

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

RECENT LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

Wednesday 2nd December, Annual Dinner

With some members favouring an Annual Dinner combined with our local sister associations, and some a local dinner for LDOA members and guests, this year's Annual Dinner was arranged to suit those favouring the latter.

Held at The Plough, Huddlesford, a picturesque country pub near Lichfield, with 17 members and guests in attendance, we just managed to squeeze into the space allocated - all very cosy!



Annual Dinner at The Plough, Huddlesford

The wholesome Christmas Fayre food and socialising were progressing quite nicely through the starters and main course, but we were suddenly plunged into darkness when it came to the dessert course. It was soon established that there had been a fire at the local substation, and the power was likely to be 'off' for quite some time, so candles were duly pressed into service. The hot desserts and hot drinks were an unfortunate casualty of the power cut, but some members were determined not to be denied their desserts, and elected to have them cold, rather than not at all. The evening therefore came to a rather premature and somewhat chaotic end, with our secretary Richard Syner doing a grand job of co-ordinating cash payments in the absence of electronic tills and credit card facilities.

We learned the following day that the substation fire had in fact been a major one, blacking out some 25,000 homes in the Lichfield area for several hours. An eventful 2015 Annual Dinner!

Saturday 16th January 2016, Wylde Green URC

For today's visit to Wylde Green United Reformed Church, Sutton Coldfield, we were warmly welcomed by Stephen Clarke, with the bonus of an equally warm church on this cold winter's afternoon. Stephen has been Director of Music for the last 5 years, but had previously been the deputy since 1988.

A congregational church was opened in 1898, and being an iron building, was referred to as the 'Tin Tab'. It was built where the present Highbridge Hall now stands, which replaced the 'Tin Tab' in 1968. Originally part of Sutton Coldfield Congregational Church, in 1900 the new church officially parted from its mother church and began its separate existence, known then as Wylde Green Congregational Church. The present church was built alongside the 'Tin Tab' in 1905, and it has a long established musical tradition, although the strength of the choir is declining somewhat, unfortunately an all too familiar story.

Stephen gave us a brief history of the organ, the original organ being built by Albert S Iles & Co. and installed in the new church in 1905.



Stephen Clarke demonstrating the organ of Wylde Green URC

This organ was located at the front of the church, where the present organ stands, but with the console underneath the organ, and comprised two manuals and pedals, with 22 stops, pneumatic action, and oddly a pedal to operate the Swell Tremulant. Originally hand blown, it acquired an electric blower sometime before 1930.

In 1946, looking ahead to the church's 50th Jubilee year in 1950, the congregation decided to install a 'new' three manual and pedal organ. The work was undertaken by Nicholson in 1949, but in the event they retained a

considerable part of the Iles organ, including the pipework, Great and Swell soundboards, Swell enclosure etc, and added an enclosed Choir, providing an organ now of 33 stops. A new organ screen was constructed, and a new detached console with double-touch stop tabs in a horseshoe layout was sited in the transept on the right hand side of the church. Electro-pneumatic action was used throughout the organ and a new blower installed. A recital to mark the official opening of the 'new' organ was given by none other than Dr George Thalben-Ball, City of Birmingham Organist at the time, on 11th October 1950.

In 1986, the electrics were proving troublesome and Nicholson replaced the cotton covered wiring, the double touch stop units were replaced, and a capture system was installed. Some other modifications were made, including the addition of a strong 3 rank Mixture on its own chest to the Great, a 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ ' Larigot to the Choir, and additional 16', 8' and 4' stops of the Trombone/Tromba available on both the Great and Pedal. The inaugural recital was given on 7th November 1987 by the Senior Choir under David Brown, with the organ played by his former deputy, Anthony Pinel, who had an early influence on our President, Martyn Rawles, when Anthony Pinel was Director of Music at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, and Martyn was a chorister.

In late 1999, and now looking ahead to the Church's Centenary in 2000, also coinciding with the Millennium, it was decided to undertake a comprehensive refurbishment of the organ and console. The contract was awarded to Henry Willis & Sons Ltd and a complete overhaul was commenced in May 2003. The pipework was extensively re-voiced to correct the poor speech of much of the pipework, and the horseshoe console replaced by a stop knob console with a 100 memory level Musicom system. The work was originally expected to take 3 months, but things didn't go to plan, and in the event it took 17 months, being completed towards the end of 2004.

The refurbishment was celebrated on 5th March 2005 with a concert of *Anthems for Choir and Organ*, with Midlands organist Paul Carr.

The organ is maintained by Peter Spencer and the expanded specification of the 39 stop organ is now:

Pedal

Harmonic Bass 32', Open Diapason 16', Bourdon 16', Echo Bourdon 16', Octave 8', Bass Flute 8', Contra Bombarde 32', Trombone 16', Tomba 8', Octave Tromba 4'

Great

Double Diapason 16', Open Diapason One 8', Open Diapason Two 8', Stopped Flute 8', Principal 4', Flute 4', Twelfth 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ', Fifteenth 2', Mixture 3 rks, Tromba 8', Octave Tromba 4'

Swell

Bourdon 16', Diapason 8', Lieblich Flote 8', Salicional 8', Voix Celeste 8', Gemshorn 4', Flute 4', Fifteenth 2', Mixture 2 rks, Oboe 8', Cornopean 8'

Choir

Viole d'Orchestre 8', Hohl Flute 8', Dulciana 8', Rohr Flute 4', Fifteenth 2', Clarionet 8', Tromba 8'

General

Comprehensive range of couplers, thumb pistons, toe pistons and Musicom100 memory level capture system.

Stephen Clarke then proceeded to demonstrate the various stops of the organ, before playing first *Elegy* by Thalben-Ball, very appropriate given that he gave the 1950 inaugural recital on this organ, and also the suitability of this piece to show the capabilities of the range of stops from soft to full organ. He followed this with *Flor Peeters Festival Voluntary* to demonstrate the reeds.



Tony White at the organ of Wylde Green URC

Then it was over to our members to put the organ through its paces, with first up Chris Booth, followed by Peter Edwards, Tony White, Peter King, Pat Neville, Andrew McMillan, David Gumbley, Mike Rudd and yours truly.



Pat Neville at the organ of Wylde Green URC, with Richard Syner assisting with registration

As Stephen Clarke had already indicated, despite what looks on paper to be a substantial pedal division including 32' stops, it is in fact rather weak, and needs coupling to one or more of the manuals to give adequate balance,

whereas the Great Mixture is indeed very strong. The dreaded carpeting may be welcomed by the congregation, but it does little for the acoustic, which as a result is rather dry.

David Gumbley brought along some surplus organ music for members to view, and we are most grateful to David for generously donating the proceeds from the sale of the music to the Association.

Our gratitude to Stephen Clarke for his hospitality for this excellent visit, which it was gratifying to see well-supported by 17 members and guests. TS

FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

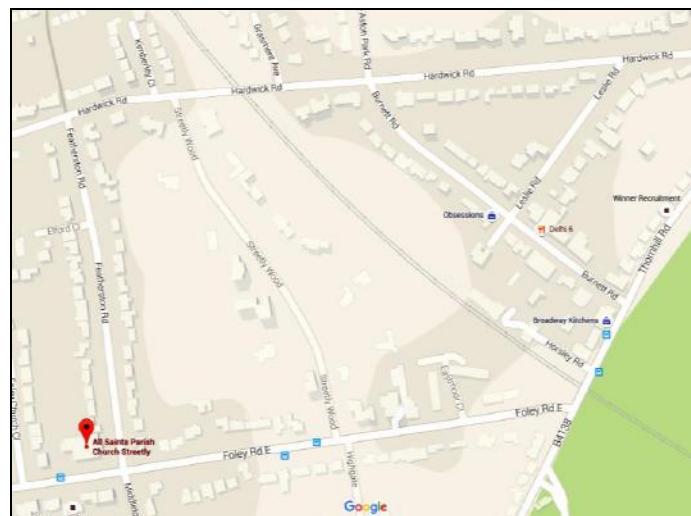
2016 visit/events

We wish to encourage as many members as possible to come along to our visits. If any member wishes to attend a visit, but requires assistance with transport, please contact either Richard Syner or Trevor Smedley, and we will endeavour to identify someone able to give a lift. Our contact phone numbers are on the final page of this newsletter.

Saturday 12th March 2016, for the AGM and visit to All Saints', Streetly

Visit organised by LDOA Committee Member Chris Booth to, All Saints Streetly Church, Foley Road East, Sutton Coldfield, B74 3JL, commencing at 2 pm with our 2016 AGM, followed by a short demo by Chris of the very comprehensive specification 3 manual Allen digital organ, and then the opportunity for members to play.

Note that David Gumbley's remaining surplus organ music will be on display for members to view, along with a large quantity of books on organs that our member Clive Smith is also bringing along. We are most grateful to David and Clive for agreeing that monies received for their music and organ books will be donated to our Association.



Locator map for All Saints' Church, Streetly

As shown in the locator map, All Saints' Church Streetly is accessed from the direction of Sutton Coldfield via the B4151 Streetly Lane, onto the B4138 Thornhill Road,

around the northern side of Sutton Park, then turn right up Foley Road East. The church is on the right, shortly after the road levels out, with an ample carpark.

Saturday 7th May 2016, Hinckley URC and Baptist Church

A visit to see and play two very contrasting organs. Visit commencing at 2 pm to Hinckley United Reformed Church, hosted by David Crick, to play the historic 1878 3 manual 39 stop tracker action Holdich organ, refurbished by J W Walker in 1961 and 2006-7, and which was awarded a Historic Organ Certificate in 1998. Then on to Hinckley Baptist Church, where the 2 manual 22 stop Walker organ has been sold, and replaced by our member Andrew McMillan with an electronic organ with Hauptwerk software, using the sample set of the Willis organ of Hereford Cathedral, and comprising 3 manuals with 57 stops (of the 67 of the Hereford Cathedral organ), and with a substantial 17 speaker/amplifier sound system.

Wednesday 29th June 2016, Polesworth Abbey

An evening visit to Polesworth Abbey, near Tamworth. Father Philip has kindly invited us to meet at 7 pm in the refectory for tea/coffee, and to then play the 3 manual 28 stop organ originally built by Taylor of Leicester in 1912, and moved here from St Michael's & All Angels, Leicester, then restored in 1998.

Saturday 3rd September 2016 (provisional date)

Planning an organ crawl to Newcastle-under-Lyme to play three of the substantial organs in this town. Details in the next newsletter.

Further 2016 visits/events are in the process of being finalised, including President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral, and the 2016 Annual Dinner, details of which will appear in future newsletters when finalised.

NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

2016 Membership Subscriptions

Please note that the 2016 Membership Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2016. A request for payment was sent out to members by Richard Syner on 15th December. For members who have not set up a Standing Order, details of the payment arrangements are repeated below:

Membership is £12 for single membership, and £17.50 for joint membership

Bank transfers can be made to 'Lichfield & District Organists' Association', Account number 430916, Sort code 30-95-04

Alternatively, cheques can be made payable to 'Lichfield & District Organists' Association', and sent to Mike Rudd at: 8 Court Drive, Shenstone, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 0JG.

Your co-operation in paying your subscription promptly would be greatly appreciated.

Next Committee Meeting

To be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 24th February 2016, at Weeford Church, in preparation for the AGM in March.

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Member

We are pleased to welcome Val Edwards as a member. Val's husband Peter has been a member since December 2012, and Val, having attended a number of our events as a guest, has now decided to join our Association. Whilst Val doesn't play, she enjoys listening to the organ, and often accompanies Peter to local organ recitals. Val and Peter live in the village of Hints.

Henry Metcalfe

Yet more good news to report on Henry Metcalfe, one of our youngest student members, recently appointed as the Junior Organ Scholar at Lichfield Cathedral.

Henry has been awarded the Sir David Willcocks Organ Scholarship to Clifton College, Bristol, with Bristol Cathedral from September 2016, conditional upon his exam results next summer. A great opportunity to further his progress along his chosen career path to becoming a Cathedral Organist. In December, Henry also had confirmation that he has passed his Grade 7 Organ exam.

Our warmest congratulations to Henry on what his tutor, Martyn Rawles, described as 'a huge achievement', and our best wishes for success in his forthcoming GCSEs.

NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

Add something rather different to your repertoire?

At the start of the New Year, how about adding something new and different to your repertoire in the form of György Ligeti's *Volumina*?

György Ligeti was born in Transylvania, Romania. He lived in Hungary before emigrating to Austria in 1956, and became an Austrian citizen in 1968. In 1973 he became professor of composition at the Hamburg Hochschule für Musik und Theater until he retired in 1989. He died in Vienna in 2006. Although he did not directly compose any film scores, excerpts of pieces composed by him were taken and adapted for film use. Most famously this occurred in the films of Stanley Kubrick, particularly with the music for *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Ligeti's music is written primarily for acoustic instruments, but he had first-hand knowledge of the pipe organ, which he studied at Kolozsvár Conservatory between 1941-43. A clue to the nature of the work can be had from Ligeti's own description of *Volumina* as '*an extensive development of the dynamic possibilities of the organ, and particularly to the feasibility of continuous crescendi and diminuendi*'.

To give you a flavour of what to expect:

- It is notated graphically, with 'time' represented as moving from left to right, but with no bars, and 'pitch' is represented vertically, but with only approximations as to the register.
- Dynamic extremes of *fffff* to *ppppp*.
- It helps to have two registrants.
- A towel is also useful!

If your curiosity has been aroused, have a look at video clips on YouTube: put 'Volumina ligeti' into the search, and have a look at the clips performed by Lars Gjerde, and also Père Patrick Ledergerber.

If you're motivated to play *Volumina*, it's published by Peters Edition, and there are a number of commercial recordings currently available.

Just the ticket for Evensong? Well, maybe not unless you want to risk summary dismissal!!

Peterborough Cathedral Hill Organ

The Hill organ of Peterborough Cathedral dates from 1894, and like the Hill organ of Lichfield Cathedral, which was re-built by Hill in 1884 and again in 1908, it was built to the 'Old Philharmonic Pitch', where C above middle C speaks at 540 hertz.

At one time, instruments were built to a variety of pitches, some above, and some below, the current 'Standard Concert Pitch', where C above middle C speaks at 523 hertz. The Hill organs of both Peterborough and Lichfield Cathedrals, therefore both speak almost half a semitone sharper than 'Standard Concert Pitch', which means they cannot be used with other musical instruments, and similarly the choir has to adapt to this higher pitch. When the Lichfield Cathedral organ had its last major work carried out, in 2000, Andrew Lumsden was Organist & Master of the Choristers, and there was much deliberation as to whether the pitch of the organ should be lowered. In the event, it was decided not to risk spoiling the unique 'Lichfield sound', and it was also thought that, with a dead acoustic, having the organ tuned 'sharp' helped to project the sound around the building. No doubt the cost of altering over 4000 pipes that the organ had prior to 2000 was also a consideration.

It is therefore interesting to see that Peterborough Cathedral have now decided to 'grasp the nettle', and have their Hill organ changed to 'Standard Concert Pitch', in order that the organ can be used with orchestras and brass bands, and so that the choir can sing at the standard pitch. The work entails altering all 5,286 pipes, at a cost of over £400,000, and has been entrusted to the same organ builders who carried out the 2000 work on the Lichfield Cathedral organ, Harrison & Harrison.

The first stage was the meticulous work of capturing the organ's original sound before a single pipe was removed, sampling every pipe of the Peterborough organ from three locations. Using a specially developed robot to select the stops by pressing the registration stepper, and then pressing every key in turn, the sampling process was able to be carried out overnight whilst the cathedral is quiet. Presumably this sampling is to provide Harrison & Harrison with a reference point for the sound of the ranks of pipes, but having gone to the expense of sampling all

the pipes, it could potentially also form the basis of a Hill sample set for use in a Hauptwerk type digital organ.



[Setting up the pipe sampling robot to the Peterborough Cathedral organ console](#)

On the Peterborough Cathedral website, there are details of the re-pitching work planned, and under 'Pipewatch', regular short videos are being posted of the progress of the work. Currently there are two videos, including one showing the robot at work sampling the pipe sounds. See: www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/home/musichome/worship-and-music/organ.aspx

Open days at Nicholson

Those members who went on our visit to the Nicholson factory in January 2009 will recall what an informative and fascinating visit we enjoyed, including seeing the organ of Llandaff Cathedral at various stages of manufacture in their workshops.

Those members who missed our visit have another opportunity, as Nicholson Organs is holding an open house event on 4th and 5th March 2016 at their Malvern factory, to celebrate 175 years of organ building since the firm was founded by John Nicholson.

Visitors will see the organ for Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland, New Zealand under construction. At 91 speaking stops, it is Nicholson's largest new organ to date. Tours will start at 9:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm and last for approximately 1½ hours.

Numbers are limited to 30 at each time so pre-booking is essential, and will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Groups are welcome; please make a single booking on behalf of all members of a party. All under 16's to be accompanied by an adult please. Tea and coffee will be available at the start of the tours.

To apply, email opendays@nicholsonorgans.co.uk, including in your message:

- the names of visitors or the name of your group
- a mobile contact number for the day (in case of issues such as weather)
- your preferred day and tour time (1st, 2nd and 3rd choices please)

Those travelling short distances please book for the 9.30am and 3.30pm tours to help those travelling further.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

Organ Recitals at the Cathedral

Rewiring of Lichfield Cathedral commenced in 2015, and the disruption to activities in the Cathedral regrettably impacted on organ recitals. The rewiring is due to be completed by Easter 2016, so hopefully by the time of our next newsletter, we will have some news to report about organ recitals in 2016.

Lichfield Cathedral Chorus

Vaughan Williams & Mendelssohn concert with organ at 7:30 pm on Saturday 16th April 2016 at Lichfield Cathedral:

Vaughan Williams - 5 *Mystical Songs*
Mendelssohn - *Symphony No 2 - Lobgesang (Hymn of Praise)*

IAO MATTERS

30th London Organ Day

Will be held on 5th March 2016 at Southwark Cathedral. The theme is 'German Masters', and will feature music by Bach, Reger, Brahms, Schumann and others, performed by Bernhard Haas and Henry Fairs.

Tour of organs in Denmark

Nottingham & District Society of Organists is organising a tour to visit some of Denmark's famous organs from Friday 11th March to Saturday 19th March 2016. The programme embraces some of the finest instruments in the country, including the new 73-stop Marcussen concert organ in Ålborg, the Compenius in Frederiksborg Castle and the collection of instruments in the Royal Danish Academy of Music in København. Presentations by the large boys' and men's choirs at both Esbjerg and Haderslev, and a visit to Marcussen's works in Åbenrå. Anyone interested in further details contact David S. Butterworth at dsbutterworth@halam.myzen.co.uk or 0115 9625400 or 07850 833890.

2nd East of England Organ Day

To be held at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Ipswich, on Saturday 7th May 2016.

The programme features Tom Bell, Tim Harper, William Saunders, Andrew Cantrill, and celebrity recitalist Kevin Bowyer. We will be using the two chapel organs (1933/IV-64 Hill, Norman & Beard Grand Organ, and 1992/II-20 HNB Choir Organ) and a chamber organ in the recital hall to explore the wide-ranging repertoire for the instrument - from the early baroque to jazz and contemporary music. There should be something for everyone!

Tickets: £25 all day, or £5 for Kevin Bowyer's lunchtime concert only. Contact to reserve tickets is Andrew Cantrill at: drewcantrill@gmail.com

IAO Music Festival 2016

Formerly known as the IAO Congress, this will be held from 24th – 29th July 2016 at Bath. A very varied programme includes not only organ recitals by Peter King and David Hill at Bath Abbey, Jonathan Vaughn at Downside Abbey, Jeremy Filsell at Marlborough College and Bath Abbey and John Challenger at Salisbury Cathedral, but also a number of non-organ events, including a talk by Colin Maggs on *Brunel and the GWR!*

Full programme details and prices can be found via:
www.iao.org.uk/newsevent/festival

Midlands Organ Day 2016

Will be held on 17th September 2016 at Nottingham. Details will be added when available.

Derby Arts Festival – Organ Classes

The Derby Arts Festival Committee has had the foresight to introduce some Organ Classes into their festival this Spring. The Derby and District Organists' Association Committee has agreed to encourage as many players as possible to support this helpful initiative, which we feel is a very positive move in support of organists who are often ignored in such events. So the ball is now in our court.

There are 3 classes: 16 under - Intermediate - Advanced. The date is Saturday May 7th, and the venue St John's Church Derby, which has a fine large 2 manual instrument, that can cope with a wide variety of music at all levels of difficulty. Closing date for entries; Jan 31st. We thought other local Associations might be interested in supporting this too.

Full details from the festival website:
www.derbyartsfestival.co.uk.

VACANCIES

Organist at St Chad's Church, Hopwas, B78 3AL (Parish of Tamworth)

Due to retirement at end of March 2016, a vacancy will arise for an Organist. Organ installed 1940, built by William Hill and Norman & Beard. Two Manuals and Pedals: Electric Action and Blowing: Detached Console.

Up to two services on Sunday, 10:30 am and 6 pm. Small choir at evening service. Fees to be agreed

Please contact: Derek Johnson, Churchwarden 01827 68262

Music Leader/Organist at the United Benefice of St Helen's, Etwall and St Wilfrid's, Egginton

Stephen Johns of the Derby & District Organists' Association has requested our assistance in publicising the following vacancy:

The United Benefice of St Helen's Etwall and St Wilfrid's Egginton are seeking to appoint a Music Leader/Organist from April 2016 following the retirement of Stephen Johns.

The post involves responsibility for music in worship in both churches and the directing of a sizable adult choir at St Helen's. Though ability to play the organ is an advantage, it is not essential since several players can offer support.

At St Wilfrid's, the 1892 Forster & Andrews 15 stop organ is due to be refurbished by Christmas and will be a very attractive instrument to play. Though there is no formal choir, a group of singers assemble from time to time to contribute to the worship. A small but enthusiastic congregation enjoys singing.

At St Helen's, the organ is a large 32 stop 2 manual Norwich Digital [dating from 1991 but still in very good order]. There is a choir of approx. 20 adult singers who regularly provide anthems/songs as part of the worship.

Remuneration will be realistic and open to discussion. If you would like to discuss the post informally please contact the Rector: Rev Fiona Solman on 01283 732349, or Mr Andrew King [Churchwarden St Helen's] on 01283 732961, Mrs Pat Riley [Churchwarden St Wilfrid's] on 01283 733484.

Director of Music, St Peter's, Maney, Sutton Coldfield

We have been requested by Mick Perrier, Diocesan Music Advisor, to assist with advertising the following vacancy:

St Peter's Maney, a leafy suburb of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, seeks an enthusiastic Director of Music to play its fine 3-manual pipe organ, lead its choir and music group and further to develop its congregational music within its mainstream tradition.

Remuneration in accordance with RSCM salary scale band C with additional fees for weddings and funerals.

*Further information may be had from:
Revd Dr Matthew Rhodes, Tel 0121 354 2426,
vicarofmaney@gmail.com, who will be happy to entertain informal visits or conversations prior to application.*

*Website: stpetersmaney.org.uk
See Church's Facebook Page: stpetersmaney*

Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, Stourbridge

Cathy Lamb has requested that we assist with publicising the above vacancy, details as follows:

St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, Stourbridge is looking for a dynamic Director of Music to lead our mixed age group SATB choir which sings at 2 services most Sundays. The role is responsible for all the music of the church, including coordinating organists for services and supporting an informal music group which leads worship at a monthly family service. Organ playing an advantage, but not essential as other organists are available. The choir of St Mary's has a varied repertoire, within the Anglican choral tradition, regularly singing choral evensong, and special seasonal services at Christmas and Easter.

The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic choir trainer, able to develop the recruitment, retention and training of

children and adult choristers. Closing date 24 February 2016.

Further information from the church office via: st.mary.os@btconnect.com

Director of Music, St Chad's, Lichfield

We were originally requested to circulate details of this vacancy by Cathy Lamb, but as the post remains unfilled, Revd Rod Clark has requested we run the advert again in this newsletter:

1. Intention - to recruit a director of music to:

- a) enable the offering of worship at St Chad's,
- b) be part of the leadership and ministry group at St Chad's,
- c) to share in the emerging spiritual and mission vision, especially through music

2. Specific Roles:

Essential

- a) ability to lead worship from the keyboard (organ and piano);
- b) ability to prepare, rehearse and direct the church choir (including the preparation of anthems);
- c) availability on Sunday and major festivals for worship and for a weekly choir practice (currently on Friday evenings);
- d) willingness to embrace a variety of styles of worship and musical genres (from traditional to contemporary).

Desirable

- a) availability to play for the occasional offices (funerals and weddings);
- b) ability to promote musical development at St Chad's (including developing musical expression amongst the congregation);
- c) availability to be engaged with St Chad's community outreach into schools and other settings as appropriate.

Optional

- a) ability on other musical instruments;
- b) experience and ability in performance settings

3. Person Specification

- a) good level of musical ability (with willingness to go on learning);
- b) good team player who will relate well to the choir, the liturgical team, the staff team and church leadership;
- c) good collaborative ministry skills;
- d) commitment to deepening the spiritual ethos of St Chad's through music;
- e) personal engagement with the Christian faith.

4. Contractual arrangements – the post will be subject to a written contract and there will be appropriate holiday entitlement

5. Responsibility and Accountability - the post holder will be line managed by the Rector and paid by the PCC of St Chad's. The intention is for the post holder to be an advisory member of the PCC

6. Clearances etc. – an appointment will be made subject to enhanced DBS clearance and the receipt of satisfactory references

Further information about the background to this post, the expected hours to be worked, and the spiritual ethos of St Chad's (as expressed through policy statement and mission action planning documents) can be obtained from the Rector. If any interested person wishes to have an informal conversation about the post, or to arrange a visit, please contact the Rector.

We believe that St Chad's provides a warm, welcoming and supportive environment in which an individual's gifts and abilities can be developed and matured. The congregation is very appreciative of the musical tradition we have been able to maintain and grow. The church leadership wishes for this journey of creativity to continue and would warmly welcome a new Director of Music to help us move forward – retaining the best of the past and open to a new future. There is plenty of scope at St Chad's for a Director of Music to 'put their stamp' on our community life in a very positive and creative way.

Revd Rod Clark, Rector 01543 262254
rod.clark1958@btinternet.com

RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 4th December 2015

The theme for Andrew Fletcher's 2015/6 lunchtime recitals series, is 'Keynote Works', but today's recital had special significance as it was in celebration of Andrew's recent 65th Birthday, and an opportunity for a little indulgence by playing his own compositions.

For a number of years, Andrew worked for the Rodgers Organ Co., and they commissioned the first work on today's programme, *Toccata Festiva*, ensuring a suitably rousing opening with fanfares then the toccata. Commissioned by one of Andrew's regulars, Graham Rock, *Romanza*, a gentle melodic piece in celebration of a birthday, followed. *Scherzo in G*, originally called *A Frolic*, was followed first by the gentle *Pslam Prelude*, then a work requested by Kevin Mayhew, *Nowell! Christus natus est*, a bright festive piece, and then the gentle *Impromptu*.

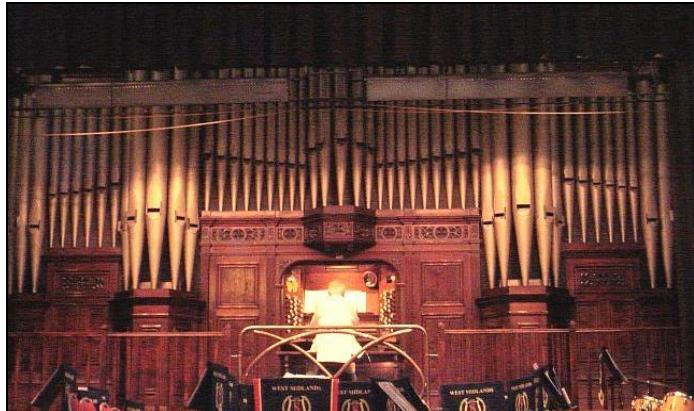
In May 2015 Andrew, was the resident organist at the St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth, May 2015 Festival, for which he was commissioned to compose a piece, the result being *Divisions on St Stephen*. The beautiful prelude *Praeludium 'Integritas'* was followed by *Cantilena*, and finally *Dithyramb*, meaning an ancient Greek hymn sung and danced in honour of Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility, providing a grand climax to the recital, before retiring to the church hall to sample Christmas cake, mince pies and mulled wine!

TS

Mervin Jones concert at Darlaston Town Hall, Thursday 10th December 2015

LDOA member Mervin Jones, organist at Norton Canes Parish Church, has been organising monthly afternoon concerts at Darlaston Town Hall for the last 17 years,

attended by over one hundred regulars, mainly pensioners. The 2 hour concerts include guest artists, with Mervin accompanying and playing solos on the virtually original 1903 3 manual 33 stop Binns organ. It's fair to say that neither the Binns nor Mervin are in the best of health. With regard to the Binns organ, Mervin struggles to keep it in working order, as it is council owned and there is therefore little money available for maintenance. In performing on the organ, keeping track of which notes and which stops aren't working, and so are to be avoided, is a challenge. With regard to Mervin himself, he has breathing difficulties, and in fact uses an oxygen mask to assist his breathing when playing the Binns.



Mervin Jones at the Binns organ of Darlaston Town Hall

Today's concert was opened by Mervin playing a Christmas selection, and also taking advantage of his guests, the West Midlands Fellowship Salvation Army Band, to play Sousa's *Liberty Bell* accompanied by the drummer from the band. The Salvation Army Band then continued with a programme of Christmas music, including a soprano solo from Sue, a member of the band.

The Christmas concert, together with the mince pies and sherry on arrival, and hot drinks, biscuits and a raffle at the interval, was clearly greatly enjoyed and appreciated by Mervin's loyal regulars. May he be well enough to continue to organise and perform in the concerts for many years to come, as there regrettably seems little prospect of anyone continuing with the concerts when he is no longer able to do so.

TS

Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 8th January 2016

After his 65th Birth concert in December, Andrew returned to his theme for this series of 'Keynote Works', with first one of the major organ works in the organ repertoire, Cesar Franck's *Choral No 3 in A*, providing a dramatic opening to today's recital. Then, staying with Franck, but this time a beautiful, understated work, *Prelude, Fugue & Variation*.

Andrew commented that Nicholas Choveaux was one of the three people who managed to get Karg-Elert into this country, and Andrew first came across *Three Pieces* as a choirboy at Yardley. First, the very familiar tune of *March*, followed by *Meditation*, and finally *Introduction & Toccata*, based on the hymn tune *Lasst uns erfreuen* (as used for All creatures of our God and King), comprising a stirring toccata with the hymn tune theme taken in the pedals.

Andrew turned to John Ireland for the final three pieces, with first *Elegy*, arranged by Alec Rowley, followed by the very popular *Villanella*, and finally *Alla Marcia*, providing a rousing climax to today's recital.

Andrew presented belated Christmas thank-you gifts to David, his page turner, and the 'indispensable tea ladies'. TS

Peter Morris recital at Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 21st January 2016

Having completed his trawl through the A-Z of composers at the previous Walsall Town Hall recital, we were interested to discover what Peter had in store for us for the remainder of the 2015/6 series. Peter has a fondness for the music of John Stanley, and plans to include a work by him in the remaining recitals, with no doubt J S Bach works also making an appearance.

Since the last recital, Nicholson's have been working to restore the pedal stops to full working order that have been out of action for some time. In the event, whilst everything is now back in place, it has been found that stronger springs are required to handle the pressures associated with these stops, and the organ will finally be back to full working order by the next recital.

In Dir ist freude BWV 615 from the *Orgelbüchlein*, the first of four works by J S Bach in today's programme, provided a suitably bright seasonal opening to this first recital of the New Year. Next, to *Paean*, the piece by which the church and cinema organist Oliphant Chuckerbutty is best-known, and an opportunity to deploy the bold reeds of the Town Hall organ.

Prelude & Fugue in C Major by J S Bach was followed by the delightful *Idyll* by Edward Elgar, then a return to J S Bach with the beautifully reflective piece *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin*. Next to the joyful *Rondo* by Giovanni Morandi, then John Stanley's *Voluntary No 8*, ideally suited to the fine diapasons of this organ, with the three movements concluding with a jolly fugue.

The recital concluded with two of Peter's favourite, but very contrasting, pieces, with first J S Bach's elegant chorale prelude *Num Komm, der Heiden Heiland*, Peter conjuring up a very Baroque sound by using, surprisingly, the 2^{2/3}' Tibia. Then finally to the *Grand Choeur Dialogué* by Gigout, providing a rousing climax to today's event. TS

Vincent Byrne Film Night at St Barnabas, Erdington, Saturday 23rd January 2016

I'm most grateful to Richard Syner for providing the following review:

An arson attack in 2007 destroyed much of St Barnabas, Erdington. It has since been rebuilt with a stunning glass-fronted café bar, so that from the High Street it looks more like an arts centre than a church.

The interior has been remodelled, keeping what was left intact from the fire and blending it stylishly with a crisp, clean architectural style. There is the inevitable screen hanging in the nave, and a state-of-the-art built-in projection system, a new Makin Westmoreland Custom

electronic organ and a sleek Yamaha C5 grand piano. Since his appointment as Musical Director, Vincent Byrne has cannily used all of these resources to build up a large and enthusiastic local audience who share his passion for silent film.

Vincent graduated in music from Birmingham University in 2012. His MA thesis was on the neglected British composer Dorothy Howell, and he is currently writing her biography. However, his main interest is the neglected art of cinematic accompaniment. As well as being a skilled improviser, he has completed over thirty scores for the genre working in partnership with many organisations, including the Flatpack Film Festival and Sons Of The Desert.

An audience of around one hundred and fifty, and of all ages, packed into the church for this double bill. In his short but informative introduction to the Laurel and Hardy film *Double Whoopee* (1925), Vincent advised us to look out for a young Jean Harlow and Charlie Hall, a well-known silent film actor born, somewhat incredibly, less than a mile from the church in Ward End. Vincent accompanied the film on the organ, favouring a theatre organ style, with many changes of tempo and registration to suit the action on the screen.

After the interval came the main feature – Charlie Chaplin in *The Gold Rush* (1925). Vincent switched to the piano for this epic, spinning over an hour of music as the action switched from dance halls to the frozen wastes of Alaska, from love scenes to bar-room fights. Some of the music was pastiche, whilst elsewhere more modern idioms were employed. These were particularly effective in the atmospheric landscape scenes. The climax of the film - an extended scene in which a log cabin becomes precariously balanced on a cliff edge – was peerlessly accompanied with a flow of music that underpinned both the humour and excitement on the screen, and never resorted to the endless piles of diminished chords which have become the great cliché of silent film accompaniment.

We are hoping Vincent will host a visit by the Association either later this year or in 2017, so that we can learn a little about this fascinating craft and have a go ourselves. Such events are growing in popularity, and evenings such as this show that it is possible to pack people into a church to listen to the organ, and that having an enormous screen installed in the nave can have its advantages!

Richard Syner

Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Symphony Hall, Monday 25th January 2016

Some of the pieces in today's programme gave a Spanish feel to the recital in the middle of an English winter, but the opening was more Italian inspired, with J S Bach's *Concerto in A Minor BWV 593*. This imaginative and exciting organ transcription of Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Violins, Op 3 No. 8* comprises opening and closing Allegros, unmistakably of Vivaldi origin, with a central Adagio slow movement.

Next, to the first of the Spanish influences with *Three Spanish Dances*. *Espanoleta* (anon) showed off the

Cromorne stop, and was followed by *Rodena*, by the Argentine composer Mauricio Kagel, the simultaneous use of different keys giving this tiny piece a particularly moody, mysterious atmosphere. Then to the third dance, with Thomas Trotter's own arrangement for organ of the piano piece *Spanish Dance* by Moritz Moszkowski, rather fairground music in style, with the tempo becoming distinctly frenetic towards the climax.

Then, a complete change of mood with John Stanley's *Voluntary in F, Op 7 No 6*, composed for the Temple Church organ, which at the time was about a quarter of the size of the Klais organ, altogether more 'rough and earthy', and of course without pedals. The first of the two movements uses the diapasons, and for the second, *Vivace*, Thomas employed the French Horn in the right chamber, and the Cor Anglais in the left chamber to produce a very effective echo effect.

Ned Rorem, now aged 92, is a distinguished American composer of opera, symphonies, choral piece, solo songs and organ music, and his *Views from the Oldest House* is a set of six organ pieces inspired by the landscapes of Nantucket Island, a tiny isolated island off Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Thomas chose to play three of the six pieces, *Sunrise on Sunset Hill*, *Elms* and *Sunday Night*.

The finale of today's recital took us back to the Spanish feel, with Lemare's *Carmen Suite*, an organ medley of some of the best tunes from Bizet's opera, including the brilliant *Entry of the Bullfighters*, and the swaggering *Toreador's Song*. A barnstorming climax to a very varied programme, impeccably performed as always by Thomas Trotter.

TS

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Martyn Rawles

In addition to his Lichfield Cathedral commitments, Martyn is giving a recital from 1:00 to 1:50 pm on Wednesday 27th April 2016 at Bradford Cathedral

Cathy Lamb

In addition to her Lichfield Cathedral commitments, Cathy is giving the following recitals:

- Thursday 12th May 2016 from 12:30 to 1:10 at Christchurch Priory
- Saturday 16th July 2016 from 12:00 to 1:10 at Victoria Hall, Hanley
- Wednesday 2nd November 2016 from 1:00 to 1:50 at Bradford Cathedral

Peter Morris

The Walsall Town Hall 2015/6 recital series commenced on 17th September 2015, and will continue generally on the third Thursday of the month, the next recital being on Thursday 18th February 2016.

Pat Neville - Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone

A next lunchtime organ recital will be given on Monday 21st March 2016 by Shenstone resident organist Pat Neville at 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm. Bring your sandwiches – hot drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

Andrew McMillan

Recital at 1:00 to 1:30 on Thursday 12th May 2016 at St Margaret's, Leicester, one of the churches we visited on our organ crawl in Leicester June 2015.

Other members of the Leicester & District Organists' Association are scheduled to give recitals at St Margaret's in 2016, including Philip J Herbert, Peter Harris and Ian Imlay.

Recitals In Local Area (to end of April 2016)

February 2016

Tues 2 February 2016 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

Thurs 4 February 2016 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 5 February 2016 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green
Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Sat 6 February 2016 • 7:30 • St Alphege, Solihull
Alex Mason (Shrewsbury School)

Sun 7 February 2016 • 2:30 • Fenthams Hall, Hampton-in-Arden
Phil Kelsall (Tower Ballroom, Blackpool)

Sun 7 February 2016 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 8 February 2016 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Tues 9 February 2016 • 7:30 • St Andrew's, Netherton
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 12 February 2016 • 12:30 to 13:05 • Stratford-upon Avon URC
Charles Matthews (St Catherine's, Chipping Campden)

Sat 13 February 2016 • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster
Steven Maxson (Grimsby Minster)

Sat 13 February 2016 • 6:00 to 8:00 • Birmingham Cathedral
David Ivory (Mechanical Music Museum, Cotton)

Thurs 18 February 2016 • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Frid 19 February 2016 • 12:30 to 13:05 • Stratford-upon Avon URC
Colin Druce (Warwick School)

Frid 19 February 2016 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Shaun Ward (St Laurence, Ludlow)

Sat 20 February 2016 • 12:00 to 1:00 • Malvern Priory
Jeremy Woodside (Repton School)

Sat 20 February 2016 • 7:30 to 9:00 • Coleshill Parish Church
Luke Fitzgerald (Portsmouth Cathedral)

Mon 22 February 2016 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Wed 24 February 2016 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull
Nicholas Johnson (St Alphege, Solihull)

Frid 26 February 2016 • 12:30 to 13:05 • Stratford-upon Avon URC
Tim Campain (Warwick Road URC)

March 2016

Tues 1 March 2016 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
John Oxlade (Mansfield College, Oxford)

Thurs 3 March 2016 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 4 March 2016 • 12:30 to 13:05 • Stratford-upon Avon URC
Stephen Dodsworth (Stratford-upon-Avon)

Frid 4 March 2016 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green
Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Sat 5 March 2016 • 7:30 • Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon
Charles Matthews (St Catherine's, Chipping Campden)

Sun 6 March 2016 • 2:30 • Fenthams Hall, Hampton-in-Arden
Byron Jones

Sun 6 March 2016 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 7 March 2016 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Frid 11 March 2016 • 12:30 to 13:05 • Stratford-upon Avon URC
Andrew Henderson with Pupils from King Edward's School

Sat 12 March 2016 • 12:00 to 1:10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Rupert Gough with Rachael Gough (Violin)

Sun 13 March 2016 • 3:00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Darius Battiwalla with the London Concert Orchestra

Thurs 17 March 2016 • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Frid 18 March 2016 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Alexander Woodrow (Bradford Cathedral)

Sat 19 March 2016 • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster
Laurence Caldecote (St Nicolas, Nuneaton)

Mon 21 March 2016 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Thomas Trotter with Michael Broadway (Pianola)

Wed 23 March 2016 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull
John Pryer (Alexandra Palace)

Mon 28 March 2016 • 11:00 to 11:45 • All Saints', Leamington Spa
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

April 2016

Frid 1 April 2016 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green
Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Sun 3 April 2016 • 2:30 • Fenthams Hall, Hampton-in-Arden
Stephen Austin (Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire)

Sun 3 April 2016 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 4 April 2016 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall
Konstantin Volostnov (Russia)

Tues 5 April 2016 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Andrew Kirk (St Mary Redcliffe)

Thurs 7 April 2016 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham
Organ Students from Birmingham Conservatoire

Frid 15 April 2016 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury
Martin J Brown (Bangor Cathedral)

Sat 16 April 2016 • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster
Ashely Mellor (Tewkesbury Abbey)

Thurs 21 April 2016 • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Sat 23 April 2016 • 12:00 to 1:10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley
Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

Mon 25 April 2016 • 7:30 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Nicholas Morris (Birmingham Cathedral)

Wed 27 April 2016 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull
Mark Swinton (St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick)

For a complete listing of organ recitals in the UK and further details go to: www.organrecitals.com

For details of recital organ specifications go to the National Pipe Organ Register at: www.npor.org.uk

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Editorial Note - next newsletter is planned for April 2016, with deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/03/16, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA