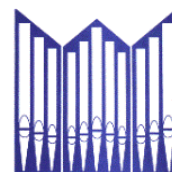


Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – February / March 2020

Online at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

Important: correction of February's venue.

We apologise for circulating the wrong information about the meeting on February 24th. The correct information is provided below.

February meeting: Highfield URC Rock Ferry

We are to visit **Highfield United Reform Church Rock Ferry** on **Monday 24th February starting at 7:30pm**. The church is located on the corner of Rock Lane West and Highfield South, Rock Ferry, Wirral, **CH42 2NZ**. The church is a listed Grade II building, built as a Congregationalist church in 1870-71. It is faced in white Storeton stone with an impressive tower and spire and inside has some fine high Victorian stained glass windows. The organ is a Willis organ rebuilt by Rushworth and Dreaper in 1962. The specification of the two manual and pedal organ may be found at www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=N04439



Two organists will demonstrate the instrument for us. Chris Whitfield will play in classical/church style and David Nichols will entertain us in the theatre/cinema style. The organ will then be available for

members to try out in *their* style! This should be a very enjoyable evening.

March meeting: St Chads Farndon Chester

We are to visit **St Chads Farndon** on **Monday March 30th starting at 7:30pm** to hear, see and play the organ in the church. The Association's General Secretary, Katriona Moulton, has kindly offered to host this meeting and we hope many members will come along.



A church was present on the site at the time of the survey for the Domesday Book; the present church dates from the 14th century – it was damaged during the civil war and, apart from the tower, rebuilt in 1658 by William Barnston. It was restored in the 19th Century. The church website, www.stchadschurchfarndon.org.uk has an interesting history of the building.



The organ at St Chad's was installed by Jardine Organs in 1947(?) and is still maintained by them. The disposition of the organ is: *Swell*: Cornopean 8, Mixture

II, Gemshorn 4, Viola da Gamba 8, Open Diapason 8, Voix Celeste 8, Lieblich Gedackt 8, Tremulant; *Great*: Trumpet 8, Fifteenth 2, Principal 4, Clarabella 8, Dulciana 8, Open Diapason 8; *Pedal*: Bourdon 16, Flute 8; *Couplers*: Sw Oct, Sw Sub, Sw to Grt, Sw to Ped, Grt to Ped.

The address of the church is Church Lane, Farndon Chester CH3 6QD

New chamber organ in Chester Cathedral

For the first time since 1876, Chester Cathedral possesses a brand new organ. It is a four-stop chamber organ which has been hand-built and designed specifically for use in the Quire. Every part – except the tin pipes – has been made in the workshop of organ builder, Robin Jennings, in Dorset. (Robin's work can be viewed at jennings-organs.co.uk)



8ft Stopped Diapason, 4ft Principal, 4ft Chimney Flute and 2ft Fifteenth.

Robin has built organs for use by John Eliot Gardiner and the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra (Robin's workshop is actually on Eliot Gardiner's farm); Trinity College, Cambridge; the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Academy of Ancient Music. The organ will be used for accompanying Tudor and Restoration music at services as well as for some organ voluntaries. It will also be used as a continuo organ for concerts held in the Nave.

The funds for purchasing the organ were given by a couple in the congregation who regularly attend worship. I am extremely grateful for their generosity.

Philip Rushforth

Mahler on the Organ

Jim Treloar writes:

I have long been a lover of the symphonies of Gustav Mahler, although I appreciate that not everyone shares my enthusiasm. My interest goes back nearly 50 years when I attended a performance of no.2, The Resurrection, conducted by Zubin Mehta.

The virtuoso organist and composer David Briggs has set himself the task of making arrangements of many of Mahler's works for the organ, which seems an amazing piece of work in itself and furthermore he has recorded them on CDs. From his website I saw that he had recorded the Resurrection so I decided to purchase a copy as I considered that this must be the ultimate task of arranging. The work lasts about 90 minutes and is spread across 2 CDs. The organ he uses is the Walker in Blackburn Cathedral which is a favourite of mine anyway. The work also has a major choral section and for this he has the City of Birmingham Choir together with two soloists, Julia Marson and Christine Steimacovich. I've already played this a number of times and each time I just find it something which I don't think that anyone else would be capable of, either as an arranger or a player, to use the word virtuoso is an understatement. He manages to use the organ in a way which seems to incorporate all the harmonies and sounds which one is used to hearing in the orchestral version. I always find the final 10 to 15 minutes very moving, a superb piece of writing, but as an organ lover, hearing it on the organ, particularly Blackburn Cathedral organ, is just out of this world, if I can use a hackneyed expression. If you are interested in Mahler I can recommend this double CD without hesitation. It is available direct from David Briggs' website. <https://www.david-briggs.org/recordings>

Organ in the Church of the Good Shepherd Heswall

Some of you may remember that we visited the Church of the Good Shepherd in Heswall to hear, see and play the small two manual and pedal organ designed by Roger Fisher and built by Rushworth and Dreaper. The present Good Shepherd Church is to be demolished and replaced by a new church – the new church will not have an organ (as the style of worship at the Good Shepherd no longer uses the organ). There has been some concern about the future of the instrument but we understand that, subject to faculties being granted by the Diocese of Chester, the organ is to be moved to St Luke's Holmes Chapel. (*Heswall Parish magazine Feb/Mar 2020*)

CNEWOCA Officers

Chairman: Tony Warren
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Newsletter contributions
newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk

Newsletter contributions

You are invited to send your contributions or details of concerts and recitals for listing for the April *Newsletter* by March 19th. Please send them by to newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk or post to the General Secretary, Katriona Moulton.

What's on?

Organ Recitals Nationwide

Details at www.organrecitals.com

St George's Hall, Liverpool

Ian Tracey
Liverpool Cathedral /
Liverpool City Organist

Tuesdays, 12:45 – 1:30pm

Tue March 3rd

Tue April 21st

Admission £5.50

Liverpool Cathedral

Bank Holiday Monday

April 13th 11:15am

Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral

Admission £5

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

February

20th Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

27th Daniel Clark (Berlin, Germany)

March

5th Andrew Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)

12th Richard Lea (Liverpool Metropolitan)

19th Anthony Pinel (St Chads Shrewsbury)

26th Alexander Palotai (Chester Cathedral)

Admission £5.45, Concessions £4.50

Woodley Methodist Church

[SK8 1NF]

Friday 27th March 7:30pm

Nigel Odgen (Concert Organist)

In aid of Willow Wood Hospice

Admission £9

Shrewsbury Abbey

Sat 7th March 12:40pm Thomas Trotter
(Birmingham City Organist)

Sat 4th April 12:40pm James McVinnie
(London)

Free. Retiring Collection.

Shrewsbury, The Buttermarket

Sun 15th Mar 2:30pm David Ivory

(Bury St Edmunds)

Admission £7

St Chad's Shrewsbury

Fri 21st Feb 12:40pm Richard Walker
(St Chad's Shrewsbury)

Fri 20th Mar 12:40pm Carleton Etherington
(Tewksbury Abbey)

Free. Retiring Collection.

Blackburn Cathedral

Wednesdays 1:00pm – 1:40pm

February

19th Tom Bell (Lancs)

March

4th Richard Tanner (Rugby School)

11th John Hosking (Runcorn)

18th John Robinson (Blackburn)

25th Karen Au (Blackburn)

Admission free; suggested donation £4.

Chester Music Society

Chester Cathedral

Saturday 23rd March 7:30pm

Bach: The Passion according to St John

Admission £7, £14, £20

Music at Wesley

Wesley Church Centre, St. John Street, Chester

Saturday Organ Recitals 12:45pm

Mar 21st John Hosking (Runcorn)

Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts 12:45pm

February

18th Duncan Anderson (Viola) &

Leanne Cody (Piano)

25th Kell Wind Trio

March

3rd Nina Savicevic (Piano)

10th Deborah Catterall (Soprano) &

Hugh Cherry (Lute)

17th Chetham's Pianists

24th Adam Davies (piano)

Admission free. Retiring Collection.

IAO London Organ Day

February 29th 9:30am

Union Chapel Islington &

St John's Duncan Terrace

Details at

iao.org.uk/newsevents/london-organ-day/