

## AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

### FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

#### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 – Newcastle-under-Lyme Organ Crawl

Richard Syner has managed to arrange a full day's organ crawl to Newcastle-under-Lyme to play no less than four substantial organs. This visit promises to be one of the highlights of our 2016 events, and we encourage as many members as possible to attend this visit.

We start our visit by meeting at 10:30 am at St Wulstan's, Catholic Church, Church Lane, Wolstanton, ST5 0EF (3 manual 44 stop Rushworth & Draper organ from circa 1920, rebuilt in 2014). We will be joined here by organ builders Keith Cartwright and his son Philip, who maintain the organ at St Wulstan's, as well as at the next church, St George's.



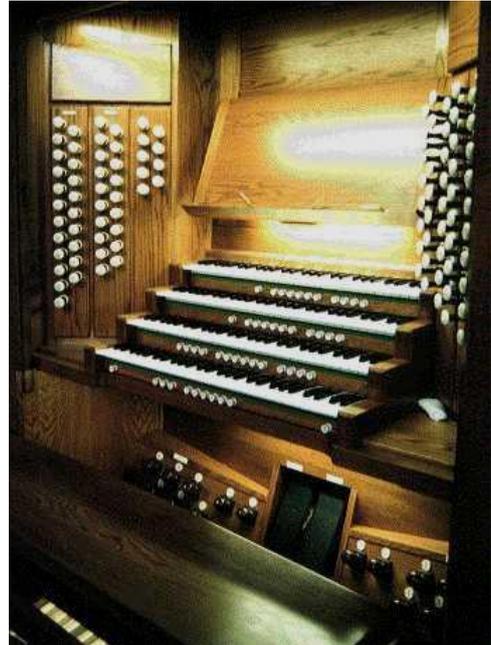
St Wulstan's, Wolstanton, organ console

Few minutes drive into Newcastle-under-Lyme for 12:15 pm to St George's, Cherry Orchard, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 2UB (3 manual 48 stop Wadsworth organ), and park the cars in the car park.

Leave at 1:15 pm on the short walk to the Congregationalist Church, King St, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 1EJ, to eat packed lunches or buy lunch, and to then play the 3 manual 33 stop Rushworth & Dreaper organ, restored by M C Thompson in 2006.

Then finally a further short walk, to arrive for 3 pm, at St Paul's, Victoria Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 1BH, to play 'one of the finest parish church organs in the country', a completely refurbished 4 manual 81 stop Hill organ, which is one of the last organs built under Arthur Hill's direction before the amalgamation with Norman & Beard. See photo of the console below to whet your appetite! As well as a Glockenspiel, added in 1995, it has a Tibia Liquida stop, which opens a door to a cocktail

cabinet above the stop jam! This latter stop could come in handy if we are all flagging at the end of a long day!



St Paul's Newcastle-under-Lyme console

Short walk back to St George's to pick up the cars and for the journey home.

**See travel directions and locator map under 'APPENDIX' on last page of the newsletter for the first two venues. Locations and directions for walking to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> venues will be provided on the day.**

Please don't let any transport difficulties be an impediment to attending this 'not-to-be-missed' opportunity for a terrific day. If you need help with transport, contact either Trevor Smedley or Richard Syner (contact details on last page of this newsletter), and we will try to assist. To help us with transport arrangements, it would be helpful to establish who plans to come, and whether they require a lift, or indeed could offer a lift.

#### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016 - Members' Recital

This extra event will commence at 3 pm at All Saints' Church Four Oaks, by kind permission of Director of Music Angela Sones, and Revd Adrian Leahy.

When we visit churches, there is little opportunity for members to get the feel of the organ or prepare registrations for pieces. This limits pieces to those that can be played without preparation time. We plan to invite members to volunteer to play for 10-15 minutes each, with

the opportunity to prepare/practice on the superb All Saints' 4 manual pipe organ in advance.

The event will be for members and family/guests, and an invitation will also be extended to members of the congregation of All Saints. Drinks and nibbles will be provided in the interval to also make it a social event. Free admission, with a retiring collection divided between LDOA and All Saints' Four Oaks.

An invitation to members to volunteer to play at this event was circulated towards the end of June, but we are still able to accommodate a few more players, so this is a 'last call' for any members still considering whether to volunteer to play at this event.

**Final deadline for volunteers Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, so that we can start to compile an interesting and varied programme.**

### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Coleshill Parish Church**

Richard Syner is keen to include an educational element to one of our visits, and as part of our visit to Coleshill Parish Church, where there is a 3 manual 36 stop Walter James Bird organ, he has enlisted the services of Birmingham Organists' Association President, Mick Perrier, to repeat for us a presentation on 'Improvisation' he made originally for the Birmingham Organists' Association, using Rosemary Field material. An opportunity for members to start to learn a most useful skill for any organist.

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

Martyn Rawles has now confirmed the date and arrangements for this event, which is always one of the highlights of our year, and invariably the best attended.

The plan is for us to meet at 5:30 pm to hear the organ played prior to the service, then attend the candlelit Advent Carol Service commencing at 6 pm, followed by drinks and nibbles in College Hall. Once the Cathedral is cleared, we return to the Cathedral for members to play the Hill organ till about 9.30 pm.

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 - Annual Dinner 2016**

Annual Dinner for LDOA members and partners/guests at 'The Owl at Lichfield', 7pm for 7.30 pm. The restaurant is on the outskirts of Lichfield, on London Road, Lichfield WS14 9QH. Menu/price details to follow nearer the date.

### **2017 Visits/Events**

Richard Syner is well advanced with planning our 2017 visits, and the following are already confirmed:

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – St Luke's, Cannock**

Insufficient interest has meant that the proposed visit to Symphony Hall in January has had to be cancelled, so we are grateful to our member John Carvell for hosting a visit commencing at 2 pm to St Luke's, Cannock, to play the 3 manual, mainly tubular pneumatic action, Norman & Beard organ.

### **Saturday 11th March 2017 – AGM and visit to Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield**

Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield, is currently being reordered, and it was feared that as a consequence the substantial 3 manual Hill, Norman & Beard organ may have to be replaced by an electronic organ. Fortunately, it now looks as though the pipe organ will be retained in the reordered church. The plan is to commence our visit at 2 pm with our 2017 AGM, followed by an opportunity to play the Hill, Norman & Beard organ.

### **RECENT LDOA VISITS/EVENTS**

### **Wednesday 29th June 2016, visit to Polesworth Abbey**

We had been invited to visit Polesworth Abbey, near Tamworth, by Father Philip Wells, and in the absence of both Father Philip and Organist & Choirmaster David Brookes, we were welcomed by Carol.

Founded in 827 by King Egbert of Mercia, the Abbey continued until 1539, and is now St Editha's Parish Church of Polesworth. The site of the Abbey is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, although apart from the church, the gatehouse, and the restored ruins of the cloister, very little remains visible. The 12th century Abbey church is a Grade II listed building. The recently restored and renovated 14th century gatehouse is also a Grade II listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

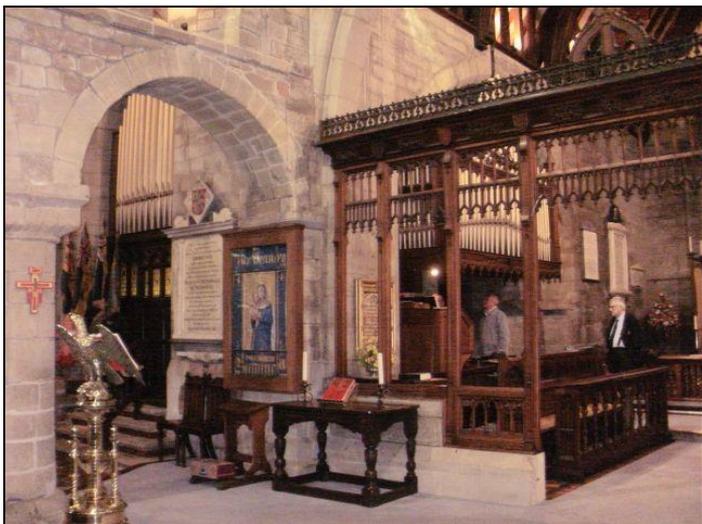


Polesworth Abbey

Whilst some members enjoyed the welcome hot drinks in the refectory and perused our remaining surplus organ/piano music, organ books and CD's, after the rain earlier in the day other members took advantage of the fine June evening to look around the award winning sensory garden.

Moving into the church, the organ is located on the north side of the chancel, with the detached horseshoe stop-tab console tucked away underneath the pipework. In the absence of anyone from Polesworth Abbey with knowledge of the organ, we were fortunate that our member Colin Brookes had some experience of the organ through his friend and organ builder Roger Fifield. Roger was a member of our Association until he relocated from Leamington Spa to Llandrindod Wells four years ago, and

we are indebted to Colin for obtaining from Roger the history of the organ, and his involvement with it.



The location of the organ in Polesworth Abbey

Roger's involvement with the organ of Polesworth Abbey commenced with tuning and maintenance of the previous Housley Adkins two manual organ, with a detached console in the chancel of the church, and with all pipework squashed into the tower, dating from 1942 (assumed by the date on the blower/dynamo) set into the Vestry floor. An inherited problem was the tower drainage, which was actually internal, so frequent blockages meant a drenching, especially over the open Great including the reeds; most unsatisfactory and the organ was often out of action.

Thus, a new proposal drawn up by Roger was accepted by Polesworth, and an Organ Committee organised. At one stage, they researched the electronic route because of the water problems, but after a lot of work and investigations, Roger came up with a proposal to purchase and rebuild the redundant Taylor organ in St Michael's & All Angels, Leicester. The Taylor organ was a fine instrument, dating from 1912, and it is this pipework that forms the majority of the Polesworth organ. St Michael's was a two manual, with a third planned for but never completed.

Roger commenced constructing the organ, and needing huge construction work, the project was to be in four phases, the first being the Great, Swell and Pedals, dedicated in 2002. There were insufficient funds to install a new console or to construct an intended Choir Organ. When Roger had finished what was the first phase, it left the Church with a superb sound that it has today. (Roger went on to also be responsible for the superb Hinckley Parish Church rebuild.)

In 2012, the Church engaged Organ Tuning Services to take over the organ, which included the purchase of a second hand Walker console and the employment of a four rank wind chest. It is noticeable that the use of second hand materials has since led to problems of leakage, as indeed the tuning of the third manual (correctly a positive chancel organ), has spoiled the otherwise excellent organ. In Roger Fifield's view, one or two pipe swapping exercises were in retrospect ill-advised, which included the Taylor Trumpet/Trombone moved off the Great soundboard to a separate chest, extended down to a 16ft, the Great Dulciana moved out, and an extra three stops on

the Positive. Essentially this is a Roger Fifield built organ, with minor additions by Organ Tuning Services, and the specification below, as now given in the NPOR is almost correct, except that the Great Diapason 2 is actually a Taylor Hohl Flute. The current specification is:

#### Pedal

Major Bass 16', Sub Bass 16', Contra Violone 16', Octave 8', Bass Flute 8', Trombone 16'

#### Choir

Rohr Flute 8', Octave 4', Flute Couverte 4', Harmonic Piccolo 2', Larigot 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>', Tromba 8'

#### Great

Open Diapason No. One 8', Open Diapason No. Two (Hohl Flute) 8', Clarabella 8', Octave 4', Flauto Traverso 4', Fifteenth 2', Mixture II, Tromba 8'

#### Swell

Geigen Diapason 8', Lieblich Gedeckt 8', Viole 8', Geigen Principal 4', Mixture II, Cornopean 8', Oboe 8'

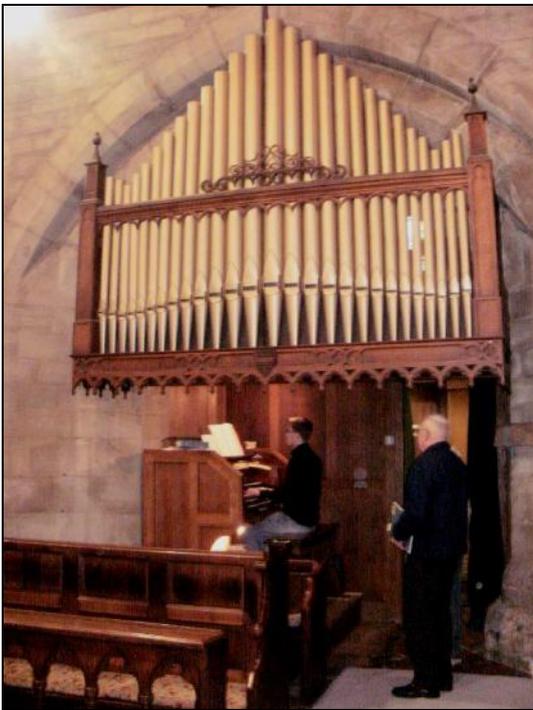
Members soon took up the opportunity to sample the organ, with first Andrew McMillan followed by Jonathan Woodward, Colin Brookes, Tony White, Chris Booth, David Gumbley, Alan Taylor, Peter King and finally Trevor Smedley.



The Walker console of Polesworth Abbey, with Tony White

The organ has electro pneumatic action and contains some good pipework. Despite the presence of the dreaded carpeting in the chancel, the organ has plenty of power, and the sound carries well down the nave.

It was gratifying to see a good turnout of some 15 members/guests, including Philip Herbert of the Leicester & District Organists' Association, for this Wednesday summer's evening visit, a format which looks worth repeating in the future.



Chris Booth at the organ of Polesworth Abbey

Our gratitude to Carol for hosting the visit, and providing us with helpful and informative leaflets on the historical features of Polesworth Abbey. TS

## NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

### Vacancy on the Committee

At the 2016 AGM, following David Gumbley's resignation as Chairman, Trevor Smedley was elected as his replacement. Trevor agreed to continue to also produce the newsletter, so this leaves a vacancy on the Committee, as we feel we need a minimum of 5 members on the Committee. In the April 2016 Newsletter, we invited members to put themselves forward to join the Committee, but having had no volunteers, we will make a direct approach to a member(s) with a view to filling the vacancy.

### Gift Aid

Our Treasurer, Mike Rudd, is hopeful that we can gain approval for membership subscriptions to be treated as gift-aided, enabling us to claim back tax where members are UK tax payers. Mike is currently seeking advice as to what we need to put in place to achieve this objective.

### Next Committee Meeting

October 2016, date t.b.a.

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### New Member

We are pleased to welcome David Perry as a new member. David had organ lessons with Lichfield Cathedral organists Peter King and Mark Shepherd from 1984-92, and has a Makin Westmorland organ at home, which he hopes to be able to devote more time to in the future, now that he is no longer a full-time carer for his parents.



David Perry

David is a regular visitor to Lichfield Cathedral, despite living in Wednesbury, but he will be moving to Lichfield in the near future.

We look forward to meeting David at our future events.

### Henry Metcalfe Lichfield Cathedral Recital

One of our youngest student members, Henry Metcalfe, is currently Junior Organ Scholar of Lichfield Cathedral, but in September will be moving to sixth form studies in Bristol. There is however a chance to hear him perform a public recital at Lichfield Cathedral as part of the lunchtime 'Music for Reflection' concerts, at 1.15 pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Support for this talented young organist by any members who are able to attend would be most welcome.

## NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

### Peterborough Cathedral Organ

Peterborough Cathedral's organ has many similarities with that of Lichfield Cathedral, in that they are both Hill organs, have a similar number of pipes, and were built to the 'Old Philharmonic Pitch', which is a higher pitch than 'Standard Concert Pitch'. In the February 2016 Newsletter, we reported a £400,000 contract awarded to Harrison & Harrison to retune the Peterborough organ to 'Standard Concert Pitch', to enable it to be used with orchestras and brass bands, and so the choir can sing at standard pitch.

This work is ongoing, and you can follow the progress via interesting video clips being posted on the Peterborough Cathedral website of the work Harrisons are carrying out. The 3<sup>rd</sup> of these 'Pipewatch' videos, entitled 'Meet the Organ Builders', is presented by Head Voicer, Andrew Scott, and Team Leader, Ian Bruce, and can be accessed via:

<http://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/pipewatch.aspx>,

### Selby Abbey Organ Restoration

Under the direction of Organ Consultant Paul Hale, Principal Pipe Organs, York, has been carrying out a major restoration project, estimated at £520,000, on the historic 1909 William Hill organ of Selby Abbey. The restoration commenced in November 2014 and is scheduled to be completed summer 2016. To mark the completion, a Grand Celebration Concert is planned for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, featuring the Royal Northern Sinfonia conducted by Adrian Partington, and with organists John Scott Whiteley and D'Arcy Trinkwon. They

will perform on the Harrison & Harrison nave console recently acquired from Manchester Cathedral and restored.

## LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

### Organ Recitals at the Cathedral

After the disruption to the 2015 programme of organ recitals caused by the rewiring of the Cathedral, a full programme of recitals has returned for 2016.

#### 'Music for Reflection'

Concerts take place on Wednesdays from 1:15 pm - 1:50 pm, admission free with a retiring collection. Details of the remaining dates/recitalists as follows:

- Wednesday 3rd August 2016 - Nicholas Morris (organ), Assistant Organist, Birmingham Cathedral.
- Wednesday 10th August 2016 - Henry Metcalfe (organ), Junior Organ Scholar, Lichfield Cathedral.
- Wednesday 17th August 2016 - Michael Nowland (cello), performing Johann Sebastian Bach's *Cello Suite No 2*.
- Wednesday 24th August 2016 - XS Celli, works and arrangements for 'cello quartet.
- Wednesday 31st August 2016 - Alexander Berry (organ), Assistant Organist, Magdalen College, Oxford.

#### Autumn Evening Organ Recitals Series

Recitals will take place on Fridays at 7:30 pm to 9:20 pm, admission £10, on the following dates:

- Friday 16th September 2016 - Simon Johnson (Organist and Assistant Director of Music, St Paul's Cathedral)
- Friday 14th October 2016 - Christopher Herrick (International Concert Organist)
- Friday 4th November 2016 - Henry Fairs (Head of Organ Studies, Birmingham Conservatoire)
- Friday 18th November 2016 - Martyn Rawles (Organist and Assistant Director of Music, Lichfield Cathedral)

### Young Persons' Cathedral Organ Day 2017

Having been unable to accommodate a 'Young Persons' Cathedral Organ Day' in 2016 due to the disruption caused by the rewiring of the Cathedral, we are grateful to Martyn Rawles and Lichfield Cathedral for accommodating an event on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017, commencing at 9 am. As previously, the event will be presented jointly by members of LDOA and Lichfield Cathedral.

### Lichfield Cathedral, A Journey of Discovery

Given our members interest in, and our Association's affinity with, Lichfield Cathedral, you may be interested to hear news of a new book just launched, tracing the history of Lichfield Cathedral, entitled *Lichfield Cathedral, A Journey of Discovery*. Written by Dr Jonathan Foyle, the

128 page book is copiously illustrated in colour, and is available from the Cathedral Shop priced at £19.99.

## IAO MATTERS

### Midlands Organ Day 2016

This year, the Midlands' Organ Day takes place in Nottingham on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>. The venue will be the Albert Hall, Nottingham with the programme for the day as follows:

- 09.45: Registration/ at the Royal Albert Hall.
- 10.30: Welcome from NDSO President, Prof John Morehen
- 10.45: Introduction to the Albert Hall organ and recital by David Butterworth.
- 11.30: Presentation by Fugue State Films on their organ recording projects by Will Fraser.
- 13.00: Lunch break - during which delegates may play the Binns organ.
- 14.30: Presentation by Goetze & Gwynne, organ builders, by Dominic Gwynne
- 16.30: Leave for St Peter's Church
- 17.00: Presentation on the hybrid organ & recital by Peter Siepmann.
- 18:00: Close

Cost will be £25 for IAO members, £28 for non-members and £5 for full-time students. Bookings to: Ian Watts, 101 Wighay Road, Linby, Notts, NG15 8AH.

Cheques payable to 'Nottingham & District Society of Organists'.

### OrganFest 2016

After two years in the Midlands, OrganFest is moving north this year to Edinburgh, running from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Provisional programme:

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

- 7:30 pm – Opening recital at St Giles Cathedral by Prof. Ullrich Böhme (Thomaskirche, Leipzig)

#### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October

- 10 am – Visit to St Stephen's Church and its Father Willis organ
- 11.15 am – Talks from the festival's promoters and the BIOS lecture at St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral
- 2:30 pm – Concert at the Reid Hall by the Kellie Consort with John Kitchen, organ
- 5:30 pm Choral Evensong at Old St Paul's Church

#### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October

- Optional visits to various morning services, including at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

Full programme when finalised will be found at [www.organfest.net](http://www.organfest.net)

## HINTS VILLAGE SCARECROW FESTIVAL

This year's Hints festival is to be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, and LDOA member Peter Edwards has asked for volunteers from LDOA members who are prepared to play the organ at St Bartholomew's during the day for visitors to the church, as in previous years. Peter will sort out a rota for volunteers, and arrange access for practice, if required.

Volunteers please contact Peter Edwards via [peter@weardrive.demon.co.uk](mailto:peter@weardrive.demon.co.uk) or 01543 480088.

## RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

### Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

The final recital in the 2015/6 season was a programme of audience requests, with Andrew Fletcher stipulating, as is his custom, that the pieces must be other than those played in the current series.

*Star Wars March* by John Williams provided a rousing opening to the recital, with decorum restored with Handel's delightful *Pastoral Symphony*, and Massenet's melodic *Meditation (from Thais)*, beautifully registered by Andrew.

Percy Whitlock's sublime *Folk Tune* was followed by *Sortie*, a composition for Andrew by one of the regulars at these recitals, Charles Nigel Ashworth. Andrew commented that 'he would do his best to sound convinced by the composition', which turned out to be lively, as one might expect from its title, if rather lacking a nice flow to it.

After Elgar's *Chanson de Matin*, next to another *sortie* with Lefébure-Wély's best-known work *Sortie in E flat*, followed by the elegant *Larghetto in F Sharp Minor* by S S Wesley. Then a request for a composition by Andrew, *Ceremonial March*, which he professed he had no recollection of writing, but which it transpired was rather grand!

*Adagio (Symphony No 4)* by Widor was followed by the most well-known of all organ works, *Toccatina in D Minor BWV 565*, attributed to J S Bach.

After the beautifully melodic, lilting, *Morning Song* by Alfred Hollins, the finale to the requests programme was provided by Guilman's thrilling *Final (Sonata No 1)*.

With the presentation of plants to David his page turner and the 'tea ladies', so ended this year's recital series, and with what seems likely to be Andrew's final Wylde Green recitals series commencing on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016. TS

### George de Voil recital at Broadway URC Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

For the second of this year's 'Coffee & Cakes' recitals at Broadway URC, sponsored once again by Professor Alan Dronsfield, Alan Taylor, Organist & Choir-director, welcomed George de Voil, a talented young organist he'd met at Oxford and had known for some years

As Organist and Director of Music at St James's, Paddington, George continues a musical tradition that has

included such distinguished organist-composers as Dr Harold Darke and Sir George Thalben-Ball. He is also Assistant Organist at Wellington College, where he is on the full-time teaching staff, and is an Assistant Housemaster. He is accompanist of Crowthorne Choral Society. George has broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4, and Classic FM, and in the past year, has given organ recitals in Liverpool, Bristol, Sheffield and Truro Cathedrals, as well as a series of annual engagements across the South of France. He holds the ARCO.



George de Voil

George was a choral scholar at The London Oratory School before taking up the Parry-Wood Organ Scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford. There he gained a First Class honours degree in Music, and was solely responsible for the renowned mixed-voice choir. He also held the post of Master of the Music at Pusey House, Oxford's famous Anglo-Catholic establishment. During his time at Oxford, George directed the musical celebrations for Exeter College's 700th Anniversary, including performances in Westminster Abbey, Washington National Cathedral, and privately for the Queen of Spain. He also led tours to Spain, Italy, and the USA, and directed the world premiere recording of Charles Villiers Stanford's Mass in G, Op. 46. The disc was praised by BBC Music Magazine and Gramophone, and led to George being named a Classic FM "Young Artist to Watch".

George opened with two pieces by Cesar Franck, with first the dramatic *Pièce Héroïque*, at first rather menacing, but with a triumphant climax, followed by the serene *Cantabile*.

George next turned to J S Bach and a grand, solemn, piece played at Princess Diana's funeral, *Prelude & Fugue in C minor BWV 546*.

Having been Percy Whitlock's birthday last Wednesday, George thought it opportune to include two movements from Whitlock's *Sonata in C Minor*, the gentle *Canzona* followed by the jaunty *Scherzetto*.

For his finale, George chose one of the most popular recital works, Boëllmann's *Suite Gothique*, playing all four movements, and fully utilising the substantial Broadway pedal reeds for the final thrilling *Toccatina*.

A varied and superbly performed recital by a young man with a great future. TS

## Thomas Trotter with Catrin Finch (harp) recital at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Having performed a joint recital with a pianola player earlier this year, Thomas's guest today was the accomplished harpist Catrin Finch. In his introduction to his guest, Thomas recalled having shared a stage with Catrin Finch some 12 years ago.



Catrin Finch

Catrin Finch is the most accomplished harpist in the UK. Inspired to learn the harp at the age of five, she achieved the highest mark in the UK for her Grade 8 exam ..... at the age of nine! After studying at the Purcell School she went on to graduate from the Royal Academy of Music in 2002, and received the Queen's Award for the most outstanding student of her year. She has since won numerous awards, has appeared with many of the world's top orchestras, and has recorded for all the major recording labels in a solo capacity.

Prior to Catrin joining Thomas on stage, he opened with a solo organ work, *Toccata*, by John Saunders, Organist of Gloucester Cathedral from 1967 – 1994. In 1979 he assembled and edited a 'Gloucester Organ Album', a book of organ pieces by his distinguished predecessors, including S S Wesley, Herbert Brewer and Herbert Sumsion, concluding the album with this short thrilling toccata, new to me but certainly deserving of greater exposure.

Catrin Finch then joined Thomas for *Prelude, Fugue & Variation* by Cesar Franck, a work originally written for organ then Franck arranged it for piano and harmonium, with the piano part being played here on the harp. A beautifully played arrangement of this lilting piece.

Next to J S Bach, and a work often heard played on the organ under a different guise as Dupré's arrangement of *Sinfonia from Cantata No 29*, which coincidentally is the opening work of Thomas's 2016/7 recitals series, but which started life as a brilliant prelude for solo violin in J S Bach's Third Partita. Arranged for harp by the French/American harpist Marcel Grandjany, *Prelude from Violin Partita No 3 in E Major* is a beautiful delicate work, very different from Dupré's organ arrangement. Then to Debussy's *La Fille Aux Cheveux De Lin*, originally written for piano, but this hauntingly wistful arrangement for harp works equally well.

Catrin's next solo offering was *Introduction, Cadenza & Rondo* by the English harpist Elias Parish Alvars (1808-1849), described by Berlioz as the 'Liszt of the Harp'. Marcel Grandjany, born in Paris in 1891, was one of the finest harpists in Europe, but he also played the organ, so *Aria in Classic Style* was published in two versions, for

harp and strings, and the version played today by Catrin and Thomas for harp and organ.

The finale of today's recital featured both Thomas and Catrin, performing Handel's *Harp Concerto in B Flat Major Op 4, No 6*. The well-deserved applause gave rise to an encore by Catrin in the form of Erik Satie's wistful *Gymnopedie No 1*. A superb recital with the perfect acoustic of Symphony Hall ensuring Catrin had no difficulty filling the Hall with glorious music in her harp solos. TS

## Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

This last recital of the 2015/6 series as usual was devoted to audience requests for pieces played by Thomas in the current series. With the Euro 2016 football tournament in mind, Thomas had grouped his pieces into three groups by country of composer, and seemed suitably impressed by his efforts, given his declared disinterest in football! It would have seemed a little pedantic to point out that the countries in the groups bore no resemblance to the actual Euro 2016 groupings!

The recital opened with one of my favourite pieces by J S Bach, *Toccata in F BWV 540*, immaculately played as always. Next, to Thomas's own arrangement of the jolly composition by Percy Grainger, *Molly on the Shore*. Then, staying with sea-faring, and time to batten down the hatches for Lemare's superb arrangement of Mendelssohn's *Overture, Hebrides*, impressively orchestrated by Thomas.

Next, turning to France, and Durufle's dramatic tribute to Jehan Alain with *Prelude & Fugue on the name of Alain*, followed by the beautiful melodic *Rhosymedre* by Vaughan Williams. In total contrast, next came first Goss-Custard's arrangement of Bizet's *Carmen Suite*, followed by Thomas's own arrangement of Ponchielli's *Dance of the Hours*, and an excuse to deploy the Whitechapel Bells stop to chime the hours.

After the gentle *Spring Song* by Hollins, the finale to the programme was a piece rather less familiar than the very popular works heard so far, with Prokofiev's *Toccata* providing a frenetic barnstorming climax to the requests recital. Just time for a short encore, with Leroy Anderson's *Syncopated Clock*.

A well-supported varied programme of some of the most popular organ works, with the customary virtuosic performance by Thomas Trotter to end this series. The 2016/7 series opens on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Birmingham Town Hall. TS

## Christopher Bragg recital at St Mary's, Lichfield, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Part of the 2016 Lichfield Festival, and supported by LDOA member David Cliffe and his wife Hazel, this recital at St Mary's was sold out, a reflection perhaps of being located in the confines of St Mary's, rather than in Lichfield Cathedral, as was the custom.

Today's organist for this programme of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century music from Denmark and France was Christopher Bragg.



Christopher Bragg

Chris Bragg was born in Stirling in 1980, and following a period as Organ Scholar of Dunblane Cathedral, he studied at the former Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, graduating in 2002. Between 2002 and 2009 he lived in the Netherlands, where he completed his Master's organ study at the University of Amsterdam, as well as undertaking private study in Hannover, and studying church music at the University of Utrecht. He is Concerts Administrator at the University of St Andrews, Organist of St Salvador's Episcopal Church in Dundee and is active as a freelance organist, teacher, translator and writer.

Assisted by two registrants, including one of our student members, Henry Metcalfe, Chris opened with Neils Gage's *Tre Tonstykker Op 22*, the three movements culminating with the lively *Allegro*.

Then followed Gabriel Fauré's *Pelléas et Mélisande, Op 80*, with its four movements *Prélude*, *Fileuse* depicting a spinning wheel, the well-known *Sicilienne*, and *Mort de Mélisande*.

The young composer Deborah Pritchard then introduced us to the Orgelbüchlein Project, curated by William Whitehead, a major international project to complete the 118 missing pieces in J S Bach's Orgelbüchlein, with modern compositions by the most interesting composers at work today. Commissioned from her by William Whitehead, Deborah's contribution to this project is *Gott Vater der du deine Sonn*. Christopher Bragg performed this short sparkling composition, between two of J S Bach's Orgelbüchlein chorales, *Christe du Lamm Gottes BWV 619* and *Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein BWV 641*.

Then followed *Miniature II* by Langlais, and finally *Carillon Orléanais* by Henri Nibelle, a pupil of Fauré, depicting repetitive tolling bells accompanying the theme of an old French children's song, and building to a full organ climax.

A rather different programme from the usual fare, but providing a rare opportunity to hear the historic St Mary's organ in recital. TS

**Peter Yardley-Jones recital at Broadway URC, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Continuing the 'Coffee & Cakes' recital 2016 at Broadway URC, today's recitalist was Peter Yardley-Jones, a colleague of Alan Taylor's at the IAO, of which Peter is a Director, as well as Operations Director of the IAO magazine *Organists' Review*. Peter Yardley-Jones is currently Director of Music & Organist at the Swiss Church in Covent Garden.



Peter Yardley-Jones

He graduated with a first-class honours degree in music from the University of Glasgow in June 2010. From 2006-2008 he was University Organ Scholar, playing for services in the historic Memorial Chapel, and in 2008 he was appointed Assistant Organist at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow, and Organist at Houston & Killellan Kirk. During his time in Glasgow, Peter studied organ with Kevin Bowyer and renowned Bach scholar, Prof. John Butt OBE.

Widely respected as a performer, Peter was awarded the Muriel Thorne Hague Memorial Prize, by the University of Glasgow for achieving the greatest distinction in performance and in 2005 won first prize in the nationwide Geoffrey Spiers Organ Competition. As a recitalist he has performed at some of the UK's most prestigious venues, and also in the USA. In addition Peter has been organist for several BBC Radio 2 and Radio 4 broadcasts and for BBC Television's *Songs of Praise*.

Away from the organ bench, Peter is becoming increasingly active as a conductor. His full-time job is spent indulging in his passion and skill for online technologies, and has become a leader in his field, having worked for Channel 5, Machinima (YouTube's top entertainment channel), Virgin Media and is currently working for Maker Studios as their Manager of International Advertising Operations.

Peter opened his recital with a flourish provided by *Toccata Festival* composed by a friend of his, Fredrik Sixten, a Swedish composer and organist. Then to Marcel Dupré's arrangement of Handel's *Organ Concerto No 2 in B Flat, Op 4*, a well-known uplifting work of four movements.

Next to one of Peter's favourite J S Bach works, *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659*, followed by Buxtehude's free style composition *Praeludium in A minor, BuxWV 153*. Then, a return again to Fredrik Sixten and *Hymn*, with a decidedly bluesy feel to it, followed by the very popular Herbert Howell's work, *Master Tallis's Testament*, a very fine rendering by Peter of which can be found on YouTube.

Then to *Choral Prelude on Psalm 77*, by Jacques van Oortmerssen, which Peter observed was one of the least serious works written by a Dane!

Finally to perhaps the major work of the recital, J S Bach's *Choral & Variations: Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig, BWV 768*, with the chorale followed by eleven variations. Just time for a short surprise encore; a jazzy number, particularly surprising perhaps to those in the audience sitting under the Broadway organ's high pressure reeds!

Having had e-mail communications with Peter Yardley-Jones when we were changing over from our old website to the upgraded one, it was a pleasure to finally meet him and discover what an accomplished organist he is. Rather a shame the flooded roads from the downpour earlier in the morning appeared to have put off some people from attending. TS

**Stephen Power 'Music for Reflection' recital at Lichfield Cathedral Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

After a 'Music for Reflection 2015' series curtailed by the rewiring of the Cathedral, July saw the return of a full 2016 programme, of which today's lunchtime recital by Stephen Power was the first organ recital.



Stephen Power

Stephen Power has been Assistant Organist at Brecon Cathedral and Christ College, Brecon, since September 2014, where he accompanies the two voluntary cathedral choirs and Christ College Chapel Choir. He is also Organist of St Mary's Church, the Parish Church of Brecon. He was previously Acting Assistant Organist at Gloucester Cathedral for six months, having worked in the music department there for four years. Stephen's musical training began there as a chorister in 1988. He graduated from the University of Huddersfield in 2001, winning the Hollingworth Organists' Prize, and worked at Leeds Parish Church, Wakefield and Ripon Cathedrals, Grimsby Parish Church, and at Southwell Minster.

Stephen chose to open his programme with the ever-popular *Hornpipe* from Handel's *Water Music*, followed in a slower measured vein by Buxtehude's *Komm heiliger Geist, Herr Gott*. Herbert Howell's *Rhapsody No 1 in D Flat* was followed by J S Bach's unmistakable *Fantasia in G BWV 572*, taken at a nice tempo, and with the lively outer sections contrasting with the majestic central passage.

Then *Interlude* in C by Walford Davies was followed by *Chant de Mai Op. 53 No 1* by Joseph Jongen, and the cheerful *Capriccio* by Dr Cuthbert Harris, organist of St Andrew's, and then St Leonard's, Streatham.

Reger's *Variations and Fugue on 'God Save the King'* concluded the recital, with the theme making an appearance after the initial dramatic opening. The variations, and Reger's usual abundance of notes, provided the opportunity to showcase the Hill organ to good effect, which sounded in surprisingly good voice despite the recent exceptionally high temperatures. TS

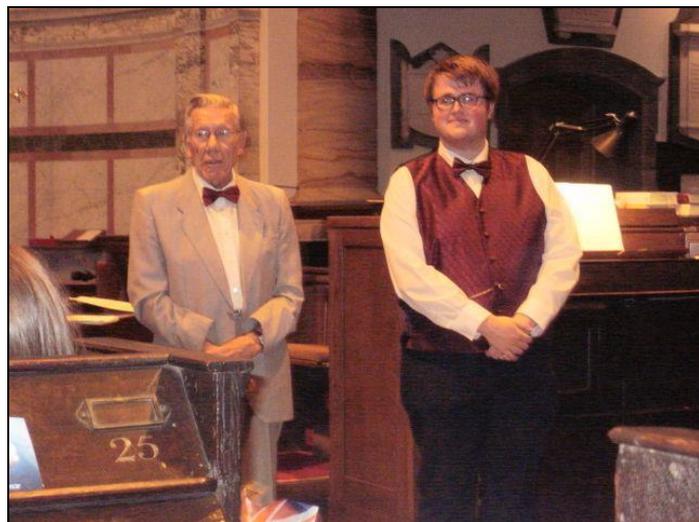
**Alex Goldsmith concert at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

One of our student members, Alex Goldsmith, for the last few years has both organised and performed in a summer concert at St Modwen's entitled 'An Afternoon at The Last Night of the Proms', and having just completed the 2nd year of his Maths degree course at Keele University, had still found time to continue as DoM at St Modwen's and organise another concert this year.

The concert commenced with the Marseillaise to mark the recent tragic murder of the French Catholic Priest, and a hymn.

The concert comprised a varied programme to suit all tastes, of solo organ works by Alex Goldsmith and by Revd Stanley Monkhouse FRCO (LDOA member and minister at St Modwen's), solo organ works in a lighter vein by Arthur Tipper (Organist of Burton-on-Trent Town Hall), a duet by Alex (organ) and Arthur (piano) of part of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1, a *Warsaw Concerto* piano solo by Alex, and some fine solo singing also by Alex, including *The Impossible Dream*.

As might be anticipated from the title of the concert, it ended with *Rule Britannia* (Alex singing the solo part accompanied on the organ by Arthur), *Jerusalem*, Elgar's *Pomp & Circumstance March No 1*, and the *National Anthem*, all with lots of audience participation, balloons and Union Jacks!



Alex Goldsmith (right), with Arthur Tipper taking their bows at the end of the concert

Well-supported as usual by the congregation of St Modwen's, all clearly most appreciative of this multi-talented young man's efforts to provide for them yet another afternoon's musical extravaganza. TS

**VACANCY**

**Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church**

Following Richard Syner's decision to resign from his post at Sutton Coldfield URC, we have been requested to advertise to our members the following vacancy:

Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church is looking for an Organist/Choir Leader. Three manual Nicholson Organ and dedicated 17 strong adult choir.

For further information please contact The Church Secretary at alanfredeaton@gmail.com or at Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church, 1 Brassington Avenue, Sutton Coldfield B73 6AA.

The position is vacant from 1 October 2016. Applications by 20th August 2016.

## **FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS**

### **LDOA Members' Recitals/Events**

#### Martyn Rawles

In addition to his Lichfield Cathedral commitments, Martyn is giving the following recitals:

- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 from 1:10 to 1:45 pm at Christ Church, Bristol City
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm Ripon Cathedral
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016 from 4:45 to 5:15 pm at St Paul's Cathedral

#### Cathy Lamb

In addition to her Lichfield Cathedral commitments, Cathy is giving a recital on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 from 1:00 to 1:50 pm at Bradford Cathedral

#### Henry Metcalfe

In his capacity as Junior Organ Scholar of Lichfield Cathedral, at 16 years of age one of our youngest student members, Henry Metcalfe, will be giving a 'Music for Reflection' organ recital at 1:15 pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at Lichfield Cathedral.

#### Peter Morris

The Walsall Town Hall 2016/7 series will commence on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016, and continue generally thereafter on the third Thursday of the month. In addition to the recitals at Walsall Town Hall, Peter Morris will be giving the following recitals:

- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016 from 3:00 to 3:45 pm at St James' Methodist Church, Pensnett
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 from 12:40 to 1:20 pm at St Chad's, Shrewsbury
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 from 1:00 to 1:40 pm at Blackburn Cathedral
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 from 1:00 to 1:30 pm at Coventry Cathedral

#### Mervin Jones – Darlaston Town Hall

Concert of light organ music plus guest artists on 2nd Thursday of every month at Darlaston Town Hall, with Mervin Jones at the 3 manual Binns Organ. Light refreshments and raffles. 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

#### Pat Neville - Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone

The next lunchtime organ recital, for Harvest, will be given on Monday 26th September 2016 by Trinity Methodist Church resident organist Pat Neville from 12:45 pm to 1:30

pm. Bring your sandwiches – hot drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

### **Broadway URC, Walsall**

- Not strictly a member's recital, but rather a recital series organised by one of our members, Alan Taylor, long-serving Organist and Choir-director of Broadway URC, Walsall, who deserves great credit for giving talented young organists the opportunity to develop their careers by performing at Broadway URC. 'Coffee & Cake recitals', on Saturday mornings at Broadway URC, Gillity Avenue, Walsall, WS5 3PH, at 11:15 am, with refreshments served from 10:30 am. The recitals by George de Voil and Peter Yardley-Jones have now taken place, but the final recital in the series is on Saturday 13 August with Peter Shepherd (*organ*), Merton College, Oxford.
- The Broadway URC 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Organ Recital will take place at 7:30 pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, given by Professor David Saint BA BMus FRCO FRSCM FRSA FISM, Organist & Director of Music at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. Admission £5, wine reception from 7 pm.

### **Recitals In Local Area (to end of September 2016)**

#### **August 2016**

Mon 1 August • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Jillian Gardner (Baylor University, Waco, Texas)

Tues 2 August • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Wed 3 August • 1:15 to 1:50 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Nicholas Morris (Birmingham Cathedral)

Wed 3 August • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral  
Richard Hills (Concert Organist)

Thurs 4 August • 1:15 to 1:55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sat 6 August • 11:00 to 11:40 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury  
Duncan Boutwood (Ruyton-XI-Towns)

Sat 6 August • 1:00 • St Laurence, Ludlow  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sun 7 August • 2:30 • Fentham Hall, Hampton-in-Arden  
Kevin Morgan (Lytham St Annes)

Sun 7 August • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 8 August • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Paul Dewhurst (St Giles', Pontefract)

Wed 10 August • 1:15 to 1:50 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Henry Metcalfe (Lichfield Cathedral)

Wed 10 August • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral  
Tom Corfield (Derby Cathedral)

Frid 12 August • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Richard Pinel with Libby Burgess (Piano)

Sat 13 August • 11:15 to 12:15 • Broadway URC, Walsall  
Peter Shepherd (Merton College, Oxford)

Sat 13 August • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster  
Jonathan Eyre (London)

Mon 15 August • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
David Hardie (Birmingham Cathedral)

Wed 17 August • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral  
Peter Gould (Portsmouth)

Sat 20 August • 10:15 to 11:15 • St John the Baptist, Halesowen  
Francesca Massey (Durham Cathedral)

Sat 20 August • 12:00 to 1:10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 22 August • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
James Kealey (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Wed 24 August • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral  
Hugh Morris (Derby Cathedral)

Bank Holiday Mon 29 August • 11:00 • St Michael & All Angels, South Yardley  
Ian Biggs (St Michael & All Angels, South Yardley)

Bank Holiday Mon 29 August • 12:00 to 1:00 • Malvern Priory  
Peter Shepherd (Merton College, Oxford)

Bank Holiday Mon 29 August • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Kerry Beaumont (Coventry Cathedral)

Wed 31 August • 1:00 to 1:45 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
Alan Viner (Holy Trinity, Leaton)

Wed 31 August • 1:15 to 1:50 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Alexander Berry (Magdalen College, Oxford)

Wed 31 August • 7:45 • Derby Cathedral  
Carleton Etherington (Tewkesbury Abbey)

## **September 2016**

Thurs 1 September • 1:00 to 1:30 • Solihull Methodist Church  
Stephen Perrins (DoM Emeritus, Solihull School)

Thurs 1 September • 1:15 to 1:55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Sat 3 September • 11:00 to 11:40 • St Mary's, Shrewsbury  
Fay Adamson (St Peter's, Ruthin)

Sat 3 September • 11:15 to 12:15 • Broadway URC, Walsall  
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)

Sun 4 September • 2:30 • Fentham Hall, Hampton-in-Arden  
David Ivory (Mechanical Music Museum, Colton)

Sun 4 September • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 5 September • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Iris Rieg (Cologne, Germany)

Tues 6 September • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Michael Wynne (St Mary's, Warrington)

Sat 10 September • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster  
Philip Adams (St Peter's, Sheringham)

Sat 10 September • 1:00 • St Laurence, Ludlow  
Daniel Justin (St John the Baptist RC Cathedral, Norwich)

Mon 12 September • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Blandine Jaquet (Wells Cathedral School)

Thurs 15 September • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall  
Peter Morris (Walsall Town Hall)

Thurs 15 September • 1:10 to 2:00 • Kidderminster Town Hall  
Timothy Morris (Kidderminster Town Hall)

Frid 16 September • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Samuel Hudson (Blackburn Cathedral)

Frid 16 September • 7:30 to 9:20 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Simon Johnson (St Paul's, Cathedral)

Sat 17 September • 12:00 to 1:10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
Martyn Noble (H.M. Chapels Royal, St James's Palace)

Sun 18 September • 2:30 to 5:00 • The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury  
Chris Powell

Sun 18 September • 3:00 to 3:45 • St James' Methodist Church, Pensnett  
David Pitches (St Christopher's, Springfield, Birmingham)

Mon 19 September • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Paul Bowen (Leeds)

Wed 21 September • 1:00 to 1:45 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
Glyn Williams (Shrewsbury Abbey)

Sat 24 September • 1:00 • St Laurence, Ludlow  
Jonathan Hope (Gloucester Cathedral)

Mon 26 September • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Paul Ledington Wright (Coventry Cathedral)

Wed 28 September • 1:20 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull  
Stephen Perrins (DoM Emeritus, Solihull School)

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

For details of recital organ specifications go to the National Pipe Organ Register at: [www.npor.org.uk](http://www.npor.org.uk)

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**Editorial Note - next newsletter is planned for October 2016, with deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/09/16, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA**

### APPENDIX

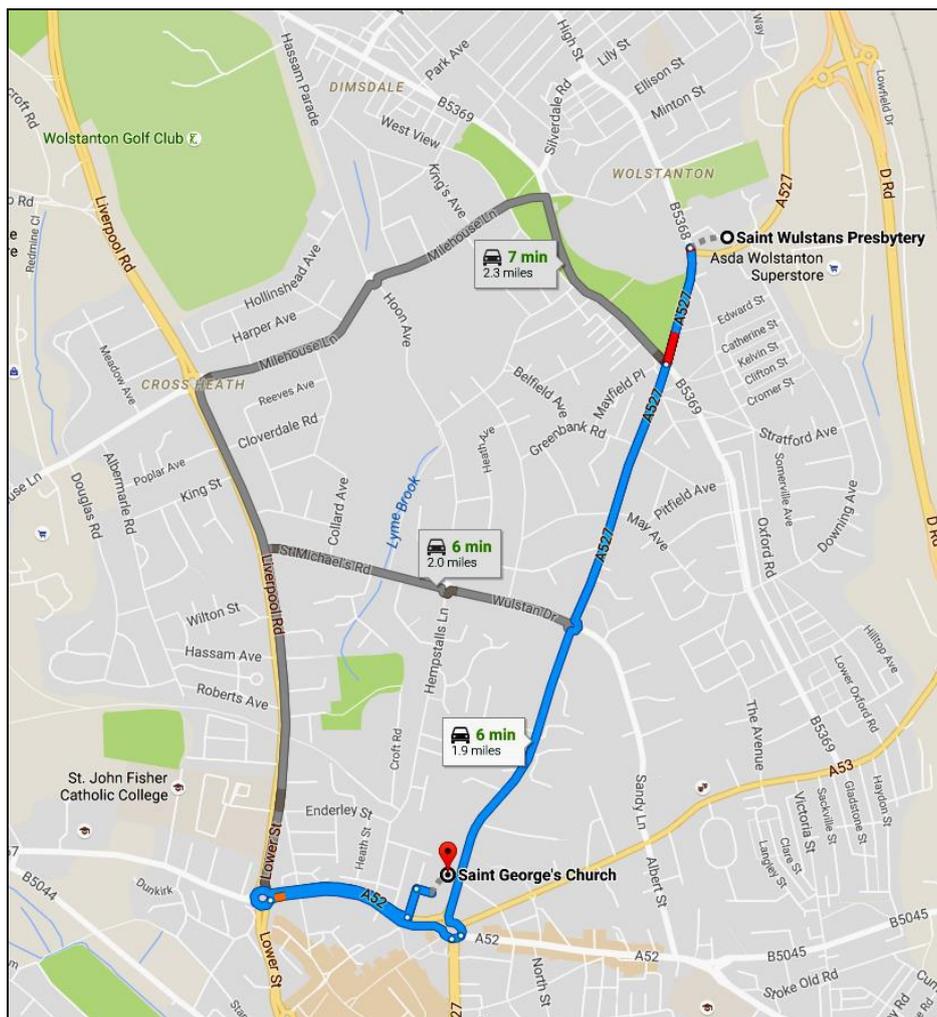
#### NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME VISIT DIRECTIONS & LOCATOR MAP

##### Directions to St Wulstan's Church, Wolstanton

Head towards Stoke, and pick up the A500 ('D' road). Head north until you reach the slip road for A527. Turn left onto A527 Grange Lane towards Newcastle-under-Lyme, and after 0.4 miles, turn right on B5368 Church Lane, then immediately right, by The New Smithy Inn, into Barber's Square. Park outside St Wulstan's Church (Sat Nav ST5 0EF).

##### Directions from St Wulstan's Church to St George's Church, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Turn left out of Barber's Square, and straight ahead onto A527 heading for Newcastle-under-Lyme, for approx. 1.2 miles. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout, take the 5<sup>th</sup> exit onto A52 Ryecroft. At the next roundabout, take the 4<sup>th</sup> exit to double back down the other side of A52 Ryecroft, and then turn left, just before the roundabout, into Cherry Orchard. Park in St George's Church car park (Sat Nav ST5 2UB).



Location of our first venue St Wulstan's Church relative to the A527 Junction of the 'D' Rd (A500), and then the route (in blue) to our second venue, St George's Church, Newcastle-under-Lyme