

# The Organ Club Newsletter

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**MAY 2016**

## **NOTICES**

**July Newsletter contributions:** please email notices by 16th June to Brian Caswell ([newsletter@organclub.org](mailto:newsletter@organclub.org)), or alternatively write to him at 42 Wymondley Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9PR.

**Advertise in the Organ Club Journal!** Giving a recital? Organising a concert? Advertise in the journal! Rates and specifications are available from Kevin Grose at ([journal@organclub.org](mailto:journal@organclub.org)), or alternatively write to him at 330 East 33rd Street 14A, New York, NY 10016, USA.

## **2016 Membership**

I'm still hoping to hear from 31 members whose renewals are now due. If you have not renewed for 2016 then this will be your final mailing. Any queries to me, please (01189 344212) ([membership@organclub.org](mailto:membership@organclub.org)). It is vital that we have your up-to-date contact information, so please keep me informed of any changes.

*Mark Jameson*

## **The Organ Club Tour 2016 – The North-West of England**

### **Saturday 8 to Friday 14 October 2016 inclusive**

You are invited to join us on this tour covering the area between Blackburn and Carlisle. The visits will therefore be in Lancashire and Cumbria with just one visit in Yorkshire. This is an area of great scenic beauty between the Pennines and the sea with a surprising number of very interesting churches and organs. To reduce the travelling times between visits we shall stay in Blackburn Cathedral quarter for five nights, in central Carlisle for one and in Kendal for the last two.

We shall be visiting the cathedrals of Carlisle, Blackburn and Lancaster along with most of the major parish churches in the area as well as Stonyhurst and Giggleswick Schools. An important figure in this area was Lt Col George Dixon and we shall visit several organs influenced by his enlightened ideas at the beginning of the 20th century. The last day will be a tour through the Lake District via Penrith, Greystoke, Keswick and Ambleside. There will be a tour dinner in the Fraternity of Carlisle Cathedral.

For a more detailed itinerary and booking form, please contact Peter Stokes ([pstjstokes@gmail.com](mailto:pstjstokes@gmail.com))(07900 220816) after 10 May. Booking will close on 30 June. The cost per person will be around £550 in a shared room and around £700 in a single room.

## CLUB MEETINGS

### SATURDAY 21 MAY - SOUTHWELL MINSTER

**Church Street, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, NG25 0HD.** This delightful small town is home to the historic Minster and Cathedral of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. It is one of the lesser known Cathedrals, but is well worth visiting. The nave of the Minster is Norman, and has distinctive roofed twin towers at the west end; the Quire is Early English.

Member PAUL HALE, the Rector Chori (the ancient title of Organist and Choirmaster), retires this summer after being there for 27 years. Paul was responsible for the design of the two large organs there: (i) the 3 manual 44 stop nave organ using Binns pipework, installed by Wood of Huddersfield in 1992 in the South Triforium - GREAT 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 4 2.2/3 2 IV III 8 4 SWELL 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 2 II III 16 8 8 4 SOLO (unencl) 8 Tuba 8 Clarion 4 PEDAL 32 16 16 16 8 8 4 4 32 16 8; (ii) the 4 manual 51 stop Screen organ with tracker action built by Nicholson in 1996, and incorporating some pipework by Nicholson 1868 - GREAT 16 8 8 8 4 4 2 IV III 8 SWELL 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 II III IV 16 8 8 4 CHOIR (enc) 8 8 8 4 4 2.2/3 2 2 1.3/5 1.1/3 III 8 8 SOLO (unencl) 4 V Bombarde 8 PEDAL 32 16 16 16 8 8 4 IV 32 16 16.

There is also a chamber organ in the Nave, a box organ in the Quire, and a 2 manual organ in the song room.

**Itinerary:** a coach will leave **Newark Northgate Station** at approx 1030. Paul will welcome us, and there will be coffee and biscuits in the South Transept from 1100. At 1130 we will have a short tour of the restored Archbishop's Palace and Music department, and the small organ in the song room. At 1230 lunch will be served in the State Chamber for those who have booked (vegetarian quiche and salad; Bramley apple pie and cream - Southwell is the home of the Bramley apple; tea/coffee; £13). Paul will demonstrate the four organs in the cathedral, including recitals on both large organs. Members will be able to play both organs. There will be time to look in the Cathedral shop to buy the book about the organ, and CDs of the organs and the choir.

There will be tea in the South Transept at 1615. At 1700 there is an open choir rehearsal in the Quire followed by Choral Evensong ("with plenty of organ", Paul said) at 1745. The organ will be played by Simon Hogan (Assistant Director of Music), who will play a big voluntary. The coach will leave Southwell at 1910 to catch the train from Newark at 2001.

**Trains:** the 0903 train from Kings Cross arrives at Newark Northgate at 1026. The return train departs at 2001, arriving at Kings Cross at 2129.

**Bookings for coach and/or lunch:** Please contact Eric Shepherd ([eric@shepherd0001.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:eric@shepherd0001.fsnet.co.uk))(020 8958 2461) **by Monday 16 May.**

## **MONDAY 13 JUNE at 1900 - WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL**

We are fortunate to visit this fine Byzantine style Roman Catholic Cathedral, with its famous Willis organ. Peter Stevens, the Assistant Director of Music, will demonstrate the organ, after which a few members will be able to play.

The organ was built by Willis in 1922, and enlarged in stages, being completed in 1933. There are 4 manuals and 78 speaking stops. It was rebuilt in 1985 by Harrison & Harrison.

We will meet Peter Stevens at the **Clergy House, 42 Francis Street, SW1P 1QW** at **1900**. Please make sure that you are there before time as late-comers will be unable to gain access.

**Booking:** Please contact Eric Shepherd (*eric@shepherd0001.fsnet.co.uk*)(020 8958 2461) **by Thursday 9 June.**

## **SATURDAY 18 & SUNDAY 19 JUNE - WEST SOMERSET**

**Will members who have previously expressed interest in this visit please reconfirm their intentions.**

Members may join this mini-tour for either or both days. Members staying overnight on Saturday must make their own arrangements for accommodation and be able to get to the centre of either Wiveliscombe or Taunton on Sunday should they wish to be picked up for transport. Members who would like to stay at the White Hart in Wiveliscombe should contact Dennis asap.

### **Saturday 18 June**

**1015 Wiveliscombe** Vintage single deck coach, capacity 35, departs.

**1100** The coach collects members at **Taunton Railway Station** (exit on platform 2, south side). NB. 2 car parks, one on each side of the station.

**1115 The Unitarian Chapel, Mary Street, Taunton TA1 3PE**  
Osmond (1912) 2P16

**1245-1330** Time for lunch

**1330** Board the coach for the journey to Brompton Regis.

**1430 The Blessed Virgin Mary, Brompton Regis, TA22 9NN**  
T C Lewis (1872) 2P13

**1600** Board the coach for journey to Wiveliscombe.

**1630 St Andrews Church, Wiveliscombe, Church Street, TA4 2LT**  
Mainly Osmond and Deane Organ Builders 2P41

**1745** The coach will take members who are leaving to Taunton Railway Station. Those who stay will have time for refreshments.

**1930** Organ recital in St Andrews by Sebastian Thomson with a programme for organists. There is no charge for attendance at this recital and it is open to the public. After the recital, the coach will again travel to Taunton.

**Sunday 19 June** The morning is free. Some members may wish to travel to Minehead on The West Somerset Railway, others to swim in the Wiveliscombe outdoor heated pool. Those who wish to travel on the steam train will be collected by coach, first in Wiveliscombe at 0900, and later at Taunton railway station at 0930 (next to platform 2, south side) in time to catch the 1025 steam train from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead. The coach will then collect members at 1300 in Minehead and travel to West Buckland. Members who are not taking the steam train must make their own way to West Buckland. I can advise on travel arrangements if notified at least a week in advance.

**1400 The Blessed Virgin Mary, West Buckland, TA21 9LZ**  
Gern (c1870) 2P10

**1530** Board coach to Taunton

**1600 St John the Evangelist, Taunton, TA1 4DG**  
Willis (1864) 3P36

The coach will then travel via Taunton Rail Station to Wiveliscombe.

**Charges:** on Saturday the charge for the coach and meeting is £20 (meeting £5, coach £15), for cardrivers/passengers £10 (meeting £5 + £5 towards coach), meeting only £5. On Sunday the charge for the coach and meeting will be £15; cars and meeting £10; meeting only £5. For those taking the steam train journey, the ticket price is £10 each (please note that a steam train is scheduled but not guaranteed).

**Booking (visits, coach, train):** Dennis Scotter ([dgscotter@gmail.com](mailto:dgscotter@gmail.com))(07842 418611). All bookings will be confirmed. Cheques (payable "Organ Club") can be sent to the Treasurer or to Dennis, or can be paid at the meeting.

**Travel:** on Saturday the 0906 from Paddington arrives Taunton 1048; there are frequent services from Bristol, e.g. 1020 arrives Taunton 1100. Return trains to Paddington leave at 1832, 1926, 2042 and the last at 2114. On Sunday, few trains arrive Taunton in time for the coach pickup. Return trains to Paddington leave 1746, 1834, and 1916; to Bristol at 1818 and 1850.

On Saturday, First Group bus service 25 runs hourly between Taunton and Wiveliscombe. Sunday services have been discontinued.

## **SATURDAY 16 JULY - CANTERBURY**

We visit St Peter's Methodist Church (1811), St Mildred's Church and the Cathedral. Full details in the July Newsletter, but please note that bookings must be made by phoning Alison Garrett (01227 456376) **by Sat 2 July.**

## **SATURDAY 20 AUGUST - STOKE-ON-TRENT**

Our visit includes Hanley Victoria Hall and we hope Stoke Minster. Members travelling from London may wish to book train tickets when available:

Euston 0900 arr SOT 1024; return SOT 1849 arr Euston 2034.