

AUGUST 2012 NEWSLETTER

RECENT LDOA VISITS

Tuesday 12th June 2012 visit to St James Church, Mere Green, Sutton Coldfield

We were welcomed by organist Adewale Bamodu to St James Church, Mere Green, for this evening's visit, but having been at St James for only two years, Adewale was only able to provide a brief outline of the history of the church and the organ. However, I'm much obliged to Derek Pimble for his well-researched booklet entitled 'A Tale of Three Churches', which very amply fills in the gaps. Despite the title of the booklet, it is in fact only about St James, but the title alludes to the original church, the church that might have been, and the church as it is today.

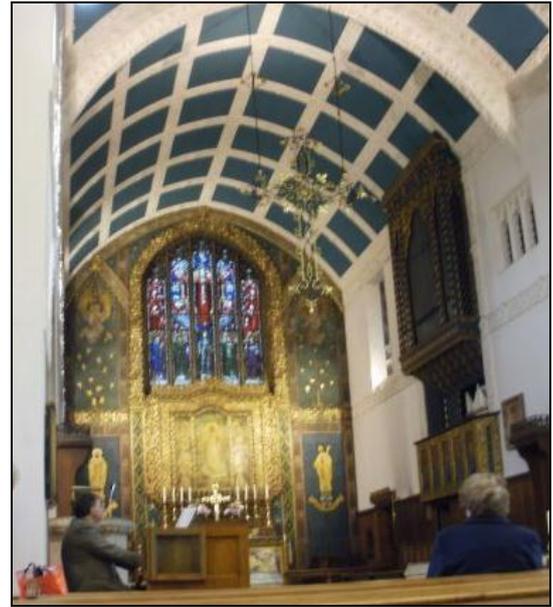


St James Church, Mere Green, Sutton Coldfield

The original church was built in 1834-35 by architect Daniel Rollinson Hill, and comprised a small chancel, a simple nave and a west tower with pinnacles. It was of brick construction, rendered and coursed to resemble ashlar. At the start of the 20th century, following significant population growth, it was decided to demolish the original church and rebuild in a much grander style under architect Charles Edward Bateman. Thus, in 1906-8, the chancel was demolished and rebuilt on a larger scale with a fine Arts and Crafts interior, and the transepts, crossing, organ loft and vestries were also added, with all the new building being in Hollington sandstone ashlar. The rebuilding of the nave, to provide a barrel roof of the same height as the new chancel, and a larger tower were never carried out, so the original building of 1834-5 still stands west of the crossing, with the difference in height between the new higher chancel and the original nave clearly seen in the photo above.

At the church's centenary in 1935, extensive work was carried out, and then between 1990 and 1997 further extensive restoration and refurbishment work took place, giving the bright and airy interior seen today.

With regard to the organ, the NPOR shows that it was last surveyed in 1953, and as being a two manual instrument by Nicholson & Co, whereas in fact it now has three manuals.



St James, Mere Green. View of the chancel from the nave, with the organ on the right and remote console bottom left

The organ was indeed built by Nicholson, between 1919 and 1922. Mr Drewett was organist at the time and having been given to understand that the rebuilding of the church would be continued, he had designed a rather larger instrument than he would otherwise have done, with three manuals and pedals. Only two manuals could be built at the time, and room was left for two additional stops and for the Choir organ. Some of the mechanism was temporary, and indeed originally one manual was tracker action and the other pneumatic action. The Great was converted to pneumatic action in 1936, as was already the case with the pedal organ, but leaving the Swell organ still as tracker action. Some work was carried out by Hill, Normal & Beard in the mid 1950's, and David Gumbley recalled that around that time, when he was a chorister at All Saints Four Oaks, he came to a recital in 1954 at St James by Harold Howl, who was acknowledged in the area as a fine teacher and player of both piano and organ. David also has nostalgic recollections of coming for a period around 1960 for organ practice, ascending the steep ladder from the vestry up to the console, at that time located directly under the casework.

In 1985, in time to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary, the organ was rebuilt by Leonard Reeves of Stoke. The console was moved down from the organ loft to its present position in the nave, the positive organ

installed in the space previously occupied by the console, the third manual activated, and the whole converted to electric action. The inaugural recital was given on 11th March 1986 by a young man who had been appointed as Birmingham City Organist a few years earlier in 1983 – a certain Thomas Trotter no less! During 2001 the organ was completely dismantled, cleaned and reassembled by Mark Thompson of Burton-on-Trent.



The organ of St James Church, Mere Green

The specification of the organ as it stands today is:

Pedal

16' Bourdon, 16' Open Wood, 16' Quintaton, 8' Bass Flute, 8' Octave Wood, 5¹/₃' Quint, 4' Fifteenth, Mixture (15.19.22), 16' Contra Oboe, 16' Trombone, 8' Trumpet, 4' Clarion

Great

16' Quintaton, 8' Open Diapason, 8' Harmonic Flute, 4' Principal, 4' Rohr Flute, Mixture (19.22.26), Sesquialtera (12.17), 8' Trumpet

Swell

8' Diapason, 8' Viol D'Orchestre, 8' Violes Celestes, 8' Gedackt, 4' Lieblich Flute, 4' Gemshorn, 2' Flageolet, Sharpe Mixture (22.26.29), 16' Contra Oboe, 8' Oboe, 8' Cornopean, Tremulant

Positive

8' Quintaton, 8' Dulciana, 8' Gemshorn, 4' Gemshorn, 4' Flute, 2²/₃' Nasard, 2' Principal, 2' Flautina, 1³/₅' Tierce, 1¹/₃' Larigot, 1' Octavin, 8' Festival Trumpet, 4' Festival Trumpet, Tremulant

Accessories

Full range of couplers, plus memory capture system with divisional thumb pistons to each division.

There was then an opportunity to hear the organ, skilfully demonstrated by our genial host and organist Adewale Bamodu. Adewale was born in Nigeria and came to this country originally some 15 years ago, as a result of being

awarded an organ scholarship to the RCO in London. Funding ran out before completion of the course, and Adewale returned to Nigeria, but some 10 years ago he returned to the UK, working as a teacher, and was given organ lessons by organist, choral conductor and composer Colin Mawby.

Then it was over to our members to sample the organ, and it was most gratifying to see that 7 of the 10 members attending the visit took full advantage of the opportunity. The organ sounds well, helped by a very nice acoustic in the church, and more than ample power for the size of building. As can be seen from the specification, there is a very comprehensive array of reeds in all divisions. The Positive organ has some lovely delicate stops, but given the prominent location of the Positive organ, when coupled to the Great and with the Festival Trumpet stops drawn, a very powerful full organ sound results. Definitely no issue with the sound reaching down the nave with this instrument!



Margaret Pinder at the console of St James, Mere Green



Chris Greenhalgh at the console of St James, Mere Green

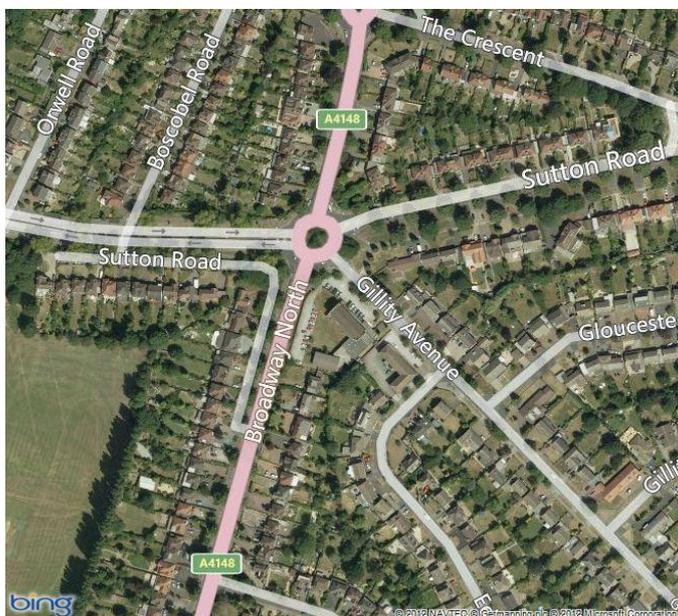
We're indebted to Rev Bill Moore for inviting us to St James, and to Ade for hosting a most enjoyable visit, providing much appreciated refreshments, and inviting members who would like to play the organ to contact him.

Indeed some have subsequently taken up Ade on his generous offer, and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to spend a little more time exploring this fine and versatile instrument.
TS

FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS

Saturday 8th September 2012 visit to Broadway United Reformed Church, Walsall

Visit commences at 2.30 pm, hosted by our member and Broadway Organist/Choirmaster Alan Taylor. The organ is a large 4 manual 51 stop organ built by Lloyd & Haynes, comprising mainly Nicholson/Nicholson & Lord pipework, with a modern mobile console. (See October 2011 newsletter for photos and description). The church is located by the Walsall ring road at the junction of Broadway North (A4148) with Sutton Road (B4151), and the entrance to the large car park is a few yards down Gillity Avenue from the roundabout, on the right hand side. For Satnav users, the postcode is WS5 3PH.



NB. You may like to make a note in your diary of a recital at Broadway URC by Daniel Bishop of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on Saturday 15th September, the week after our visit.

Saturday 10th November 2012 - President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

Visit hosted by our President, Martyn Rawles. Open Choir rehearsal at 4.45 pm, followed by Evensong, then an opportunity for members to play the magnificent Hill organ, before finally adjourning for refreshments.

Wednesday 21st November 2012 visit to St Stephen's Methodist Church, Cannock (Note - Additional Visit)

St Stephen's has just installed a three manual custom built Makin organ with a stop list of 51 stops designed by Professor Ian Tracey, Liverpool Cathedral.

Ian Tracey is giving an inaugural recital of the organ on Wednesday 26th September 2012 at 7.30 pm (See flyer with this newsletter), and Eric Brooks has kindly invited us

to visit and try the new organ for ourselves on Wednesday 21st November at 7.30 pm. **Please note this is an extra 2012 visit.**



New Makin organ of St Stephen's Methodist Church

Wednesday 5th December 2012 - Annual Dinner

Christmas meal at 7 pm for 7.30 pm at The Hedgehog, Lichfield

2013 Visits

Pam Strong is well advanced with arrangements for our visits in 2013, which so far include:

Saturday 12th January 2013 visit to Eccleshall and Gnosall

Visit to Eccleshall Holy Trinity Church, commencing at 11 am to play 3 manual Hill, Norman & Beard organ. After break for lunch, on to Gnosall Parish Church for talk by a local historian on history of this very old building, and opportunity to play the 2 manual Banfield organ

Saturday 23rd February visit to All Saints Four Oaks

Visit to All Saints Four Oaks, commencing at 2.30 pm to play the 4 manual organ, the inaugural recital of which was given by Ian Tracey in March 2012 following the restoration by Peter Spencer.

Saturday 27th April 2013 Shenstone area organ crawl and 2013 AGM

Commencing at 11 am, organ crawl to Shenstone Methodist Church, St Peter's Little Aston and Shenstone Parish Church. The visit will also include our 2013 AGM

Hoping to arrange an organ crawl to Shrewsbury, but no details available as yet.

NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

Children and the Organ

To ensure the future playing of organs in our churches, a stated aim of our Constitution is 'To foster an interest in the organ and organ playing among young people'. Martyn Rawles, Cathy Lamb, Eric Lunt and Steve Mansfield have kindly agreed to assist us in organising an event to fulfil this aim, and Trevor Smedley is meeting periodically with this group to plan the event. Following our last meeting, whilst it has not been possible to accommodate the event

in the Cathedral's busy 2012 diary, Martyn Rawles has now gained agreement with the Chapter to hold the event on Saturday 2nd February 2013. With a date now fixed, we can gear our detailed plans to ensuring we have a successful event.

Next Committee Meeting

The date of the next Committee Meeting has yet to be finalised.

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Member

We are delighted to welcome Alex Goldsmith to our Association. Alex is a student and is starting his 'A' levels in September. He has had piano lessons with Karen Thompson, and also plays the organ. He is working towards his Grade 8 in both piano and organ, and has aspirations to be an organ scholar at one of the universities. He will be playing the organ for services at St Modwen's Parish Church, Burton-on-Trent, from September 2012. Alex lives at Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent.

We look forward to meeting him at our future events.

Cathy Lamb

For those of you for whom the news from Cathy and Ben Lamb has yet to reach, we thought you'd like to share in their good news that Cathy is expecting, and we send them both our very best wishes.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

Organ Recitals – Evening Series

The 2012 Evening Organ Recitals commence in September, and the revised schedule is:

Tuesday 11th September 2012 at 7.30 pm

Stephen Farr international concert virtuoso and 2011 BBC Proms soloist

Tuesday 2nd October 2012 at 7.30 pm

Cathy Lamb, Lichfield Cathedral

Tuesday 27th November 2012 at 7.30 pm

A silent film improvisation by Alex Mason of Cecil B De Mille's 'King of Kings'. A welcome return visit to Lichfield by Alex Mason, who was Assistant Organist at Lichfield from 2002-7, before moving to St David's Cathedral, and is now Director of Chapel Music at Shrewsbury School.

Tuesday 11th December 2012 at 7.30 pm

Martyn Rawles. Programme to include seasonal requests.

Organ Recitals – Lunchtime Series

Martyn Rawles has advised us of the following 'MUSIC FOR REFLECTION' 2012 lunchtime events, on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1.00 – 1.30 pm, some of which have still to be confirmed. The events include both organ recitals and other musical events:

AUGUST

- 3 Nigel Argust (organ) *Lichfield Cathedral*
Bach's famous Toccata & Fugue in D Min + music by Elgar
- 7 Rosie Mosley (soprano), Gabrielle Toy (piano)
- 10 Keith Hearnshaw (organ) *Concert organist*
- 14 Andrew Kirk (organ) *St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol*
- 17 Kristina Shakeshaft (soprano), Cathy Lamb (soprano), Ben Lamb (piano).
- 21 Mark Swinton (organ) *St. Mary's, Warwick*
Bonnet & Langlais
- 24 Harriet Hunter (soprano), Martyn Rawles (piano)
- 28 Lichfield Cathedral School Music Department
Mozart's Clarinet Quintet
- 31 Gary Desmond (organ) *Bath Abbey*

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Benjamin Chewter (organ) *Chester Cathedral*
- 7 Richard Walker (organ) *St. Chad's, Shrewsbury*

IAO MATTERS

Midlands Organ Day, Saturday 29th September 2012

The 11th Midlands Organ Day is to be held on Saturday 29th September in Grantham, hosted by the Lincolnshire Organists' Association, commencing at 10.30 am Full details on the IAO website, www.iao.org.uk.

London Organ Day, Saturday 23rd February 2013

Based at the Royal Festival Hall, with online booking available from September 2012.

RECENT LOCAL RECITALS REVIEWS

Andrew Fletcher Recital, Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Friday 1st June 2012

Today's recital was the last of the 2011/12 series, and as usual was a programme of requests for pieces not played in the current series, for which there is always a good turnout.

The programme opened with fanfares provided by Ian Hunt's Toccata Giacosa, from a new book of service music. The beautiful melodic Rhosymedre by Vaughan Williams was followed by two pieces by J S Bach, with first Nun danket alle Gott, followed by Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring, played on the Apse organ. The celebratory Wedding Day at Troldhagen by Grieg was followed by a request from Caleb Williams for an improvisation on CADEBG, which Andrew described as 'not initially

promising as a melody, but prepare to be gobsmacked'. We were!

The American organist and composer Carson Cooman provided the contemporary Festive Processional. This was followed by The Flying Organist by C N Ashworth, which sounded rather like an improvisation on the theme used for this piece – Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines.

Fiat Lux was the work chosen by Ian Tracey as encore for his recital at All Saints Four Oaks on Saturday 31st March 2012, and this prompted my request for Andrew Fletcher to also play this lively work on the Willis organ of Emmanuel. It transpires he also used to play this piece as the voluntary at the carol service at Stourbridge. It did not disappoint!

Largehetto in F# Minor by S S Wesley followed, described by Andrew as 'sounding simple, but with a lot going on in the registration'. Trumpet Tune & Air by Peter Clark was followed by Cornet Voluntary in G by William Walond, before continuing the Olympic Theme of this 2011/12 recital series with Chariots of Fire by Vangelis.

A beautifully played and registered Salute d'Amour by Elgar was followed by the finale to today's recital – the final movement (Allegro assai vivace) of Mendelssohn's Sonata No 1. A fittingly stirring piece on which to close!

This end-of-series recital of requests is always one of the best recitals of the year in the Midlands, encompassing a wide variety of popular organ music. It is testament to Andrew's extensive repertoire and greatly to Andrew's credit that not only does he play a high proportion of the requests submitted, entailing a recital of some 1½ hours duration, but he also commits to the inclusion of any requests not accommodated in his next lunchtime series. Our appreciation to Andrew for his efforts on our behalf over the 2011/12 series, and we eagerly look forward to the commencement of the 2012/13 series on 5th October 2012. TS

Paul Hale & Philip White-Jones recital, Southwell Minster, Monday 4th June 2012

Paul Hale contacted us to ask for our assistance in publicising the Southwell Minster organ recitals, and having never previously visited Southwell Minster, today's Diamond Jubilee themed Bank Holiday Monday recital by Paul Hale and Philip White-Jones provided an excellent opportunity to remedy this omission.

Paul Hale is Rector Chori and Organist at Southwell Minster, and well-known also as both a recitalist and organ consultant. His assistant for the last four years at Southwell has been Philip White-Jones, who was a Liverpool Cathedral chorister, organ scholar of Corpus Christi College Cambridge and Assistant Organist at Winchester, before his appointment at Southwell. Rather surprisingly, given Philip's background, he is shortly to leave the profession to train as an airline pilot for British Airways!

For those not familiar with Southwell Minster, it has unique and very distinctive 'pepper-pot' twin spires, and dominates the small Nottinghamshire market town of

Southwell. It has two main organs, a Nave organ being used for today's recital, and a 4 manual Nicholson Quire organ located on the Quire Screen built in 1996, which is also used for recitals, and indeed will be used by Ian Tracey for his recital here on 20th June.

The 3 manual 44 speaking stop Nave organ being used today was built in 1905 by J J Binns for Heckmondwike Upper Independent Chapel. In 1992, Wood of Huddersfield rebuilt it for Southwell Minster, installing it in in the first four bays of the South Nave Triforium, incorporating the Tuba from the 1934 Hill, Norman & Beard organ. The 1992 console is mobile and fitted with a multiplex transmission, the console being located on full view centrally in the nave for today's recital.

To open today's recital, Paul Hale played William Walton's noble Crown Imperial, first performed at the coronation of King George VI in 1937, and providing an opportunity to hear the reeds of the Minster organ for the fanfare-like coda at the end. Three further works by William Walton followed, written for the film Richard III – March, Elegy and Scherzo.

Then it was the turn of Philip White-Jones to continue the royal theme, playing Overture, La Paix, Bourree and Menuets 1 & 2 from Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks. Philip returned to Walton for his next piece, the stately March Orb & Sceptre, written for the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

For the final piece on today's published programme, Paul playing the nave organ was joined by Philip on the small chamber organ for Handel's The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, played as a duet. Two encores followed, with Philip playing a very nicely registered Nimrod by Elgar, followed Paul Hale playing Fanfare and March from the Duchy of Lancaster Suite, a new Walton-style piece by Malcolm Archer.

A very popular programme to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, well received by the audience for this well-supported Bank Holiday recital. TS

Thomas Trotter 21st Anniversary Recital, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Wednesday 13th June 2012

Today's recital was part of Symphony Hall's 21st Anniversary festival, but as the Klais organ was only completed in 2001, it is only the 11th anniversary of the organ.

Following the recital last week at Southwell Minster, Herbert Murrill's arrangement of William Walton's Coronation March, Crown Imperial, was also chosen by Thomas Trotter to open today's organ concert. A stirring opening, with the Klais organ's en chamade Trumpets being deployed to good effect.

Thomas alluded to his 2007 performance here of a recital where he played all six J S Bach's challenging Trio Sonatas, but for today's recital, he chose the three movements of No 1 in E flat major, BWV525. This was followed by the haunting Master Tallis's Testament by Herbert Howells, inspired from a time in his early life when he heard the première of Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a

theme of Thomas Tallis at a concert in Gloucester Cathedral in 1910.

Errollyn Wallen, the composer of Tiger and one of the leading composers of her generation, was commissioned to write a work for Thomas Trotter for the 21st Anniversary of Symphony Hall. Today's première of Triptych was the result, a work of three short movements – the uneasy Pensive, followed by the bravura Explosive, and finally the jazzy Rhythmic & Muscular. The composer was present for this première, and was invited by Thomas at the end of the performance to take a bow. Not to my taste I'm afraid!

After the interval, the second half opened with a work commissioned for the 2001 inauguration of the Klais organ Fourths Mostly by Michael Nyman. The title originally suggested by the composer was Trotter's Trot, Thomas being much relieved by the change of title! The repetitive driving opening builds to a grand and very abrupt conclusion.

The Sorcerer's apprentice by Paul Dukas is a symphonic poem, and won a whole new audience when Disney included it in his cartoon film Fantasia in 1940. Today saw the first unveiling of this new transcription by Thomas Trotter, written with the resources of the Klais organ in mind. A breathtakingly imaginative arrangement, matched by an absolutely superb 'not-to-be-missed' performance.

Widor was always likely to be chosen as the finale to a celebratory concert, and the beautiful Adagio from the 5th Symphony was duly followed by the ever popular Toccata from the same symphony.

Given the proximity of the concert to the Diamond Jubilee, Thomas chose a piece by a British composer Madeleine Dring for his encore. Caribbean Dance was originally written for piano, but the jolly little ditty provided a nice contrast to Widor's blockbuster Toccata, and works well on the organ.

A well-attended and fitting 21st anniversary celebration concert by Symphony Hall's resident organist. TS

Pat Neville recital, Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone, Monday 18th June 2012

Today's lunchtime Summer Organ Recital at Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone, was given by resident organist and our Treasurer Pat Neville. Professor Colin Fishwick and his wife Heather always ensure a warm welcome to these lunchtime recitals by providing hot drinks, but there was a notable addition today in the form of a birthday cake, today being Pat's birthday!

Pat's programme involved a total of 11 pieces by 10 different composers, some well-known and some certainly new to me. Dvorak's Humoreske and Prelude & Fugue BWV 553 from J S Bach's Eight Short Preludes & Fugues were instantly recognisable, not to mention an impromptu rendition of 'Happy Birthday' to Pat, sung by the audience.

Postlude in D by Healy Willan ensured a nice bright conclusion to today's well attended recital, including 5 of our members lending their much appreciated support to Pat.

Pat only took up learning the organ on her retirement, so she is to be commended for the hard practice required to get 11 pieces up to scratch for public performance. TS

Richard Dawson recital, Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Friday 22nd June 2012

When our Association visited Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, in June 2010, you may recall that Richard Mason prevailed upon his young organ student, Richard Dawson, to demonstrate the fine Willis organ to us, playing Prelude et Fugue sur le nom D'Alain by Duruflé. Richard Dawson has now just completed his first year as Junior Organ Scholar at Keble College Oxford, and Richard Mason welcomed him back to Emmanuel to give today's Festival Organ Recital. Richard Mason teaches at Aldridge School and he also welcomed a party of students from his school for this well-attended recital, including a number of our members.

Continuing the Jubilee theme, Richard opened grandly with Orb & Sceptre by William Walton. Voluntary in d by John Stanley was next, celebrating the 300th anniversary of the composer's birth. The popular Trumpet Tune by Henry Purcell was followed by a piece also played by Andrew Fletcher here at his requests recital three weeks ago – a beautiful rendering of Rhosymedre by Vaughan Williams.

The next three pieces all had a York Minster connection, with first Prelude in C by Sir Edward Bairstow, a grand piece, which was new to me. This was followed by Impromptu Op 5 by Bairstow's successor at York Minster in 1946, Dr Francis Jackson. The third York Minster connection in turn was provided by Francis Jackson's successor at the Minster in 1983, Philip Moore and his Variations & Fugue on 'East Acklam', the hymn tune composed by Francis Jackson.

Then followed Elgar's ever popular Nimrod, with Richard making use of the sequencer to good effect to achieve the rapid diminuendo in the last line. For his finale, Richard drew again on Elgar to provide a very fitting conclusion to today's recital with a 'Proms' favourite, Pomp & Circumstance March No 4 in G

Richard Dawson is a very talented and confident young man, and we look forward to hearing him play again on some future occasion when he has completed his 2nd year as Organ Scholar at Keble. TS

Paul Carr recital, St Paul's Birmingham, Thursday 5th July 2012

Paul Carr's choice to open today's lunchtime recital was Prelude & Fugue in F, a lively and bouncy Baroque work by Vincent Lübeck.

Adagio in G Minor by Tomaso Giovanni on a theme attributed to Albinoni is a piece which provides a range of dynamics, and Paul's skilful management of stops achieved the crescendo and diminuendo required in the piece.

Scherzo in G Minor by Marco Enrico Bossi followed, and was the piece which was the main catalyst for my attendance at today's recital. Paul commented that it had

proved a challenge to perform this work with only the two manuals of the St Paul's organ. The featherlight opening runs build to a crescendo, before the reprise of the opening passage eventually leads to a frenetic and grand climax. Superb performance, with some demanding stops changes required by the limitation of only two manuals.

George Thalben-Ball's most famous piece, Elegy, started life as an improvisation, when in a BBC broadcast he was required by the producer to 'fill in' time at the end of the broadcast. The improvisation received such a good reception that he committed it to paper, and Elegy was the result! Nice stop management once again by Paul Carr.

Music by François-Joseph Gossec, the Belgian composer who spent most of his life in France, is hardly ever heard, except for this next piece Tambourin. Usually played on the flute, it is a light and fluffy dance tune, with a delightful well-known melody.

Paul concluded the recital with a flourish, playing Placare Christe Servulis by Dupré, a short toccata-like piece, providing a fitting finale to a very varied and enjoyable programme. TS

Ben San-Lau recital, Lichfield Cathedral, Wednesday 11th July 2012

As part of the 2012 Lichfield Festival, this well-attended lunchtime recital featured a young organist, Ben San-Lau, Organ Scholar at King's College Cambridge.



Ben San-Lau

Ben San-Lau was born in Manchester and went to Manchester Grammar School, where he began to learn the organ with a notion of getting a Cambridge organ scholarship. He studied in Manchester with Gordon Stewart, and in 2007 gained the ARCO, winning three prizes. He moved to Eton College for sixth form where he was taught by David Goode. In 2009 he gained his FRCO, again winning three prizes and the Coventry Cathedral Recital Award. Since becoming organ scholar at King's College Cambridge in 2009, he has been involved with the chapel choir's concerts and tours, along with TV and radio broadcasts including the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. He has just completed his final year studying Music, and is going on to a postgraduate degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying piano accompaniment.

The popular Fantasia in F minor (K608) by Mozart was the choice to open the recital in grand style. J S Bach's chorale prelude Trio super 'Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend' BWV 655 followed. Then in total contrast, a piece of

abstract music, Tanz-Toccata, by the Austrian composer, organist and music teacher Anton Heiller. Sounding rather like the atmospheric score to a film, the piece contains numerous time signature changes and ends abruptly with two dramatic 'fff' chords.

Originally written for piano, Ravel's Pavane pour une infant défunte followed. Depicting dancing a solemn Pavane in memory of the departed, the registration showed off some exquisite colours of the Hill organ. Jeanne Demessieux's Te Deum Op 11 was the next offering, with fanfares opening this dramatic and rather discordant work.

An indication of what was to be the finale of today's recital was given by Ben San-Lau's removal of his jacket for the next piece! Reubke's Sonata on the 94th Psalm is considered to be inspired by Liszt's Fantasy and Fugue on the chorale Ad nos, ad salutarem undam. It is certainly a similarly lengthy, dramatic, virtuosic piece, requiring very advanced pedal technique, and providing a thrilling conclusion to this recital by a very confident and gifted young man with an impeccable precise technique. TS

Martyn Rawles recital, Derby Cathedral, Wednesday 18th July 2012

Derby Cathedral's 2012 recitals series commenced on Wednesday 4th July and continues weekly until 22nd August, the theme being 'Music that paints a picture or tells a story'.

Today's recitalist was Martyn Rawles, Organist of Lichfield Cathedral. The Derby Cathedral organ started life as a three manual organ built by Thomas Elliot in 1808, rebuilt by John Stringer in 1879 and then the rebuild by John Compton in 1939, making it a four manual organ playable from a detached console, with Compton's trademark illuminated stops. George Thalben-Ball gave the inaugural recital. The gallery sited casework looks very impressive, but surprisingly it is just a dummy façade, installed in 1963 to conceal the almost totally enclosed boxes of the organ.

Martyn commented that he had only seen the organ for the first time the previous day, and with his wife Harriet acting as page turner, his programme commenced with three Baroque pieces by different composers. The German organist and composer Nikolaus Bruhns' untimely death at the age of 31 limited his output of organ works to six, of which Praeludium in G provided the lively opening today. This was followed by Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her, BWV 662 by J S Bach, from the Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes, and then Variations on 'Lasst uns das Kindelein' by the Alsace born Franz Xaver Murschhauser.

Martyn commented that in this arrangement for organ by Eric Fenby, he had tried to recreate the orchestral sounds of the gentle 'On hearing the first cuckoo in spring' by Delius. Given the descriptive theme of the recitals series, it was likely that a work by Messiaen would feature, a composer whose style was described as one people either loved or hated. 'Les deux murailles d'eau' from Livre du Saint-Sacrément was the work chosen by Martyn, but whilst admiring the musicianship, I must confess I find Messiaen 'rather hard going'.

The next composer took us back to more familiar ground with Prelude & Fugue in G by Mendelssohn. Then followed

An der schonen blauen Donau, better known in this country as The Blue Danube, with this arrangement for organ by Edwin Lemare enhanced by some beautifully judged registration by Martyn. Continuing the descriptive theme, the gentle Clair de lune from Pièces de Fantaisie by Vierne followed.

Preferring improvisation, Marcel Lanquetuit is virtually unknown except for this one piece – Toccata. A piece Martyn originally learned at St Mary Redcliffe, and played by him since on a number of occasions at Lichfield, this provided a nice flourish to conclude a most varied and well received recital, impeccably performed as always. TS

Nigel Morris recital, Lichfield Cathedral, Tuesday 24th July 2012

Nigel Morris studied at the Royal Manchester College of Music and at the Birmingham Conservatoire, and has been Assistant Director of Music at St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham since 2001. Those members who attended our visit to St Chad's in July 2009 will recall that, in the absence of David Saint, Nigel kindly hosted our visit.

Nigel was introduced by Revd Canon Wealands Bell, and the first item was shown on the programme as being a transcription by J S Bach - Concerto in C BWV 594. We gathered that it was in fact BWV 595, and in any event provided a lively opening to today's lunchtime 'Music for Reflection'.

Sir William Harris was one time Assistant Organist of Lichfield Cathedral, so his beautiful gentle Prelude was a most appropriate choice for today's recital. Ciacona in E Minor by Buxtehude followed, which after a rather sombre opening builds to a bright conclusion. Next, after the dark and somewhat threatening opening to Prelude in A Minor by Rheinberger, the piece builds progressively to a dramatic climax.

The final two works have been popular inclusions in a number of local recitals this year. Firstly the beautiful melodic Rhosymedre by Ralph Vaughan Williams, followed by a work that has been a very popular recital choice for this Jubilee Year – Crown Imperial by William Walton, arranged for organ by Herbert Murrill – and an opportunity to hear the Hill organ at its best.

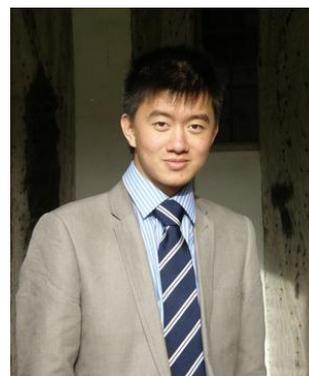
Rather a thin attendance for this lunchtime recital, but fortunately a good representation by a number of members of our Association lending their support. TS

Douglas Tang recital, Lichfield Cathedral, Tuesday 31st July 2012

Douglas Tang is organ scholar elect of King's college Cambridge, and takes up his duties in September, having been organ scholar at Hereford Cathedral (2011-12) and Croyden Minster. He first moved to England at the age of 13, having won a music scholarship to Harrow School. He then moved to Dulwich College in 2009, where he was organ scholar alongside being music scholar. He started playing the piano aged 8, after which he took up the flute and the organ, aged 13 and 15 respectively, holding diplomas in all these instruments. Douglas' musical development was encouraged by his inspirational teachers, which included Martin Singleton, the late David

Sanger, Christian Wilson and Gordon Stewart. He studied the piano with Professor Colin Stone of the Royal Academy and flute with Neil McLaren.

Despite being 'sickeningly young', as Martyn Rawles described him in his introduction, Douglas has already achieved a great deal, including his first major performance at the Royal Albert Hall at the ripe old age of 15! He has also performed at St Paul's Cathedral, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Reading Town Hall, Southwark Cathedral, St John's College Cambridge, and Exeter College Oxford, not to mention working with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta.



Douglas Tang

Douglas opened his programme with a faultless performance of J S Bach's popular Prelude & Fugue in G major BWV 541. This was followed by Sonata No 6 by Mendelssohn - Choral and Variations, Fugue and Finale.

After two very familiar works, the rather less familiar final work was Sonata Eroica Op 94, by the Belgian organist and composer Joseph Jongen. The dramatic opening chords give way to a haunting theme, which threads its way through this work with many changes of mood and registration before building to a magnificent climax, fully exploiting the resources of the Hill organ.

A quite stunning and confident performance by a gifted young man who only took up the organ a few years ago at the age of 15, and much appreciated by those present, including once again a good contingent of LDOA members. TS

VACANCY

The vacancy at St Peter's, Rickerscote, has yet to be filled, so we have been requested to run the details again in this edition of the newsletter:

Vacancy at St Peter's Church, Rickerscote, Stafford

We are looking at the moment simply for an organist: the small, loyal, robed choir looks after itself in close collaboration. The worship is of a modern catholic type, and the sole Sunday service is a Parish Mass at 10.15. There are occasionally other services on the great festivals, and a few funerals and weddings each year.

The organ is a 3-manual, 56 stop Viscount Prestige digital electronic, in good condition, which sounds very well in the excellent acoustics of the church.

The salary offered is £1800 per annum. The vacancy has arisen because the former organist is studying for Ordained Local Ministry, and there aren't enough hours in the day to do it all!

Further information from:

Tony Baggs (Former organist) Tel: 01785 251650, e-mail: anthonybaggs@btinternet.com, or
Lynne Bott (Church Warden) Tel: 01785 256191, e-mail: lbb@btopenworld.com

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Mervin Jones - Darlaston Town Hall

Concert of popular theatre organ music on 2nd Thursday of every month, with Mervin Jones at the 3 manual Binns Organ, 1.30 to 3.30 pm

Peter Morris - Walsall Town Hall

The 2012/13 recitals series by our Honorary Member and Walsall Borough Organist Peter Morris will commence on Thursday 20th September 2012 at 1 pm, and then monthly (generally 3rd Thursday of the month) until May 2013.

Cathy Lamb

In addition to the recitals listed for Lichfield Cathedral, Cathy Lamb is giving an organ recital on Wednesday 19th September 2012 1.10 pm, at St Michael & All Angels, Croydon

Pat Neville - Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone

Further free lunchtime organ recitals will be held on Monday 1st October and an Advent recital on Monday 3rd December by our Treasurer and Shenstone resident organist Pat Neville at 12.45 pm to 1.30 pm. Bring your sandwiches – drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

Recitals In Local Area (to 31/10/2012)

August 2012

Wed 1 August 2012 • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral

Steven Grahl (St Marylebone Parish Church)

Thurs 2 August 2012 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's Birmingham

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Thurs 2 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Mary's Shrewsbury

Nigel Morris (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)

Frid 3 August 2012 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury

David Jackson (Northwich)

Frid 3 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • Lichfield Cathedral

Nigel Argust (Lichfield Cathedral)

Frid 3 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • St Swithun's, Worcester

James Perkins (All Saints, Market Street)

Sat 4 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Thomas' Stourbridge
John Keys (St Mary the Virgin, Nottingham)

Sun 5 August 2012 • 3:00 • Holy Trinity Wordsley

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 6 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral

Simon Pearce (St David's Cathedral)

Tues 7 August 2012 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Warwick Road United Reformed Church

David Warner (St Nicholas', Barton le Clay)

Wed 8 August 2012 • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral

Peter Gould (Derby Cathedral)

Wed 8 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.45 • Shrewsbury Abbey

Adrian Cleaton, Eleri Lloyd

Thurs 9 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.45 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury

Richard Pilliner (London)

Frid 10 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • Lichfield Cathedral

Keith Hearnshaw (Concert Organist)

Frid 10 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • St Swithun's, Worcester

Christopher Hand (Worcester)

Sat 11 August 2012 • 1:00 • St Lawrence's, Ludlow

Richard Gowers (Eton College)

Sat 11 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury

David Boarder (Hertford)

Mon 13 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral

Francesca Massey (Durham Cathedral)

Tues 14 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • Lichfield Cathedral

Andrew Kirk (St Mary Redcliffe)

Wed 15 August 2012 • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral

David Aprahamian Liddle (St Barnabas, Pimlico)

Wed 15 August 2012 • 7:30 • Southwell Minster (Quire)

Peter Holder (St Albans Cathedral and Abbey)

Thurs 16 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury

Andrew Lucas (St Albans Cathedral; & Abbey)

Frid 17 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.40 • St Swithun's, Worcester

James Luxton (St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton)

Sat 18 August 2012 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley

Kevin Morgan (Lytham St Annes)

Sun 19 August 2012 • 6:55 to 7:45 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury

William Smallman (St Mary's, Shrewsbury)

Mon 20 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral

Christopher Johns (Leicester Cathedral)

Tues 21 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Mark Swinton (St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick)

Tues 21 August 2012 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Warwick Road URC
Paul Dewhurst (St Giles', Pontefract)

Wed 22 August 2012 • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral
Tom Corfield (Derby Cathedral)

Thurs 23 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury
Fay Adamson (St Paul's, Craig-y-Don, Llandudno)

Frid 24 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.40 • St Swithun's, Worcester
Anthony Burns-Cox (Romsey)

Sat 25 August 2012 • 1:00 • St Lawrence's, Ludlow
Tim Parsons (Holy Trinity, Folkestone)

Mon 27 August 2012 • 3:30 • Southwell Minster (Nave)
Keith Hearnshaw (Concert Organist)

Mon 27 August 2012 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Malvern Priory
Shean Bowers (Bath Abbey)

Mon 27 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Adrian Lucas (Worcester)

Wed 29 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.45 • Shrewsbury Abbey
Alan McGuinness (St Asaph Cathedral)

Thurs 30 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury
Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

Frid 31 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Gary Desmond (Bath Abbey)

Frid 31 August 2012 • 1:00 to 1.40 • St Swithun's, Worcester
John Wilderspin (the Royal Grammar School, Worcester)

September 2012

Sat 1 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Thomas' Stourbridge
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Sun 2 September 2012 • 3:00 • Holy Trinity Wordsley
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 3 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
David Poulter (Liverpool Cathedral)

Tues 4 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Benjamin Chewter (Chester Cathedral)

Thurs 6 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury
John Hosking (St Asaph Cathedral)

Thurs 6 September 2012 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's Birmingham
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Thurs 6 September 2012 • 2:00 to 4:15 • Burton-upon-Trent Town Hall
Arthur Tipper (Burton-upon-Trent)

Frid 7 September 2012 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Samuel Hudson (Blackburn Cathedral)

Frid 7 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Frid 7 September 2012 • 1:10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
Tim Harper (Birmingham Cathedral)

Sat 8 September 2012 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Raul Prieto Ramirez (Spain)

Mon 10 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Marcus Sealy (Bath Abbey)

Tues 11 September 2012 • 7.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Stephen Farr (St Paul's, Knightsbridge)

Wed 12 September 2012 • 7:30 to 9:30 • Ellesmere College (The Great Hall)
Paul Derrett (Hull)

Sat 15 September 2012 • 1:00 • All Saints', Bromsgrove
Jonathan Kingston (St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove)

Sat 15 September 2012 • 7:30 • Broadway United Reformed Church, Walsall
Daniel Bishop (Liverpool Cathedral)

Sun 16 September 2012 • 6:55 to 7:45 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Sue Heath-Downey (St Paul's Deptford)

Mon 17 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Paul Leddington-Wright (Coventry Cathedral)

Mon 17 September 2012 • 1:00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Tues 18 September 2012 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Warwick Road United Reformed Church
James Scott (Bath)

Thurs 20 September 2012 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Walsall Town Hall
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Frid 21 September 2012 • 1:10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
Tom Bell (St Michael's, Chester Square)

Sun 23 September 2012 • 4:00 • St Peter's, Wolverhampton
Laurence Caldecote (St Nicolas, Nuneaton)

Mon 24 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Kerry Beaumont (Coventry Cathedral)

Wed 26 September 2012 • 7:30 • St Stephen's Methodist Church, Cannock
Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral). See attached flyer for details of recital and tickets.

Wed 26 September 2012 • 1:00 to 1.45 • Shrewsbury Abbey
Tom Edwards (Shrewsbury Abbey)

Sat 29 September 2012 • 6:30 to 7:30 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Catherine Ennis (St Lawrence Jewry)

October 2012

Mon 1 October 2012 • 1:00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Tues 2 October 2012 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Warwick Road United Reformed Church
Keith Hearnshaw (Concert Organist)

Tues 2 October 2012 • 7.30 • Lichfield Cathedral
Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral)

Thurs 4 October 2012 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's Birmingham
Henry Fairs (Birmingham University)

Frid 5 October 2012 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Robert Munns (Croyden)

Frid 5 October 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wyld Green
Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Frid 5 October 2012 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Friends Meeting House, Bournville
Keith Hearnshaw (Concert Organist)

Sat 6 October 2012 • 1:00 to 1:45 • St Thomas', Stourbridge
Christopher Barton (Newport)

Sat 6 October 2012 • 6:45 to 8:30 • Worcester Cathedral
Paolo Oreni (Treviglio, Italy)

Sun 7 October 2012 • 3:00 • Holy Trinity Wordsley
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 12 October 2012 • 1:10 to 1.50 • Birmingham Cathedral
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 12 October 2012 • 7:30 • Malvern Priory
Stephen Cleobury (King's College, Cambridge)

Mon 15 October 2012 • 1:00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Tues 16 October 2012 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Warwick Road United Reformed Church
Laurence Caldecote (St Nicolas, Nuneaton)

Sat 20 October 2012 • 12:00 to 1.00 • Malvern Priory
Jan Van Mol (St Paul's, Antwerp, Belgium)

Sat 20 October 2012 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Jonathan Scott (Manchester) and Tom Scott (Piano)

Sun 21 October 2012 • 6:55 to 7:45 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
David Leeke (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Thurs 25 October 2012 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Walsall Town Hall
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Mon 29 October 2012 • 1:00 to 2.00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

November 2012

A special event this month worth noting in your diary:

Mon 19 November 2012 • 7.30 • Birmingham Symphony Hall
Dame Gillian Weir will give her final public concert of her 48-year long career at Westminster Cathedral, London, on 5th December 2012. This November concert at Symphony Hall is the last opportunity to hear this internationally celebrated concert organist perform in the Midlands, so there is likely to be plenty of demand for tickets.

For a complete listing of organ recitals in the UK and further details go to www.organrecitals.com
For details of recital organ specifications go to the National Pipe Organ Register at www.npor.org.uk

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Editorial Note - next Newsletter is planned for October 2012, with deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/09/12, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7N