

## **FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER**

### **FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS**

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

Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield, has been the subject of a major reordering project in 2016, and at one stage it was feared that as a consequence the substantial 3 manual Hill, Norman & Beard organ may fall victim to the reordering. Fortunately, the pipe organ with its detached console has been retained in the reordered church.



The organ of Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield

The plan is to commence the visit at 2pm with our 2017 AGM, followed by an opportunity to play the organ.

Holy Trinity is at Church Hill, Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1TF, and the church/private carpark is accessed from Mill Street up Church Hill. For those members not familiar with Sutton Coldfield, a locator map is included in the Appendix to this newsletter.

#### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017- St Chad's Church, Lichfield**

Another new initiative for us, this event commences at 2pm and is at the invitation of LDOA committee member Tony White, who has recently been appointed as Director of Music at St Chad's.

A treasure trove of organ performances can be found on YouTube and on DVDs of organs being played. So this

visit commences at 2pm with the screening of videos/DVD's. Using a big screen and powerful multi-speaker sound system, this event will begin with a short composite virtual recital from the breath-taking to the bizarre! If members have discovered any interesting instruments, performance or repertoire online, contact a committee member ASAP and we will endeavour to include it.

Members are then most welcome to stay on and sample the 2 manual organ of St Chad's.

#### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – St Leonard's Church, Blithfield**

Visit commencing at 2pm to play the 2 manual 24 stop organ originally by Alfred Kirkland, then rebuilt and enlarged by John Oakes & Company in 1965. On the occasion of her second recital on this organ, Cathy Lamb gave the organ's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recital here in June 2015.

#### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 – Members' Recital at All Saints' Church, Streetly**

Following the well-received Members' Recital held last October at All Saints' Four Oaks, we have been kindly invited to All Saints' Streetly for this year's event by Director of Music/LDOA member, Sian Perkins, and Chris Booth, Assistant Director of Music/LDOA committee member.

All Saints' has a very comprehensive specification 3 manual Allen digital organ, so please take this as advanced notification for members to 'dust off their party pieces' and volunteer to play for this event!

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – visit to Walsall**

In January 2010, we visited Walsall but the treacherous road conditions on the day meant that only seven members braved the icy roads. We hope to have rather better luck with the weather for this visit to play the organs of St Matthew's (4 manual 74 stop organ rebuilt in 1999/2000 to a scheme by Roger Fisher and Peter Morris, when Peter was the organist) and then Walsall Town Hall (4 manual 73 stop Nicholson & Lord organ), visits kindly arranged by our honorary member and Walsall Borough Organist Peter Morris.

The visit to St Matthews commences at 11am till 1pm, then on to Walsall Town Hall for 1pm till 3pm. We're delighted that Peter Morris will be joining us on the visits, as he has an in-depth knowledge of both organs and their

history, and will be on-hand to assist us with registering these substantial organs.

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November – visit to Repton School Chapel**

Visit commencing at 11am to Repton School Chapel to play the 3 manual 34 speaking stop Harrison & Harrison organ dating from 1929.

### **Other 2017 events in the pipeline**

President's Evening and Annual Dinner.

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

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

Our 2016 Annual Dinner took place at the Owl at Lichfield, and was commendably well supported by some 21 members/guests.

Other commitments prevented our President Martyn Rawles from attending, so we were particularly delighted that Cathy Lamb, Joint Director of Music at Lichfield Cathedral, was able to join us.



LDOA 2016 Annual Dinner at The Owl at Lichfield

The excellent food on offer, and attentive staff of The Owl, made for a most enjoyable informal social evening. Our thanks to Richard Syner for organising the event.

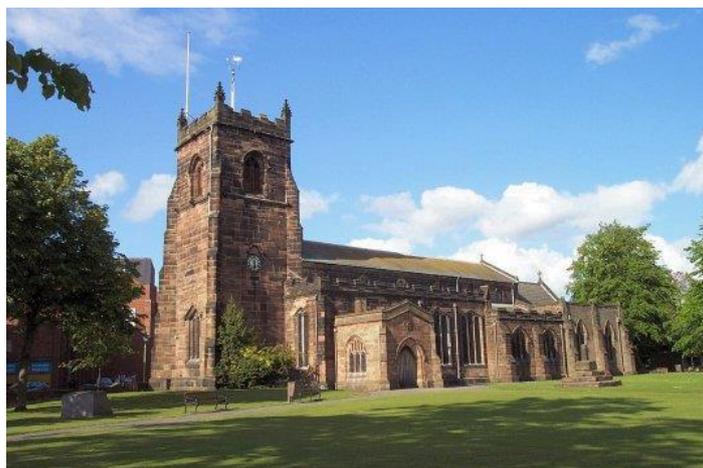
### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – visit to St Luke's, Cannock**

For our visit to St Luke's, Cannock, we were welcomed by our member and Organ Scholar of St Luke's, John Carvell.

The historic church of St Luke's is set in the centre of Cannock, and celebrated its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015.

The earliest parts of the building date from 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, although it was almost completely rebuilt during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the population of Cannock was growing rapidly, largely as a result of the development of the mining industry in the area, and the church was extended to increase the seating capacity. A new organ, shown in the NPOR as built by Lewis, was installed in the organ chamber, replacing, it was said, an organ which was carried across the road from the Rising Sun public house each Sunday morning for the services,

and returned after Evensong to provide music for the bar for the rest of the week!



St Luke's Church, Cannock

In 1914, a new larger 3 manual organ was installed by Norman & Beard at a cost of £985. By the 1920's, the north and south galleries were no longer used and were removed in 1925. In 1950, the west gallery was also removed, being replaced by a new organ loft to accommodate the organ, which was moved from the clergy vestry.



View down the nave of St Luke's, Cannock

Rushworth & Dreaper carried out some tonal changes/additions in 1969 and 1985, and then in 1989 they added the 16' Trombone, 8' Principal and 4' Fifteenth to the pedal division, replacing the original tubular pneumatic action by solid state electric action for this division, but retaining the pneumatic action for the manuals and stops.

The specification of the organ is now:

#### Pedal

Open Diapason 16', Subbass 16', Bourdon 16', Principal 8', Bass Flute 8', Fifteenth 4', Trombone 16'

### Great

Bourdon 16', Large Open Diapason 8', Small Open Diapason 8', Hohl Flute 8', Principal 4', Harmonic Flute 4', Fifteenth 2', Mixture III, Trumpet 8'

### Swell

Open Diapason 8', Stopped Diapason 8', Salicional 8', Gemshorn 4', Fifteenth 2', Mixture III, Acuta II, Horn 8', Oboe 8', Tremulant

### Choir

Lieblich Gedäckt 8', Dulciana 8', Stopped Flute 4', Flautina 2', Larigot 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>'



The organ of St Luke's, Cannock



The console of the organ of St Luke's, Cannock

Having given us a brief history of the organ, John Carvell then performed a short improvisation to provide an impression of the organ, before handing over to members to negotiate the steep spiral staircase up to the organ loft to put the organ through its paces. Mike Rudd was first up playing works by Stanford and Karg Elert, followed by two of our youngest student members, with first Alex Packham playing Vierne's *Pastorale*, then by his younger brother Will playing J S Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* chorale preludes O

*Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, and Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ.*

David Perry playing Mendelssohn's *Prelude in C Minor* and Vierne's *Arabesque* was followed by Tony White playing *Fidelis* by Whitlock and a work by W Lloyd Webber, Richard Syner playing his own arrangement for organ of the *1st Movement of Vivaldi's 'Winter' from The Four Seasons*, Andrew McMillan playing his own transcription of Duruflé's *Prelude for Epiphany*, Mike Boyd playing the *1st of Six Short Pieces & Postludes (Set 1)* by Stanford, and with yours truly closing the afternoon playing S S Wesley's *Choral Song*.



Alex Packham at the organ of St Luke's, Cannock



Will Packham at the organ of St Luke's, Cannock

The organ proved to be comfortable to play, with the tubular pneumatic action giving a very agreeable touch. The eclectic choice of composers and pieces performed by our members served to demonstrate the range of colours of this fine organ, which as might be expected

from its central elevated siting, spoke well down the nave, with plenty of volume, and must have been a force to be reckoned before, according to John Carvell, being 'toned down' by Rushworth & Dreaper.

A further opportunity was provided today for members to peruse items of donated organ books/CDs, organ/piano music, and we are most grateful to members for their donations to LDOA for items acquired.

Our thanks to St Luke's and John Carvell for hosting a well-supported visit, and for providing the welcome refreshments. TS

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

#### [Review of the promotion of LDOA and attracting new members](#)

Recently joining the Committee, and having a particular expertise in using the internet for sales/marketing, Tony White was asked to review how we go about promoting ourselves and attracting new members, and to make recommendations for improvements. Tony has now produced a comprehensive report, which will be considered by the Committee at our next Committee Meeting.

#### [2017 Subscriptions](#)

The 2017 subscriptions were due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, and a request for payment was sent out to members in December by our Secretary Richard Syner. Your co-operation in paying promptly would be greatly appreciated.

#### [Next Committee Meeting](#)

7.30pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

### [MEMBERS' NEWS](#)

#### [Alex Goldsmith](#)

Alex Goldsmith is one of our student members, currently at Keele University, where he is studying for a dual honours degree in Maths and Music. Alex has moved from DoM at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent, to be DoM at St Andrew's Church, Aylestone, a suburb of Leicester. We wish Alex every success in his new appointment.

### [NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD](#)

#### [150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Organ Recital at Hinckley URC 24th June 2017](#)

Members who attended our visit hosted by David Salt to Hinckley URC in 2016 may be interested to know that Paul Hale will be giving an organ recital on the historic Holdich organ on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7pm, to mark the organ's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Paul Hale retired in August 2016 after 27 years as Rector Chori and Cathedral Organist of Southwell Minster, and now devotes his time to being a professional organ consultant, recitalist and lecturer.

### [Cirencester International Organ Festival](#)

Opening with a recital by Stephen Tharp, the 2017 Cirencester International Organ Festival takes place from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Full details and tickets are available online via: [www.cirencesterorganfestival.co.uk](http://www.cirencesterorganfestival.co.uk)

### [The new organ for St Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City](#)

The April 2016 Newsletter covered the appointment of Daniel Hyde as John Scott's successor as Director of Music at Saint Thomas, New York City, and mention was made of the new organ to be made by Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, for which John Scott oversaw the design, before his sudden death. This organ is to be known as the Miller-Scott Organ, in recognition of both the benefactors Bill and Irene Miller, and John Scott.

The decommissioning of the previous 8,400 pipe Arents Memorial Organ took place in June 2016, and the installation of the new 4 manual Dobson organ with 7052 pipes, including some from the Arents organ, is planned to commence mid-2017, with completion expected by Autumn 2018.



[Artistic rendering of the Miller-Scott organ on each side of the chancel in Saint Thomas](#)

To provide temporary organ leadership in the chancel of Saint Thomas Church in the period between the removal of the Arents Organ and the arrival of the Miller-Scott organ, a Hauptwerk organ has been installed, built by Orloff Organ Co of Brookline, Mass., employing the sample set of the 1874/1934 Willis at Salisbury Cathedral.

For interesting videos and photos of the progress of manufacturing the organ see Saint Thomas's website at: [www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/neworgan](http://www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/neworgan)

## LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

### 2017 Organ Recitals at the Cathedral

Martyn Rawles has confirmed that lunchtime and evening organ recitals are planned at Lichfield Cathedral in 2017, and details when available will be included in future newsletters.

### Bach's St Mark Passion

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. A performance of J S Bach's *St Mark Passion* by Birmingham Bach Choir, conducted by LDOA honorary member Paul Spicer.

### Young Persons' Cathedral Organ Day 2017

Having been unable to accommodate a 'Young Persons' Cathedral Organ Day' in 2016 due to the disruption caused by the rewiring of the Cathedral, we are grateful to Martyn Rawles and Lichfield Cathedral for accommodating the event on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017, commencing at 9.15am. As previously, the event will be presented jointly by members of LDOA, Lichfield Cathedral's Music Department and Lichfield Cathedral School.

A flyer for this event accompanies this newsletter, and we would appreciate members assisting us with promotion of the event to family/friends, and through their church. A copy of the flyer/application form can also be downloaded from our website at [www.iao.org.uk/lichfield](http://www.iao.org.uk/lichfield)

### Mendelssohn's Elijah

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm. A performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, by Lichfield Cathedral Chorus with the Darwin Ensemble Chamber Orchestra, conducted by LDOA honorary member Ben Lamb.

## IAO/RCO MATTERS

### 2017 London Organ Day

The 31<sup>st</sup> London Organ Day will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at The Dutch Church, entitled *Fantastic Style!*, and will feature the music of Frescobaldi, Buxtehude, Bruhns, Böhm and Bach. Artists include Alexander Hamilton, Anne Page, David Titterington, John Collins, Henry Fairs, Tom Bell, Bine Bryndorf and Tina Christiansen. Booking via [www.book.londonorganday.co.uk](http://www.book.londonorganday.co.uk)

### OrganFest 2017

This event will be held from 8-9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 based in Hull, including visiting Hull City Hall, home of a 4 manual 141 stop Compton organ.

### IAO Festival 2017

It has been announced that the IAO 2017 Music Festival will be held from Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July in Oxford, visiting the colleges of Keble, Merton, Queen's, St John's and Exeter, plus the Holywell Music Room, with additional visits to Blenheim Palace and Eton. The artists performing include Dame Gillian Weir (Masterclass & interview), David Goode (Organ), Matthew Martin (Organ

& Choral Director), Benjamin Nicholas (Organ), Peter King (Organ), Robert Quinney (Organ), John Reid (Piano) and the Edington Quartet,

Festival flyer and booking details via the IAO website.

### The Conservatoire Experience

Saturday 11 February 2017. Presented by RCO Academy and Birmingham Conservatoire, hosted by Henry Fairs, Head of Organ at Birmingham Conservatoire. Aimed at ambitious teenage organists. For details and to book online via: [www.rco.org.uk](http://www.rco.org.uk)

### The Organ Scholar Experience

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 in Oxford, hosted by RCO Academy at the Queen's College, Oxford. For teenagers age 14-19 – live the life of an organ scholar. For details and to book online via: [www.roc.org.uk](http://www.roc.org.uk)

### Midlands Organ Day 2018

The Midlands Organ Day is held bi-annually, and the next one will take place in Worcester on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018, hosted by the Worcester Organists' Association.

## RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

### Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

Continuing Andrew's 2016/7 series themed 'A Feast of Lesser Morsels', today's programme comprised a mix of 'proper' organ music, transcriptions and arrangements, commencing with Grieg's *Wedding Day at Troldhagen* followed by more Grieg with the gentle *Last Spring*.

Then to two works by Percy Grainger, with first his jolly *Handel in The Strand*, followed by *Colonial Song*. Next to the aforementioned 'proper' organ music, in the form of *Saraband for the Morning of Easter*, by Herbert Howells, which Andrew used to play in his previous church before the service on Easter Day, and which Andrew always pictured as the sun coming through after Lent, although why he chose to play it today in December was unclear.

Two pieces by John Ireland followed, with first the exquisitely beautiful *Sursum Corda*, followed by Andrew's own arrangement of *Minuet (3<sup>rd</sup> movement of A Downland Suite)*.

Then, in a change to the programme, a piece 'more appropriate to 25<sup>th</sup> December', Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, providing a seasonal ending to the recital, rounded off by very welcome mince pies and mulled wine in the Church Hall!  
TS

### Pat Neville recital at Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Pat's choice of music for this Festive Season lunchtime recital comprised her usual wide range of pieces and composers, with many based on Christmas carols, including *Silent Night*, *The Holly & The Ivy*, *Adeste*

*Fideles*, but also including a favourite Christmas composition of mine by Andrew Fletcher, *A Gallery Carol*. Another well-attended recital, demonstrating Pat's continued progress at the organ under the guidance of her organ teacher, Karen Thompson, and accompanied clearly by a lot of hard practice! A start to the Festive Season much enjoyed by all. TS

### **Mervin Jones concert at Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

After organising monthly concerts, and playing the Binns organ, at Darlaston Town Hall for the last 18 years, uncertainties surrounding the future set-up there had necessitated a change of venue from December onwards to Walsall Town Hall, where Mervyn first played the organ when he was 14 years of age, getting on for 65 years ago! He recalled hearing Tommy North, a predecessor of Peter Morris as Borough Organist, play here, and indeed Jack Langford, Mervin's organ teacher, was himself taught by Tommy North.

Today's inaugural concert at Walsall Town Hall was opened by Mervin playing a variety of light organ music, including a number of seasonal pieces, before handing over to the West Midlands Fellowship Brass Band, directed by Charles King, to take us to the interval, and welcome refreshments.



Mervin Jones at the organ of Walsall Town Hall, with the West Midlands Fellowship Brass Band on stage.

Mervin opened proceedings after the interval with a selection of dance music, but also including Sousa's *Liberty Bell*, with the drummer from the band joining in, giving the Town Hall organ a good work-out! The band then took over to round off the afternoon playing seasonal music, leaving just time for the raffle.

Mervin seemed totally at home at the Town Hall organ, although the climb up to the console and down again proved rather more of a challenge for Mervin, who doesn't enjoy the best of health, but his efforts over the years are clearly much appreciated by his loyal regulars. TS

### **Nigel Morris recital at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Professor David Saint has been Director of Music at St Chad's since 1978, and introduced today's recitalist, Nigel

Morris, Assistant Director of Music at St Chad's for the last 16 years.

Nigel studied organ with Keith Bond and Herbert Winterbottom at The Royal Manchester College of Music. He continued his studies at Birmingham Conservatoire with George Miles and at the same time became the first organ scholar at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. Upon graduation, he pursued a career in Staffordshire Police before resuming further organ studies with Marcus Huxley and David Saint. He returned to St Chad's Cathedral as Assistant Director of Music in 2001.

Nigel opened with Marco Enrico Bossi's stately *Entreé Pontificale*, then Samuel Wesley's *Air & Gavotte*, the former serving to show the quieter stops of the organ, then the jolly gavotte. After a movement of J S Bach's *Concerto in C Minor After Vivaldi, BWV 594*, next followed a work played in October 2016 recitals by both Alan Taylor at Broadway URC and by Andrew Fletcher at Emmanuel Wylde Green, the Dutch composer Henrik Andriesson's elegant *Thema met Variaties*.

Nigel commented that the front of St Chad's mimics that of the Marienkirche, Lübeck, where Buxtehude, the composer of the next work *Ciacona in E Minor BUXWV 160*, was organist. *Flute-A-Peal* from the *IAO Millennium Organ Book*, is composed by David Bruce-Payne, who has local connections in that he held posts at Birmingham Cathedral, Birmingham Conservatoire and St George's, Edgbaston.

The final work in today's programme is the next piece on my 'To Learn List', and so hence the incentive for my visit to St Chad's, to hear the *Final from Guilman's Sonata No 1*. A thrilling climax to today's recital, superbly performed by Nigel Morris, triple pedalling and all!

A well-attended recital, with commendable support from association members of LDOA, BOA and WOA. TS

### **Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

The fanfares of the American organist/composer David Johnson's *Trumpet Tune in A* opened today's recital by Andrew Fletcher with a flourish, followed by the beautiful miniature *Salix* from Percy Whitlock's *Plymouth Suite*.

Next to one of Andrew's own suitably seasonal compositions, *Nowell! Christus Natus Est*, commissioned from him by Kevin Mayhew.

Then to two works by Karg-Elert, with first the exquisite miniature *Freu dich sehr*, described by Andrew as 'the calm before the storm', the 'storm' being the very popular *Nun danket Alle Gott*. Next, to Lemare's *Andantino in D flat*, popularised as the tune of the song *Moonlight & Roses*.

Buxtehude's gentle *Nun bitten wir* was followed by Théodore-César Salomé's spritely *Grand Choeur in A*, with its ABA format providing a suitably rousing conclusion to today's recital. TS

### Thomas Trotter recital at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Symphony Hall was the choice of venue for this first Thomas Trotter recital of 2017, opening with J S Bach's *Fantasia in G BWV 572*, otherwise known as *Pièce d'orgue*, reflecting the French influence on Bach in this unique work.

Handle's six organ concertos are works composed for the theatre, not for the church, and they were the first real concert music ever written for the organ. Organ Concerto No 10 in D Minor, Op 7 No 4, comprises *Adagio*, followed by two sparkling *Allegros*, separated by an *Ad Lib*, for which the organist is required to make up a short passage, and which Thomas promised to 'attempt to do', and of course duly did.

Although Gounod lobbied for Widor's appointment at St Sulpice, he never actually wrote any organ music. However, thanks to this W T Best arrangement, we can enjoy Gounod's delightful pastiche *Funeral March of a Marrionette*, which those of us of a certain age will for ever associate with Alfred Hitchcock, being used as the theme for his TV series.

Next followed a work by Widor new to me, entitled *Three pieces from Bach's Memento*, with first *Marche des Veilleurs de Nuit*, employing the tune and chorale of Bach's, *Watchet auf*, followed by *Sicilienne*, from *Flute Sonata in E flat BWV 1031*, then finally *Mattheus-Final*, using the final chorus of the *St Matthew Passion*, but specified as played *fff* by Widor.

The recital ended with one of the great carillons from the French repertoire, *Cloches dans le ciel* from *Paysages Euskariens* by Bonnal, with a lyrical central passage being sandwiched by flashy toccatas. I can't see this rather challenging piece making it to my 'To Learn List!' TS

### Peter Morris recital at Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017

In his introduction to today's programme, Peter delivered some good news in that it has been confirmed that organ recitals at Walsall Town Hall will continue, but the news was somewhat tempered by there not being as many in the series as we've previously enjoyed. So, there will be recitals in February, March and June, and there is the possibility that console screening may reappear at some time in the future.

Peter referred to being very saddened by the death yesterday at the age of 77 yesterday of Rachael Heyhoe Flint, the former England women's cricket captain. She was an enthusiastic Chair of the organ appeal for St Peter's Wolverhampton, where of course Peter is DoM. In memory of her, Peter chose to open his programme with J S Bach's '*All men must die*', the irony of which he thought Rachael, with her wicked sense of humour, would have appreciated!

Peter confessed to taking 'a personal approach' to this recital, featuring four works from a book of miniatures by Douglas Steele (1910-99), who was Assistant Organist at Manchester Cathedral when Peter was a chorister, and then had a career in education at both Chetham's School

of Music and Stockport Grammar School. Peter recalled him as being a gentle man, despite on one occasion rapping Peter over the knuckles for not being able to sing a particular piece. He probably wouldn't resort to that mode of retribution today!

The first of Douglas Steele's works was *Intrada*, providing a jolly opening to the programme, followed by Mendelssohn's *Prelude & Fugue in G*. Next to the second of Douglas Steele's works, *Arioso* premiered in Liverpool Cathedral. John Stanley's four movement *Voluntary No 6* was followed by the third Douglas Steele work, *On the Triad*, then Stanford's *Postlude No 6*, bold and tuneful. The final Douglas Steele work came in the form of the gentle *On Gibbons' Angel Song*.

Then finally the great Sibelius tone poem *Finlandia* enabled Peter to showcase the Town Hall organ, and provided a splendid close to today's recital.

Peter disclosed he had an impending significant birthday, his 70<sup>th</sup>, and to mark the event his wife and daughter are planning a '*Come and Sing*' concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at St Peter's, Wolverhampton, to which all are welcome. Donations in aid of St Peter's organ fund. TS

### Andrew Fletcher recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

The luxury of two recitals at Emmanuel in one month was to accommodate Andrew Fletcher jetting off to sunnier climes with a South African holiday in February.

For today's opening piece, *Festive Intrada* by W Pelz, we were invited to 'take a ride on the Tuba', and indeed this proved to be a stately work with fanfares on the Tuba. The work was new to me, but would certainly make for a very nice entry of the bride.

The gentle *Cloister Garth* by one time Gloucester Cathedral Organist Herbert Brewer was followed by John Stanley's lively *Allegro*. The beautiful *Air In C* by A Somerville was originally written in B flat, but this arrangement in 'C' enables the bottom 'C' in the pedals to be employed, rather than having to jump up an octave to 'B' flat.

Next Stanford's *Postlude on D minor*, as also played by Peter Morris at his Walsall Town Hall recital last week, was described by Andrew as a 'busy little monkey', as indeed the lively work proved to be. Then followed the exquisitely beautiful little piece *Elegiac Prelude* by G Bales.

Andrew was commissioned to play Andrew Millington's *Festival Postlude* at St Stephen's, Bournemouth, Festival last May, where Andrew observed they have a 'Tuba to end all Tubas', and this piece provided a suitably rousing full organ conclusion to today's recital, deploying the Wylde Green Willis Tuba to good effect. TS

### Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017

In his introduction to today's recital, Thomas commented that at his Christmas concert here at the Town Hall, when

playing the last chord of his organ solo, rather alarmingly the blower overheated and cut out! Thankfully the blower has been repaired this morning, although encroaching somewhat on his practice time.

If the general public know any organ work, it's likely to be 'Widor's *Toccata*', but from a musical standpoint, the 1<sup>st</sup> *Movement (Allegro Vivace) of Symphony No 5* is a more demanding and satisfying work, and this provided the opening to today's recital. In the opening quiet passage, a rather loud pedal reed made a brief unwelcome appearance, before being deftly cancelled. Beautifully articulated and registered, bringing out all the many nuances of this superb work.

A collection of six chorales were printed by Johann Schübler in the final years of Bach's life, and thus these transcriptions of arias from Bach's church cantatas have become informally known as '*The Schübler Chorales*'. Three of the six were chosen today to demonstrate solo reeds of the Town Hall organ, with first *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645* using the Conopean as the solo stop, then *Meine Seele erhebt den Herren BWV 648* using the Vox Humana, then finally *Kommst du nun, Jesu BWV 650*, using the 4' Clarion.

Next to two mechanical clock pieces from very different eras, with first Mozart's elegant *Andante for a Mechanical Clock in F K616*, followed by Leroy Anderson's *Syncopated Clock*, described by Thomas as 'first the erratic ticking, then at the end all the springs come out, and the clock goes completely mad - I will register it accordingly!' He did!

Then to a piece new to Thomas, and he thought also to most of his audience, with William Russell's *Voluntary in C, Vol 2 No 2*. Almost forgotten now, but in his day William Russell was a famous musician of Georgian London, and this piece in two movements was one of the very first organ pieces composed by an Englishman to be printed on three staves throughout, with a fully independent pedal part.

Published in 1921, Edwin Lemare's *Camen Suite* is an organ medley of some of the best tunes from Bizet's opera *Carmen*, and provided a suitably rousing close to today's varied recital. TS

## VACANCY

### St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

The organist of St Modwen's, Burton on Trent, is moving to pastures new at Aylestone in Leicester. St Modwen's therefore needs a church musician.

Liturgy is ordered and seemly, preaching is earthy, and people are friendly. The church tradition is central and includes monthly BCP Matins. Remuneration, duties, and opportunities are all negotiable. Concerts are welcomed.

There could also be the opportunity to shape music at St Paul's with its more Catholic tradition. The Vicar is supportive of church music, having been a church musician himself. There is the opportunity to be

imaginative in re-establishing choral and congregational music, in which at first the aim is to do simple things well.

Please contact the Vicar, Stanley Monkhouse, if you're interested: [burton.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:burton.benefice@gmail.com)

## FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

### LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

#### Martyn Rawles

In addition to his Lichfield Cathedral commitments, Martyn is giving a recital on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 12.30 to 1.05pm at St Alban's Cathedral

#### Peter Morris

The Walsall Town Hall 2016/7 series continues generally on the third Thursday of the month. In addition to the recitals at Walsall Town Hall, Peter Morris will be giving the following recitals:

- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 from 1 to 1.40pm at Blackburn Cathedral
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 from 1 to 1.30pm at Coventry Cathedral

#### Mervin Jones – Walsall Town Hall concerts

After organising monthly concerts, and playing the Binns organ, at Darlaston Town Hall for the last 18 years, the concerts have now moved to Walsall Town Hall.

The well-supported concerts are held from 1.30 to 3.30pm on the second Thursday of every month, and include light organ music performed by Mervin, plus guest artists. Light refreshments and raffles.

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

The next lunchtime organ recital, I understand to be entitled '*Mysterious Music*', will be given on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 by Trinity Methodist Church resident organist Pat Neville from 12.45pm to 1.30pm. Bring your sandwiches – hot drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

#### Broadway URC, Walsall Recitals

Not a recital by a member, but rather a series of recitals organised at his church by LDOA member Alan Taylor, noted for his encouragement of talented young organists.

The following 'Coffee & Cake' organ recitals at Broadway URC, Walsall, commencing at 11.15am, are planned for 2017:

- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Nicholas Miller (St John's, Hyde Park)
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Callum Alger (St Peter's Wolverhampton)
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August – Christopher Cipkin (St Anne's, Moseley)

Then on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September, from 7.30 to 8.30pm, Nicholas Morris (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham), will be giving the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Organ Recital.

## Recitals In Local Area (to end of March 2017)

### February 2017

Thurs 2 February • 1:15 to 1:55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

Henry Fairs (Birmingham University)

Sun 5 February • 2:30 • Fentham Hall, Hampton-in-Arden

Alan Berrisford, Michael Carter, Richard Morgan, Gordon Whitehouse

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

Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Tues 7 February • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury

Anthony Pinel (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Sat 11 February • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster

Callum Alger (St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton)

Sun 12 February • 7:15 to 8:05 • Solihull School Chapel

Alexander Woodrow (Solihull School) following Compline, and including *Reubke's Sonata on the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm*

Mon 13 February • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall

Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Wed 15 February • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull

Joshua Xerri (Birmingham Conservatoire)

Thurs 16 February • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall

Peter Morris (Walsall Town Hall)

Sat 18 February • 12:00 to 1:00 • Malvern Priory

Shean Bowers (Bath Abbey)

Sun 19 February • 2:30 to 5:00 • The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Stephen Austin (Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire)

Sat 25 February • 12:00 to 1:10 • Victoria Hall, Hanley

Peter Compton (Organist Emeritus, Royal Hospital School, Holbrook)

Mon 27 February • 1:00 to 2:00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Tues 28 February • 7:30 • St Andrew's, Netherton

Paul Carr (Birmingham)

### March 2017

Thurs 2 March • 1:15 to 1:55 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

Paul Carr (Birmingham)

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

Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Sat 4 March • 7:30 • Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon

Adrian Moore (Holy Trinity, Leamington Spa)

Sun 5 March • 2:30 • Fentham Hall, Hampton-in-Arden

Robert Wolfe

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

Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Mon 6 March • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral

Jonathan Stamp (Norwich Cathedral)

Tues 7 March • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury

Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Sat 11 March • 12:00 to 12:45 • Stoke Minster

Tim Sagar (Newcastle-under-Lyme School)

Sun 12 March • 7:15 to 8:05 • Solihull School chapel

Peter Irving (Solihull School) following Compline, and including *Liszt's Fantasia & Fugue 'Ad Nos'*

Mon 13 March • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall

Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Thurs 16 March • 1:00 to 1:50 • Walsall Town Hall

Peter Morris (Walsall Town Hall)

Frid 17 March • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury

Shaun Turnbull (Blackburn Cathedral)

Sun 19 March • 2:30 to 5:00 • The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Robert Wolfe

Wed 22 March • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull

Gary Cole (Wolverhampton)

Mon 27 March • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall

Raul Prieto Ramirez (Spain)

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 April 2017, with deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/03/17, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA**

## APPENDIX

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



Locator map for Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield

The Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield, private car is accessed from Mill Street (A5127), up Church Hill, the cul-de-sac that runs up by the side of the church grounds. Sat nav B72 1TF.