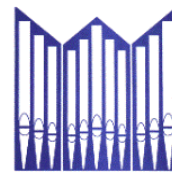


# Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

## Newsletter – September 2017

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

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

### This Month

Monday 18 September at 7.30pm  
Composite Recital at St Giles', Wrexham  
LL13 8LS

We thank member Chris Pilsbury for the opportunity to play the three-manual Forster & Andrews instrument at St Giles'.

Every year Chris arranges two series of recitals, and if you get chance there is a nice Schimmel piano. We are looking for volunteers to play for about 10 minutes each – please e-mail John Evans if you are interested ([angiejohnevs@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevs@uwclub.net)).

### Next Month

On Monday 9 October we visit the Church of the Good Shepherd, Heswall. This is a new organ (1971) built by Rushworth and Dreaper, and whereas most of us have to manage with one or two pedal stops, this instrument boasts 9 on the pedal with 6 each on the Great and Swell.

### The Chairman Writes

The recent changes in weather both here and abroad, along with many 'regular' events recommencing in September, remind us that change comes whether we like it or not, and at the same time most of us also like a routine. As our events for the remainder of 2017 are somewhat earlier in the month than usual, your monthly Newsletter will also be arriving at a different time, hopefully to remind you of the next event.

There were plenty of opportunities to listen to the organ 'live' during August, even though we didn't have a special event ourselves. It was good to meet up with many of you at some of these events to hear the music and have a chat.

We have a very exciting programme of events lined up for the coming season and I personally think there is a good variety of both organs, venues and educational opportunities. As well as going to the ones locally, I hope you might also try to go to one or two of the events a little further from home.

When the choir sings well, we are successful; when it sings badly, we fail. As musicians or in whatever service we give to the church, success can be short-lived; we can have a wonderful service one Sunday and an awful one the next.

We often talk about our vocation or calling. Jesus said to his disciples, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you to bear much fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you all that you ask in my Name. This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you."

Life is all about relationships, and for them to grow it must be a two-way process. As a choir/choirmaster we have a two-way relationship; that's what choir practices are all about; the choir responds to the choirmaster, and the choirmaster to the choir. But is our relationship with God a two-way process?

God calls us by name, it is an ongoing call. "You are the body of Christ," says St Paul, "and each of you is an important part." This is as true today as it was when these words were written. God doesn't just call one part of us, such as our musical expertise; he calls all of us, good bits and not so good! It is people that make a Church, and the people who must maintain and prepare it for the challenges of the future that will surely come its way.

When we take on a job - chorister, choirmaster or organist - we want to be successful, but our vocation calls us to be faithful. This needs constant awareness and judgement on our part to enable us to maintain a balance between the two.

It's easy to get taken in by individual issues and forget the foremost reason that we are associated with the Church and its music. It is the responsibility of us all to spread the Good News about Jesus, which for most of us is by our musical offerings.

I look forward to seeing you at some of the events that have been organised for the months ahead. If you'd like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact me on 07939 645688 or by email: [angiejohnevs@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevs@uwclub.net)

### Encouraging the Youth

Following on from last month's newsletter, member James Stewart from Llandudno has written:-

*"Re. your note in the Newsletter "Encouraging the Youth", I was secretary for the Newcastle and District Society of Organists for a few years. We arranged*

*Young Peoples' Organ Days to create interest in the organ. They were well attended by school-aged youngsters. The days were usually on a Saturday, in one of the city or local churches with an organ which had its console at floor level for accessibility, and preferably such that the audience could watch demonstrations by players.*

*"A typical programme would be an introductory welcome talk, and a talk and demonstration by a local organ builder on how the organ is made, how it works, etc. Sometimes the organ builder would bring some sample pipes, the blowing of which gave some enjoyment! Once the audience's hearing was tested by the organ builder blowing some very high frequency pipes and being asked who could hear them! Usually those who could would be the youngest. That led to a simple explanation of the influence of harmonics in making up a chorus.*

*"Under supervision the young folk would be invited to try the instrument. Most but not all would be learning music. I can recommend the idea of a Young Peoples' Organ Day at least once a year, visiting different locations. And yes, most organs are locked away, often fiercely guarded by their organists, who are often seventy years old! Carlo Curley told of his first shot at the organ in such circumstances - he sneaked round and broke a church window to get in and try the thing!!! Whether you liked Carlo or not, he certainly did well after that! I met him and heard him at Hexham Abbey where he told that story. Of course, he sent the super classicists up the wall but he was a great advertiser of the instrument! I am an architect long retired so don't support driving youngsters to break church windows!! We did not believe an upper grade in piano was necessary. It can put folk off, and simple keyboard lessons can be given on the organ. Just don't choose one like Chester Cathedral! A basic small parish church or chapel organ of two manuals is fine. Fingering a percussive instrument like a piano is not the same as controlling sustained organ tones or using marcato. Many kids are now familiar with popular keyboards and the transfer is fairly simple."*

How about arranging such an event in 2018?

## What's On?

### Chester Cathedral Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 14 Sep** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**21 Sep** Rachel Mahon (Chester Cathedral)  
**28 Sep** Andrew J Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)  
**5 Oct** Martin Patziaff (Germany)  
**12 Oct** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

### Liverpool Cathedral Saturday 14 October at 3.45pm

Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)  
- the organ's 91st anniversary recital -  
**Admission free**

### St Giles', Wrexham Mondays at 12.30pm

- 18 Sep** Iain Stinson (All Saints, Thornton Hough)  
**25 Sep** Christopher Pilsbury (St Giles', Wrexham)  
**2 Oct** Gerry Howe (St Oswald's, Oswestry)  
**9 Oct** David Bird (Chester)

**Lunches available**  
**Admission free - retiring collection**

### St Chad's, Shrewsbury

- Tues 3 Oct** Simon Earl (Christchurch Priory)  
**Fri 20 Oct** Paul Carr (Birmingham)  
**All recitals at 12.40pm**  
**Admission free - retiring collection**

### St George's Hall, Liverpool

- Sun 24 Sep** Ian Wells (Holy Trinity, Southport)  
**Sun 8 Oct** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)  
**All recitals at 2.30pm**  
**Admission £2.50**

### Music at Wesley

**Tuesdays - 12.45pm to 1.35pm**

- 19 Sep** Helen Southall (Saxophone)  
Raewyn Bailey (Piano)  
**26 Sep** Kell Wind Trio (Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon)  
**3 Oct** Chetham's School Instrumentalists  
**10 Oct** Chester Music Festival Winners

**Note:** in addition, Brian has arranged a series of Saturday lunchtime organ recitals (12.45pm to 1.35pm):

- 30 Sep** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**Admission free - retiring collection**

### St Stephen's, Hightown, Liverpool

**Saturday 23 September at 7.30pm**  
Reopening of the organ  
Ian Tracey

### St Werburgh's, Chester Friday 6 October at 7.30pm

Paul Carr (Birmingham)  
**Admission free - retiring collection**

### Shrewsbury Abbey

**Wednesday 27 September at 1.00pm**  
Sean Montgomery (Hebdon Bridge)  
**Admission free - retiring collection**

### Organ Recitals Nationwide <http://www.organrecitals.com>

**Final Reminder:**  
**Chester Cathedral Organ Marathon**  
**Saturday 16 September 2017**  
**9.00am to 9.00pm**

Philip Rushforth has written as follows:

*'I want to give you notice that we are again holding another ORGAN MARATHON here at the Cathedral in aid of the Grand Organ Appeal. Our last marathon was held in October 2014 and I know that you took part and supported the appeal. For that I am very grateful. If you would like to take part again - I am very much hoping you will - and obtain sponsorship for your time at the magnificent organ of Chester Cathedral, please SAVE THE DATE and spread the word to any likely participants!*

*Once again, Nigel Ogden will be our Celebrity Recitalist who will play roughly half way through the day. More information will be forthcoming in the next couple of months'.*

### A Trip to Beverley

I was visiting a friend on the other side of the Pennines when I made the visit to Beverley to see the Minster. During the early part of the visit we were close to St Mary's Church so paid a visit there. The outer stonework is in a poor state of repair and I was told that there is a joint lottery bid in place to assist with repairs to the Church plus repairs to the roof of the Minster. St Mary's has a four-manual organ and the rebuild of this is



included in the bid, but I was surprised to find a contradiction. Over the years ranks of pipes have been added to the instrument and on the organ is a plaque thanking the generosity of those who funded the extra stops and how it improved the sound of the instrument. However, in the entrance to the Church is a display detailing the work required plus the state of repair of the organ which over the years had been the subject of additional stops which did not enhance the sound of the instrument, creating "dissonance". The Church is well worth a

visit, and we then made our way to the Minster.

I had assumed that Beverley Minster was a Cathedral (as in York Minster) but a Minster is a large or important church, typically (but not exclusively) one of Cathedral status. Beverley Minster in Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, is a parish church in the Church of England. It is one of the largest parish churches in the UK, larger than one third of all English Cathedrals and regarded by many as a gothic masterpiece.

Originally a collegiate church, it was not selected as a bishop's seat during the Dissolution of the Monasteries; nevertheless it survived as a parish church and the chapter house was the only major part of the building to be lost. It is part of the Greater Churches Group and a Grade I listed building. Every year it hosts events in association with local schools, including the Beverley Minster Primary School Nativity Performance and the Beverley Grammar School Speech Night.



The large, chestnut-coloured organ with gold pipes that gleam like the morning sun was designed by Dr Arthur Hill in 1916. It houses an original manual from the organ built by John Snetzler in 1769, which has been increased to 4 manuals since. There have been subsequent rebuilds and restorations by William Hill & Sons in 1884, and by Hill, Norman and Beard in 1962-63. Well worth a visit if you are in the area. (RJ)

### 2017-2018 Subs

These were due on 1 September - I was under pressure to get the August newsletter out "early" in the month and I overlooked the issue of subs. The relevant form is enclosed. As the October meeting is early in the month there will be a short gap between this and the next newsletter, so please don't be offended if it is just a short while before to get a reminder for non-payment!

### Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the October newsletter are required by the third week in September, as the October meeting is early in the month. 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.