

AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER

RECENT LDOA VISITS

Wednesday 9th July 2014, The Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross

For our evening visit to The Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross, we were welcomed by Fr Graham Bott and Church Warden Peter Humpidge.



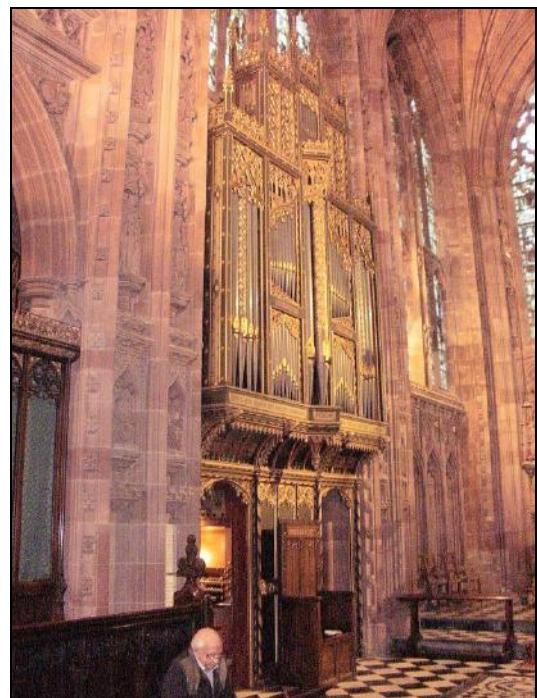
The Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross

For a rural church, The Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross, is a most imposing building, more like a miniature cathedral than an ordinary village church. In fact, the building of the Church of the Holy Angels was funded by The Hon. Emily Charlotte Meynell Ingram as a memorial to her late husband Hugo, who died after only 7 years of marriage. She devoted her talents, her wealth and her love to creating the perfection of beauty which characterises it. On land adjacent to her home, Hoar Cross Hall, building work started in May 1872 and was sufficiently advanced for Bishop Selwyn of Lichfield to celebrate the first Eucharist in the new building in January 1874. Two years later he returned to dedicate this beautiful ornate church. The fourteen gilded Stations of the Cross around the walls of the church are particularly notable, elaborately carved in wood by two old men living in Antwerp at the time.

Derek Cross, who plays the organ for Sunday services, generously provided illustrated booklets about the organ, and gave us a brief history. The Hon. Emily Meynell Charlotte Ingram commissioned Bishop & Son of London in 1876 to install an organ in her new church. There was available a Samuel Green organ dating from 1779, which had been removed from Bangor Cathedral, and which had been renowned for its distinctive mellow tone. It was installed at Holy Angels, retaining some of Green's

pipework along with the Great soundboard, but everything else was provided new by Bishops, including the magnificent ornate casework, designed by G.F.Bodley and Canon Frederick Sutton. Bishops carried out subsequent modifications, and in 1935 Conacher Sheffield & Co made significant changes, including a new Swell and the introduction of pneumatic action. Although the changes were intended to improve the sound quality and projection, particularly into the nave, they added considerably to the congestion within the instrument, making access for tuning and fixing faults exceptionally challenging, effectively hastening the instrument's demise. By the 1970s the instrument, had fallen into disrepair, and was replaced for services by an Allen electronic organ.

Following the generous offer in 2009 of financial assistance to fund the organ's £200,000 restoration by the family of Jeanne Elizabeth Hoyes in her memory, a detailed appraisal of the options was carried out by Dr. William McVicker. He concluded that the only practical solution was to revert to the 1876 configuration. This meant stripping out the pneumatic action, decongesting the instrument's interior to enable proper future maintenance, careful restoration of the historic Green material, and a return to Bishop & Son's mechanical action, including procurement of an 1870's style straight pedalboard. After inviting a number of contractors to tender for the work, by fortunate coincidence, the contract was awarded to Bishop & Son, the original supplier of the organ.



Organ of The Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross

The organ was completely dismantled in the spring of 2012 and transported to Bishop's Ipswich workshop. Rebuilding commenced in late Autumn 2012; the major components were in place by Spring 2013, with the tracker work and pipe installation/tonal changes completed in Summer 2013.

Martyn Rawles, Lichfield Cathedral Organist, was invited to perform the inaugural recital in August 2013 to celebrate its rebirth, with the Needwood Singers conducted by Margaret Langford, a distinguished soloist and a member of Ex Cathedra, contributing additional choral works.

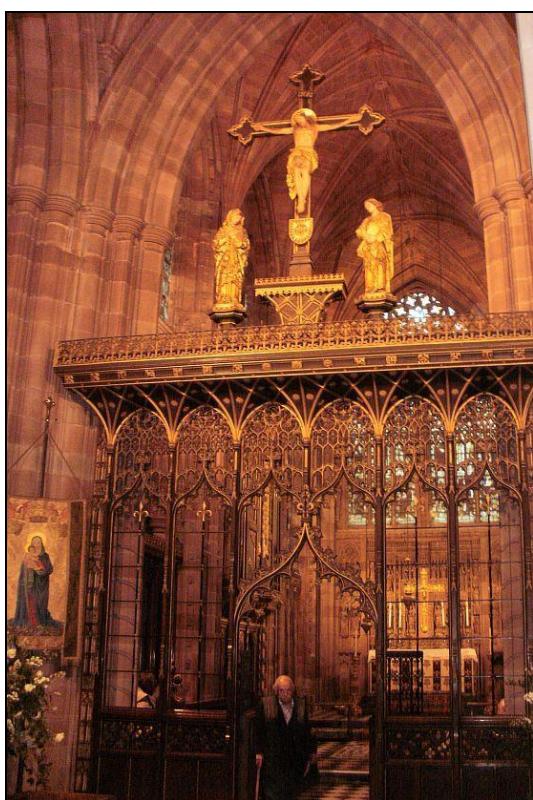
The specification of the organ is now:

Pedal
Violone 16'

Choir
Stop'd Diapason 8', Dulciana 8', Principal 4', Flute 4', Clarinet 8'

Great
Open Diapason 8', Clarabella 8', Principal 4', Fifteenth 2', Mixture III, Trumpet 8'

Swell
Violin Diapason 8', Vox Angelica 8', Voix Clestes 8', Stop'd Diapason 8', Principal 4', Harmonic Piccolo 2', Oboe 8'



The chancel of The Church of The Holy Angels, Hoar Cross, (with organist Derek Cross in the foreground)

Members were then invited to try the organ for themselves, and it fell to David Gumbley to 'break the ice', followed by Alan Taylor, Andrew McMillan, Peter King and Colin Brookes. The console unusually is at 90° to the pipework, and sited within the organ chamber so as not to project into the chancel. The organ has a mellow tone and the sound does struggle somewhat to project down the

nave. Most members found the straight 1870's style straight pedal board something of a challenge!



Alan Taylor at the organ of The Church of The Holy Angels, Hoar Cross

A most interesting visit to a beautiful church, much enjoyed by 11 members, and we were particularly pleased to be able to welcome Dawn Clay, who lives locally, to her first LDOA visit. We are indebted to Derek Cross for his assistance during the evening, and for generously offering to provide access to any members wishing to play the organ in the future. Derek can be contacted on 01543 472608.

TS

FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

Saturday 27th September 2014 - OrganFest 2014

Based at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, this full day prestigious event commences at 9.45 am. See 'IAO matters' on page 4 for full details and how to book.

Saturday 4th October 2014, President's Evening, Lichfield Cathedral

President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral by kind invitation of Martyn Rawles. This coincides with the RSCM Festival Evensong at the Cathedral.

Members are invited to meet at 4.30 pm at the Cathedral, to attend the final choir rehearsal at 4.45 pm, followed by Evensong at 5.30 pm. Then an opportunity for members to play the Cathedral's Hill organ, followed by drinks/nibbles. If any LDOA members are singers and wish to take part in the singing, Cathy Lamb has extended an invitation for them to attend two earlier rehearsals, the first at 1.30 pm and the second at 3 pm.

Wednesday 26th November 2014, Sutton United Reformed Church

Visit commencing at 7.30 pm to Sutton United Reformed Church, at the kind invitation of our member Richard Syner, to play the fine 3 manual 41 stop Nicholson organ.

Wednesday 3rd December 2014, Annual Dinner

Joint Annual Dinner with the Birmingham Organists' Association and Worcester Organists' Association, at The

School House, Weeford. 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. The guest speaker is Adrian Lucas, who was Master of the Choristers & Organist at Worcester Cathedral from 1996 until 2011, when he left to pursue a freelance career and set up Acclaim Productions, his own recording company. He has also been Musical Director of the City of Birmingham Choir since 2002.

Saturday 17th January 2015, St Thomas of Canterbury, Walsall, and Central Methodist Hall, Walsall

Visit commencing at 12 noon to St Thomas of Canterbury, Walsall, to play the 2 manual Rieger organ in the superb acoustic of this church.

Then on for 2 pm to Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall, to play the 3 manual 36 stop Nicholson & Lord organ. Having recently been rebuilt by Mike Thompson, Thomas Trotter gave a well-attended recital here on 5th October 2013 in aid of the organ fund. Cathy Lamb also gave a recital here at 7.30 pm on Sat 29th March 2014.

NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting is planned for 8.15 pm on Monday 8th September 2014 at Weeford Church

MEMBERS' NEWS

Peter Morris - A Wolverhampton Centenary

Our Honorary Member Peter Morris contributed an article to the June 2014 edition of the Church Music Quarterly magazine, celebrating a centenary at St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, not of the Anno Domini kind, but of choristers/music staff.

15 years ago, the choir at St Peter's was struggling, with only a handful of boys and men. Peter's predecessor, Gary Cole, introduced a girls' choir, reinvigorated the boys' choir, improved the numbers of men, and the choral reputation of St Peter's started to grow again.

When Peter took up the reins in 2003, he built on the work of his predecessor, and the Church Music Quarterly article (Pgs. 28-30) makes for interesting reading, by members with access to the magazine, of Peter's view of the key factors in successfully growing the choristers/music staff to its present 103, achieved as it has been on a financial 'shoestring'.

Peter and his team are to be congratulated on this all too rare church choir 'good news' story

St Bartholomew's Church, Hints, Flower Festival

This year, Hints Village will hold a Fete and Scarecrow Festival on Sunday 21st September 2014, which will include floral displays in St. Bartholomew's Church and entertainments around the village. LDOA member Peter Edwards is looking for volunteers to play the organ at his village's church during the festival, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.

If any LDOA members are able to come and play for 30 mins or even more, it would be very much appreciated. Peter will set up a rota - please contact him on 01543 480088 or peter@weardrive.demon.co.uk. If you want a practice before, that can be arranged.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

Autumn 2014 Evening Recital Series

We are indebted to Lichfield Cathedral's Music Department for a truly memorable 2013 series of Music for Reflection events in the summer and the series of Autumn Evening Recitals. Details of the 2014 Evening Organ Recitals Series are:

- Tuesday 9th September – Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral)
- Tuesday 30th September – Colin Walsh (Organist Laureate Lincoln Cathedral)
- Tuesday 14th October – Malcolm Archer (Winchester College)
- Tuesday 11th November – Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)
- Tuesday 2nd December – Cathy Lamb, Martyn Rawles and Nigel Argust (all of Lichfield Cathedral)

All the recitals 7.30 pm – 9.30pm, admission £10.

Music for Reflection 2014

The 2014 lunchtime concerts take place on Wednesdays and Fridays, and commenced on 16th July until 29th August, from 1:15 – 1:50 pm. Admission is free, with a retiring collection. Details of the remaining concerts as follows:

August

- Friday 1st August - Nick Moloney (piano) plays Brahms and Schumann's Faschingsschwank aus Wien
- Wednesday 6th August - Jonathan Hope (Assistant Director of Music, Gloucester Cathedral)
- Friday 8th August - Paul Derrett (Concert organist)
- Wednesday 13th August - Hugh Morris (Director of Music, Christchurch Priory)
- Friday 15th August - Libby Burgess (piano)
- Wednesday 20th August - Imogen Garner (mezzo-soprano), Fenella Haworth (piano)
- Friday 22nd August - David Humphreys (Assistant Director of Music, Peterborough Cathedral)
- Wednesday 27th August - Lichfield Cathedral School Music Department plays Weber's Clarinet Quintet
- Friday 29th August - Lee Dunleavy (Director of Music, All Saints', Northampton)

IAO MATTERS

IAO 2014 Congress

This year's IAO Congress is taking place currently in Durham, and ends on Saturday 2nd August 2014.

The IAO 2015 Congress will take place on 27th – 31 July 2015 based in Norwich.

OrganFest 2014

Being held on Saturday 27th September 2014, based at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, this prestigious event is organised jointly by the British Institute of Organ Studies, the IAO and the RCO, and is hosted by Birmingham Organists' Association.

Programme

9.45am	Arrive at St Chad's Cathedral: registration & coffee in the Grimshaw Room
10.15	Presentations by BIOS, RCO and IAO
10.45	Break: opportunity to view displays; merchandise available
11.00	The Organs & Music of Birmingham Town Hall Andrew McCrea, <i>Director of Academic Development, RCO, and David Knight, BIOS</i>
11.50	Lunch and transport by bus to Birmingham Town Hall
1.00pm	Recital by Thomas Trotter on the historic William Hill organ Programme includes works by Elgar, Mendelssohn, Thalben-Ball and a Feeney Trust Commission by Jonathan Dove
2.15	Buses return to St Chad's Cathedral
3.00	Our Digital Future? - The pipe organ in the digital age Dr Jim Berrow, BIOS
3.40	Afternoon tea: more time to view displays & archive material and make purchases (Regent Records in attendance)
4.10	Assemble for Choral High Mass in St Chad's Cathedral. Mass will be preceded by voluntaries played by students from the Organ Department of Birmingham Conservatoire.
4.30	Choral High Mass – Organist and Director of Music Professor David Saint
5.30 approx	Departure

All-inclusive price per person: £30, Full-time students: £10, including lunch, refreshments, bus fare & admission to the Town Hall recital. Now open for bookings, early application is recommended as strong demand is expected, with places limited. Deadline 6th September.

Full details, including booking form or to book and pay online, via the dedicated website: www.OrganFest.net.

Flyer/booking form also attached to the e-mail accompanying this newsletter.

RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Symphony Hall, Monday 2nd June 2014

For today's event, Thomas Trotter was joined by pianist Roger Owens. Roger has performed as soloist and

chamber musician throughout Europe, most recently in Spain and Germany, and has broadcast for BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and German Radio. He is currently head of Keyboard Studies at Peter Symonds College, Winchester and Professor of Piano at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Roger normally performs with an orchestra but for today Thomas Trotter was the 'orchestra'.

The Canadian born organist and composer Denis Bédard's Duet Suite for Organ & Piano opened the concert. The majestic Introduction was followed by a lively little Fughetta, then a dainty Minuetto, a sweetly melodic Romance and an energetic Final.

Probably Chopin's most well-known piece, the glorious Polonaise in A Flat provided Roger Owens with the opportunity to show his prowess as a soloist before joining forces again with Thomas to perform Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, the organ and piano working really well together, with both performers staying perfectly synchronised despite the awkward rhythms.

Next it was Thomas's turn for a solo spot with Saint-Saëns' Fantaisie in E Flat, the alternating chordal patterns of the opening section contrasting with the rousing march for full organ.

For the film 'Dangerous Moonlight', the producers were initially hoping to use Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto, but they were unable to negotiate the rights, and they commissioned Richard Addinsell to write a piece of pastiche Rachmaninov instead. The result was the Warsaw Concerto, which became an overnight hit, and remains one of the most popular pieces of film music of all time. It worked beautifully here with piano and organ, providing a fitting finale to today's concert. In total contrast, a ragtime piece was played as an encore.

I wasn't sure whether to attend this organ and piano concert, but in the event it was a superb concert which worked really well, Thomas Trotter doing a beautifully judged job of not drowning out the piano, which it would have been all too easy to do with the Klais organ. TS

Andrew Fletcher Recital at Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Friday 6th June 2014

Being the last of the 2013/4 series, today's programme comprised audience requests, but having had 23, Andrew was obliged to split the requests over two sessions, with the second one scheduled for 3rd October. Console faults were causing some problems today with the Willis organ, with the Apse organ out of action altogether, along with some notes on the main organ.

The film theme March from 'Things to Come' by Arthur Bliss provided a bold opening, followed by Walton's Incidental Music to 'Richard III'. Inspired by William Harris's Prelude in E Flat, Andrew Fletcher's own composition Impromptu then proved to be a nice melodic composition.

The rousing Festal March in C by Charles J Grey was followed by Canon in B Minor (Study No 5) by Schumann, described by Andrew as 'sounding effortless to the listener whilst having the performer on the edge of the seat!' The obligatory J S Bach piece was the exquisite Wenn wir in

höchsten Nöten sein BWV 668, then Tuba Tune by Norman Cocker, rather than the less challenging C S Lang piece of the same name.

Hexagonal Mice is a rather weird piece composed by Charles Nigel Ashworth based on 'Hickory Dickory Dock', then back to more normal fare with the lush Rhapsody No 1 in D flat by Howells. Dedicated to one time Birmingham Town Hall Organist C W Perkins, Pastorale in D by Frederick Priest was followed by the finale to today's recital, Festival Toccata by Percy Fletcher (no relation!) finishing the recital with a suitable flourish. Andrew Fletcher's trusted long serving page turner, Paul, was bowing out today, and a presentation was made to him in recognition of his loyal service.

The end of another feast of music series, and we look forward to the start of the 2014/5 series when hopefully both the organ and Andrew will return in good form on 3rd October 2014.

TS

Concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London, Saturday 7th June 2014

Not exactly a local organ recital, but having heard the organ at the Royal Festival Hall, London, many years ago, my visit was motivated by a wish to hear the results of the £2.3m refurbishment of the Ralph Downes designed iconic Harrison & Harrison organ, and whether the efforts to at improve the dry acoustic of the building had succeeded.

In the 60th Anniversary year of this visually stunning organ (see photo below), the Organ Gala Launch Concert of the refurbished organ took place on 18th March 2014, with soloists John Scott, Jane Parker-Smith, Isabelle Demers and David Goode, since when other eminent organists have given recitals, including of course Thomas Trotter. Tonight's event was billed as a Grand Organ Gala, but was in fact a concert rather than an organ recital, given by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Greenwood, the London Philharmonic Choir and Stephen Disley, recitalist and Sub-Organist at Southwark Cathedral.



The organ of the Royal Festival Hall, London

The programme was clearly intended to have wide public appeal, and featured all the usual spectacular 'lollipops' of the classical orchestral and choral world, mostly with organ accompaniment. There were however a few opportunities to hear Stephen Disley play organ solos, notably J S Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D Minor and

Mendelssohn's Wedding March from A Midsummer Night's Dream. One might have expected that the organ would have been heard in solo mode for Toccata from Symphony No 5 in F by Widor, but regrettably not so, as it was totally ruined by the orchestra 'getting in on the act' - complete with snare drums! With other works, the organ was prominently featured, as with Walton's Crown Imperial, Albinoni's Adagio in G Minor for Organ & Strings, and the Finale from Symphony No 3 in C Minor by Saint-Saëns (Organ Symphony).

All in all, a superb evening's feast of orchestral, choral and organ music, enjoyed by a capacity audience. With regard to the refurbished organ, the acoustic is still very dry, although the pedal notes do seem to have benefitted from the changes to the hall, but in my estimation the reverberation time can't be much more than 1 second or so, and whilst it provided for great clarity in the Toccata & Fugue in D Minor, for full organ chords there was insufficient reverberation time to give the richness of sound one would have hoped. The often heard comment about 'the best stop on an organ being the acoustic of the building' means the RFH doesn't do the H & H organ any favours in this respect. The contrast became even more evident when the next day I attended the Sunday afternoon James O'Donnell recital on the superb Harrison & Harrison organ in the acoustic of Westminster Abbey. I know which organ gets my vote!

TS

Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 16th June 2014

Thomas Trotter opened today's lunchtime recital with Sonata in C Minor (1st Movement) by Percy Whitlock. The spark that ignited his inspiration for the composition came from a chance hearing in 1934 of Rachmaninov's 2nd Symphony, and indeed the published score is headed by a seemingly nonsensical cryptogram in Greek, which translates as 'On hearing the second Rachmaninov in spring', paying tribute not only to Rachmaninov but also to Delius, who died in 1934. After a slow introduction, this monumental work progresses via a surging allegro, and a lyrical passage, to a grandiose full organ climax to this first movement.

Italian organs of the 19th century, with their colourful solo effects, bells and drums, were very different from organs in the rest of Europe, and the only work heard these days by Giovanni Morandi, Rondo Con Imitazione De Campanelli (Bell Rondo) was written for just such organs. Very few British organs are able to replicate these Italian organs, but the Whitechapel Bells of the Town Hall organ make it well suited to this piece.

Thomas regularly includes one of J S Bach's demanding Trio Sonata in his recitals, and today it was No 5 in C BWV 529. This was followed by August de Boeck's gentle little Allegretto, providing another opportunity for use of the Whitechapel Bells.

The finale was a new addition to Thomas's repertoire, Mendelssohn's Overture to St Paul, this arrangement being by W T Best. Mendelssohn conducted the choir at the premier of this work at St Paul's Cathedral, London. The opening verse of the hymn is followed by a fugue, before the two themes are superimposed providing a majestic climax.

TS

Martyn Rawles Recital at Coventry Cathedral, Monday 23rd June 2014

I'm indebted to Andrew McMillan for submitting the following review of this recital:

Coventry Cathedral has a very good Monday lunchtime recital series during the months of May to September, which I regularly attend. It is very user friendly in that the full recital programmes are published on the Cathedral's website so that one knows what to expect beforehand. Of course the wonderful Harrison & Harrison organ and the generous acoustic in which it is situated also mean that the series attracts top organists, such as Martyn Rawles, who was today making his third visit to Coventry.

Martyn introduced his programme to the audience saying it was "eccentric even by my standards", and he had certainly chosen some unfamiliar pieces. They came from five composers who together span virtually the entire period from 1654 to 1991, so we had quite a varied selection of musical styles.

We started with the Prelude and Fugue in E major by Vincent Lübeck, a prominent Hamburg organist and composer of the Baroque era who preceded Bach by about 30 years. Improvisatory in nature with a mixture of fast and slow sections separated by pauses, it sounded very much like something that Buxtehude might have written. A suitably strong opening piece, in which Martyn made good use of the various tone colours available to him, as indeed he did throughout the recital.

The next piece, described by Martyn as a charming air with five variations, was an arrangement of the second movement of Haydn's 75th symphony by Arthur Plant, the organist of St Paul's church in Burton-upon-Trent from 1874-1914. It had a gentle hymn-like tune for its theme followed by variations of increasing complexity, for which Martyn chose various different solo stops and echo effects.

Continuing to move on through the years, we then came to one of Schumann's sketches for the pedal piano, opus 58 no 2. This piece, in ABA form, starts in bright and bold fashion with a recurring dotted rhythm, with a quieter and lyrical middle section.

We then listened to a delightful transcription by a contemporary German organist, Otto Depenhauer, of a short piano piece by Widor dating from 1891, and originally printed in a French newspaper with the name "Air en style ancien" (later published with the title "Pastorale Louis XV"). Set in the key of A minor, it had a dance-like melody in 6/8 time, the tune being played on a solo reed with a soft accompaniment. Martyn summed it up as a suave and elegant piece which doesn't outstay its welcome.

The programme ended with a thoroughly modern showpiece called "Prelude et danse fuguée" by the blind French organist and composer Gaston Litaize. Written in 1964, apparently as a competition piece, it is a pulsating work with a theme of expanding intervals, using clashing chords and driving rhythms that lead on inexorably to a dramatically discordant conclusion. It must have taken a long time to learn as it sounds very difficult, but it was played immaculately by Martyn, as indeed were the other

four pieces.

Coventry's Director of Music was very approving of the finale, though unfortunately the same can't be said of Mrs M. She was however suitably mollified when Martyn took time out of his busy schedule to join us afterwards for drinks and conversation at nearby Playwrights!

Andrew McMillan

Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 30th June 2014

Today's lunchtime recital, being the last in the 2013/4 series, comprised audience requests from the series, commencing with the first two movements of Handel's Concerto in G Op 4 No 1, the stately Larghetto then the sparkling Allegro.

Thomas has added his own arrangement of Suite from Danserye by Tylman Susato to his repertoire this year, opening with the fanfares of La Morisque, then Pavane, Ronde, Bergerette and finishing with the lively Saltarelle.

Next followed four of the six movements from Peter Hurford's suite Laudate Dominum. Thomas commented that Peter Hurford was one of the strongest influences on him, and his reference point for any Bach piece he learnt. Peter Hurford also founded the St Alban's Organ Festival, which provided a springboard for Thomas's career when, in his final year at King's College Cambridge, he won 1st prize at this prestigious international competition.

Just released DVD's were on sale today of Thomas Trotter playing the historic Snetzler organ of St Laurence's Parish Church, Ludlow. Included in the DVD is S S Wesley's Holsworthy Church Bells, making use of the carillon at St Laurence's, played many times by Thomas at the Town Hall, and one of today's requests.

Judith Weir's Wild Reeds, commissioned by Thomas Trotter, was followed by one of my all-time favourite organ works, the Finale from Vierne's Symphony No 1 – absolutely stunningly performed!

Providing a gentle filling between two blockbusters was Serenata in D Op 15/1 by Moritz Moszkowski, with Rossini's Overture to William Tell providing the thrilling finale to today's recital of requests. That just left time for a final fling for this series, with Eric Coates' Knightsbridge March played as an encore. TS

Alexander Pott Recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Friday 11th July 2014

Today's well-attended organ recital formed part of the 2014 Lichfield Festival, and was due to have been given by Ghislaine Reece-Trapp, Senior Organ Scholar at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Regrettably illness meant that her place had to be taken by another organist at Christ Church Cathedral, Organ Scholar Alexander Pott.

Alexander's musical training started as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, where, already learning the piano, violin and bassoon, he became fascinated by the organ. He began having organ lessons with Richard Hobson when at 13 he went to Merchant Taylor's School,

Northwood as a Music Scholar. Whilst still at school, he held organ scholarships first at St Mary's Church, Harrow-on-the-Hill and then at St Mary's Church, Primrose Hill. During his gap year, Alexander was Organ Scholar of Chelmsford Cathedral, and studied with Margaret Phillips. As a solo recitalist he has performed across the UK and last year saw him receive his FRCO. He is studying for a degree in Music at Oxford University, where he studies organ with Thomas Trotter.



Alexander Pott

Alexander opened his programme with a very assured performance of J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in C Minor BWV 546. Hindemith's Sonata II was followed by Fantasies I & II by Alain, their anguish perhaps a reflection of being composed in war-torn France.

Then a change of mood to On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring by Delius, arranged for organ by his amanuensis Eric Fenby, and beautifully registered by Alexander. Herbert Howell's Paean provided a climactic finale to today's recital.

An assured performance by a confident, talented young man, particularly so given that in standing in for Ghislaine Reece-Trapp, he would presumably have had limited time to prepare. TS

Jonathan Dimmock Recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Friday 18th July 2014

Today saw the first organ recital of this year's Music for Reflection series, performed by Jonathan Dimmock, international recitalist and organist for the San Francisco Symphony.



Jonathan Dimmock

He is well-known internationally as a recitalist, choral conductor, accompanist, continuo player, ensemble

musician and church organist. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory and Yale University, he has held musical posts at Westminster Abbey and three American cathedrals: St John the Divine (NY), St Mark's (Minneapolis) and Grace (San Francisco). For over 12 years he was Music Director at St Ignatius Church in San Francisco and has recorded more than 40 CD's and toured on five continents.

Introducing his own programme, entitled 'An American in England', featuring American organist/composers, he opened with a flourish in the form of Trumpet Tune in A by David Johnson. This was followed by Resurrection, a work of four movements by Larry King, Music Director at Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan for 21 years prior to his death in 1990.

Craig Phillips has been Director of Music at All Saints' Church, Beverly Hills, since 2009. His Archangel Suite comprises four short movements: Michael – strident, Gabriel – gentle, Raphael – meandering, and Uriel – a toccata with full organ climax.

With music featuring American composers, John Phillip Sousa was always likely to put in an appearance, and his Liberty Bell was the choice for the finale. We've heard this played at the Cathedral on previous occasions, but played with rather more gusto than today's more restrained rendering.

A recital exposing us to some new composers, albeit of less than memorable works, and whilst not particularly well-attended, helped a little by a handful of LDOA members in the audience. TS

John Keys Recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Today's Music for Reflection recital was by John Keys, Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Nottingham since 1984, as well as following an independent career as solo organist, continuo player, accompanist and conductor.



John Keys

Born and educated in Chester, John obtained the diplomas of the RCM in organ playing while still at school, and after A-levels, was assistant organist at Chester Cathedral for nearly 3 years before going to New College, Oxford, as Organ Scholar, where he was taught by Gillian Weir and Nicholas Danby. After graduating in 1981 he went to Geneva to complete his organ studies at the Conservatoire with Lionel Rogg, and won the 1er Prix de Virtuosité and the Prix Barblan. In 1984 he won the 1st prize at the Forth Manchester International Organ competition. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Guild of

Church Musicians, Nottingham University organist, and a trustee for the Binns organ in Nottingham's Albert Hall. As well as the UK, he has given recitals in many European countries, and Australia. He has recorded several CD's, and his latest project is to record the hundreds of hymns in the 'Ancient & Modern' hymn book, which will extend to around 50 CD's. He started doing these recordings at the request of a friend who is a minster, and then realised there was a strong demand for recordings of this type for churches where there is no longer a working organ or regular organist. Rather a sad reflection on our times that there is a demand for such CD's.

John's blazing opening to his recital was provided by Overture to Act III (Lohengrin) by Wagner. Overture in C by Mozart was followed by the well-known melody of Romance Sans Paroles (No 8 of Douze Pieces) by Bonnet.

Then back to Mozart again with the jaunty Leipziger Gigue. Minuetto (No 2, Dix Pieces) by Gigout was followed by the main work of the recital, a very assured rendering of Bach's Prelude & Fugue in G BWV 541.

Having opened with an attention-grabbing piece, John closed with a flourish, provided by Henry Mulet's thrilling Carillon-Sortie.

A very varied programme, much enjoyed by a modest group of regulars in the choir stalls, but swelled by a number of summer visitors to the Cathedral seated in the nave. TS

Alexander Woodrow Recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Friday 25th July 2014

Continuing the lunchtime recitals in the 'Music for Reflection' series, Alexander Woodrow, Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral was today's organist.



Alexander Woodrow

Born in York in 1986, Alex was appointed Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral in January 2012, where he is responsible for the musical training and development of the cathedral Choirs, in their provision of choral worship. He remains the youngest Cathedral Organist working in the Anglican Foundation. He is also responsible for the Chamber and Senior Choirs at Bradford Grammar School.

He read music as Organ Scholar at Magdalene College, Cambridge, studying with Anne Page. Upon graduating he held two postgraduate organ scholarships, each for a year, at Guildford and St Albans cathedrals, before being appointed to Hexham Abbey as Assistant Organist in 2009. He became an FRCO at the age of 19, winning first

prizes in all categories, including the Limpus Prize. He was subsequently awarded the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Alexander had published his programme in advance of today's recital, and being Widor's Symphony No 5, this probably accounted for a rather better than normal attendance, including a contingent of 6 LDOA members. The five movements of this Symphony are all able to work perfectly well when played as stand-alone movements, but today we were in for a treat with the Symphony being performed in its entirety, fitting rather nicely into the 35 minute recital slot.

After a quiet opening, Allegro Vivace builds to a stunning climax, followed by the delicious Allegro Cantabile, and Andantino Quasi Allegretto. The Adagio provided the calm interlude before the barnstorming and justifiably popular Toccata.

An accomplished performance by a very talented young man, with Alexander's articulation and the rather dry acoustic of Lichfield Cathedral making for great clarity in the beautiful nuances of this Symphony, which can sometimes be lost in the generous acoustic of some of our cathedrals. TS

Geoffrey Woollatt Recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Wednesday 30th July 2014

Today's recitalist, Geoffrey Woollatt, first became interested in the organ on hearing it played at Ely Cathedral when he was 5. He began his musical career as a chorister at Southwell Minster, and it was here that, having passed his Grade 5 Piano, he started to learn the organ under Phillip Rushforth, Assistant Organist at Southwell Minster at the time. There is an enlightening article from the Grantham Journal dated March 2002, referring to an 'aspiring young musician, 11 year old Geoffrey Woollatt, having an ambition to become a cathedral organist, and is hoping a local church can help him pursue his aim', by offering him practice time on Saturday mornings.



Geoffrey Woollatt

Subsequently he attended Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, where he continued his Organ Studies with Christopher Stokes. In January 2007, Geoffrey was appointed as Junior Organ Scholar at Manchester Cathedral, a post which he held for eighteen months. In September 2008, he became the Organ Scholar at Chester Cathedral, where he regularly played for services, and the weekly organ recitals, as well as accompanying

the Cathedral Nave Choir. In September 2009, Geoffrey commenced his studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. At the same time he was appointed Assistant Organist at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, where he played regularly for the choir and was involved in broadcasts, recordings and many performances whilst he was there. In September 2012, he returned to Chester Cathedral as Assistant Organist.

Geoffrey opened his recital with a flourish, provided by Howell's Rhapsody No 3 in C Sharp Minor. Francis Jackson's Impromptu Opus 5 opens gently, but soon becomes more animated, building to a grand climax before subsiding to a gentle ending.

Having spent the morning at St Peter's, Maney, practising J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in B Minor BWV 544, it was most opportune to hear a very assured performance of the same work on the Hill organ. Harmonies Du Soir by Karg-Elert was followed by Vierne's Toccata (Pièces de Fantaisie, Op 53, No 6), this challenging piece providing a thrilling finale to today's recital.

A recital at Lichfield Cathedral by yet another talented young man.
TS

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Peter Morris - Walsall Town Hall

The Walsall Town Hall 2013/14 recital series has now finished, but the 2014/15 recital series will commence on Thursday 18th September 2014, continuing generally on the third Thursday of the month. Having worked his way through the A-Z of composers to end with the 'H' box in the last series, no doubt Peter will be resuming his journey, delving into the 'I' box.

In addition to the recitals at Walsall Town Hall, Peter is also giving the following recitals:

- 1.00 pm to 1.30 pm on Monday June 15th 2015 at Coventry Cathedral
- 1.10 pm Thursday 10th September 2015 at Chester Cathedral (where Peter was once a chorister)

Martyn Rawles

In addition to Lichfield Cathedral events, Martyn is also giving the following recitals:

- 4.45 pm to 5.15 pm Sunday 16th November 2014 at Westminster Cathedral
- 12.30 pm to 1.15 pm Thursday 29th January 2015 at Gloucester Cathedral
- 11.15 am Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2015 at Liverpool Cathedral

Cathy Lamb

In addition to her Lichfield Cathedral events, Cathy is also giving a recital at 12.30 pm Thursday 27th November 2014 at Christchurch Priory

Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor usually gives the opportunity to up-and-coming young organists at the annual autumn recital at Broadway

United Reformed Church, Broadway North, Gillity Avenue, Walsall, WS5 3PH. A clash of dates has resulted in the planned young organist having to cancel. Alan has been prevailed upon to give the recital himself, at 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm Saturday 6th September 2014.

Programme to include music by Bach, Buxtehude, Dandrieu, Guilmant, Lemare, Stanley and Widor. This event, which occurs exactly 50 years after Alan first played the organ for a church service, has been generously sponsored by the Professor Alan Dronsfield Trust, as a result of which admission will be FREE. Many will have heard Alan's accomplished playing on our visits, and all members of LDOA are cordially invited.

Mervin Jones

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

Sue Heath-Downey

Sue is giving a recital at 1:15 pm – 2:00 pm on Saturday 20th September 2014 at St George's Metropolitan Cathedral, Southwark

Alex Goldsmith

Following the success of the 2013 event, Alex Goldsmith has organised another concert at St Modwen's Parish Church Burton-on-Trent at 3 pm Saturday 2nd August 2014. Performing will be Alex, Arthur Tipper, Roger Sharp and the vicar of St Modwen's, Stanley Monkhouse, who just happens to be an FRCO.

Phil Scriven

Well-respected LDOA ex-member, Phil Scriven (now of Cranleigh School) is making a welcome return visit to give a recital at the venue of our May 2014 visit, St Editha's, Tamworth, at 7.30 pm on Friday 17th October 2014.

Recitals In Local Area (to mid October 2014)

August 2014

Frid 1 August 2014 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 1 August 2014 • 1:00 • St Martin's, Worcester
William Fox (Wells Cathedral)

Sat 2 August 2014 • 3:00 • St Modwen's Parish Church, Burton-on-Trent
Concert given by Alex Goldsmith, Arthur Tipper, Roger Sharp and Stanley Monkhouse.

Mon 4 August 2014 • 12:00 • All Saints', Little Stretton
Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Mon 4 August 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Laurence Lyndon-Jones (Chelmsford Cathedral)

Wed 6 August 2014 • 12:00 • St Laurence's, Church Stretton
Peter Dyke (Hereford Cathedral)

Wed 6 August 2014 • 1:15 to 1:50 • Lichfield Cathedral
Jonathan Hope (Gloucester Cathedral)

Wed 6 August 2014 • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral
John Scott (St Thomas', Fifth Avenue, New York)

Thurs 7 August 2014 • 1:00 to 1:40 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury
George Baker (Leominster Priory Church)

Thurs 7 August 2014 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 8 August 2014 • 12:00 • All Saints', Little Stretton
Sarah Boutwood (Packwood Haugh School, Shropshire)

Frid 8 August 2014 • 1:10 to 1:50 • St Swithun's, Worcester
Hannah Gibson (Birmingham Conservatoire)

Frid 8 August 2014 • 1:15 to 1:50 • Lichfield Cathedral
Paul Derrett (Hull)

Sat 9 August 2014 • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster
Ashley Mellor (Royal Northern College of Music)

Sat 9 August 2014 • 1:00 • St Laurence, Ludlow
Joseph Wicks (St John's College, Cambridge)

Mon 11 August 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Tim Hone (Salisbury Cathedral)

Wed 13 August 2014 • 1:15 to 1:50 • Lichfield Cathedral
Hugh Morris (Christchurch Priory)

Wed 13 August 2014 • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral
John Hosking (St Asaph Cathedral)

Thurs 14 August 2014 • 1:00 to 1:40 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury
Mark Terry (Colchester)

Frid 15 August 2014 • 1:10 to 1:50 • St Swithun's, Worcester
Raymond Russell (Monkstown, County Dublin)

Sat 16 August 2014 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Nathan Laube (USA)

Mon 18 August 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Paul Leddington-Wright (Coventry Cathedral)

Tues 19 August 2014 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
John Goodwin (Shrewsbury School)

Wed 20 August 2014 • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral
Tom Corfield (Derby Cathedral)

Thurs 21 August 2014 • 1:00 to 1:40 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury
Margaret Outen (Stafford)

Frid 22 August 2014 • 1:10 to 1:50 • St Swithun's, Worcester
Henry Fairs (Birmingham University)

Frid 22 August 2014 • 1:15 to 1:50 • Lichfield Cathedral
David Humphreys (Peterborough Cathedral)

Sat 23 August 2014 • 1:00 • St Laurence, Ludlow
Douglas Tang (King's College, Cambridge)

Bank Holiday Mon 25 August 2014 • 11:00 • All Saints', Leamington Spa
Simon Lawford (All Saints', Leamington Spa)

Bank Holiday Mon 25 August 2014 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Malvern Priory
David Boarder (Hertford)

Bank Holiday Mon 25 August 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Tim Campain (Warwick Road United Reformed Church)

Wed 27 August 2014 • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral
Petr Gould (Derby Cathedral)

Thurs 28 August 2014 • 1:00 to 1:40 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury
David Boarder (Hertford)

Frid 29 August 2014 • 1:10 to 1:50 • St Swithun's, Worcester
Micaela Schmitz (Broadway, Worcestershire)

Frid 29 August 2014 • 1:15 to 1:50 • Lichfield Cathedral
Lee Dunleavy (Rushden, Northamptonshire)

Sat 30 August 2014 • 7:30 to 9:00 • St Leonard's, Newland
Andrew Millington (Exeter Cathedral)

September 2014

Mon 1 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral
Peter Dyke (Hereford Cathedral)

Wed 3 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Shrewsbury Abbey
Duncan Boutwood (Shrewsbury Abbey)

Wed 3 September 2014 • 7:30 • St Mary Magdalene, Lillington
Mark Swinton (St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick)

Thurs 4 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:40 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury
William Smallman (St Mary's, Shrewsbury)

Thurs 4 September 2014 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham
Anthony Hammond (Cirencester Parish Church)

Thurs 4 September 2014 • 2:00 to 4:15 • Burton-on-Trent Town Hall
Arthur Tipper (Burton-on-Trent)

Sat 6 September 2014 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Richard Hills (Concert Organist)

Sat 6 September 2014 • 7:30 to 9:00 • Broadway United Reformed Church, Walsall
Alan Taylor (Broadway United Reformed Church)

Sun 7 September 2014 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 8 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral

Timothy Byram-Wigfield (All Saints', Margaret Street)

Tues 9 September 2014 • 1:00 • St Andrew's, Rugby

Philip J. Bricher (Holy Trinity, Northampton)

Tues 9 September 2014 • 7:30 to 9:30 • Lichfield Cathedral

Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral)

Sat 13 September 2014 • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster

David Lloyd (St Stephen's, Lewisham)

Mon 15 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral

Benjamin Chewter (Chester Cathedral)

Thurs 18 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall

Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Mon 22 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral

Thomas Corns (St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick)

Wed 24 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Shrewsbury Abbey

Glyn Williams (Shrewsbury Abbey)

Wed 24 September 2014 • 1:15 • St Chad's, Birmingham

Ben Comeau (Girton College, Cambridge)

Thurs 25 September 2014 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham

Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair)

Frid 26 September 2014 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral

Jonathan Allsopp (Durham Cathedral)

Sat 27 September 2014 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley

Jonathan Scott with Tom Scott (Piano)

Sat 27 September 2014 • 1:00 • Birmingham Town Hall

Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist) – part of OrganFest 2014

Mon 29 September 2014 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral

Kerry Beaumont (Coventry Cathedral)

Tues 30 September 2014 • 7:30 to 9:30 • Lichfield Cathedral

Colin Walsh (Organist Laureate, Lincoln Cathedral)

October 2014

Thurs 2 October 2014 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 3 October 2014 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green

Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University) – part 2 of the requests recital.

Sat 4 October 2014 • 3:30 • Ellesmere College (Chapel/Great Hall)

Catherine Ennis (St Lawrence, Jewry)

Sat 4 October 2014 • 6:45 • Worcester Cathedral

Olivier Latry (Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris)

Sun 5 October 2014 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Thurs 9 October 2014 • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall

Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Sat 11 October 2014 • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster

Lee Dunleavy (Rushden, Northamptonshire)

Tues 14 October 2014 • 1:10 to 1:45 • Warwick Road United Reformed Church

Laurence Caldecote (St Nicolas, Nuneaton)

Tues 14 October 2014 • 7:30 to 9:30 • Lichfield Cathedral

Malcolm Archer (Winchester College)

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 2014, with deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/09/14, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA