

# Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

## Newsletter – January 2019

On line at [www.cnewoca.org.uk](http://www.cnewoca.org.uk)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA)

### This month

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm, we are at Poulton Hall, Poulton Road, Bebington Wirral for a joint social/quiz meeting with the Liverpool Organists' Association.

### Next Event

We will be visiting Llandudno on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, starting at Holy Trinity (1.30pm).

### The Chairman Writes

Time seems to fly by . . . it's not quite Christmas yet as I write this article and yet by the time you read it, Christmas will be a distant memory and we will be well into a new year.

It doesn't seem like six months since we started a new CNEWOCA year and unfortunately, we have seen our membership renewals decline, so I hope you can use this New Year as an opportunity to have renewed enthusiasm in our Association by attending events and perhaps sending Bob an article for the Newsletter, that so many people seem to look forward to receiving.

We are very fortunate to have an Organists' & Choirmasters' Association in our area and I hope that you will do your best to take up the opportunities that being a member of CNEWOCA offers. As well as the music associated with our organisation, we shouldn't under-estimate the value of the fellowship we are able to share. Can I encourage you all to try and invite someone to come along to one of our monthly meetings, or even just give me the name and address/email address of someone you think might like to receive a copy of our monthly Newsletter – it costs us nothing to send a copy of our Newsletter by email but could be a great way of introducing CNEWOCA to prospective new members.

2018 has been a special year for our Association, and we have managed to achieve this in several ways, not least by the publication of our 'Celebration Suite'. I still have a handful of copies that can be purchased at the reduced price of £6.00. We finished off the year with a Christmas gathering at Stanley Palace, Chester. This proved to be a very enjoyable occasion with great fellowship. A big "Thank You" to Ethan Henshaw and Mike Edwards for arranging the venue and food, to Bob Jones

accompanying the hearty carol singing, and to Brian Moate and Angie Evans for their solo items. We also had a short Christmas quiz that seemed to go down well and should be good training for our January event when we join up with the Liverpool Organists' Association at Poulton Hall for a Social and Quiz Evening.

Time for a funny story, but one that certainly makes you think about your outlook on life. A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist.

Just to see what would happen, at Christmas time their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game. The optimist's room he loaded with horse manure! That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly. "Why are you crying?" the father asked. "Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken." answered the pessimist twin.

Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. "What are you so happy about?" he asked. To which his optimist twin replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"

As I get older, I seem to get more daring, not least by going on some rides at Disneyland that I wouldn't have dreamed of doing twenty years ago. Perhaps that is because those famous words of Mark Twain resound in my head more and more as I get older: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails, explore, dream and discover."

May I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you at some of the events that have been organised for the months ahead. In the meantime, if you'd like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA, don't hesitate to

contact me on 07939 645688 or by email [angiejohnevans@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevans@uwclub.net)

### From the Rector of Eccleston

This was handed to me by the Rector of Eccleston on the grounds that it may amuse and is taken from the blog of the Dean of Glasgow Episcopal Cathedral. It is thought to be tongue-in-cheek but with the Dean you can never be entirely sure . . .

### Public service announcement

The following opinions are all correct:

1. The first carol on Christmas Day should always be *Christians Awake Salute The Happy Morn*. It should be sung lustily and with the last line repeated.
2. *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* may be sung to almost any tune. It must not, however, be sung to the tune Winchester Old. Acceptable tunes shall include:
  - \* Liverpool
  - \* Glasgow
  - \* Lyngham
  - \* Cranbrook - this may only be used once in every decade in any one place. There is a limit to how entertaining it is.
  - \* Old Foster
  - \* Sweet Chiming
  - \* Christmas Bells
3. the best Carol of all is *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* and it must be sung to the tune Noel by Arthur Sullivan. There are many things in which the US-based Episcopal Church is correct, but it is incorrect in its choice of tune for this carol. It may also be sung at Michaelmas. The incorrect words "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" are anathema. They have as much place in the Christian faith as Sundays before Advent or Sundays before Lent – i.e. none whatsoever.
4. *Jingle Bells* is not a carol.
5. The carol *Of The Father's Love Begotten* may be sung at any time from Advent Sunday until the Feast of Candlemas. It must only be sung to the words agreed by myself. The verse about seer and sybil must always be included as it is both profound and reminders all of Sybil Fawltly. I have every intention of broadcasting this carol unto the nation at the earliest opportunity so that everyone else may copy the St Mary's version of the words.
6. 10 points may be claimed for anyone spotting a heresy in any carol. A bonus of *continued overleaf*

## What's On?

### Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 17 Jan** Graham Eccles (St Asaph)  
**24 Jan** Andrew J Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)  
**31 Jan** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**7 Feb** Simon Russell (St Mary's Nantwich)  
**14 Feb** Geoffrey Wollatt (Manchester Cathedral)  
**21 Feb** Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus)  
**28 Feb** Daniel Clark (Berlin)

**Admission £5.45, concessions £4.50**

### St George's Hall, Liverpool

12.45pm to 1.30pm

- Tues 15 Jan** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

**Admission £5.50**

### Music at Wesley

Tuesdays 12.45pm to 1.30pm

- 15 Jan** Chetham's School of Music Pianists  
**22 Jan** John Bush - Trumpet, Brian Heald - Piano  
**29 Jan** Adam Davies - Piano  
**5 Feb** Heather Heighway - Soprano, Joseph Buckmaster - Tenor, Tim Kennedy - Piano  
**12 Feb** Ellis Thomas - Piano  
**19 Feb** Duncan Anderson - Viola, Leanne Cody - Piano  
**26 Feb** Urszula Krukowska-Byzdra - Cello, Brian Heald - Piano

### Saturday Organ Recitals

12.45pm to 1.35pm

- 16 Feb** John Hosking

**Admission Free - Retiring Collection**

### Hamilton Street Methodist Church, Hoole, Chester

Sunday Afternoon Charity Concerts at 3pm

- 20 Jan** Graham Eccles - Piano/Organ  
**17 Feb** The Hawarden Singers  
**17 Mar** St Martin's Academy School with John and Angie Evans

**Admission Free - suggested donation £5**

### Organ Recitals Nationwide

details on [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com)

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50 points is awarded to anyone who can come up with a heresy-free version that people will enjoy singing. Your 'starter for 10' is "*Veiled in Flesh the Godhead See*", which sounds like Docetism to me.

7. Anyone claiming that carols should be sung "in the original version" shall be required to sing *Hark How all The Welkin Rings* at the next carol service they are at and will then be required to explain to everyone at the door what a welkin is.

8. *In the Bleak Midwinter* may be sung, even though Jesus probably was not born amidst snow. However, it may only be sung by a good choir singing the Harold Darke version.

9. *O Come All Ye Faithful* is a Jacobite rallying call and is most proper for Scottish Episcopalians to sing.

10. Christmas cake should be eaten with cheese and not marzipan and icing.

Thank you for your attention.

## Organist Required

St Bridget's Church, West Kirby  
(Church of England)

Our much-loved organist steps down after Easter 2019, and so St Bridget's is looking for the right person to inspire and enable our Sunday worship.

We are open to how the fit between people and our requirements will be achieved and will be very flexible in our search to find the right person. If you have Christian faith, proven musical ability, and a love of people and music from a range of traditions, then please get in touch to talk about what you might be able to offer.

We pay an honorarium in line with RSCM guidelines, and there are additional fees available when playing for weddings and funerals.

Our main Sunday Common Worship communion service is at 10am and has a usual attendance of around 100 adults. We sing from "Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New" and normally include traditional choices alongside more contemporary songs from the likes of Iona and Taizé. Our small but enthusiastic SATB robed choir is looking for a leader. They assist in leading worship and sing an anthem during the distribution of communion.

An ad-hoc music group with both adults and children plays for the third Sunday all-age service, and they would welcome a keyboard player to inspire and extend their repertoire.

We are looking for someone who:

- is reliable, trustworthy and friendly
- can be a partner in ministry and mission for the Rector and ministry team to enhance the worshipping life of the church
- can encourage, nurture, and nourish the musical gifts of others
- can encourage congregational participation in worship, and have vision for the place of music in the growth and outreach of a missional church

We are looking for someone who can fill some or all of these roles:

- playing the organ for the 10am service each week
- playing the organ for extra Christmas and Easter services
- playing the organ for monthly BCP Evensong at 6.30pm
- leading choir rehearsals

For an informal conversation please contact Revd John Bleazard, Rector, St Bridget's West Kirby with Caldys Church Tel. 0151 625 1052 E: [johnbleazard@hotmail.com](mailto:johnbleazard@hotmail.com)

## St John's Festival Orchestra

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm is an evening not to be missed at the Wesley Church Centre. The programme is Aria, Scherza Infida ('Ariodante') (Handel), Piano Concerto No 1 in C Major (Beethoven), Aria: Una voce poco fa ('Barber of Seville') (Rossini)

and Symphony No 40 in G Minor (Mozart). Conductor: Adam Davies; Leader: Edward Davies; Soprano: Imogen Garner; Piano: William Green.

Tickets £12 at the door - under 16's £6.

## Further Vacant Organ Benches

St Philip's, Kelsall, Cheshire

Connecting our Community with God

### MUSIC LEADER

Our village church needs a leader who will direct and develop our music for worship. We have a small choir, several accomplished instrumentalists, an organ and an electronic keyboard - and a vision that worship should inspire our mission. As well as playing for services on Sundays and major festivals, administering and recording church music, you would encourage others in using their gifts in music and help the incumbent to select music for worship. An ability to work with children and young people (for which an enhanced DBS check will be required) is desirable. An Occupational Requirement has been established for the post holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act. Further information can be found at [www.kelsallparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.kelsallparishchurch.org.uk) or by emailing Maggie Grant (PCC representative) at [grantm2008@btinternet.com](mailto:grantm2008@btinternet.com) phoning 01928 740075. Salary to be agreed at RSCM rates, with fees additional.

### St Peter's, Little Budworth

More detail in next month's newsletter - all I know at the moment is that the parish are "still searching for an organist".

## Organ Restoration

We are all aware of the vast cost of restoring a pipe organ, and a friend of mine has just returned from a trip to Vienna where there is an appeal to save the "Giant Organ in St Stephens Cathedral".

I have been given a copy of the appeal leaflet and they are looking for €1 million, but a lot of money has been wasted along the way. In 1886 a large instrument was installed but was lost in the great fire of April 12, 1945. A new instrument was completed in 1960 but was never satisfactory and fell into disuse when another organ was installed in the south aisle in 1991. This instrument too proved unsatisfactory and in 2010 Cathedral authorities decided to go for complete rebuild of the giant organ to bring the instrument and its 125 stops back to life again. Let's hope this time they get it right!

## Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the February newsletter are required by end of January. Please write to Bob Jones at 3 Appleton Road, Chester CH2 1JH or (preferred) e-mail at [bob.jones25@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.jones25@btinternet.com) or telephone 01244 315089 or 07701 052304.