

## DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

### RECENT LDOA VISITS

#### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014, President's Evening, Lichfield Cathedral

Today we were invited by Martyn Rawles to Lichfield Cathedral for President's Evening, which fortuitously coincided with the RSCM Area Festival of Peace Evensong at the Cathedral, the theme of peace being particularly relevant given the events yesterday with the murder of taxi driver Alan Henning in the Middle East.

For the service, Lichfield Cathedral Choir was joined by members of the RSCM, including our honorary member Peter Morris and his choir from St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton. Cathy Lamb had kindly invited any LDOA members who were singers to join in the afternoon's rehearsals and the service, an offer duly taken up by Andrew McMillan, a member of the St Michael's Singers based at Coventry Cathedral.

Following the final rehearsal for Evensong, Martyn Rawles chose as the Prelude to the service J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in E Flat Major, BWV 552. The combined choir much enhanced the Evensong service, with The Anthem Christ the Peace Maker, written especially for the occasion by Mitchell Holland (RSCM Area Publicity Officer) being particularly notable, beautifully sung under the direction of Ben Lamb, and with the accompaniment by Martyn Rawles on the piano working particularly well for this work.

Having played the Prelude from J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in E Flat Major, BWV 552, the 'St Anne Fugue' from this same work was a fitting choice as the Voluntary, Martyn's impeccable playing much appreciated by LDOA members, if not by the rest of the Cathedral's congregation, who as usual were more intent on heading off home than appreciating the musical talent on display in the organ loft!

Following the service, Martyn rejoined LDOA members, extending an invitation for us to sample the delights of the Cathedral's Hill organ. Pat Neville was first up to 'break the ice' with a seasonal harvest piece, followed by Andrew McMillan, who had managed to find time earlier to set up his registration in the capture system for a piece by one of Andrew's favourite composers, Toccata by Vierne (Pièces de Fantaisie). A brave choice by Andrew to play such a challenging piece 'cold', but well played with Martyn's support as registrant.

Chris Booth, John Carvell, and yours truly followed with Paul Geoghegan and Colin Brookes contributing their customary skilful improvisations.



Andrew McMillan at the console of Lichfield Cathedral

Drinks and nibbles were kindly provided by Martyn, supplemented by a sumptuous chocolate fudge cake thoughtfully contributed by Andrew McMillan, accompanied by much convivial socialising, and a much appreciated opportunity for an exchange of views about all things 'organ' with the Cathedral Organist.



Chris Booth at the console of Lichfield Cathedral



John Carvell at the console of Lichfield Cathedral

Another splendid President's Evening, enjoyable for both the opportunity to socialise and the privilege of being 'let loose' on the magnificent Hill organ. Our thanks to Martyn Rawles for giving so freely of his time at the end of a long day of rehearsals, and after our departure, preparation for his playing duties in the Twinning Service at the Cathedral on Sunday morning. TS

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Sutton United Reformed Church**

For our visit to Sutton United Reformed Church we were welcomed by our member Richard Syner, Organist and Choirmaster.

Richard gave us a brief history of the church and the organ. The church, originally called Park Road Congregational Church, was opened in 1880 and the first service was on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1880. The first building held 400 and consisted of the nave as far as the transept with a dividing wall, in front of which was a centrally placed pulpit and a rostrum below it containing the Communion Table and Deacons' chairs. Behind the wall was a small chancel and room for the Sunday School and general meetings.

The Church originally had a Spire (minute 32, Committee meeting 16 September 1878, "In the event of a Chapel being built at Sutton Coldfield a Spire would be indispensable"). The 'indispensable' spire was removed in 1960 as it was becoming unsafe. The total cost of the building was £2,128 plus £300 for the land. In 1902 the dividing wall between the nave and the transept was removed, enlarging the Sanctuary and adding the chancel and vestries.

In 1972, the United Reformed Church was formed by the union of the Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church in England and the name changed from Park Road Congregational Church to Sutton Coldfield URC. Two years later major alterations to the Town Centre took place, the schoolroom buildings behind the church in Station Street were demolished and the new Church Centre was opened 1974. In 2010, the Sanctuary had a

transformation with the pews and pulpit removed, the vestibule opened up and glass screens erected so that the buildings may be seen by everyone. It now presents a light and airy feel, and is deceptively much larger inside than one would anticipate from the outside.



Sutton United Reformed Church

Turning to the organ, it was built and installed by Nicholson & Lord in 1887, and the first organist was Mr F C Hathaway, whose wife was Mr Nicholson's sister. A hydraulic motor was added in 1893 and two new stops in 1895. It was enlarged in 1904 when the organ chamber was built in the chancel. It was then rebuilt in 1964, and the console was electrified and moved to its present position in 1970. The last major work carried out on the organ was in 1987, when it had a complete overhaul and refurbishment, but is now in need of attention as the Swell Mixture and Trumpet are out of action.



The organ of Sutton United Reformed Church

The present comprehensive specification of the organ is:

Pedal

Resultant Bass 32', Open Diapason 16', Geigen 16', Bourdon 16', Octave 8', Bass Flute 8', Geigen Octave 8', Flute 4', Trombone 16', Trumpet 8', Clarion 4'

Choir

Stopped Diapason 8', Dulciana 8', Gemshorn 4', Quintadena 4', Block Flute 2', Tierce 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub>', Mixture II, Krummhorn 8', Trumpet 8'

### Great

Contra Geigen 16', Open Diapason 8', Geigen 8', Clarabella 8', Principal 4', Harmonic Flute 4', Twelfth 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>', Fifteenth 2', Mixture IV, Trumpet 8'

### Swell

Open Diapason 8', Lieblich Gedackt 8', Salicional 8', Voix Celeste 8', Principal 4', Flute 4', Harmonic Piccolo 2', Larigot 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>', Mixture III, Contra Oboe 16', Cornopean 8'

### Accessories

Couplers, 6 pistons to Swell & Great, 5 pistons to Choir

Then it was over to members to put the organ through its paces, assisted by Richard, with Peter King being first 'up' playing a piece by William Boyce.



Pat Neville at the organ of Sutton URC

Then Pat Neville had a run-through of the first piece she is programmed to play at her Festive Season recital at Shenstone Methodist Church on Monday lunchtime, before handing over to David Gumbley for some fine playing of J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in C Minor BWV 546.



David Gumbley at the organ Sutton URC

Yours truly followed with Bach's Prelude & Fugue in B Minor, BWV 544, then Paul Geoghegan improvising and giving us a very good appreciation of the qualities of organ, from some delightful soft stops to full organ. Despite the ample carpeting in the church, the organ

speaks well into the church and clearly would have no difficulty leading a capacity congregation.

The attendance by 8 members was rather disappointing for this visit to Sutton URC, but those that did come along on a rather dank and dismal November evening were most grateful to Richard Syner for hosting our visit and providing the opportunity to sample this fine organ. TS

## FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Most members will be aware of the location of the restaurant, but for anyone who has not been here before, the address is: The School House, Church Hill, Weeford, Nr Lichfield, WS14 0PW. Accessed from the A38/A5 island via the 'old' A5, turn right where signposted Weeford, and the venue is on the LH side of Church Hill just before the lane up to Weeford Church.

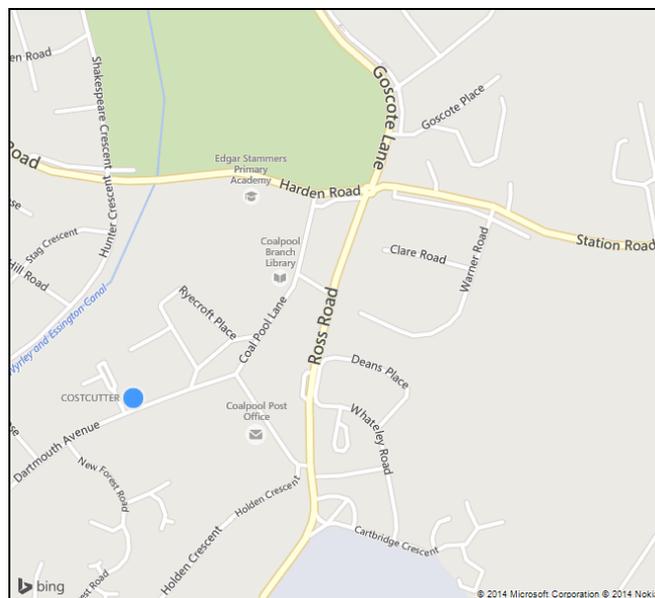
### 2015 EVENTS

Pam Strong has been very active arranging our 2015 visits so you can get them into your 2015 diary nice and early. Details as follows:

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

#### St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Walsall

Visit commencing at 12 noon to St Thomas of Canterbury, Dartmouth Avenue, Walsall, WS3 1SP, (see locator map below) to play the 2 manual Rieger organ.

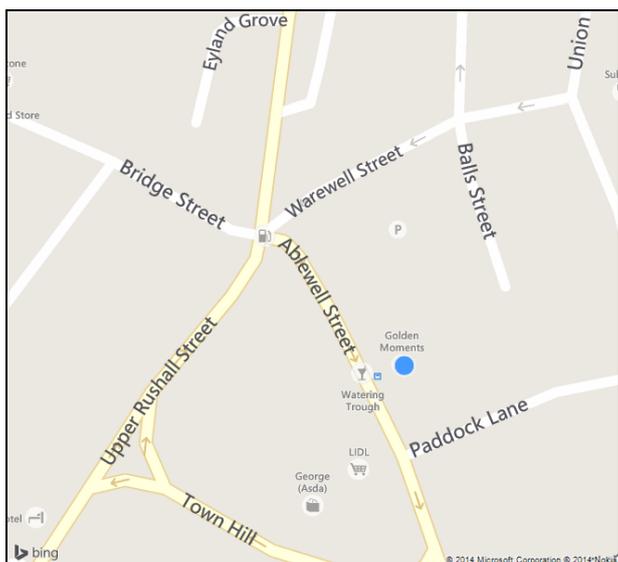


Locator map of St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Walsall.

The church is accessed from the direction of Lichfield from Lichfield Rd, via Station Road, signposted Coalpool, then Harden Rd, straight on at the first roundabout, then almost immediately first left along Coal Pool Lane, leading to Dartmouth Avenue. The church is just past Costcutter, on the LH side. Car park in front of the church.

#### Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall

Then a short drive to Walsall town centre for 2 pm to Central Hall Methodist Church, Ablewell Street, Walsall, WS1 2EQ, (see locator map below) 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 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Turn left up the lane immediately by the side of the Hall to an ample free car park at the rear.



Locator map of Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall

#### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015, St Mary's Lichfield & AGM

Visit commencing at 2.30 pm to St Mary's, Lichfield, for the 2015 AGM, followed by a demonstration of the organ by our student member Henry Metcalfe, and then over to members to play the 3 manual Nicholson & Lord tracker action organ refurbished by Mike Thompson in 2010.

#### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Derby Cathedral

Meet at 4 pm at a local cafe, and then attend Evensong at 5.15 pm, followed by an opportunity to play the superb 4 manual 98-stop Compton organ.

#### Leicester Organ Crawl. Date in June 2015 TBC

Our member Andrew McMillan is also a member, and currently President, of the Leicester & District Organists' Association, and has kindly agreed to use their contacts at Leicester to arrange an all-day organ crawl to 3 venues in Leicester. Still awaiting confirmation from the 3<sup>rd</sup> venue. Date to be confirmed in the next newsletter.

#### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Abbots Bromley School Chapel and Church

Visit commencing at 2.30 pm to the school chapel to play the 2 manual 11 stop 1881 J W Walker organ, then on for

4 pm to St Nicholas Parish Church, Abbots Bromley to play the 2 manual 13 stop tracker action organ.

#### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015, President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

By kind invitation of our President, Martyn Rawles, a visit to Lichfield Cathedral for Evensong rehearsal and service, then privileged opportunity to play the superb 4 manual Hill organ.

#### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Hill Street Baptist Church, Swadincote.

Visit commencing at 2 pm by kind invitation of our member Steve Mansfield to play the 2 manual 33 stop organ installed here under the auspices of the South Derbyshire Organ Trust, of which Steve is a founder trustee. Steve will give an illustrated talk on the history of the organ brought from Newhall Methodist Church and rebuilt (retaining some of the Compton pipework from the previous organ) and installed here by Mike Thompson in 2008. Recitals have been given on this fine organ by the late Carlo Curley and Midlands concert organist Keith Hearnshaw.

#### Annual Dinner 2015

Date and venue TBA

#### [NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE](#)

#### Committee Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at Weeford Church

Chris Booth joined us for the meeting, and it is anticipated that Chris will be formally elected to the Committee as a replacement for Margaret Pinder at the 2015 AGM.

Pam has arranged most of the 2015 visits. See 'Forthcoming LDOA Visits/Events' for details. The 2015 AGM will take place at 2.30 pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015 at St Mary's Church, as part of our visit to play the organ.

A further Young Persons' Cathedral Organ Day is being planned for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015, based at Lichfield Cathedral.

#### 2015 Subscriptions

Please note that the 2015 Subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. As agreed at the 2014 AGM, the rates for 2015 are:

£12 for Individual Membership, £17.50 for Joint Membership, and free for students in full time education.

A reminder with payment arrangement details will be sent out shortly by our Treasurer, Mike Rudd.

#### Surplus Sheet Music

Margaret Turner, a friend of Clive Smith, has kindly donated some surplus sheet music to our Association, to be offered to members. There is a mixture of organ, piano and harpsichord sheet music, a list of which has been

circulated to members, with a request for members wanting any of the music to contact Trevor Smedley. Suggested donations of £3 per album and £2 per single item, but offered free to student members. The music will be available to view at our next visits, but please note that some music has already been chosen by some members.

### **Season's Greetings**

The LDOA Committee would like to thank you for your support in 2014, and extend our good wishes for A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be another interesting and enjoyable programme of visits in 2015.

### **Next Committee Meeting**

The next Committee Meeting t.b.a.

## **MEMBERS' NEWS**

### **New Members**

Like the proverbial bus, having had no new members in the last few months, we are delighted to welcome 3 new members joining us in rapid succession since the last newsletter, all of whom learned of us via our publicity flyers:

#### **Fr Stanley Monkhouse**

Fr Stanley Monkhouse was recently appointed as vicar of St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, where one of our student member's, Alex Goldsmith, is Director of Music.

Stanley is a man of many talents, as not only is he well-qualified as a musician, having gained his FRCO, LRCM and ARCM, but he has held posts of Professor of Anatomy at Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and Associate Professor of Anatomy at University of Nottingham, as well as author of medical books on anatomy!

Stanley was born in Carlisle in 1950, raised in rural Cumberland, went to school in Langwathby and Penrith (QEGS), university in Cambridge (Queens' College) and medical school in London (King's College Hospital). He was a hospital doctor for a year in London, and then taught anatomy in medical schools in Nottingham (1976-2007), Dublin (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 2008-2013) and Derby (Graduate Entry Medical School, 2003-2006).

He was trained in church music at Carlisle Cathedral and has been organist and choirmaster at churches in London, Nottingham and Dublin. He was ordained deacon in 2006 and priest in 2007. Stanley's curacy from 2006-2008 was in Wirksworth and surrounding villages in Derbyshire. He was then Priest of Old Brampton, Barlow and Loundsley Green on the west side of Chesterfield until 2011, then Rector of Portlaoise in the Irish midlands until he came to live in Burton in 2014.

#### **Geoffrey Knights**

Geoffrey plays the organ and is on the organ rota for St James the Great, Longdon. He lives in Lichfield.

#### **David Cliffe**

David plays the organ and is very active in various capacities as a volunteer at Lichfield Cathedral, including the organisation of the organ recitals series. He lives at Bromley Hayes.

#### **John Stormont**

Our Honorary Member John Stormont retired from the IAO Council at the July 2014 AGM, and we would like to add our thanks to him for his sterling work on behalf of IAO members over the 15 years he served on the Council, originally as General Secretary and latterly as Executive Vice-President.

## **LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS**

### **Autumn 2014 Evening Recital Series**

The 2014 Evening Organ Recitals Series commenced in September, and the series concludes with:

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Cathy Lamb, Martyn Rawles and Nigel Argust (all of Lichfield Cathedral) This is a special concert in which members of the audience are invited to submit requests. Topped off with a selection of festive favourites, it promises to be a great event to get you in the mood for Christmas! Please note: all requests had to be sent to [martyn.rawles@lichfield-cathedral.org](mailto:martyn.rawles@lichfield-cathedral.org) by 14th November.

7.30 pm – 9.30 pm, admission £10, and include big-screen projection of the player at the console.

### **Christmas at Lichfield Cathedral**

This brochure 'Christmas at Lichfield Cathedral' was published shortly after the last newsletter went out to members, and is now available to download via the Cathedral's website at [www.lichfield-cathedral.org](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org), and in hard copy.

Amongst the packed programme of events and services, of particular interest to members, and likely to be attended by a capacity audience, is:

'Glorious Messiah' – With the Lichfield Cathedral Chorus & Staffordshire Band on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.30 pm. Conducted by Joint Director of Music and our honorary member Ben Lamb, the programme comprises Handel's Messiah (Part 1) ending with Hallelujah Chorus, and John Rutter's 'Gloria'. Tickets for Mid and Rear Nave are still available, and can be booked on line or in person at Lichfield Garrick Theatre, priced at £10, £15, and £18.

## **IAO MATTERS**

### **IAO 2015 Congress**

The IAO 2015 Congress will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> – 31 July 2015 based in Norwich. Details as follows:

Events start on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July with open consoles followed by an early-evening recital at St Peter Mancroft

(Peter Collins organ) by James Lancelot. Tuesday will see an afternoon recital at St Edmundsbury Cathedral by James Thomas (Harrison & Harrison organ) and a recital at Wyomondham Abbey by Andrew Cantrill. On Wednesday the AGM will be held at St Andrew's Hall, followed by a recital given by Keith Wright on the Hall's Hill Normal & Beard organ. A boat trip is planned for the afternoon and in the evening David Dunnett will give a recital in Norwich Cathedral.

On Thursday, we shall visit the Royal Hospital School Chapel, Holbrook, for a demonstration of the organ (Hill Norman & Beard) by Andrew Cantrill and a recital by Tom Bell. The return journey will include a visit to the Thomas Thamar organ in Framlingham Parish Church.

On Friday morning, Anne Page will give the RCO lecture Recital, during which we shall visit three churches (one of which houses a harmonium belonging to Anne); there will then be an afternoon trip to the Thursford Collection (a collection of mechanical organs and steam engines) culminating with a performance on the Wurlitzer. The day concludes with the Annual dinner at Norwich Cathedral refectory. On Saturday morning there will once again be open consoles.

Tickets may be purchased on-line at [www.iao.org.uk](http://www.iao.org.uk)

### **London Organ Day**

The 2015 London Organ Day will take place at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015, with a theme of Transcriptions & Edwardiana. Programme:

- Gerard Brooks introduces the organ and the venue, and performs music by some of his predecessors as organist of Central Hall
- Timothy Bryam-Wigfield explores the art of transcription
- James Lancelot performs a recital of music by Parry
- Rachel Cox (soprano) and Ian Tindale (Piano) perform music by Stanford
- Weston Jennings performs some of Lemare's remarkable but neglected solo organ works.
- Richard Brasier and Tom Bell perform some transcriptions and some Edwardiana!

Book and pay online via: <http://book.londonorganday.co.uk>

### **East Yorkshire Organ Day**

This will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Hull.

### **West Yorkshire Organ Day**

This will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Bradford.

### **Derby Cathedral – Lecture Recital featuring the music of Alfred Hollins**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Lecture recital at Derby Cathedral by David Liddle, organised by Derby & District Organists' Association, and featuring the music of the blind organist/composer Alfred Hollins. David Liddle is himself blind, and so will be able to offer us a unique insight into the learning of music scores and managing large

instruments by blind organists. Note that LDOA members have had been generously invited to join DDOA members for this unique event.

### **West of England & S E Wales Organ Day**

October 2015 at Bristol

### **Midlands Organ Day 2016**

Will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Nottingham.

### **New President of the IAO**

The successor to James Lancelot in September 2015 will be Peter King, Organist & Director of Music at Bath Abbey.

### **IAO Benevolent Fund – Beneficiaries wanted**

The IAO Benevolent Fund is a charitable trust founded in 1930 to assist past and present members of the IAO or their dependents who have fallen on hard times. Over the years the Fund has helped many members to retain some measure of financial independence. This has been particularly important for those whose entire pensionable income is paid over to a residential or care home, but we do not wish to give the impression that all beneficiaries are elderly.

The number of beneficiaries has fallen steadily over recent years, but the Trustees feel that there must be a number of potential recipients who are unaware of the Trust's existence (particularly if they do not subscribe to *Organists' Review*) or who are reluctant to seek help. It may not be generally known that the Fund is able to give grants to assist dependents of IAO members with course or examination fees in respect of tuition on the pipe-organ. We would urge local secretaries to publicise our Fund and encourage eligible members to apply. Full details are available on our website, [www.iaobf.com](http://www.iaobf.com) or from the Secretary, Michael Whitehall, on 01945 463826.

### **RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS**

#### **Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014**

Faults with the console at the latter part of the 2013/4 recital series meant that the plan was for the console to be returned to the Willis factory over the summer for refurbishment. In the event, plans had clearly changed as today the 3 manual Willis had become a 2 manual instrument, with a gap where the Swell manual had been. Andrew Fletcher also commented that there was a very restricted capture system available to him, and with today's recital being Part 2 of the Requests Recital, the scene was set for something of a challenge for him! Added to this, Andrew welcomed his new page turner, David, Andrew's long-standing page turner, Paul, having relinquished page turning duties at the end of the last series.

With the number of requests still to accommodate, some of the pieces were being played in an abridged form, as was the case for the first piece, with just the opening and closing passages of Marche Pontificale by Widor. Elgar's

delicious Cantique was followed by Fugue No 3 on BACH by Schumann.

The gentle melodious Fantasia in F Minor by Krebs was followed in total contrast by the first part of Afternoon Tea with the Duchess by Nigel Ogden. Next, J S Bach's Goldberg Variations and Allegro Vivace from Vierne's Symphony No 1.

John Stanley's Voluntary in F Op 7 No 6 was followed by a piece for which Andrew hardly needed the score, having played Mendelssohn's Wedding March a few times over the last 40 odd years! Next, Percy Whitlock's Chanty from the Plymouth Suite and then Christmas Lullaby, a work commissioned from Andrew Fletcher by The Johnson Family.

Despite being commonly known as 'The Organ Symphony', Saint-Saëns Symphony No 3 provides limited scope for both organ and organist, but David Briggs has composed a skilful transcription of the third and final movement, with the organ playing the whole of the movement, including the orchestral part, giving ample scope to both organ and organist to show their mettle. A video of this transcription can be found on YouTube, performed by Keith Hearnshaw at Bridlington Priory. An abridged – very abridged! – version provided the climax to today's recital, but with the curtailing of the piece and the 'sick' Willis hardly doing justice to this splendid transcription. TS

#### **John Pryer recital at Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

As Walsall Borough Organist, Peter Morris is normally at the console for these lunchtime recitals, but today was an exception, with the guest organist being John Pryer.

John Pryer received his musical education as a chorister at Ely cathedral under Drs. Sidney Campbell and Arthur Willis, as a music scholar at Clifton College Bristol under Douglas Fox, and as Organ Scholar of Keble College, Oxford, under Dr Sydney Watson. Here he graduated and gained the FRCO diploma, winning the 'Limpus' and 'Read' prizes.

After Oxford, John was Organist of Kingswood School, Bath, and then Repton School. In 1970, he became assistant to Roy Massey at Birmingham Cathedral, St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter, and the Oratory. In 1997 he was appointed Organist Titulaire of the Alexandra Palace, London. He has given many recitals in many churches and Cathedrals, with perhaps the most memorable being those at Berlin Cathedral and Notre Dame de Paris.

Offertoire 'Vive le Roy' by Andre Raison provided a rousing opening to the recital with blazing reeds much in evidence. Next followed two works by J S Bach, with first Prelude & Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546, then the gentle Chorale Prelude: Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend.

Sonata XII (1st Movement) by Rheinberger comprises a majestic opening, then gets very animated with some lively pedalling, and finishes with a grand climax. Next a piece John Pryer has only heard once before, played by Garth Benson at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol – Ofertorio by the

Spanish Basque composer Jesus Guridi, with a meditative opening leading to a bold and lively climax.

John Pryer is noted for his skill at improvisation, and we were all very much looking forward to hearing what was on offer today! The chosen theme of the improvisation was 'The Teddy Bears Picnic', but structured more like a symphony, with first Grand Plein Jeu, with the Cantus Firmus on the pedals, followed by the delicate Choral Orné, then Flutes, next the solemn Fonds d'Orgue, Fugato and then Finale, with strains of Mulet's Tu Es Petra creeping into the strident climax! A stunning performance, sounding more like a published work than an improvisation, but having heard him play an improvisation on this same theme with the same structure at St Alphege's, Solihull, in February 2014, it poses the question as to whether this was created 'from scratch', or could it perhaps be a well-practised 'improvisation'? Most impressive whatever the answer! TS

#### **Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

The Town Hall organ looked and sounded splendid for the first of the 2014/5 recitals. From my vantage point it appears that work had been carried out to the console. The casing had been re-polished and new green baize felts on the expression pedals. Thomas' first piece was Harris's Flourish for an Occasion written for the first Garter Service of modern times in 1948. Frustratingly, all too often programme notes fail to mention Harris's time at Lichfield, so it was therefore with great satisfaction that this time the programme notes read 'Sir William Harris began his long and distinguished career at Lichfield Cathedral before he moved to Oxford and then to Windsor!' (More about the Lichfield/Oxford/Windsor connection later.) Mendelssohn, who was no stranger to the Town Hall, followed, firstly with an arrangement by George Bennett, one time organist of Lincoln Cathedral, of the Nocturne and Scherzo from Midsummer Night's Dream, followed by Sonata No. 4 in B Flat. Not my favourite Mendelssohn Sonata, but both pieces sensitively registered and expertly played by Thomas.

Next came 2 Gospel Preludes by William Bolcom. Bolcom, an American, was born in 1938 and was a pupil of both Milhaud and Messiaen. Sweet Hour of Prayer, a gentle meditative piece, and the Free Fantasia with typical gospel rhythms brought to a stunning climax.

The final piece, Walton's Coronation March Crown Imperial needs no introduction. Written for the 1937 Coronation and arranged by Herbert Murrill, Thomas gave it the treatment it deserved and needed. We went on our way rejoicing!

Returning to the Lichfield/Oxford/Windsor connection, Harris, who ended his career at Windsor, had as his Assistant at Windsor Dick Greening, who was Master of the Choristers at Lichfield Cathedral from 1959 to 1974. Dick was a chorister at New College, played at our wedding in 1970 and became a near neighbour on retirement. Dick's successor was Jonathan Rees Williams who was organ scholar at New College Oxford and who became organist at Windsor after his time at Lichfield. JRW's successor at Lichfield was Andrew Lumsden, whose father Sir David Lumsden was Director of Music at

New College! Andy brings his Winchester Choristers to the Symphony Hall on December 9th for the annual Christmas Carol Concert. If you do not have a ticket you may be too late by the time you read this, as in late November there were less than 50 stalls/circle tickets remaining!

John Allen

### **Malcolm Archer recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

For this evening's Celebrity Organ Recital Malcolm Archer was making a return visit to Lichfield Cathedral.

Malcolm Archer is one of the world's leading church musicians, and has enjoyed a distinguished career in cathedral music, which has taken him to posts at Norwich, Bristol, Wells Cathedrals and then Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. He is now Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College, where he is responsible for the College's ancient choral foundation, conducting the Chapel Choir and teaching the organ. His many broadcasts and recordings from Wells and St. Paul's have received critical acclaim.

Malcolm is much in demand as a choir trainer, choral and orchestral conductor, and he has directed concerts, workshops, courses and summer schools in various parts of the globe, as well as working with several leading orchestras. He is also the Musical Director of the Jean Langlais Festival in France. As an organ recitalist he has played in nine European countries, New Zealand the USA and Canada, and his many CDs include repertoire as diverse as J.S. Bach and Olivier Messiaen, as well as his own music.



Malcolm Archer

As a composer, Malcolm receives regular commissions from both sides of the Atlantic, and he has many published works. His compositions are widely performed, recorded and broadcast and are greatly enjoyed for their approachable nature and 'singability'.

He has been an adjudicator for the BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister of the year competition, and for four years was a judge for the BBC Songs of Praise School Choirs competition, including chairing the judging panel for two of those competitions. Malcolm has served as council member of the Royal College of Organists, and he is a member of the council of the Guild of Church Musicians,

from whom he was recently awarded the Fellowship for his services to church music over many years. In 2009, he was awarded the FRSCM (Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music) for his work in three cathedrals, and as a composer of church music.

In his introduction to his programme, Malcolm Archer commented on the 'absolutely magnificent organ of Lichfield Cathedral', particularly so since the work done by Harrisons installing the nave organ.

Three very different works by J S Bach opened the recital, with first the great sense of gravitas of Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist BWV 671, then a gentle chorale in the form of Allein Gott in der Hoh' sei Her BWV 662, and finally a tour de force with Prelude & Fugue in A Minor BWV 543.

Percy Whitlock's distinctive Folk Tune (Five short Pieces) was followed by Rhapsody No 3 in C Sharp Minor by Herbert Howells, composed during a Zeppelin raid on York, and perhaps explaining the turbulent dramatic mood of this work.

Another major work opened the second half of the recital – the third and most famous of Franck's chorals, Choral No 3 in A Minor. This was followed by Andante (Symphony No 1) by Vierne, a piece the composer played on a UK tour in 1924 organised by Henry Willis III.

For the finale of tonight's recital, Malcolm Archer chose one of his own compositions, Suite for Organ, a work new to me and composed at the request of Enfield & District Organists' Association, first performed in 2001. It comprises Prelude, ending in an *fff* climax. This is followed by the gentle Prière, the mischievous Scherzo, the lilting Pastorale, and then the Adagio with its solo reed. The concluding Toccata is very much in the French style, with the theme in the pedals, bringing this well-crafted suite to an exuberant conclusion.

A substantial and varied programme, much enjoyed by a rather smaller audience than might have been anticipated for such an eminent performer. TS

### **Philip Scriven recital at St Editha's Tamworth, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

Making what seems to have now become an annual pilgrimage to the Lichfield area, our ex-President and for 8 years Organist and Master of the Choristers at Lichfield Cathedral, Phil Scriven was tonight giving a recital at St Editha's followed by conducting the Darwin Ensemble at Lichfield Cathedral tomorrow night.

Since last year's recital, the splendid virtually unaltered 1927 Harrison & Harrison has been awarded a Grade 1 Listing by BIOS, although there are still phases 2 and 3 of the organ refurbishment work still to do.

Tonight's programme comprises pieces chosen by people from St Editha's and includes some gems of the organ repertoire, with Mulet's Carillon-Sortie provided a thrilling opening to proceedings, followed by J S Bach's Fuga sopra il Magnificat BWV 733, then a major work from the organ repertoire, Prelude & Fugue on BACH by Liszt. Philip was once a pupil of Charterhouse, and the

composer of the next work, the delicious Prelude on Rhosymedre by Vaughan Williams, was also an old boy of this school.

Next, Rhapsody No 3 in C sharp minor by Howells would have also been heard by those attending the Malcolm Archer recital at Lichfield Cathedral earlier in the week. After a dreamy middle section, Pièce Héroïque by Franck builds rather ominously to a majestic chordal climax.

Phil Scriven enjoys playing transcriptions, and the next two pieces, The Little Shepherd and The Girl with the Flaxen Hair by Debussy were both originally written for the piano, but worked well here on the organ of St Editha's.

The next piece, the barnstorming Marche Héroïque by one time organist of Gloucester Cathedral Herbert Brewer, became very popular after Christopher Herrick played it at a royal wedding. The jolly Toccata in F BuxWV 157 by Bach's idol, Buxtehude was followed by Chelsea Fayre, a 'fun tune' by Goss Custard, with an unexpectedly grand ending.

The finale of tonight's recital of requests, and a popular choice to close recitals, was Carillon de Westminster by Vierne, but the rapturous applause demanded an encore, and so another request The Stars & Stripes, provided a barnstorming ending to a superbly performed evening of wonderful music.



Phil Scriven chatting after his recital at St Editha's to Clive/Lucy Smith, and Andrew McMillan

Having played the whole of the recital without a break, the very welcome drinks and nibbles for both recitalist and audience also provided a good opportunity for LDOA members attending to chat to Philip and see how his plan to develop a career as a freelance recitalist and conductor was progressing. Philip confirmed things were working out just fine, and in fact he had recently returned from tours of China and Russia. TS

#### Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Today's lunchtime recital has as its theme 'Chapter & Verse', and opened with works by two of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's

most influential and inspirational teachers and performers, Peter Hurford and Lionel Rogg.

Firstly Peter Hurford's Suite, Laudate Dominum, comprising 6 short movements – a stately Processional, a lively Rondo, a Meditation, a bright Scherzo, the gentle French Carol, and finally the celebratory Exurgat Deus.

Next, to Lionel Rogg and his Six Versets on Psalm 92, which he himself played at a recital in Birmingham Town Hall in 1989. After his recital, he presented Thomas with a copy of the work, which Thomas likes as he views it as a fusion between modern and medieval music.

Then to Percy Whitlock for Exultemus, the 4<sup>th</sup> of 7 Sketches of Verses from the Psalms, which are bright and, being by Percy Whitlock, of course therefore melodious.

The major and final work of the recital was Reubke's Sonata, The 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm, composed in the year before his death at the tender age of 24. Thomas resurrected this monumental work after some 20 years to play at his recital marking his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Birmingham City Organist. Thomas also featured this work in his 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 recital at the Royal Festival Hall, London, one of a series of celebrity recitals celebrating the completion of the refurbishment of the iconic Harrison & Harrison organ, and providing a dazzling climax here today. Stunning! TS

#### Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014

With the organ console now back to 3 manuals once again, Andrew Fletcher was no doubt hoping for a trouble free afternoon, but sadly it was not to be, as whilst the 'General Pistons' were going 'up' OK, they were disinclined to go 'down'!

Continuing the theme of 'Hymns & Psalms', four of Mendelssohn's six sonatas were based on psalms. Sonata No 3 was Andrew's choice to open today's proceedings, a sonata with just 2 movements, the second being only two pages, and unusually providing a quiet chorale after the majestic climax to the opening movement.

Three Chorale Preludes on German Lutheran hymn tunes by Walther were followed by Nun Danket Alle Gott by J S Bach the arrangement attributed to Virgil Fox, but as Andrew quipped that 'Virgil Fox couldn't organise himself out of a paper bag', he thought it likely that it was arranged by Robert Heddle. In any event, it proved to be a surprisingly jaunty embellishment of the hymn tune, with a full blooded climax!

Next, prefaced by 'and now for something completely different', Parry's delicious Melcombe was followed by Werde Munter by Whitlock. Then to the 'incredibly beautiful' Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by J S Bach, beautifully played and registered. Finally, Prelude on Old 100<sup>th</sup>, 'sort of Purcell, but got at by 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century composers.

Regulars at Andrew's recitals had been aware of a health issue for some time, but Andrew announced at the end of his recital that it had finally been diagnosed as Focal Dystonia, which seems to affect musicians in particular attributed to repetitive muscle movements over many

years, and manifests itself randomly in messages from the brain to the hands or feet becoming mixed up. Whilst Andrew made light of it, it is clearly a major concern for someone whose life revolves around his music. Suffice to say that the loyal band of regulars at Andrew's Wyld Green recitals will come along to hear him for as long as he is willing and able to play for us. TS

### **Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

For his last solo recital here at Birmingham Town Hall till March, Thomas opened with J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in C Minor BWV 537. Voluntary in F Op 7 No 6 by John Stanley comprises two movements, a leisurely andante played on the Choir Open and Stopped Diapasons, followed by Vivace, alternating the Swell Cornopean with the Cor Anglais, and then the Gt Stopped Diapason.

Mendelssohn's Prelude & Fugue in G Major is a 'song without words', often played at St Paul's Cathedral and hence the dedication to his friend Thomas Attwood, one time Organist of St Paul's. Henry Mulet's father was choirmaster at the Sacré-Coeur in Paris and his Ten Byzantine Sketches were inspired by this church. Vitrail is a gentle meditative evocation of the stained glass windows, and Tue es Petra is a showpiece that builds to a spectacular bravura conclusion. Edwardia, George Thalben-Ball's contribution to the Hovingham Sketches, followed.

Jehan Alain was killed in 1940 defending his country against the invading Nazis, and amongst the musical tributes to him, one of the finest, Prelude & Fugue Sur Le Nom D'Alain, was composed by his friend Durufé. Reminiscent of the tune of Alain's most famous organ piece, Litanies, this work provided a grand conclusion to today's recital. TS

### **Martyn Rawles recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

For this penultimate Lichfield Cathedral 2014 Evening Organ Recital, the performer was our President, Martyn Rawles.

Allegro maestoso, the first movement of Elgar's Sonata in G, provided Martyn from the outset with an opportunity to demonstrate his mastery of the Hill organ, demanding as it does many registration changes to properly orchestrate it, with Martyn giving one of the best performances I've heard of this demanding work. Understandably, he commented that he would be reluctant to perform this piece on an organ with which he was unfamiliar.

Next, Chorale No 2 in B Minor by Franck opens with a passacaglia, growing progressively more intense and animated, leading to a beautiful coda played on the Voix Humaine. A striking passage provides a bridge to a fugue, building to a dramatic climax before subsiding, with the Voix Humaine returning to provide a tranquil close.

Frank Bridge's Adagio in E opens with Celestes, builds to a passionate climax before then returning to the Celestes for a hushed close. Bach's French-inspired Pièce d'Orgue BWV 572 took us to the interval.

Suitably refreshed, we returned to hear Saint-Saëns dazzling Improvisation Op 150 No 7, marked Allegro giocoso, followed by Édouard Commette's arrangement for organ of Fauré's gentle Berceuse.

The eminent composer and choral conductor Paul Spicer is one of our honorary members and in 2006 Martin Setchell, organist of Christchurch Town Hall, New Zealand, wrote to him asking if he had any organ music relating to Shropshire that might be included in a programme for a CD from Ludlow Parish Church. Paul's only previous work had recently been recorded by Robert Sharpe, so he felt it an appropriate moment to write something new, and The Land of Lost Content was the result, using A E Houseman's 'A Shropshire Lad' as the starting point. It has a sombre opening, builds energy and volume, before subsiding into a quiet and reflective epilogue.

Having previously heard Martyn play Vierne's ever-popular Final from Symphony No 1, today Martyn turned to Final from Symphony No 5 to close today's recital, a dramatic work which initially sounds rather tortured, but gets decidedly frenetic towards the end! At its first complete performance in New York in 1925, Lynnwood Farnam played it through twice to try and help his listeners get the measure of this massive, complicated and technically challenging symphony. It is a work that perhaps does take repetition to be fully appreciated, but understandably one performance was enough for Martyn!

Another superbly performed Martyn Rawles recital, well-attended, with LDOA being well represented. TS

### **Peter Morris recital at Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Continuing his trawl through the A-Z of Composers, today we arrived at the 'L' box, prompting someone to quip 'what the 'L' are you playing today Peter?'

Fanfare by Lemmens provided a suitably lively opening to the recital, followed by two pieces new to Peter, discovered when searching for composers with the initial 'L'. Firstly Prelude & Fugue in F by Lubeck, a composer influenced by Buxtehude. Then to Samuel Long, organist of St Peter-le-Poer, London, and his jolly little Voluntary in D Minor.

The Walsall Town Hall organ has some fine reed stops, so the next three pieces made use of them starting with the Basse de Trompette by Nicholas Le Begue, and getting progressively bolder using the Gt Tromba for C S Lang's Tuba Tune, and then finally all hell breaks loose with Peter's very convincing recreation of Spanish reeds, not known for their subtlety, for the 'fun piece' Sonata Para Primo Tono by José Lidón.

Then a return to more traditional fare with today's major work, Fantasia & Fugue on BACH by Liszt, for which removal of jacket was required!

When playing in a church in Brittany many years ago, a gentleman spoke to him in French, but not understanding what he'd said, Peter thought nothing more of the encounter until told that his visitor was none other than

Jean Langlais! Here Langlais' composition Bells portrayed pealing bells very effectively.

The finale piece today was by a composer heavily censored for his choice of music for services, Lefébure-Wély, with his Sortie in E Flat providing a jolly conclusion to today's recital. TS

### **Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014**

The issues with the electrics of the organ are almost 'sorted', but there are still a few with the capture system and a circuit board on the Apse Organ.

With the theme for this series of 'Hymns & Psalms', a calm opening piece might have been expected, but in the event plainsong based Pacare Christe Servulis by Dupré proved to be a combination of 'electric storm and horror story', as Andrew described it. Certainly a stormy opening!

Then in total contrast, Benedictus, the first of two composed by Alex Rowley, a beautiful little piece including a nice Cres/Dim. Andrew is a great admirer of Percy Whitlock, and Three Hymn Preludes followed, Darwell's 148<sup>th</sup> with a grand climax, then the gentle Song 13, and finally King's Lynn.

Next, two works by another British composer much admired by Andrew, C H H Parry, with first his Christe Redemptor Omnium, then Old 104<sup>th</sup>, with its tremendous driving energy very much depicting gathering clouds as referred to in the score.

Finally to Stanford for two chorale preludes, Song 1 and St Columba, and to close Fantasia (All Saints), originally programmed for the recital on 7<sup>th</sup> November, closer to All Saints Day. In 6 parts, it builds to provide a grand climax to day's recital.

As Andrew is off to South Africa on 1<sup>st</sup> February, the next recital will be a week earlier than usual, on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

### **Thomas Trotter recital at Symphony Hall, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Thomas opened with J S Bach's Concerto in A Minor BWV 593, an imaginative transcription of Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Violins Op 3 No 8, with the beautiful Adagio sandwiched between two lively Allegros recreating the dynamism of Vivaldi's strings.

Then to the remaining works of today's programme, all based on the Advent chorale 'Wachet auf', with firstly J S Bach's Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme BWV 645, using the flutes of the Great and the trumpet for the chorale on the Positive. Next, to Piet Kee's Fantasia on 'Wachet Auf', with the theme mainly in the pedals.

Then to Max Reger's Fantasia of the Chorale 'Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme', technically difficult and rather like an opera, with the dramatic Fantasia leading to a light and airy opening to the fugue, before the theme comes in first in the pedals, then in the tenor, and finishing on full organ including En Chamade Trumpet.

The final work of today's programme was W T Best's arrangement of Mendelssohn's Overture to 'St Paul', starting with a noble harmonisation of the chorale melody, followed by the fugue, cautious at first then building, like Reger's composition, to a full organ climax. TS

### **ORGAN FOR SALE**

Viscount Prestige 60 Organ for sale. 10 years old but little used. For details contact Andrew Hall via: [bridget.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:bridget.hall@btinternet.com)

### **FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS**

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

##### Peter Morris - Walsall Town Hall

The 2014/15 recital series commenced in September, and will continue generally on the third Thursday of the month, with Peter working his way through the A-Z of composers. The next recital is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 at Coventry Cathedral
- 1.10 pm to 1.45 pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 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:

- 12.30 pm to 1.15 pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Gloucester Cathedral
- 11.15 am on Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Liverpool Cathedral

##### 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.

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

A further Festive Season lunchtime organ recital will be given on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 by Shenstone resident organist Pat Neville at 12.45 pm to 1.30 pm. Bring your sandwiches – drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

#### **Recitals In Local Area (to end February 2015)**

##### **December 2014**

Tues 2 December 2014 • 7:30 to 9:30 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Cathy Lamb, Martyn Rawles, Nigel Argust (all of Lichfield Cathedral)

Thurs 4 December 2014 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 5 December 2014 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wyld Green

Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Frid 5 December 2014 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral

David Hardie (Birmingham Cathedral)

Frid 5 December 2014 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's Shrewsbury

Anthony Pinel (St Chad's Shrewsbury)

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

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Tues 9 December 2014 • 1:00 • Symphony Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist) with the Choristers of Winchester Cathedral, Directed by Andrew Lumsden

Sat 13 December 2014 • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster  
Elizabeth Bell (St George's, Altrincham)

Sun 14 December 2014 • 3:00 to 3:45 • St James' Methodist Church, Pensnett

Andrew Bagnall (St James' Methodist Church, Pensnett)

Mon 15 December 2014 • 1:00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist) – Sing Carols with the City Organist

Wed 17 December 2014 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull

Judith Pendrous (St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny)

Frid 19 December 2014 • 1:00 to 1:35 • Friends Meeting House, Bournville

Keith Hearnshaw (Concert Organist)

Sat 20 December 2014 • 6:00 • Coventry Cathedral  
Kerry Beaumont (Coventry Cathedral)

### **January 2015**

Bank Holiday Thurs 1 January 2015 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 2 January 2015 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wyld Green

Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Sun 4 January 2015 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Thurs 15 January 2015 • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall  
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Mon 19 January 2015 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Symphony Hall  
Thomas Trotter

Wed 28 January 2015 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull  
Tim Harper (Birmingham Cathedral)

Frid 30 January 2015 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wyld Green

Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

### **February 2015**

Sun 1 February 2015 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 2 February 2015 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall

Thomas Trotter with the Birmingham Conservatoire Choir

Thurs 5 February 2015 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham

Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Sun 15 February 2015 • 3:00 • The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Michael Wooldridge

Mon 16 February 2015 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall

Simon Johnson (St Paul's Cathedral)

Thurs 19 February 2015 • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall  
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Tues 24 February 2015 • 1:00 to 1:50 • St Andrew's, Rugby

Philip J Bricher (Holy Trinity, Northampton)

Wed 25 February 2015 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull  
Nicholas Johnson (St Alphege, Solihull)

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 February 2014, with deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/01/15, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA**