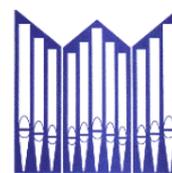


# Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

## Newsletter – March 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

Charles Jones has written to me as follows:

*"We are looking forward to welcoming you to Holy Trinity Llandudno on 23 March at 1.30 pm. I will give a short talk about the organ, past and present, and play for about 15 minutes, then it will be over to members.*

*"The post code for our Church car park is LL30 2RB - there are directions and an excellent map on our Parish website, [www.llandudno-parish.org.uk](http://www.llandudno-parish.org.uk).*

*"As you know, our car park is a public "Pay & Display" car park - there should be spaces available at this time of the year - no need for members to pay provided they put a note on their cars to say something like – 'Chester Organists' Association visiting Holy Trinity'. We administer the car park ourselves and I have cleared this with the Car Park man. Alternatively, there is a large, cheap car park at Llandudno Station off Vaughan Street, just behind the Church - post code LL30 2AF."*

Following on at 3.00pm we visit Llandudno Methodist Church.

### Next month

We will be visiting St Helen & St Mary in Neston on Monday 29 April at 7.30pm.

### The Chairman Writes

It's almost the end of February as I'm writing this article for our Newsletter and I'm feeling a little apprehensive, as the church I attend will be voting on its future this coming weekend. "Do we move and merge with the local URC or not?" is the question. As with the highly-quoted EU Referendum, in my opinion we do not have sufficient information to make such a life-changing choice, but a vote is still taking place.

You may be wondering why I'm telling you this; the reason being that as time has passed by, our congregation has slowly diminished, but we haven't tried to reverse the decline. We are now having to consider if we have the resources to continue in our current form. I can see similarities between my Church and our Association, as our Association numbers are declining and the numbers attending events is also, on some occasions,

embarrassingly low. If we are to survive and move forward in a positive way, it seems that we need to change our current format, and we certainly need to consider how we can reach out and attract new members. I'm not making any suggestions at this stage because it's your Association, and the suggestions should be coming from you, but be sure, just continuing along the same path seems certain to see a continuing decline in membership.

There was no event in February, but March sees us visiting the lovely seaside town of Llandudno. We will be visiting two very different churches and organs. At Holy Trinity there is a traditional pipe organ that has recently been refurbished and will be well-known to some of you. Just across the road is the Methodist Church where they have just installed a Rogers digital organ, and I'm sure that will be of little interest to some, however, it is important that we remain open to the possibilities that digital organs bestow. Many churches can't maintain a pipe organ and at least by installing a digital alternative, the organ as an instrument lives on. As someone who plays a digital organ most Sundays, I've often commented that we shouldn't compare a digital organ with a pipe organ, not least because for many a good-quality pipe organ is beyond their means. We should simply ask ourselves if we like the sound it produces, and does it do the job it was installed to do.

Whilst making comparisons, is there a big difference between a professional organist and a good amateur? I am often amazed when I watch and listen to our cathedral organists, at the complexity of what they can perform – beyond my wildest dreams! At the same time, I could either feel inspired to do better myself or feel completely demoralised. If you're one of those who fall into the second category, I'd like to offer the following as some comfort; it's not usually the complexity that makes a piece appealing to a wide audience. I've often found that I work hard to learn a piece only for someone in the congregation to come and tell me how much they'd enjoyed the easy piece I'd played the same day – this happened to me a couple of weeks ago when I played Bach's Concerto in C only for someone to say how

much they'd enjoyed Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring!

The evenings are getting lighter and the weather is improving, so I hope we will meet up in the next couple of months at the events that have been organised. In the meantime, if you'd like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA, don't hesitate to contact me by email at [angiejohnevs@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevs@uwclub.net) or by phone on 07939-645688.

### Organ for Sale



The Association has been contacted by someone wishing to sell their electric organ:

*"I'll be buying my first house soon, and I won't have room for my electric organ, so am looking for a good home for it. It's a 2-manual Viscount Prestige IX with full pedalboard and also a top cabinet with speaker behind miniature decorative pipes (see photo), and bass woofer (out of shot). The stop characteristics can be altered in the pull-out control panel, and there's a headphone socket. I'm looking to sell for around £4,800. Would you be able to advertise this to members of the CNEWOCA? If there's any more information or images you need, please ask and I will do my best to provide!"*

Please contact Angie Evans on [angiejohnevs@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevs@uwclub.net) if you are interested, and she can put you in touch with the seller.

## What's On?

### Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 21 Mar** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**28 Mar** Anthony Gritten (Royal Academy of Music)  
**4 Apr** Andrew J Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)  
**11 Apr** Graham Eccles (St Asaph)  
**18 Apr** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**25 Apr** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

Admission £5.45, Concessions £4.50

### Liverpool Cathedral

12.45pm to 1.15pm

- Fri 29 Mar** Lee Ward with Kevin Beckett (Counter Tenor)  
**Fri 12 Apr** Lee Ward with Rebecca Duggan (Soprano) and Martin Howarth (Counter Tenor)  
**Tues 22 Apr** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

Admission Free - Retiring Collection

### Ty Pawb, Wrexham

Thursdays 1.00pm to 2.00pm

- 28 Mar** Kieron-Connor Valentine (Vocal and Piano)  
**4 Apr** Wandering Winds (Flute and Bassoon)  
**11 Apr** Ian Stopes and David Hopkins (Guitar and Woodwind)  
**15 Apr** Wrexham Music Festival – 6 classes of musicianship Monday to Wednesday, to  
**18 Apr** 2 per day. Final Thursday - special contribution by leading musician(s) on final day

### Music at Wesley

Tuesdays 12.45pm to 1.30pm

- 26 Mar** Jeremy and Brian Heald (Piano duet)  
**2 Apr** Yuki Kagajo (Piano)  
**9 Apr** John Gough (Piano)  
**16 Apr** Vale Royal Singers perform Vivaldi's Gloria  
**23 Apr** Hayley Parkes (Piano)

### Saturday Organ Recitals

12.45pm to 1.35pm

- 13 Apr** Christopher Symons (Oswestry)

Admission Free - Retiring Collection

### St Asaph Cathedral

Wednesdays at 7.30pm

- 3 Apr** Graham Eccles (St Asaph)  
**1 May** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

Admission £6

### Bangor Cathedral

Tuesdays 1.10pm

- 9 Apr** Robert Jones (Our Lady and St James, Bangor)

Admission Free - Retiring Collection

### St George's Hall, Liverpool

12.45pm to 1.30pm

- Tues 16 Apr** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

Admission £5.50

### Hamilton St Methodist Church

Sunday Afternoon Charity Concerts at 3pm

- 21 Apr** EASTER CELEBRATION (Hamilton St. Choir Fellowship) raising funds for MIND

- 19 May** The Queen's School, Chester

Admission free - suggested donation £5

### Organ Recitals Nationwide

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

### Liverpool Cathedral

Just a bit of extra info regarding the advert in 'What's On' - on 29 March the programme is Lenten Music for Organ and Voice with works by Dupré, Purcell and Bach. On 12 April it is Pergolesi - Stabat Mater.

### Digital Organ for Sale

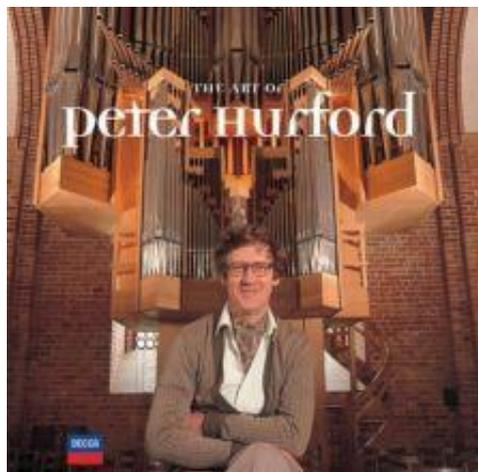
Allen Renaissance Quantum 3-manual drawstop organ for sale. One owner from new. £20,000 ono.



Details: Rev Robert Pearce, 14 Trinity Ave, Llandudno LL30 2SJ Tel: 01492 874340.

### Peter Hurford (1938 - 2019)

The organist and composer, Peter Hurford, (1930-2019) has died.



His recordings of Bach Organ works are outstanding and amongst my favourite interpretations. Whilst some of his organ

music is very much of the mid-20th century in style, some reflect the styles of earlier times.

[The following information about his life and work is taken from various sources....]

"He studied with Harold Darke before reading music and law at Cambridge. He then opted for music and worked in Paris with André Marchal who introduced him to the riches of French organ music. In 1956 he took up the post of organist at Holy Trinity, Leamington Spa; he also taught music at Bablake School in Coventry. In 1958 he moved to St Albans where he served as organist and Music of Music for 20 years.

"During his time in the city, he also established an organ competition, inspired by the installation of a new Harrison & Harrison organ designed by himself and Ralph Downes. The competition blossomed into the St Albans International Organ Festival.

"He travelled extensively for both his



performance and recording career. He was artist in residence at Cincinnati, Ohio University (1967-68), Toronto, Canada (1977), and consultant for the Sydney Opera House organ.

"He is best known for his interpretations of Bach, having recorded the complete Bach organ works for Decca and BBC Radio 3. His expertise also encompasses recordings of the Romantic literature for organ, performances notable for attention to stylistic detail. His playing style is noted for clean articulation, beauty of expression, and a sense of proper tempo.

"He wrote a book: *Making Music on the Organ* (1998, Oxford University Press, ISBN 0-19-816207-3) and published a great deal of choral music for the Anglican liturgy, much of it issued by leading publishers such as Novello and Oxford University Press. His *Litany to the Holy Spirit*, to a famous text by Robert Herrick, is sung worldwide.

"He suffered a minor stroke in 1997 but recovered enough to resume his performing career seven months later. In 2008 he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, hence he retired formally from performing in 2009. He died peacefully on March 3rd, 2019."

**Youtube:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_zvVpU46-c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_zvVpU46-c)

### Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the April newsletter are required by the end of March. 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.