

The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 96

May 2020

1. NOTICES

Covid-19

In common with most Societies, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the activities of the Organ Club, causing the postponement of all activities at least until July. In all probability, and having consideration to Government pronouncements of the last few days, the restrictions on public gatherings and performances will extend beyond July. Members are advised to check with the relevant websites before attempting to attend any of the recitals publicised in section 3 of this newsletter (but not the organrecitals.com web site – it has temporarily closed).

We will keep you informed when we can resume our visits in future newsletters.

In the meantime, young organists can enter a virtual organ competition (see below), and all members can enter a quiz organised by Past-President John Miley, see section 4 below.

The Organ Club committee wishes to convey our best wishes for all members whilst this pandemic afflicts the populations of the world.

Isle of Man Tour – September 14th to 19th 2020

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the IoM tour (organised by Don Roworth) . We are hoping that the tour will go ahead in September 2021.

AGM Postponement

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the AGM which was due to take place at St Alpha Burnt Oak on Saturday March 21st 2020, has been postponed.

We will endeavour to hold the AGM as soon as is practicable, if necessary with social distancing, and at a time when committee members (many are over 70) can attend.

We will publish the new date for the AGM in a forthcoming newsletter, as soon as it becomes known.

2020 Membership and Special Thanks

By Easter around 80% of our members had renewed. For those who have done so, a big thank you, and especially to those who have added extra.

The AGM booklet was posted to every member, those who had not renewed at that point were also sent a printed renewal form, but the response has been disappointing. Your membership number appears on the label of posted Newsletters, and all mailings, including this year's AGM booklet and Journals posted by our Journal Editor – membership numbers starting with "19" **are now overdue for renewal**. This May Newsletter is the third for 2020 and one Journal has been issued.

If your address, telephone contact and e-mail are unchanged, I do not require the form to be returned. I appreciate currently we are in difficult times, but your loyal membership is appreciated. The best way to renew is to make a bank transfer – the account is:

THE ORGAN CLUB, sort code 20-31-52 , account 00655171

Please use your surname and post code as reference. If you have not used an electronic transfer to pay before, any bank will help you – take this Newsletter with you if you need to show them the account detail. If you use a cheque, please write your post code on the reverse side. Part of your daily exercise can be a walk to your local post box.

My contact details:

Mark Jameson – 92 The Hawthorns, Charvil, Reading RG10 9TS
telephone 01189 344212; e-mail markmdjameson@btinternet.com .

I would like to give special thanks to Kevin Slingsby, our Journal Editor. The latest Journal was produced at a difficult time and he took on the extra task of printing and distributing the AGM booklet. Solo he dealt with receiving Journal 2020/1 from the printers, envelope preparation, Journal and letter insertion, then posting. Normally John Miley helps with this task, however social distancing made it impossible this time.

The responses I have received on the quality of our Journals show what a vital asset it is to the Club.

Thank you to those who have written – your letters have been circulated to those involved.

Mark Jameson (Membership Secretary)

William Saunders – our new President Elect

We are delighted that William Saunders has agreed to be our new President Elect, and will succeed Eric Shepherd as President in 2021.

William Saunders is one of Britain's leading concert organists, with an extensive schedule that includes many distinguished venues across Europe. He tours Germany annually and has performed recitals in including Hamburg and Cologne Cathedrals and the St Marien Church in Lübeck. His musical activities in the United Kingdom have included performances at the Cambridge Summer Music and Oundle International Festivals, and he has also accompanied the Kings Voices, the mixed-voice chapel choir of King's College, Cambridge and Aldeburgh Voices, a choir established by Benjamin Britten.

You can find out more about William by visiting:

www.william-saunders.info

and his Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/musicianwilliam> .

St Edmundsbury Virtual Organ Competition

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is offering the first virtual organ competition for young organists aged up to 22, in a bid to encourage and promote music-making during these challenging times.

There are three categories:

- Beginners (up to grade 5): one piece up to 5 min
- Intermediate (grades 6-8): one or two pieces up to 10 min
- Advanced: a recital lasting up to 15 minutes in duration

Candidates will be asked to upload a video of their entries (candidates must have access to a home organ) - closing date for submission: June 6th 2020 12:00, and the announcement of winners will be 13th June.

NB - these dates are under constant review and may be extended in line with current guidance as it is recognised that many people will not have access to an instrument at this time.

Full details, including prizes, panel of judges, and an application form are available at: <https://stedscathedral.org/music/> (scroll down to "ORGAN COMPETITION")

The Organ Club Website

The 2020 Club Archive downloads are now available on the website - see www.organclub.org

Yorkshire Tour 2019 – DVD now available

If anyone on the recent Yorkshire tour would like a copy of a 6 hour DVD, do please get in touch with Keith Rawlings on **01822 834033**.

If no reply, please leave a message including your telephone number, and Keith will get back to you.

Organ Club Committee Vacancies

We currently have the below vacancies for the below Honorary Officers:

- General Secretary
- Archivist

We also have a vacancy for an Independent Examiner. If you feel you might be interested in taking up one of these positions following a return to a more normal situation (post Covid-19), or have any further questions, please get in touch with John Henderson, hendersontjohn@gmail.com.

July 2020 Newsletter contributions

Please email notices by June 16th at the latest to John Belling, Organ Club newsletter editor, at newsletter@organclub.org, or write to him at:

42 Cunningham Park, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 4QJ

2. CLUB MEETINGS

Saturday May 16th 2020: churches in Goring & Streatley

Postponed

May 22nd to May 25th 2020: The Third Ushaw Organ Weekend

Postponed.

Saturday 20th June 2020: walking tour - “New” Windsor churches.

Postponed until Sat 19th June 2021.

Saturday July 18th 2020: Gorleston/Lowestoft

Postponed until July 2021

In the Pipeline: The following visits are planned; full details will be given nearer to the time. Please note them in your diary! (though please bear in mind that these could be **subject to change**).

Saturday September 26th 2020, Canterbury Cathedral + new organ.

**Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th December 2020:
The London Organ Competition 2020**

Held at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2R 1DH.

Junior Section (age ≤ 16): Monday 28th December 2020

1st Prize £500, 2nd Prize £250.

Senior Section (17 – 19): Tuesday 19th December 2020

1st Prize £1000, 2nd Prize £500.

To apply and for full details, email **The Organ Club** at cegb36@gmail.com .
Applications close on Monday November 2nd 2020.

Please apply as soon as possible – last year, we had to turn down several late applicants.

3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

Please note that recitals publicised in this section are subject to cancellations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and that members should check with the venue before setting out.

St Alphage, Montrose Avenue, Burnt Oak, Edgware, HA8 0DN

Organ built 2002 by B C Shepherd & Sons, incorporating Father Willis pipes from 1857

Jul 4th 19:30 Rosemary Evans (St Alphage, Burnt Oak)

Sep 5th 19:30 Steve Bowey (St Mary's Church, Shaw-cum-Donnington, Berks)

Admission £10, including refreshments.

Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG11QH

Lunchtime Series 2019/20, Mondays at 13:00

Jul 20th 13:00 David Quinn (Bradfield College)

Admission £5 at the door. Prebooked tickets offered now £4.50. Ring 01189 960 6060 to book, or look at READING ARTS online.

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue WC2H 8EP

Jul 25th 16:00 Daniel Bishop (Liverpool Cathedral)

St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA

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

Admission free – refreshments available

St John the Evangelist RC Church, Duncan Terrace, Islington, N1 8AL

Organ: JW Walker 1963, restored 2006, 3 manuals, 46 stops.

International Organ Series 2020

Jul 25th 19:30 Katelyn Emerson (USA)

Oct 24th 19:30 Isabelle Demers (USA)

Admission free, retiring collection.

Angel Tube; buses: 4 19 30 38 73 205 341

Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, University Campus, Guildford GU2 7UP

Summer Organ Festival: celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Louis Vierne. Programmes will include Vierne's *Pieces de Fantaisie*.

Jul 30th 19:30 Richard Moore

Aug 6th 19:30 Richard Pinel

Aug 13th 19:30 Alessandro Bianchi

Aug 20th 19:30 Daniel Cook

Aug 27th 19:30 Katherine Dienes-Williams

Welsh Church of Central London W1

Lunchtime Organ Recitals 2020, Wednesday 13:05 – 13:30

(Preceded by Bible fellowship in hall 12 noon + cuppa)

Retiring collection towards expenses and organ maintenance

July 15th 13:05 Jeremiah Stephenson (All Saints Margaret St W1)

Aug 19th 13:05 Anthony Gritten (Professor, Royal Academy of Music)

Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street, Old Portsmouth, Hamps, PO1 2HA

Jul 2nd 13:10 Norman Harper (London)

4. DIVERSE ENTERTAINMENTS DURING LOCKDOWN

QUIZ devised by John Miley

John Miley has devised a 48-question quiz for Organ club members which he hopes you might enjoy during the current situation, and he is offering two prizes:

£150 for Ordinary members of the Club and £150 for OCSO members.

The closing date for the answers will be Whit Sunday May 31st 2020.

Just send a note with question number and answer by email to:

cegb36@gmail.com or by post to:

7 Pridmore Close, Woodnewton PE8 5EY.

If there is a tie in either category, a tiebreak question will be sent.

1. What organist was born in Hull and was blind from birth
2. To which notes are the strings of a violin tuned
3. What personal tragedy inspired much the musical output of Herbert Howells
4. Who invented the piano
5. What festival is closely identified with the musical careers of Elgar and Vaughan Williams
6. Who is the patron saint of music
7. Who were Henry Purcell's choirmasters during his time as a chorister in the choir of the Chapel Royal
8. What English composer wrote a set of organ works called Changing Moods
9. What is a "tierce de Picardie"
10. Who saved the mounting bills of Richard Wagner
11. What does "andante" mean
12. Who was the founder of the RSCM
13. In what year did J S Bach complete his "Mass in b minor"
14. In what year was Peter Hurford Born
15. In Britten's cantata "St Nicholas". What is the final hymn
16. Name the Bulgarian born composer, now based in the UK, who wrote a suite for organ called Diptych
17. What English organist composed a choral concerto called "The Gods of Music"
18. What oratorio was premiered on February 24th (the day after Ash Wednesday) 1887 and was considered by the composer as being "rubbish"
19. Who founded the BBC Proms
20. What composer privately taught Benjamin Britten and later paid homage to him by naming a work after him
21. What Composer lived in London at 25 Brook Street
22. In which city did C P E Bach die
23. What piece did Francis Jackson play at the end of Prince Edwards wedding

24. What Anglo / American organist is interred in the Hall of Righteousness Crypt No. 6691 at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California
25. Handel and Bach were both born in 1685. What other composer was born that year
26. What is the English meaning of the American term "measure"
27. Who wrote the sacred oratorio "The Martyrdom of St Polycarp"
28. Who preceded Simon Preston as organist of Westminster Abbey
29. Which composer wrote the tune for the carol "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
30. What cathedral organist was nicknamed "Doc H" by his choristers
31. Who was known as the London Bach
32. What English organist served as Choirmaster at York Minster and St Thomas Episcopal Church NYC
33. Whose epitaph reads "Many waters cannot quench love"
34. What do the letters BWV stand for
35. Who composed the Fantasia on British Sea Songs
36. What music organisation was founded in 1864 by Richard Limpus
37. How many piano Sonatas did Beethoven write
38. Who founded the Early Music Consort
39. What organist, famous for his Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E, wrote a jazz opera called "Man in Cage"
40. For which occasion did Britten compose his War Requiem
41. If "woof" is Bach, who is "woof, woof, woof" (Clue Orpheus)
42. The anthem "Zadok the Priest" was composed for which King
43. "Thine be the Glory" is from which Oratorio
44. What is the English title of the choral prelude BWV608
45. What is the name of the courtier of Charles II who had a warrant to travel the country on his horse and kidnap boys for the Chapel Royal Choir
46. For whom did J S Bach compose his "Musical Offering"
47. What is the title of G F Handel's last Oratorio
48. Revd. Sir Frederick _____ Ousley Bart. What is the missing word

For Organ Club Steam Train Buffs (of which there are many - communicated by Mark Jameson)

Hawkins\Brown has won planning consent for the 13,560 sq ft refurbishment and extension of an 1854 railway shed in High Wycombe built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel for the Great Western Railway.

Further details at:

<https://www.hawkinsbrown.com/news-and-events/news/hawkins-brown-wins-planning-for-refurbishment-and-expansion-of-1854-brunel-engine-shed>

Some *Musical & Organ Definitions* suggested by John Varney and Mark Jameson

ABSENCE. The only quality of an organist which is generally recognised.

AMEN. This may be plagal, perfect, Gibbons, Smith, sevenfold or said. The important thing is for everyone to know what is intended, since one thing is certain - they don't mix.

BACH. A composer about whose organ works and their performance it is necessary to have views. Their views should be published and adhered to. In practice, on most English organs, the choice is between skinny Bach and tubby Bach. An infallible way of detracting attention from the architecture of the last two pages of any Bach fugue, is to allow full swell to creep in and blurr the edges. This will thrill the listener and also,save a great deal of practice time.

BATS. Decorators and tuning aid for organ pipes.

BOYS. Unsatisfactory alternatives to girls.

BUXTEHUDE. A composer who would have liked Bach or Handel or anyone else, to marry his daughter. In memory of this, one of his organ pieces is often played as the first item in a programme.

CHANTS. These brief psalm tunes come in three varieties. Anglican, Plainsong, and Gelineau. The chants themselves are harmless and the organist is often required to play them first to prove this.

Unfortunately, words are then added, at which point he acts as a

referee between the singers, usually favouring the trend of the majority.

CYPHER. This is when the note on the organ refuses to stop. Organists of many years' experience vouch that the only thing to do is to switch it off, write a note to the tuner and go home. This is the quickest way to (a) a rebuild, (b) Lunch.

DEATH. Has the priest noticed that the organist has collapsed with the long single note sounding?

DESCANT. One of the two major church nuisances, the other being pigeons. At least no descant has yet spoilt a hat.

DIAPASON. Before going into action, the good organist always 'draws his diapasons' A glance in the mirror will reveal the strength of the opposition, and more or less diapasons are drawn accordingly. When practising in an empty church, and to avoid damage, the organist uses stopped diapasons.

EVENSONG. The evening service of the Anglican Church, sometimes held in the afternoon so as not to interfere with television. A sermon will, most likely be appended, and this will be at least as long as the rest of the service. The evensong sermon gives the organist his last opportunity of marking the register and preparing next week's music list. In some churches, the lights are turned out to prevent this.

FEET. Many organists make use of both of these. Generally speaking, the left one is in charge of vibrations, whilst the right cruises gently in sympathy. A good organist does little damage with his right foot.

GIRLS. Unsatisfactory alternatives to boys.

GROUND BASS. A corruption of 'go round bass'. The sort of singer who SHOULD sing the lowest part, but now and then has a dabble at some of the others.

HYMNS. These are of two kinds, long and short. They are bound together in volumes which are either too big or too little. Both kinds are sensitive to the pull of gravity at solemn moments.

INCUMBENT. In an Anglican Church, he is the boss and holds himself responsible not only for his own actions but for those of the organist. This species is however becoming more rare and will soon be replaced by mostly the female variety.

JOLLY, A church full of those talking with each other - all ignoring the post service mini-recital that the organist has spent hours practicing!

LEGACY. What ever organist hopes for to refurbish the failing organ.....

MEN. These are what choirboys are intended to grow into. Their traditional privileges include arriving later than the boys on rehearsal nights. counting rests audibly, visibly, or wrongly (or any combination of all three) They also take snuff, mints or umbrage, according to taste. There are three main varieties - altos (whose origin is shrouded in mystery) tenors (glamorous, fickle and rare) and basses (solid, dependable, tenacious of note, opinion and often unfortunately, life). In mixed choirs, the men do not arrive late, and they leave with the women.

PEDAL RUMBLE. The local piano player who rests his size 10 on the bottom note of the pedal board continuously!

RECITAL. This is usually a performance given by the organist, with heavy emphasis on the word 'given'. Practising for a recital is one of the least understood activities in the church. The start of such a session may be the signal for three other things to happen - the Vicar wanders in for a chat, the Verger switches on the Hoover, and a student from the Royal College of Music pops up to enquire if practice is allowed.

SEX. Not allowed to be discussed - but makes or breaks choirs, clergy and public.

SKYPE. Intrudes into the privacy of your home study working area!

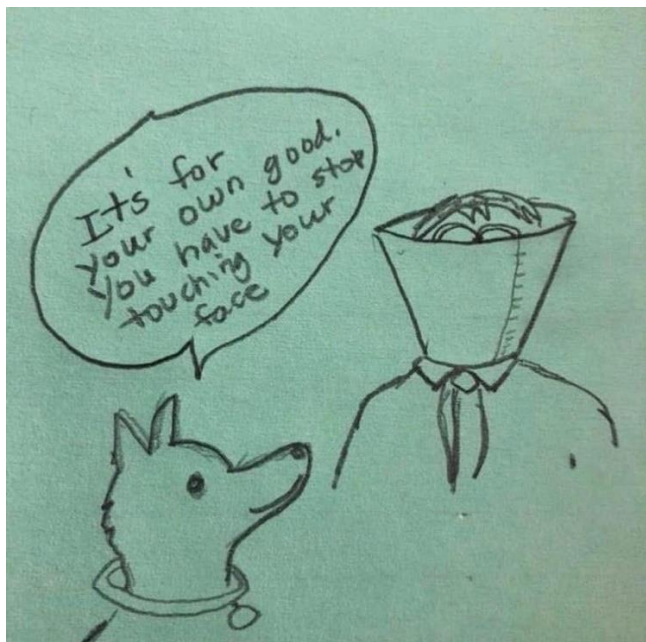
TENORS. Most churches have either (a) none or (b) too many. When wholly absent they leave an aching void.

When too numerous they fill the void without removing the ache. Tenors rarely sing words and often produce regional sensations rather than actual notes. During the mating season, they draw attention to themselves by a practice known as RUBATO.

USUAL OFFICES Matins and Evensong - few churches possess any other usual or even unusual offices. Choristers would be well advised to make sure before leaving home, especially in winter.

VERGERS. There were originally meant to lead processions, (and subdue rioters) with their wands or verges. Nowadays they also make strong sweet tea, sweep dust and pencils under the organ pedals - and acquire keys to everything. No verger, however officious, should ever be crossed. His range of retaliations include inadequate fuses, wrong hymn numbers, and in extreme cases, tidying up the choir stalls.

ZOOM. New feature in space distancing, or showing up the blemishes on the long suffering organist or organ!



Thanks to Mark Jameson for supplying this apt cartoon.

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

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