

The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 119

March 2024

1. NOTICES

Further details of our two outstanding tours this year - to South Devon, to include Buckfast Abbey, May 9th – 12th 2024, and Isle of Wight, September 12th (PM) to 16th (after breakfast) - are to be found in section 2 of this newsletter. Please take note!

2024 Membership Renewals and Contact Information

Members are reminded that the renewal date for subscriptions was the **first working day of January**. Currently, too many members have ignored the request to renew – this will affect how able we are to commit plans for activities, thus making budgets difficult for our Treasurer.

All three Journals for 2023 have now been distributed, and our Journal editor has apologised for delays. All officers are volunteers and even best laid plans and hopes do go awry. The first Journal for 2024 is planned for March and the Editor confirmed [at the February Committee meeting] he is working on 2024/1.

The renewal form was on the back page of the printed January Newsletter, and as a link to download on the electronic mailing list. It can also be found on the Club's website.

About **177** members are outstanding for renewal as at mid- February. The form is again printed on page **2** of this Newsletter. I do not want to lose members, but prompt payment is vital to ensure that the Club runs properly.

Unlike many other organisations we have held our standard membership rate at £30 since 2014, despite vast postal cost increases and VAT added to distribution charges. Because many have opted for electronic Newsletters and quite a number of our members have very generously added extra to their renewals, the cost has been held. We thank those members.

Note for overseas members: I am advised that our bankers Barclays are no longer accepting cheque payments in any currency other than £sterling. It is suggested non-UK members use "Wise" or contact me.

Please do renew as soon as possible. My contact: markmdjameson@gmail.com; my phone **07802 715634** [SMS or text, please do not use voicemail].

Mark Jameson (Membership Secretary)

REMINDER: YOUR 2024 MEMBERSHIP

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

UK ADULT	£30	UK YOUNG §	£12	JOINT ADULT Member £15[Discount 50%] JUNIOR RATE £12 still applies	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>

§ 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]

If you gained the Club a new member during 2023, 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

Royal Festival Hall Organ at 70

This year at the South Bank, the 70th 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.

May 2024 Newsletter contributions

Please email notices by April 16th at the latest to John Belling, Organ Club newsletter editor, at newsletter@organclub.org.

John Belling (Newsletter Editor)

2. CLUB MEETINGS

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
- 15:30 (approx.) Tea and Cakes (no charge)

Paul has devised a tempting recital programme:

Four pieces have close Nottingham connections, which I will explain on the day, and the Hindemith (rarely heard these days) shows off the St Peter's organ to perfection.

- *Fanfare for Nottingham*, Naji Hakim (born 1955)
- *Præludium in E minor*, Nikolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)
- *Sonata I*, Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)
- *Tango & Aria* (from *Four Concert Pieces for Organ* - dedicated to Paul Hale), David Machell (born 1953)
- *Knightsbridge March*, Eric Coates (1886-1957)

The AGM documentation is being sent with this newsletter (for those receiving this by post).

The AGM is the main opportunity for members to comment on Club activities and make suggestions for the future. Nominations for committee membership are open until March 9th, sent to John Henderson at treasurer@organclub.org with the name of a seconder.

In order to organise catering arrangements, please let Paul Hale know if you wish to attend and partake of the 'free' tea BY MONDAY 11th MARCH at the latest, please.

E-mail Paul Hale at PaulHale@diaphone.clara.net

The AGM will also be transmitted via Zoom , the link for which is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84885161418?pwd=cHc5ZUtSNWl5RGc2UTBjbGd4UzlwQT09>

Saturday April 20th 2024: Greater London Area

The venues for this visit are not fully finalised yet, but we will let you know the details as soon as we can, in good time to book.

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.

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

There are a few remaining places available on the tour – please contact Eric Shepherd at bcshepherdandsons@gmail.com to book.

Eric has issued a sheet with booking/cost information £95 per person: the preferred method of payment by electronic transfer to the Club account - SURNAME & Postcode or by cheque sent to the Membership Secretary, see first page of this newsletter for address. Please refer to the last, January, newsletter for hotel suggestions.

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 9th

2pm Coach will leave Newton Abbot Station. TQ12 2JE.

2.30pm St Peter & St Paul Teigngrace, 2 School Road, Teigngrace, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6QR.

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

3.45pm Coach to leave St Peter & St Paul's Church.

4.15pm St Andrew's Church, Ashburton. St Andrew's Close, Ashburton, TQ13 7DT.

Organ by Father Willis, rebuilt Percy Daniel, and Michael Farley. 3 manuals 37 stops.

5.45pm Coach to leave St Andrew's Church.

6.00pm Arrive at Buckfast Abbey, and book in at Northgate House Hotel TQ11 0EE in the grounds of the Abbey or The Abbey Inn, 30 Buckfast Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0EA, just outside the Abbey grounds or drive to own choice hotel. Parking at Northgate House Hotel is free.

Own arrangements for evening meal either at Northgate House Hotel, or The Abbey Inn. Please book evening meals at the hotels in advance on Thursday and Saturday.

website www.buckfast.org.uk .

Friday May 10th

A chance to explore Buckfast Abbey, the grounds, the gift shop and book shop and The Grange Restaurant. When we visit it on Saturday evening to hear the organ, there may not be a chance to spend time exploring it, and the shops will not be open. We are unable to visit the first church in Torquay until 11.30am.

10.30am Coach will leave Buckfast Abbey grounds.

11.30am St John the Apostle, Torquay, Montpelier Road, TQ1 1BJ.
(above the harbour).

Please be quiet if we arrive before 11.30am as there will be a service.

Organ by Hill, rebuilt Walker, Deane, & Michael Farley. 3 manuals 47 stops.

Walk down the hill to the harbour. Time for lunch in the town, near the harbour.

2.15pm Coach to meet us near the harbour.

2.30pm St Matthias' Church, Wellwood, Babbacombe Road, Torquay, TQ1 1HW.

Organ by Hill, rebuilt Rushworth & Dreaper, and Nicholson. 3 manuals 42 stops.

4.00pm Coach to leave St Matthias' Church.

4.15pm St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, Fore Street, St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4PZ.

Organ by Harrison & Harrison 1966, rebuilt Greaves, Derry Thompson, Michael Farley. 4 manuals 67 stops.

6.00pm Coach to leave St Mary the Virgin.

6.45pm Arrive at Buckfast Abbey car park.

7.30pm: Group Meal at Northgate House Hotel.

Please book this with the hotel yourself, quoting *The Organ Club*.

Menu not available yet. You will each pay individually on the night.

The Hotel now would like me to make the booking, so please contact me.

Saturday May 11th

Make your way to **Buckfastleigh Station, The Station, Dartbridge Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ**. The station is 1.1 miles from Buckfast Abbey. It is possible to get a bus, or book a taxi. Alternatively, it is a 21 minute walk. Buckfastleigh station is on the South Devon Railway, which is a steam and diesel heritage line which runs to Totnes Riverside station. There is a visitor centre and gift and book shop at Buckfastleigh station, as well as a cafe. You can buy a return ticket at the station. It is possible to book tickets in advance from their website: www.southdevonrailway.co.uk.

10.30am. Train to Totnes Riverside Station, Littlehempston, Totnes, TQ9 6LZ. You must catch this train as the service is infrequent. It arrives at Totnes at 11.am. The walk from the station to St Mary's Priory Church in the Totnes town is 1 mile up hill. We will pre-book several taxis from the station to the church as it is quite a steep, long hill.

11.30am. St Mary's Priory Church, Totnes, 9 High Street, TQ9 5NN.
Organ by Father Willis 1861, Choir added by Ivey of Newton Abbot 1889.
Restored William Drake 1988. 3 manuals 32 stops.

Break for lunch in the town, and look around. It is a lovely historic town. Walk down the hill to St John's Bridgetown, which is not far from the station.

2.45pm. St John's Bridgetown, 26 Bridgetown, Totnes, TQ9 5AD.
Organ by William Drake 1983. 2 manuals 22 stops.

4.30pm. Train to Buckfastleigh Station.

5.00pm. Arrive at Buckfastleigh Station.

Own arrangements for meal.

6.30pm (Optional) Vespers in Buckfast Abbey sung by the monks, accompanied by organ.

7.00pm-9.30pm Visit to Buckfast Abbey

Demonstration of the organ by David Davies (until recently the organist of the Abbey), followed by a long playing session.

Organ built by Fratelli Ruffatti of Padua, Italy in 2017-2018. Quire organ 4 manuals 72 stops.

West Gallery 2 manuals 27 stops. Moveable 4 manual console in Quire. 4 manual West Gallery console. Both organs are playable from each console.

Sunday May 12th

11.00am. Sung Mass by the excellent professional choir with organ.

Lunch including carvery lunch, available at The Grange Restaurant TQ11 0EJ. It would be wise to book beforehand. Tel: 01364 645504.

2.10pm. Coach leaves for Abbotsbury from Buckfast Abbey grounds. Please have all your belongings with you.

Approx. 14:30: St Mary's Church, Abbotsbury, Newton Abbot.

Organ by Hele of Plymouth 1923, rebuilt Michael Farley 1994. 3 manuals 38 stops.

3.45pm. Coach to leave for Newton Abbot station. Arrive approx. 3.50pm.

Saturday June 15th 2024: Caterham

This visit, to Caterham, is still in the planning stage.

Saturday July 20th 2024: Bournemouth Area

To include Christchurch Priory

September 12th – 16th 2024: Isle of Wight

President Paul writes:

I am excited to be organising a long weekend on the Isle of Wight for Club members in September. The dates are Thursday 12th - Monday 16th. Our base will be the Premier Inn in Newport, for 4 nights (12th-15th). Please book as soon as you are sure you'd like to be with us; you might like to book a 'meal deal' to get a reduction on an evening meal, which is at the adjacent Beefeater restaurant. There is free parking.

We will gather at Newport Minster, mid-afternoon on Thursday 12th, where the handbook will be given out and we play the fine 3-manual Forster & Andrews / Walker. Over the next three days we will explore thirteen further organs: West Wight (Friday), East Wight (Saturday), Mid Wight, (Sunday, including, we hope, a morning visit to Osborne House). We have two very special treats to round off the tour on the Monday morning: Quarr Abbey, with its Cavallé-Coll beautifully restored by Andrew Cooper (in consultation with Club members Adrian Mumford and yours truly), then the Fishbourne ferry back to Portsmouth where Dr David Price will meet us at the Anglican Cathedral and let us loose on the superb Nicholson organ there.

Ferries and cars: we will need sufficient cars to transport the group around the Island, so please seriously considering bringing yours, if you have one. I will work on adjusting the Tour fee to compensate car drivers for the considerable extra cost of taking the car over on the ferry. Ferries should be booked from Portsmouth to Fishbourne (return).

Expression of interest: it would be such a help for Club members to inform me by Easter Day if they think they would be interested in joining in this tour, also - importantly - whether they would be prepared to drive; no commitment at that stage but getting some sort of idea of numbers and cars would help Andrew Cooper (our organ-builder 'tour agent' on the Island!) and me, as we plan.

3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

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

Glyn Lang Memorial Series

Mar 20th 13:05 James Gough (Southwark Cathedral)

Apr 17th 13:05 Andrew Furniss (Westminster Central Hall)

May 15th 13:05 Christopher Saward (Church of the Annunciation,
Marble Arch, W1)

Jun 19th 13:05 Andrew Caskie (M.D. Nicholson & Co. and Malvern Priory)

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

Organ Matinees 2024, Sundays at 15:00

Mar 17th 15:00 Francesca Massey (International Concert Organist)

Apr 21st 15:00 Joshua Ryan (Hampstead Parish Church)

May 19th 15:00 Simon Lawford (Notre Dame, London)

Admission free, retiring collection.

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

Lunchtime series: MONDAYS at 13:00

Mar 4th Katelyn Emerson (Boston, USA)

May 13th Travis Baker (St Leonard's Church and Battle Abbey School)

Jul 1st Student players from Eton College

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-march-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!**

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

Mar 14th 13:10 Chris Totney (St Benet Fink, Tottenham)

Admission free, retiring collection.

St Lawrence Church, Alton, GU34 2BW

Mar 5th 20:00 Joshua Stephens (Winchester Cathedral)

May 7th 20:00 Tom Winpenny (St Albans Cathedral)

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

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

Mar 5th 13:10 David Ponsford (Royal Academy of Music)

Mar 19th 13:10 Andrew Benson-Wilson (Basingstoke)

Mar 26th 13:10 Grosvenor Chapel Choir, Evan Lawrence, organ

Apr 16th 13:10 Evan Lawrence (Grosvenor Chapel)

Music for Holy Week

Apr 30th 13:10 James Johnson (Royal Academy of Music)

Admission free (retiring collection)

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

May 3rd 13:00 Timara Easter

Prokofiev, Milhaud, Messiaen, Vierne, Alain

Admission free (retiring collection)

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

Please refer to poster below for March recitals **AND Stanford Sonatas!**

Apr 1st 13:00 Online only, organist to be confirmed.

Apr 8th 13:00 Oliver Macfarlane ((International Concert Organist)

Apr 15th 13:00 Benjamin Newlove (St Alfege, Greenwich)

Apr 22nd 13:00 Makoto James (St Michael's Cornhill)

Apr 29th 13:00 Jonathan Rennert (St Michael's Cornhill)

Admission free (retiring collection)

Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

Mar 4th 13:20 Jack Oades (Exeter)

Mar 11th 13:20 Anthony Gritten (Royal Academy of Music)

Mar 18th 13:20 Zsombor Tóth-Vajna (Royal College of Music)

Mar 25th 13:20 Simon Hogan (Sub Organist, Southwark Cathedral)

Admission free, retiring collection.

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

Mar 9th 11:30 Christopher Cipkin (Wokingham)

Music for Springtime

Admission free (retiring collection)



Sir Charles Villiers Stanford was a cantankerous but inspired composer. To commemorate the centenary of his death (in 1924), his five glorious (but rarely heard) Organ Sonatas will be featured during the weekly recitals on Mondays at 1pm in ST MICHAEL'S CORNHILL in the City of London.

Norman Harper plays Sonata no 2: Monday 4 March
Jonathan Rennert plays Sonata no 1: Monday 11 March
Makoto James plays Sonata no 4: Monday 22 April
Richard Brasier plays Sonata no 3: Monday 20 May
Anthony Gritten plays Sonata no 5: Monday 1 July

Admission to these recitals is free.



Some of the 3,500 pipes of this fine organ are over 300 years old. Since Henry Purcell gave the opening recital in 1684, the instrument has been enlarged and enriched by a succession of leading organ builders, and it was last restored in 2010 by Nicholson's of Malvern. Organists of the church have included the 18th century composer William Boyce (here for 32 years), as well as Harold Darke (50 years) and Richard Popplewell. The [Royal] College of Organists was founded here in the 19th century. The weekly recitals series is thought to be the longest-running in the world (it began in 1914). It features performances by our two resident organists (Jonathan Rennert and Makoto James), as well as guest recitalists from the UK and overseas.

The continuation of these recitals depends on the generosity of the audience. As you leave, you will see a bowl for cash donations, as well as a card-reader (for debit or credit cards) and a QR code on display.

LUNCHTIME ORGAN MUSIC

in St Michael's Cornhill

MONDAYS AT ONE
March 2024

www.st-michaels.org.uk
www.organrecitals.uk

Monday 4 March, 1pm
NORMAN HARPER

<u>BACH</u> Fantasia in c, BWV 562	5
<u>ANON</u> (14c) <u>Estampie & Retrové</u> <i>arr Kimberly Marshall</i>	7
<u>WILBY</u> Ripon Misericords	7
<i>Prelude – Owl – Dancing Pigs – Angel Choir – Fallen Angel</i>	
* <u>STANFORD</u> Sonata 2 (Eroica)(3 mm)	30

Monday 11 March, 1pm
JONATHAN RENNERT
(lunchtime recital no 474)

<u>ELGAR</u> Sonata 2, <i>arr Ivor Atkins</i>	13
<u>CALLAHAN</u> Salve Regina	3
* <u>STANFORD</u> Sonata 1	17
BACH 'Dorian' Toccata & Fugue, BWV 538	15

Monday 18 March, 1pm
SAMUEL BRISTOW

(Chelmsford Cathedral)	
<u>WAGNER</u> Pilgerchor, from <i>Tannhäuser</i>	7
<u>ELGAR</u> Prelude & Angel's Farewell	16
BACH, <i>arr Bristow</i> Crucifixus (Mass in b)	4
LISZT Variations, <i>Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen</i>	20

Monday 25 March, 1pm
MAKOTO JAMES
(Assistant, St Michael's Cornhill)

<u>BRAHMS</u> Prelude, <i>Mein Jesu, der du Mich</i>	4
<u>BACH</u> Trio Sonata 4, BWV 528	10
BRITTEN, <i>arr Anna Lapwood</i> Dawn & Sunday Morning (Sea Interludes)	8
* <u>STANFORD</u> Sonata 4 (<i>Celtica</i>)	25

*Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) composed five glorious Organ Sonatas. In this centenary year of his death, three of them will be heard in March. Later in the series, Richard Brasier (20 May) and Anthony Gritten (1 July) will play numbers 3 and 5.

**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST RC CHURCH
DUNCAN TERRACE
ISLINGTON, LONDON N1 8AL**

Organ series 2024

Saturdays at 7.30pm

25th May Damin Spritzer

Professor of organ - Oklahoma University

29th June Joshua Simões

Royal Academy of Music

27th July Charles Francis

Eastman School of Music USA & 1st prize winner of the IAO

28th September Isabelle Demers

Concert organist - Schulich School of Music, McGill University, Canada

Admission is free with collection

Angel tube
buses 4 30 38 43 73 205 341 476

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

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