

# The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 118

January 2024

## 1. NOTICES

First of all, on behalf of the committee, I would like to wish all members a very **Happy New Year!**

We get off to a cracking start with the news that we shall enjoy not one, but TWO short tours this year. The first, as previously announced, is the tour to South Devon, to include Buckfast Abbey, May 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2024, organised by Past-President Eric Shepherd (see §2 of this newsletter).

I am delighted to announce that the second tour is to the Isle of Wight, September 12<sup>th</sup> (PM) to 16<sup>th</sup> (after breakfast). Further details will be announced in due course, but please note the dates in your diary!

### London Organ Competition 2023 Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 London Organ Competition, held at St Clement Danes, on December 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Junior Section:

##### 1st Prize: Pascal Georges

Trio Sonata 1: 1st Mvmt - J S Bach

Sonata 5: Mvmts 2 & 3 - F Mendelssohn

##### 2nd Prize: Gavin Phelps

Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 545 - J S Bach

Sonata 2: 3rd Mvmt - Hindemith

#### Senior Section:

##### 1st Prize: Timothy Stewart (longer term OCSO member)

*Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele* BWV 654 - J S Bach

Symphony 6: Final - L Vierne

##### 2nd Prize: Adam Chillingworth

Concerto in d (after Vivaldi) BWV 596 - J S Bach

O Antiphons Sequence: 1 *O Sapientia*, 2 *O Adnai* - Cecilia McDowall

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.

## Royal Festival Hall Organ at 70

This year at the South Bank, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first performance on the RFH organ will be celebrated with a special series of events: go to <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/classical-season/royal-festival-hall-organ-70?> for full details. I have included a poster which summarises the events, near the end of this newsletter.

## 2024 Membership

I am pleased to advise that membership rates for the 2024 calendar year are unchanged - £30 standard membership and £12 for young members (Young: at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 all up to 18 years, and those in full time study or apprenticeships up to 30 years).

Your membership number appears on the envelope label for The Journal, and on posted Newsletters. If the number starts with either a "22" or "23" then renewal is due in the period 2<sup>nd</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March (See Constitution, item 3d & 3f).

**The renewal form is on the back page of this Newsletter [printed copies] or as click attachment with the electronic mailing.**

My thanks to the large number of members who renew electronically.

Membership reference numbers starting with 4xxx, 5xxx or 8xxx are "paid" – but please do check that we have your postal address correct.

With the changes to digital telephones, please ensure we do have your latest information. Resending items is very expensive. **ALL** changes to me please. The Newsletter is sent out as standard by electronic means – Mailchimp – please ensure your computer [particularly if you have a Company or School based e-mail address] recognizes THE ORGAN CLUB.

The Newsletter can always be found on our website. If you do not have e-mail or are unable to print, a printed issue is available. On-line & e-mail versions are regularly updated so please keep an eye on the Club's web site.

My contact details are shown on page 3 of each Journal; my e-mail for ALL correspondence is [markmdjameson@btinternet.com](mailto:markmdjameson@btinternet.com); my phone **07802 715634** [SMS or text, please do not use voicemail].

*Mark Jameson (Membership Secretary)*

## Organ composer/performer anniversaries 2024

I have noted the following century anniversaries for 2024 – surprisingly few:

Josef Anton Bruckner	1824 - 1896
Charles Villiers Stanford	1852 - 1924
Gabriel Fauré	1845 - 1924

## March 2024 Newsletter contributions

Please email notices by February 16<sup>th</sup> at the latest to John Belling, Organ Club newsletter editor, at [newsletter@organclub.org](mailto:newsletter@organclub.org).

*John Belling (Newsletter Editor)*

## 2. CLUB MEETINGS

### **Saturday January 27th 2024: Bloomsbury Organ Day**

The Bloomsbury Organ Day takes place at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8EP on Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2024, 12:30-19:15.

Paul Hale, Bruce Buchanan and Will Fraser will give presentations, and there will be three ½ hour organ recitals during the afternoon.

Entry is free up to 17:00: there is an **afternoon buffet**, 17:00 – 18:00 at £6, and a charge of £10 for the **celebrity recital** at 18:00 – 19:15, given by Katelyn Emerson (USA).

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 17th 2024: visit to Guildford**

A morning visit to St Nicolas, followed by a masterclass with Daniel Moult in the afternoon, at the United Reform Church.

10:00 for 10:30: St. Nicolas Church, Guildford

Our President Paul Hale will talk about the Father Willis Organ, at present in a very sorry state and hopes for its restoration. Members will have the opportunity to play.

John Varney will also give a short piano recital on the recently acquired wonderful grand piano.

It is hoped to arrange a lunch at the church hall. Details tbc.

14:00: Guildford United Reformed Church (Organist Gillian Lloyd)

Master Class for young members given by Daniel Moult.

Members will also have the opportunity to play.

**Bookings** to John Varney, email: [jvarneyguildford@icloud.com](mailto:jvarneyguildford@icloud.com),  
Tel: 01483 574326, by February 3<sup>rd</sup> please.

**Meeting charge** is £5 plus cost of lunch tbc.

**Travel:** there is good train service from London Waterloo to Guildford. St. Nicolas church is approx. 5 minutes' walk down towards the river. There is no parking facility at the church but a park opposite the church subject to availability. The URC Church is a short walk up the Portsmouth Road from St. Nicolas Church.

## **Saturday March 16th 2024: AGM at St Peter's, Nottingham**

This year, the Organ Club AGM moves out of London to a venue that is home to an historic and interesting instrument – the hybrid pipe-and-electronic organ in **St Peter's Church, Nottingham**. President **Paul Hale**, who was a prime mover in its conception and design, has agreed to demonstrate its qualities by providing the Annual recital, after which he will go on to orchestrate the AGM proceedings – a busy day for him!

### Programme for the Day

- 13:00 Arrival
- 13:30 Recital by Paul Hale, President
- 14:30 Annual General Meeting
- 15:45 (approx.) Tea and Cakes

Full details including travel suggestions will be sent to all members nearer to the time.

## **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 20th 2024: Greater London Area**

Further details will be published in the March newsletter.

## **May 9th – 12th 2024: Short Tour to South Devon, including Buckfast Abbey**

### Note from organiser Eric Shepherd:

The long-awaited visit to hear the two Ruffatti organs in Buckfast Abbey has now been arranged for May 2024. The Abbey is a busy place, and I have been trying to book a visit each year since 2020. The only day that we can have the organ to ourselves for two and a half hours is on Saturday evening 11th May 2024 from 7 – 9:30pm. We will be hosted by David Davies who is the organist there and who has kindly gone to a lot of trouble to make the arrangements for our visit. The provisional arrangements for the tour are as follows:

### Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>

13:30: arrive at Newton Abbot and meet at the station.

14:30: St Peter & St Paul Teigngrace.

2 manual 12 stops, possibly by James Davis 1781, rebuilt 1885 George Hawkins.

16:00 (approx.): St Andrew's Ashburton (to be confirmed), 3 manual Father Willis rebuilt Percy Daniel 1981, Michael Farley.

Arrive at Buckfast.

Buckfast Abbey has a 30 room 3-star hotel called Northgate House Hotel in the grounds of the Abbey. If you want to stay there, you must book straight away before it becomes unavailable.

They offer bed & breakfast, and the cost of a double or twin room is about £110 per night. Single occupancy is £100 per night.

There are also self-catering cottages to rent. Call 01364 645630 to book Northgate House Hotel or self-catering cottages, or look up Buckfast Abbey website [www.buckfast.org.uk](http://www.buckfast.org.uk).

A short distance from the Abbey is The Abbey Inn (not connected to Buckfast Abbey), a 3-star hotel which offers Bed & Breakfast, tel 01364 642343, 30 Buckfast Road, Buckfast, Buckfastleigh. TQ11 0EA.

Bookings can be made on various hotel booking websites and prices vary now from £63-£75 per night, breakfast is extra.

### Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>

A day in Torquay.

11:30: St John the Apostle, above the Harbour Hill, Walker, Deane, Michael Farley - 3 manual 47 stops.

Time for lunch in the town.

14:30 (approx): St Matthias, Wellswood, Torquay (to be confirmed)  
Hill, Rushworth & Dreaper, Nicholson - 3 manual 42 stops.

16:00: St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, Torquay.  
Harrison, Greaves, Derry Thompson, Michael Farley - 4 manuals.

### Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>

South Devon Steam Railway from Buckfastleigh to Totnes

11:30: St Mary's Priory Totnes.  
Father Willis 1861, last restored by William Drake 1988. 3 manual 31 stops.

Break for lunch in the town.

14:30: St John's Church Bridgetown, Totnes.  
William Drake 1983. 2 manual 22 stops.

Return trip from Totnes to Buckfastleigh on South Devon Steam Railway.

19:00: evening visit to Buckfast Abbey - demonstration of organs by David Davies and long playing session.

Organ by Fratelli Ruffatti of Padua, Italy, built 2017-18.

Quire Organ 4 manual 72 stops. West Gallery organ 27 stops.

Moveable 4 manual console in Quire, and 4 manual West Gallery console.  
Both organs are playable from each console.

### Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>

11:00: Buckfast Abbey: sung Mass by the excellent professional choir with organ.

Lunch including Carvery Lunch, in the Grange Restaurant, Buckfast Abbey. Needs to be pre booked.

Approx. 14:30: St Mary's Church, Abbotsbury, Newton Abbot.  
Hele 1923, Michael Farley 1994 - 3 manual 38 stops.

Approx 15:45pm: return to Newton Abbot station.

Coach transport for Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Please book at a hotel soon to avoid disappointment and please send me an email to let me know if you wish to take part on the tour at [bcshepherdandsons@gmail.com](mailto:bcshepherdandsons@gmail.com) .

### **Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024: Central London**

To include St George's Hanover Square and Handel House

### **Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>: Bournemouth Area**

To include Christchurch Priory

### **3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS**

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

##### Glyn Lang Memorial Series

- Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 13:05 Alexander Wilson (St Cyprian's, Clarence Gate, NW1)  
Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 13:05 Dr Christopher Maxim (London)  
Mar 20<sup>th</sup> 13:05 James Gough (Southwark Cathedral)  
Apr 17<sup>th</sup> 13:05 Andrew Furniss (Westminster Central Hall)  
May 15<sup>th</sup> 13:05 Christopher Saward (Church of the Annunciation,  
Marble Arch, W1)  
Jun 19<sup>th</sup> 13:05 Andrew Caskie (M.D. Nicholson & Co. and Malvern Priory)

#### **Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH**

##### Lunchtime series: MONDAYS at 13:00

- Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Andrew Reid (Little St Mary's, Cambridge)  
Mar 4<sup>th</sup> Katelyn Emerson (Boston, USA)

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/concert-hall/whats-on/lunchtime-organ-recital-january-2024>.

NB: London area members - remember using the TFL service from London Paddington your senior TFL pass allows you travel on the CROSSRAIL service (almost all stations) and takes around an hour - but it's **FREE!**

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

##### Organ Matinees 2024, Sundays at 15:00

- Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 15:00 Andrew Furniss (Westminster Central Hall)  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 15:00 James Orford (St Paul's, Knightsbridge, London)  
Mar 17<sup>th</sup> 15:00 Francesca Massey (International Concert Organist)  
Admission free, retiring collection.

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

- Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 13:10 John Halsey (Windsor Parish Church)  
Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Gillian Blythman (Thatcham)  
Mar 14<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Chris Totney (St Benet Fink, Tottenham)  
Admission free, retiring collection.

#### **St Lawrence Church, Alton, GU34 2BW**

- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 20:00 David Price (Portsmouth Cathedral)  
Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 20:00 John Challenger (Salisbury Cathedral)  
Mar 5<sup>th</sup> 20:00 Joshua Stephens (Winchester Cathedral)  
Admission: £10.00 at the door, or season membership available.

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

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Anthony Gritten (Royal Academy of Music)  
Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 13:10 Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)  
Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Francesca Massey  
Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Brian Anrade - trumpet & George Herbert – organ  
Mar 5<sup>th</sup> 13:10 David Ponsford (Royal Academy of Music)  
Mar 19<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Andrew Benson-Wilson (Basingstoke)  
Admission free (retiring collection)

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

Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Jozef Gaszka (St James, Sussex Gardens)  
Admission free (retiring collection)

**St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA**

Tuesdays at 12:30 Ian Shaw (St Mary Abchurch)  
Admission free – refreshments available

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

Please refer to poster below for January recitals

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 13:00 Stefan Donner (Vienna)  
Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 13:00 James Todd (Harold Darke Prize winner at the RCM 2023)  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 13:00 Alexander Knight (Harold Darke Prize winner, RCM 2023)  
Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 13:00 Robert Jones (St Bride's, Fleet Street)  
Mar 4<sup>th</sup> 13:00 Norman Harper (London & OC member)  
Mar 11<sup>th</sup> 13:00 Jonathan Rennert (St Michael's, Cornhill)  
Admission free (retiring collection)

**Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA**

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 13:20 Ben Collyer (St John's Church, Hyde Park)  
Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 13:20 Andrew Dewar (The American Cathedral, Paris)  
Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 13:20 David Bednall (Clifton Cathedral)  
Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 13:20 James Gough (Assistant Organist, Southwark Cathedral)  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 13:20 Philip White-Jones (Lancing College)  
Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 13:20 Charles Wooler (Newcastle)  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 13:20 Thomas Hawkes (Stowe School)  
Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 13:20 Simon Hogan (Sub Organist, Southwark Cathedral)  
Admission free, retiring collection.

**St Paul's Church, Reading Road, Wokingham, RG41 1EH**

Mar 9<sup>th</sup> 11:30 Christopher Cipkin (Wokingham)  
*Music for Springtime*  
Admission free (retiring collection)





# BLOOMSBURY ORGAN DAY

**Organists Online & Music in Bloomsbury Organ Day**

**Saturday 27 January 2024: everything free until 5.00 pm**

*During the day, there will be an ongoing sale of music, CDs, and other displays.*

**CONTACT WEBSITE OR:**

**[pkn@pnms.co.uk](mailto:pkn@pnms.co.uk) or [philipluke523@gmail.com](mailto:philipluke523@gmail.com)  
01873 590 055                      01953 688 393**

**12.30:**

Light refreshments available.

**12.55:**

Welcome and Introduction.

**1.00:**

**RECITAL 1: Students of the RCO Academy** - with Simon Williams.

**1.30:**

**PRESENTATION 1: Bruce Buchanan** – ‘The Willis Dynasty’.

**2.00:**

**INTERVAL** - with light refreshments available and an opportunity to visit the displays.

**2.30:**

**RECITAL 2: Laurence John** - Assistant DoM, St David's Cathedral, Wales.

**3.00:**

**PRESENTATION 2: Will Fraser** - Fugue State Films and new developments.

**3.30:**

**INTERVAL** - with light refreshments available and an opportunity to visit the displays.

**4.00:**

**RECITAL 3: James Orford** - Assistant DoM, St Paul's, Knightsbridge.

**4.30:**

**PRESENTATION 3: Paul Hale** - The Organ Club and its recent Tour of the West Midlands.

**5.00:**

**THE BLOOMSBURY BUFFET:** It's HIGHLY recommended that you book this when registering. Also, the last opportunity to visit the displays and purchase music and CDs.

**6.00:**

**CELEBRITY RECITAL: Katelyn Emerson (USA)** [£10 - book in advance, if possible.]

**7.15:**

**BLOOMSBURY ORGAN DAY 2024 ENDS.**

**Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church,  
235 Shaftesbury Ave, LONDON WC2H 8E**

# Royal Festival Hall Organ at 70

On 21 March 1954, the 7,866 pipes of the Royal Festival Hall organ rang out in public for the first time. Seventy years on, we celebrate the organ's range and power with a special series of events.



© Peter Woodhead

## **James McVinnie: Bach, Buxtehude & Pachelbel**

Sat 23 Mar, 2pm  
Royal Festival Hall  
Tickets: £20\*

James McVinnie begins his Southbank Centre Residency with a concert celebrating the 70th birthday of the Royal Festival Hall organ, including music by JS Bach.

## **James McVinnie & Tristan Perich: Infinity Gradient**

Sat 23 Mar, 8pm  
Royal Festival Hall  
Tickets: £20\*

Resident Artist James McVinnie and producer/composer Tristan Perich present *Infinity Gradient*, merging primitive electronic waveforms with the sonic magnitude of the organ.

## **Iveta Apkalna: Organ at 70 with Bach**

Sun 24 Mar, 7.30pm  
Royal Festival Hall  
Tickets: £20\*

Hear the Royal Festival Hall's organ at full tilt in a recital of dazzling masterpieces, performed by an acclaimed virtuoso.



*ST MICHAEL'S CORNHILL  
IN THE MODERN CITY OF LONDON  
built above the Roman Forum*

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN MUSIC  
Mondays at One**

**Monday 8 January 2024, 1pm**

**MAKOTO JAMES** (Assistant, St Michael's Cornhill)

FRANCK Pastorale (10 mins)

VIERNE Symphonie 2 (40 mins)

**Monday 15 January, 1pm**

**JONATHAN RENNERT** (lunchtime recital no. 473)

BACH Fantasia, *Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott*, BWV 651 (6)

DARKE 3 Chorale Preludes, op 20 (19)

WOLSTENHOLME Concert Overture 2 (10)

FRANCK Choral 1 in E (16)

**Monday 22 January, 1pm**

**ROBERT MINGAY-SMITH** (St Mary-at-Hill)

BUXTEHUDE *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* (7)

FAURÉ Improvisation, Adagietto & *In paradisum* (9)

ELGAR Sonata in G (4 mm) (30)

**Monday 29 January, 1pm**

**SIMON HOGAN** (Southwark Cathedral)

MACMILLAN Cortège académique (6)

LLOYD WEBBER Benedictus (from *Colours of the Organ*) (6)

POTT Prelude & Fugue on *Iste Confessor* (16)

MASON, Grace-Evangeline Light, revealing (3)

HARWOOD Sonata 1 in c# (3 mm) (18)

*This series of weekly recitals is thought to be the longest-running in the world, but it survives on a shoe-string. Please be generous as you leave. There is a bowl for cash, a card-reader and a QR code.*

T H E  R G A N  
C L U B

Dear Member

## YOUR 2024 MEMBERSHIP

**Please use this form – or a photocopy – to renew your membership.** Please DO carefully check you have updated telephone and e-mail information – the changes to digital have caused problems

<b>UK ADULT</b>	£30	<b>UK YOUNG</b> §	£12	<b>JOINT ADULT</b> Member £15[Discount 50%] <b>JUNIOR</b> RATE £12 still applies	<b>DONATIONS:</b> £:
<b>OUTSIDE UK</b> Postal area ADULT	£40	<b>OUTSIDE UK</b> 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>	<b>TOTAL:</b> £

§ At 1/1/24: All to 18 years, up to 30 years if still in full time unwaged education or in an apprenticeship [not just music]

**Our Adult UK membership rate of is unchanged since 2015.** This covers the cost of producing and posting the Journal & Newsletter, insurances, and other overheads. If you gained the Club a new member during 2023, **please identify who.** A single discount of £5 can reduce your payment.

**Please complete the box below and e-mail or post to me:**

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.*

<b>ELECTRONIC BANKING [Preferred]:</b>	
<b>Reference:</b>	Your Surname & Postcode/ZIP
<b>Amount:</b>	<i>the sum you are paying</i>
<b>Account name:</b>	The Organ Club
<b>Account sort code:</b> 20-31-52	<b>Account number:</b> 00655171
<b>INTERNATIONAL:</b> SWIFT: BUKBGB22 IBAN: GB27 BUKB 2031 5200 6551 71	
May I suggest use of <a href="https://wise.com">https://wise.com</a> – 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.	
<b>CHEQUES:</b> please put your postcode on the back and send to:	
<b>THE ORGAN CLUB</b> c/o Mark Jameson, 92 The Hawthorns, CHARVIL, Reading RG10 9TS	

My contact for membership purposes: e-mail [markmdjameson@gmail.com](mailto:markmdjameson@gmail.com) 07802 715634  
*Thank you for renewing*

*Mark Jameson, Hon Membership Secretary*

\*\*\* Visit the Club's website: [www.organclub.org](http://www.organclub.org)

\*\*\* Follow the Club on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheOrganClub](https://www.facebook.com/TheOrganClub)