

The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 124

January 2025

1. NOTICES

A tempting invitation from immediate Past President Paul Hale:

Happy New Year, everyone!

I'd be pleased to hear from any Club members who would be interested in a mini-tour of significant Norfolk organs from Tuesday 10th June to Saturday 14th June, on which day the Club is already planning to meet at Norwich cathedral.

Andrew Stevens, Richard Bower and local organ expert Dr Andrew Hayden have helpfully expanded my knowledge of the most interesting organs we could fit into four days, using our own cars, as we did so successfully on the Isle of Wight.

We would be based in Norwich, staying at one of the three Norwich Premier Inns, probably the 'Norwich Nelson City Centre' one, as it's the cheapest and the only one to have free on-site parking (a room there for the 4 nights we need is currently advertised at £368; staying on to Sunday 15th would cost a further £150).

If sufficient members email me at PaulHale@diaphone.clara.net by the end of January, I will get on and arrange it, aiming to confirm by the end of February whether or not it will take place.

We also need sufficient drivers to host those who use the train, so please offer if you can.

Do come and join me for another of our jolly trips!

Best wishes, Paul.

Membership Issues

I am very grateful to Ian Miles for his sterling work producing all three 2024 Journals in a much shorter period than is normal [distribution of OCJ2024/3 started about 12 December]. John Belling continues getting Newsletters and other announcements/ vital reminders circulated – very essential for busy lives! So, all items due under your 2024 subscription have now been dispatched.

RENEWAL DATE is **first working** day of January [UK 2025 - Friday 3rd January]. Renewal required to be completed by 31st March, i.e. Month end after the AGM. It does not allow us to financially plan events if members dally with renewals. Late payment may mean you are removed from the distribution lists.

Renewal time is also the time to update your e-mail and telephone contacts. I deal with the mailing lists – so it is **VITAL all changes of information are sent directly to me**, and not any other officer.

YOUR existing membership number appears on the Journal and posted newsletters envelope, numbers starting **5xxx or 8xxx - no renewal needed**.

The UK membership rate for 2025 is unchanged since 2015 [Ordinary rate UK £30, Young members UK £12]. For those living outside of the UK Royal Mail delivery area [Ordinary £40, Young £22], payment must be in GB pounds, international banking fees plus currency variations must be allowed for in your payment [<https://www.xe.com/send-money/rates> : US\$ 57, AUD\$88, €53 just about covers £40 (in December 2024)]. Under-payment due to exchange factors will not be accepted. Non-£-sterling cheques are no longer allowed by the UK banks. If you follow the system used for your previous renewal, I know what to keep an eye open for.

Joint membership [UK]: Member £30. Each additional adult at the same address £15. Each young member: NO discount as the rate already subsidised by full rate payers.

If you are able to enrol another member, then a one-off discount of £5 for the year's payment is permitted, but the person enrolled must be shown clearly on the renewal form - or in an e-mail to me for electronic payments.

Any member wishing to renew for two years may do so, simply double your payment - but please advise or show on the renewal form that follows.

As we all know the postal rates are going up rapidly, so if you can receive Newsletters by e-mail, please do so.

I do have very limited stocks of past Journals should your copy arrived damaged by the post office – or you have lost your copy. It is going to be necessary to clear my stocks of Journals [and the unsold CDs] urgently as we are to have some work done on my home.

Mark Jameson (Membership Secretary)

2025 MEMBERSHIP

Please use this form – or a photocopy – to renew your membership.



UK ADULT	£30	UK YOUNG§	£12	JOINT ADULT Member £15[Discount 50%] JOINT JUNIOR-£12 EACH	DONATIONS: £:
OUTSIDE UK Postal area ADULT	£40	OUTSIDE UK Postal area YOUNG	£22	<i>If more than one young person, £12 pp applies. For the Competition: rates on the application form, per person</i>	TOTAL: £

§ At 1/1/25: All to 18 years, up to 30 years if still in full time unwaged education or in an apprenticeship [not just music]

If you gained the Club a new member during 2024, please identify who. A single discount of £5 can reduce your payment.

Your Surname PRINT PLEASE	Title	
First Name		
E-mail: PRINT PLEASE		
Telephone/s:		
Name of Joint member/s at the same address		
Your postal address including post code:		

GDPR rules: I provide the mailing lists for both printed & e-mail Newsletters, and for the Journal. If a printed Newsletter or Journal is damaged/missing contact me. All membership matters should be directed to the Membership Secretary. Contacting other officers only delays response, and breaches confidentiality.

ELECTRONIC BANKING [Preferred]:

Reference: Your Surname & Postcode/ZIP

Amount: *the sum you are paying*

Account name: The Organ Club

Account sort code: 20-31-52 **Account number:** 00655171

INTERNATIONAL: SWIFT: BUKBGB22 IBAN: GB27 BUKB 2031 5200 6551 71

May I suggest use of <https://wise.com> – if you do not have access to a £GBP account. It is essential that we receive the correct sum with overseas payments. All currency exchange costs/fees are the responsibility of the member making the payment.

CHEQUES: please put your postcode on the back and send to:

THE ORGAN CLUB c/o Mark Jameson, 92 The Hawthorns, CHARVIL, Reading RG10 9TS

My contact for membership purposes: e-mail markmdjameson@gmail.com 07802 715634

Thank you for renewing

Mark Jameson, Hon Membership Secretary

London Organ Competition 2024 Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 London Organ Competition, held at St Michael's Cornhill, on December 27th and 28th.

Junior Section (Judges – Paul Hale & Jeremiah Stephenson):

Junior & Varney Cup Winner: Gavin Phelps

Runner Up: Chamberlain Ofosu

Senior Section (Judges – James Parsons & Jonathan Rennert):

Senior & Miley Cup Winner: Pascal Bachmann

Joint Runners Up: Jukka Geisler & Gergő Kiss

Congratulations to all the prize-winners, and indeed to all the performers, for their fine musicianship, and we wish them every success in their future careers. A full report, including competitors' programmes, will appear in the next Organ Club Journal.

Organ specification leaflets – a request from Paul Hale

I have been collecting these for many years and am now finding them exceptionally useful when researching organ-builders and organs, which occupies much of my time these days! However, I do of course have gaps in my collection, several of which it would be useful to plug.

If any Club members have collections of organ-builders' leaflets which they might be considering what to do with, I would be very grateful to add them to my archive (refunding postage, naturally), which will be well used, and in due course will be preserved in its entirety and made available for researchers in the future.

You can email me at PaulHale@diaphone.clara.net if you feel so inclined.

Organ composer/performer anniversaries 2025

I am very grateful to Organ Club member, Bruce Davis, for supplying this comprehensive list of anniversaries:

Denis Bedard	1950 -
Georges Bizet	- 1875
Enrico Bossi	- 1925
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor	1875 -
Henry Cutler	1825 -
James Reginald Dixon	- 1975
(not the Blackpool Tower Ballroom organist)	
Orlando Gibbons	- 1625
Eugene Gigout	- 1925

Norman Gilbert	- 1975
Harold Jeboult	- 1925
Albert Ketelbey	1875 -
Matthieu Lanes	- 1725
Easthope Martin	- 1925
Anthoni van Noordt	- 1675
Rev Sir Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley	1825 -
Maurice Ravel	1875 -
Theodore Ripper	1925 -
Cyril Rootham	1875 -
Erik Satie	- 1925
Alessandro Scarlatti	- 1725
Albert Schmutz	- 1975
Dmitri Shostakovich	- 1975
Johann Strauss II	1825 -
Eric Thiman	- 1975
Charles Waters	- 1975

Organ Club member Michael Harris is awarded an MBE for Services to Music in the New Year Honours List

Congratulations to Michael Harris (Organist and Master of Music at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh and International Organist) from the Organ Club Committee!

March 2025 Newsletter contributions

Please email notices by February 20th at the latest to John Belling, Organ Club newsletter editor, at newsletter@organclub.org.

John Belling (Newsletter Editor)

2. CLUB MEETINGS

Saturday January 25th 2025: Bloomsbury Organ Day

The Bloomsbury Organ Day takes place at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8EP on Saturday January 25th 2025.

12:00: Light refreshments.

12:30-17:00. Philip Norman, George Allan and Bruce Buchanan will give presentations, plus two ½ hour organ recitals given by Ben Collyer and Evan Lawrence, and a short violin and piano recital given by Ben and Evan.

Entry is free up to 17:00.

17:00: The Bloomsbury Buffet, cost £6.

18:00: Celebrity Recital given by David Briggs, cost £10.

19:30: End

Throughout the afternoon, it will be possible to purchase organ-related music and CDs and there will be good time to meet each other and exchange news and views.

Further details, including an online registration form, can be found at: <https://organistsonline.org/bloomsbury/introduction.html> . A poster is shown below giving an outline programme for the day. Don't forget to register for the free session, and optionally for the buffet and celebrity recital.

Saturday February 15th 2025: Caterham, Surrey

This interesting visit is organised by our President, John Varney.

10:30 St. John the Evangelist Church Caterham. Surrey.

I have invited Gavin Phelps, the junior winner at the recent competition to play a short recital and then present the Junior Cup which I was unable to do in London owing to illness.

Members then will have the opportunity to play.

12:30 Buffet Lunch in the church hall with guest speaker Peter Wright formerly Organist Southwark Cathedral.

14:15 to 15:45 St. Mary's Church Caterham on the Hill

16:00 to 17:00 St. Paul's Church Woldingham

Travel: trains from London Bridge or Victoria (change at East Croydon to Caterham).

St. John's is 2 - 3 minutes' walk from the station.

St. Mary's is up the hill: those fit enough could walk or car share or taxi.

There is virtually no parking at either the church or church hall - Morrisons car park around the corner has a 3 hour limit, the Waitrose/Apcoa car park fee is £6.60 (station car park levels 2 & 3 129 spaces).

St. Paul's Woldingham is about a 10-minute drive from St. Mary's.

Again, car sharing or taxi is an option.

Meeting Charge: £20 including lunch.

Bookings to John Varney by February 1st and certainly no later than February 8th as the lunch caterers need to know numbers to prepare.

Telephone 01483 574326 . email jvarneyguildford@icloud.com .

Saturday March 15th 2025: AGM & celebrity recital by Thomas Trotter, St Margaret's Church, Westminster

The doors to the church will be opened to members of The Organ Club from 1.30pm, and the Annual General Meeting will be held at **2.00pm**.

The very special recital by Thomas Trotter will begin at **3.30pm**. You are welcome to invite non-member guests to the recital.

Members will be asked to contribute £10 towards the staffing and security costs, and non-members will be requested to pay £15.

We anticipate a good turnout for the recital, so you are advised to make sure that you arrive in good time. Advanced booking is not necessary.

In the Pipeline

The following visits are planned; full details will be given nearer to the time. Please note them in your diary! But could be subject to change.

Saturday April 26th 2025: Guards' Chapel & Westminster Chapel

10:30 for 11:00: The Royal Military Chapel (Guards' Chapel), Wellington Barracks (near St James's Park and Victoria stations). The Director of Music, Martin Ford, will talk about this iconic new organ (3m/40, Harrisons, opened 2024) and give a short recital. There will be time for a few members to play.

1:15 for 1:30: Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate (4m/1878 Willis/1982 Rushworth). This is an imposing instrument, whose magnificent case in the gallery dominates the 'east end' of the building. The organ curator, Ann Mitchell, is looking forward to our visit.

You will be asked to pay £10 for the whole (or part) of the day. Advanced booking is not necessary.

Saturday May 17th 2025: Two Royal Chapels

We begin in Windsor Great Park, in the Royal Family's private Chapel of All Saints' (2m Lewis, rebuilt 2024 by Nicholson). This building is not accessible to the public. We are privileged to have been invited by Canon Martin Poll (Chaplain to The King) and the Director of Music (Richard Furstenheim).

The second visit of the day will be to Hampton Court Palace Chapel (1690 Father Smith, Hill, Walker, 2013 Harrisons), where the Director of Music and Club member, Carl Jackson MVO, will welcome our party.

At both venues, members will be welcome to play the organs.

Full details in the next Newsletter. You will need to book in advance, and to provide ID on the day. As part of the security restrictions, we shall travel by coach as a party.

REMEMBER TO RESERVE ANOTHER SPECIAL DATE IN YOUR DIARY!
Saturday September 27th 2025

THE LAUNCH LUNCH will usher in our Centenary Celebrations. It will take place in a Livery Hall in the City of London, and will be followed by Choral Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral.

Details will follow in future Newsletters.

3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA

Tuesdays at 12:30 Ian Shaw (St Mary Abchurch)

Admission free – refreshments available

Methodist Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, London SW1H 9NH

Organ Matinees 2025, Sundays at 15:00

Jan 19th 15:00 Gerard Brooks (Methodist Central Hall, Westminster)

followed by opportunity to play the organ (RCO Play the Organ Year 2025 launch concert)

Feb 16th 15:00 Joshua Simões (Chapel Royal, Hampton Court)

Mar 16th 15:00 Ben Bloor (London Oratory)

Apr 27th 15:00 Paul Hale (Past President, Organ Club)

Admission free, retiring collection.

St Nicolas Church, West Mills, Newbury, RG14 5HG

Jan 9th 13:10 John Halsey (Windsor Parish Church)

Feb 13th 13:10 Andrew Brown (St George's Preshute, Marlborough)

Mar 13th 13:10 Chris Totney (St Benet Fink Church, Tottenham)

Admission free, retiring collection.

St Lawrence Church, Alton, GU34 2BW

Jan 7th 20:00 Roger Sayer (International Concert Organist)

Feb 4th 20:00 George Herbert (New College, Oxford)

Mar 4th 20:00 Tim Ravalde (Chichester Cathedral)

Admission: £10.00 at the door, or season membership available.

<https://altonorgansociety.co.uk/styled-27/>

Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1Q

Lunchtime series: MONDAYS at 13:00

Jan 13th 13:00 Ian Hockley (London)

Mar 3rd 13:00 Benjamin Chewter (Metropolitan Tabernacle, London)

May 12th 13:00 Callum Alger (Wolverhampton)

Admission: tickets £5 online, £6 card only at the door.

Ring 01189 960 6060 to book, or online at READING ARTS, or quick link:

<https://whatsonreading.com/venues/town-hall/whats-on/lunchtime-organ-recital-january-2025>

The PANTRY CAFE & KITCHEN will be open from 11:30 before the recital.

NB: London area members – you can use your Freedom Pass to travel between London Paddington and Reading on the Elizabeth line, for FREE!

Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, Mayfair, London W1K 2PA

Jan 7th 13:10 Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)

Admission free (retiring collection)

St George's, Hanover Square, St George's Street, London W1S 1FX

Jan 28th 13:10 Freddie James (Franziskanerkirche, Lucerne)

Admission free (retiring collection)

Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1YG

Jan 3rd 13:00 Charles Wooler (Newcastle upon Tyne)

Feb 7th 13:00 Anthony Gritten (Royal Academy of Music)

Mar 7th 13:00 Terence Atkins (Barnet Parish Church)

Admission free (retiring collection)

Hereford Cathedral HR1 2NG

Feb 1st 21:00 Peter Dyke (Hereford Cathedral)

Biennial performance of Messiaen's La Nativité

Admission £5

St Michael's, Cornhill, St Michael's Alley, EC3V 9DS

Jan 6th 13:00 Benjamin Collyer (St Michael's Cornhill)

Jan 13th 13:00 Jonathan Rennert (Organ Club President-Elect)

Jan 20th 13:00 Robert Jones (St Bride's, Fleet Street)

Jan 27th 13:00 Sam Barber (Christ Church, Kensington and Brentwood School)

Feb 3rd 13:00 Ben Cunnigham (Asst DoM Winchester College)

Feb 10th 13:00 Philip Berg (The King's Chapel of the Savoy)

Feb 17th 13:00 D'Arcy Trinkwon (International Concert Organist)

Feb 24th 13:00 Benjamin Collyer (St Michael's Cornhill)

Mar 3rd 13:00 Richard Moore (Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford)

Admission free (retiring collection)

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue WC2H 8EP

All recitals free with retiring collection, followed at 5pm by a light buffet.

Feb 22nd 16:00 Darius Battiwalla (Leeds City Organist)

Mar 29th 16:00 Thomas Allery (St Mary-le-Bow and
Temple Church, London)

Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA

Jan 5th 17:00 Paul Greally (Westminster Abbey)

Jan 12th 17:00 Arturo Barba (Valencia, Spain)

Jan 19th 17:00 Alessandro Chiantoni (Italy)

Jan 26th 17:00 Matthew Jorysz (Westminster Abbey)

Feb 2nd 17:00 Sarah MacDonald (Canada)

Feb 9th 17:00 Stefan Donner (Vienna, Austria)

Feb 16th 17:00 Paul Greally (Westminster Abbey)

Admission free

St Dominic's Priory (The Rosary Shrine), London, NW5 4LB

Jan 11th 19:00 Martin Stacey (St Dominic's Priory)

Admission free (retiring collection)

Christchurch Priory, Dorset BH23 1BU

Mar 20th 12:30 Paul Hale (Past President, Organ Club)

Admission free (retiring collection)

Welsh Church of Central London, Eastcastle Street, W1W 8DJ

Glyn Lang Memorial Series

Jan 15th 13:05 Stephen Disley (Former Sub Organist Southwark Cathedral)

Feb 19th 13:05 Alexander Wilson (St Georges Cathedral, Southwark)

Mar 19th 13:05 Oliver King (St Mary's, Saffron Walden)

Apr 16th 13:05 James Andrews (RAM & Royal Hospital Chelsea)

Admission free, retiring collection.



St John's Church, Ranmoor

Organ Recitals 2024-25

All recitals begin at 8pm

FREE entry with a retiring
collection towards the
maintenance of the organ.

3rd October

Andrew Kirk

(Bristol)

7th November

Philip Collin

(St John's, Ranmoor)

5th December

Peter Heginbotham

(St John's, Ranmoor)

9th January

Peter Siepmann

(St Peter's, Nottingham)

6th February

Derek Grover

(St John's, Ranmoor)

6th March

James Mitchell

(Sheffield Cathedral)

1st May

Oliver King

(St Mary's, Saffron Walden)

5th June

Julian Gunn

(St John's, Ranmoor)

HOLD THE DATES: 2025 Organ Concerts at St John the Evangelist, Islington

Four exciting organ recitals have been scheduled to take place at St John the Evangelist, Islington in 2025.

Pencil the dates in your diary. There'll be more information to follow.

Saturday 31 May **Johannes Skoog** (1st prize winner, Montreal Organ Competition, May 31st)

Saturday 28 June, **Gary Sieling**

Saturday 26 July, **James McVinnie**

Saturday 27 September, **Katelyn Emerson**

You can read more about these and other concerts at: [islingtonchurchconcerts.org](https://www.islingtonchurchconcerts.org)



Warmly,

The Islington Church Concerts Team

*** Visit the Club's website: www.organclub.org

*** Follow the Club on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheOrganClub