me of G B Nevin's *Will o'the wisp*. The plaintive *Cantabile* is followed by the *Final*, which after a brief *maestoso*, leads into a rather complex restless, unease, with numerous key changes, before then finally concluding in a more uplifting and positive fashion.

A superb recital, with the highlight being the Vierne, which Liam must have worked hard at to get to the high standard achieved. Console screening is usually provided for these evening recitals, adding to the enjoyment of the performance, so rather a shame it wasn't provided on this occasion. No doubt a causality of the impact on the Cathedral's finances of Covid-19 restrictions! TS

### **Mary Cobbold recital at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Mary Cobbold studied the organ in Buxton under Frederick Parnell before moving on at 16 to the Royal Manchester College of Music. She studied with Ronald Frost, Derek Cantrell and Eric Chadwick, before becoming organ scholar of Girton College Cambridge, continuing organ studies with Peter Le Huray and Christopher Dearnley. Alongside a career as Head of Music at Sheffield High School and St Bede's College, Manchester, Mary was Director of Music at Ecclesall Parish Church. She is a FRCO, and currently Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Millhouses, Sheffield. She is an Accredited Teacher for the RCO, and in his introduction, Tony Westerman mentioned that one of her ex-organ pupils was Robert Quinney, now Organist at New College Oxford, and previously at Westminster Abbey.

Mary opened with *Allegro from Concerto in D* by Claude Balbastre, a short vibrant piece full of energy. Next followed *Prelude, Fugue & Variation* by Cesar Franck, with the haunting melody of the *Prelude*, followed by a short interlude leading into the *Fugue*, and then the *Variation* on the opening theme, closing with a rippling semiquaver accompaniment.

Buxtehude's dancing *Fugue in C*, played in the manuals only except for the final nine bars, was followed by first Lemare's gentle *Allegretto in B Minor*, then probably Lefébure-Wély's most well-known piece, *Sortie in E Flat*, often referred to rather disparagingly as fairground music.

I first recall hearing Hendrick Andriessen's *Theme & Variations* when Alan Taylor played it at Broadway URC, and have since heard this fine piece played on a number of occasions. Mary chose to finish her programme with the short gentle *Cantilène in A Minor* by Theodore Salome. For me, the *Cantilène* would have made a rather pleasant 'sorbet' between the Lefébure-Wély and the Andriessen pieces, with the latter providing a grand full organ climax to the recital. TS

### **Angela Sones/Richard Hartshorn recital at Brownhills Methodist Church, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Angela Sones, LDOA member and following 27 years as Director of Music at All Saints' Four Oaks now Acting Director of Music at St Alphege, Solihull, was today making a return visit to Brownhills Methodist Church, this time accompanied by another LDOA member, Richard Hartshorn, to play a recital of organ duets.

With helpful video screening of the console, they opened with Mozart's *Sonata for four hands in D major*, in an ABA format of lively opening and closing movements with a slow central movement. Next followed J S Bach's *Largo ma non tanto* from *Double Violin Concerto*, which Angela first heard at a funeral and thought it would work well as a duet on the organ. It did!

*Duet for organ* by S Wesley was followed by *Capriol Suite* by Peter Warlock, a jaunty three movement dance suite, then Gustav Merkel's *Adagio from Sonata d-moll für die Orgel*, the first of nine sonatas.

Richard had played the treble and Angela the bass so far, but for the last piece, Angela took the treble and Richard the bass for Guy Bovet's *Fuga sopra un soggetto* ('Fugue on theme'), with Richard promising we would certainly recognise the theme. We did indeed, as it was the unmistakable *Pink Panther Theme*, with Richard playing the fugue before Angela joined in. An unusual but very entertaining end to the recital!



Richard Hartshorn and Angela Sones receiving their applause at Brownhills Methodist Church

At almost an hour and a half duration, clearly a great deal of hard work had gone into preparing for the recital by the talented duo, and appreciation for their efforts was shown by presentation of a bouquet of flowers and chocolates. After the restrictions of the last eighteen months, the drinks and cakes which followed were a much-appreciated sign of a return to something approaching normality. TS

### **John Keys recital at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 2021**

John Keys is Director of Music at St Mary's Nottingham, Nottingham City Organist, Vice Chairman of the Nottingham Albert Hall Binns Organ Trustee Committee, and members who attended may remember he hosted our visit to Nottingham in September 2018. He was Assistant Organist at Chester Cathedral before going up to New College Oxford at Organ Scholar. After graduating in 1981, he went to Geneva to complete his organ studies at the Conservatoire with Lionel Rogg, where he won several prizes. He has also followed an independent career as a recitalist, performing in the UK, Europe, USA and Australia, and is a continuo player, accompanist and conductor

In his introduction, John commented that this was the first recital he had been able to give for many months due to Covid restrictions. He opened with two short but lively pieces, with first *Rondeau* from the incidental music to *Abdelazar*, followed by *Les Sauvages – Les Indes Glantes* by Jean-Philippe Rameau, one of the most important French composers and theorists of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Next to Camille Saint-Saëns for first *Allegretto Op 150 No 4*, followed by the well-known lively *Allegro Giocoso Op 150 No 7*. John Rutter's beautiful *A Gaelic Blessing* is of course a choral piece, but John Keys had obtained the

composer's blessing to arrange it as an organ solo. Two popular works by Elgar's followed, *Chanson de Nuit* and *Chanson de Matin*, the latter reminding me of piano lessons taken when a schoolboy!

After *Sortie in E Flat* last week, today John played Lefébure-Wély's *Bolero de Concert*, conjuring up images of the entry of the matador, before closing his recital with Mendelssohn's ever-popular *War March of the Priests*, providing a rousing full organ finish. TS

### **Paul Carr recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Tonight's organist was Paul Carr, who many members will know from his regular recitals at St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham, and Holy Trinity Wordsley.

Paul really needs no introduction, but for the record he is a graduate of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and is a Birmingham based freelance musician. He has given monthly *Sunday Afternoon Organ Music* recitals at Holy Trinity Wordsley for over 20 years, and has presented monthly *Thursday Live* organ recitals, latterly at St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham along with Professor David Saint. As a soloist and choral accompanist he has performed in many venues in the UK, USA and Europe, including notably two organ recitals at Notre Dame, Paris.

With his wife Hannah as usual on page turning duties, Paul's first offering was Dupré's *Prelude & Fugue in B Major Op 7 No 1*, which opens with a brilliant carillon-style toccata. The fugue's subject has a striking rhythm which pauses on the fourth beat and features a range of highly imaginative modulations, and continues throughout in animated restless fashion, before concluding in a blazing and joyous affirmation of all that has gone before.

Next to J S Bach and *Trio Sonata No 5 in C Major BWV 529*, with the first and last *Allegro* movements played with a beautifully light dancing touch, and with the sublime lyrical *Largo* central movement. Next, in total contrast, followed Rheinberger's *Introduction, Allegro & Passacaglia from Sonata No 8 in E Minor Op 132*, with the full organ *Introduction*, followed by the short *Adagio* leading into the quiet pedal solo opening to the *Passacaglia*, followed by 24 beautifully registered variations, which culminate in a thunderous full organ climax.

Then another complete change of mood with the quirky *Serenade* by Derek Bourgeois, written with a crazy fluctuating rhythm for the wedding to his wedding for the organist to play as the guests left the ceremony!

Next to a piece new to me, and I suspect many others in the audience, *Sonata No 1 in C Sharp Minor Op 5* by Basil Harwood, who is probably best-known for his liturgical works. This piece was written whilst he was Organist at St Barnabas church, Pimlico. The first movement, *Allegro Appassionato*, is certainly passionate, and is followed by a short *Andante*, before the final movement, *Maestoso – Con Moto*, concludes with a dazzling climax, Paul deploying both the nave division and the main organ to great effect.

After gentle melodic *Bénédiction Nuptiale for Organ in F Major Op 9* by Camille Saint-Saëns, Paul closed his recital

with his own imaginative arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Waltz of the Flowers*, from *The Nutcracker Suite*, with initially delicate arpeggios imitating a harp, before building to the final full organ climax.

I've rarely heard a visiting organist to the Cathedral perform such a well-constructed programme so superbly, with registrations beautifully judged to bring out the best of the Hill organ and the nave division.

A terrific recital by Paul Carr.

### **Sarah Baldock recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

With no lunchtime organ recitals at Birmingham Town Hall since March 2020, this was to have been Thomas Trotter's opening recital of the 2021-22 series, but having been prevented from earning a living performing organ recitals for the last 18 months, in a cruel turn of fate, he is now unable to perform due to an injury. Thomas attended today's event to explain that a nasty fall, sustained when out jogging five weeks ago today, resulted in a broken bone in his left upper arm, which will keep him out of action for the next few weeks. Thankfully, we learned that there was no damage to his hand or wrist. Guest organists have been approached to stand in for Thomas, and Sarah Baldock has accepted the invitation at short notice to perform today.



Sarah Baldock

Sarah Baldock has been a recitalist, choral conductor and teacher since leaving Cambridge, where she was Organ Scholar at Pembroke College. For ten years, she was appointed to found and direct the Girls' Choir at Winchester Cathedral, and in 2002 was appointed Assistant Director of Music to Andrew Lumsden. From 2008-20 she was Organist & Master of the Choristers at Chichester Cathedral. She now teaches at Cheltenham Ladies' College, and is a regular tutor of organ repertoire, technique and skills at courses including for the RCO. She has toured Denmark, America and Germany. In introducing Sarah, Thomas explained that they go back quite some years, as she was once a student of his, and performed one of the recitals for the opening of the Klais organ at Symphony Hall. Her girls' choir has also performed with Thomas at the Symphony Hall Christmas Concerts. Sarah has done on-line teaching during the lockdown, and has used the time to also learn new repertoire, particularly Bach.

Thomas having taken his seat next to his sister in the audience, Sarah opened with Buxtehude's *Präludium in C BuxWV 137*, which she described as 'having unexpected harmonies and flourishes'. In speaking about her programme today, Sarah commented on what a treat it was to play Mendelssohn on the organ the composer had played almost 200 years ago, and indeed the next piece was Mendelssohn's glorious *Sonata No 2 in C Minor Op 65*.

Next, to J S Bach for *Piece d'Orgue BWV 572*. It's always interesting to hear the varied approaches taken by organists to registering the three sections of this piece, which makes you wonder just how Bach would have performed it! Then to Frank Bridge's gem of English repertoire, *Adagio in E*, Sarah managing the crescendo/diminuendo quite beautifully.

Sarah closed with Boëllmann's ever-popular *Suite Gothique Op 25*, and having found a stop called 'Full Organ', Sarah announced she would be using it tastelessly for the climax of the *Toccata* final movement. She did indeed, no cobwebs being left undisturbed!

Sarah was encouraged to play an encore, and again turned to Buxtehude, this time for the delightful *Jig Fugue in C*.

With a well-constructed programme, equally well performed, Sarah proved to be a worthy stand-in for Thomas.

The turnout for this opening recital was rather disappointing, being I would estimate no more than half the usual number. Let's hope the attendance recovers to its pre-pandemic level for the next recital, which is to be given by someone who is himself no stranger to Town Hall organ recitals, Gordon Stewart, Organist of Huddersfield Town Hall. TS

### **Martyn Rawles recital at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> 2021**

For the final recital in the 2021 series at St Modwen's, LDOA President and Organist & Assistant Director of Music at Lichfield Cathedral was the recitalist, with LDOA member David Perry entrusted with page turning duties.

In his opening remarks Martyn commented that this week was his first visit in his 13 years at Lichfield to St Modwen's, and described his first piece as extraordinary and fun. *Creation Dance* by Neil Cox is certainly that, culminating in a frenetic ride to a choral climax. Next to the 17<sup>th</sup> century composer Girolamo Frescobaldi for *Bergamasca*, published as part of *Fiori Musicali*, a collection of religious pieces, though *Berganmasca* is decidedly secular.

Ambrose Probert Porter was Lichfield Cathedral Organist & Master of the Choristers 1925-59, and in a box of his music presented by his relatives to Lichfield Cathedral, was his arrangement of J S Bach's *Contrapunctus XI (Die Kunst Fuge) BWV 1080*. Probably not played for the last 50/60 years, it opens with the fugue subject before developing in increasing complexity. Then onto more familiar ground with Lemare's arrangement of the well-known *Humoresque* by Dvořák.

Then to another piece with a Lichfield connection, by acclaimed choral conductor and LDOA honorary member Paul Spicer. *Elegy* is one of his early organ compositions, in memory of his grandfather, Harold Spicer. Then to a piece with a strong local connection to both this area and Lichfield with *Intermezzo*, 'a clever little piece' by Clement Charlton Palmer, Assistant Organist at Lichfield Cathedral 1890-97, who was born in Barton-under-Needwood, educated at Derby School of Music and Repton School, later becoming Organist of Canterbury Cathedral.

To close both the recital and this year's recitals series *Carillon-Sortie* by Henri Mulet, a well-established part of the organ repertoire particularly suited to its use as a rousing closing voluntary.

Another impeccably performed recital by Martyn. TS

### FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

#### LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

##### Angela Sones

- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 1pm to 1.45pm, organ recital at Derby Cathedral
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 from 1.10pm to 1.50pm, organ recital at St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 from 1.10pm to 2pm organ recital with Richard Hartshorn at St Alphege, Solihull
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 from 1pm to 1.45pm organ recital at Emmanuel, Wylde Green

##### Richard Hartshorn

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 from 1.10pm to 2pm organ recital with Angela Sones at St Alphege, Solihull

##### Martyn Rawles

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 from 7.15pm to 8.30pm, organ recital at Lichfield Cathedral.

##### Cathy Lamb

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 7.15pm to 8.30pm, organ recital at Lichfield Cathedral
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 from 12.30pm to 1.10pm, organ recital at Christchurch Priory

##### Liam Condon

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 at 12 noon, organ recital at St Chad's, Stafford.

##### Peter Morris

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 from 1.10pm to 2pm organ recital with Peter's wife Jane (flute) at St Alphege, Solihull
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 at 1pm to 1.45pm, organ recital at Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green

##### Paul Spicer

- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 from 9.15am to 5.30pm at the Coton Centre, Comberford Road, Tamworth. *Come & Sing Brahms' German Requiem* conducted by our honourable member and acclaimed choral conductor Paul Spicer, with accompanist Paul Carr, and soloists Emily Carew-Gibbs and Paul Belshaw. There will be a run-through performance at 4.45pm. For details and the booking code at Trybooking.com see: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BFOO>

##### Simon Lumby

- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 from 12pm to 12.45pm organ recital at St Paul's, Bedford.

#### Recitals In Local Area (To end of November 2021)

##### October 2021

Frid 1 October 2021 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green  
Marcus Huxley (Birmingham Cathedral)

Frid 1 October 2021 • 1.15 to 2.00 • St Mary's, Warwick  
Mark Swinton (St Mary's Warwick)

Frid 1 October 2021 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

Sat 2 October 2021 • 12 noon • St Chad's Stafford  
Liam Condon (Lichfield Cathedral)

Sat 2 October 2021 • 7.30 to 8.30 • Worcester Cathedral  
Simon Johnson (Westminster Cathedral)

Sun 3 October 2021 • 3.00 to 3.20 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
- **ON-LINE ONLY**  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sun 3 October 2021 • 3.30 to 4.20 • St Martin's, Barcheston  
Nicholas Wearne (Royal Birmingham Conservatory)

Mon 4 October 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Alistair Stone (Pembroke College, Oxford)

Tues 5 October 2021 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Carleton Etherington (Tewkesbury Abbey)

Thurs 7 October 2021 • 1.15 to 1.45 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham) & Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Thurs 7 October 2021 • 1.15 to 1.55 • Worcester Cathedral  
Ashley Wagner (Birmingham Cathedral)

Sat 9 October 2021 • 5.00 to 6.00 • Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon  
Paul Walton (Bristol Cathedral)

Mon 11 October 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
William Fairbairn (St Paul's School)

Mon 11 October 2021 • 13.00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Gordon Stewart (Huddersfield Town Hall)

Tues 12 October 2021 • 1.00 to 1.40 • St Andrew's, Rugby  
Philip Bricher (Holy Trinity, Northampton)

Frid 15 October 2021 • 12.40 to 1.20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Charles Francis (Birmingham Cathedral)

Frid 15 October 2021 • 1.15 to 2.00 • St Mary's, Warwick  
John Keys (Nottingham City Organist)

Frid 15 October 2021 • 6.30 to 8.30 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
James McVinnie (St Andrew's, Holborn)

Frid 15 October 2021 • 7.15 to 8.30 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral)

Mon 18 October 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Alex Norman (Holy Trinity, Coventry)

Sat 23 October 2021 • 12.00 to 1.15 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
Donald MacKenzie (Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square)

Sun 24 October 2021 • 3.00 to 3.45 • All Saints', Leamington Spa  
Adrian Moore (St John's, Leamington Spa)

Mon 25 October 2021 • 13.00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Margaret Phillips (concert organist)

Frid 29 October 2021 • 1.00 to 1.40 • Derby Cathedral  
Angela Sones (St Alphege, Solihull)

Sat 30 October 2021 • 12.00 to 1.00 • Malvern Priory  
Piers Maxim (Malvern Priory)

Sun 31 October 2021 • 8.00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Donald MacKenzie (Odeon, Leicester Square)

### **November 2021**

Mon 1 November 2021 • 1.10 to 1.50 • St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham  
Angela Sones (St Alphege, Solihull)

Thurs 4 November 2021 • 1.15 to 1.45 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham) & Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Frid 5 November 2021 • 1.00 to 1.45 • Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green  
James Lancelot (Durham Cathedral – Organist Emeritus)

Sun 7 November 2021 • 3.00 to 3.20 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sun 7 November 2021 • 3.30 to 4.20 • St Martin's, Barcheston  
Mark Swinton (St Mary's, Warwick)

Mon 8 November 2021 • 13.00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Wed 10 November 2021 • 1.10 to 2.00 • St Alphege, Solihull  
Peter Morris (Organ) with Jane Eminson (Flute)

Thurs 11 November 2021 • 1.15 to 1.55 • Worcester Cathedral  
Samuel Hudson (Worcester Cathedral)

Remembrance Sun 14 November 2021 • 3.00 to 3.45 • All Saints', Leamington Spa  
Christopher Beaumont with Caroline Gosling (soprano) & Julie Black (alto)

Frid 19 November 2021 • 1.15 to 2.00 • St Mary's, Warwick  
Matthew Howell (St Mary's, Warwick)

Sat 20 November 2021 • 10.30 to 11.30 • St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove  
Keith Hearnshaw (Worcester)

Sat 20 November 2021 • 12.00 to 1.15 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral/Liverpool City Organist)

Mon 22 November 2021 • 13.00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Frid 26 November 2021 • 12.00 to 1.30 • Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon  
Douglas Keilitz (Holy Trinity, Stratford-upon-Avon)

Mon 27 November 2021 • 12.30 to 1.00 • Coventry Cathedral  
David Briggs (St John the Divine, New York City, USA)

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

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**Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for December 2021, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/11/21, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA**