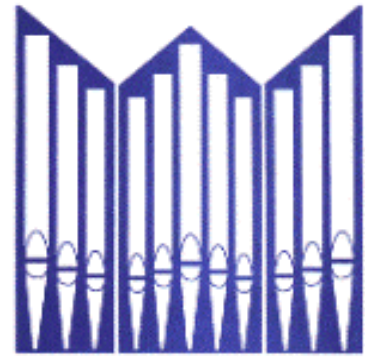


Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

Online Newsletter

April 21st 2021



Online at

www.cnewoca.org.uk

Association News

Hello. We trust you are all OK and enjoying the fine spring weather. Your committee has been busy preparing to restart the Association's meeting as the present situation improves. We are trying to ensure that we can serve all our members across both England and Wales as we begin to plan our meetings. We are hoping to arrange some "in person" meetings after June 19th, when it is presently expected that the current Covid-19 restrictions will end.

The dates and information set out below is presently a little tentative and will be confirmed near the time, but we wanted to share our plans with you now.

This on-line newsletter is being published on the website and our members who are on our contact email list will be sent a link to the newsletter. The newsletter is being presented as a pdf file (and so could be downloaded and printed) but the newsletter includes many links to other websites with news and information which we hope you will all enjoy. If you read this online, you can go to these other sites by clicking directly on the links (underlined in blue) in the newsletter. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to others who share our interest in the organ and choral music.

We would welcome your feedback on this venture: please send it to newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk.

Our Annual Meeting is being combined with a first meeting at St Chad's Farndon Chester

The Association's General Secretary, Katriona Moulton, has kindly offered to host this meeting and we hope that many of our members will come along. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday 26th June starting at 2:00pm**.

The Annual Meeting will take place first, then Katriona will introduce us to the organ. There will be an opportunity for members to play the instrument and enjoy a cup of tea. We hope to encourage members to bring along any organ music they wish to swap or donate to others – this will be an ideal opportunity to find some new music and to share some music we no longer require. We also would like to encourage attendees to bring along any organ related magazines they wish to give to others or to "swap". We have been given some back issues of the IAO Organists' Review which attendees are welcome to take home (at no charge). This will be a great afternoon – please reserve the date in your diary now.

The address of the church is Church Lane, Farndon Chester CH3 6QD. There is good parking near the church and buses run to Farndon from Chester and Wrexham.



Brief information about the church and the organ

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](#), 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 8, Voix Celeste 8, Lieblich Gedackt 8, Tremulant;

Great: Trumpet 8, Fifteenth 2, Principal 4, Clarabella 8, Dulciana 8, Open 8;

Pedal Bourdon 16, Flute 8;

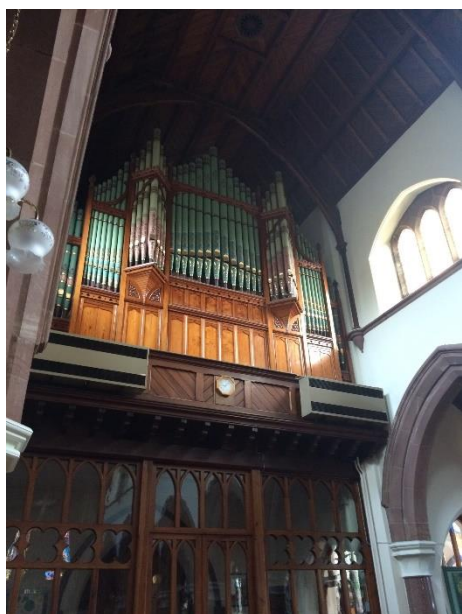
Couplers Sw Oct, Sw Sub, Sw to Grt, Sw to Ped, Grt to Ped.



Diapason

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Our July meeting will be a visit to St Joseph's Catholic Church in Colwyn Bay



to see, hear and play the fine organ in the church. We have invited to the church by the organist, Revd Cannon Quentin Bellamy. Quentin is no stranger to the Association – he was the principal individual involved in its establishment.

The meeting will take place on **Monday 19th July starting at 7:00pm**. The address of the church is Conway Road, Colwyn Bay, LL29 7LG.

The organ can be found on the NPOR at <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=R00301>.

It was originally built by Peter Conacher (Huddersfield) for the Jerusalem Calvinistic Methodist Church, Penmaenmawr and move to St Joseph's and rebuild by George Sixsmith & Son in 1995. It is a fine two manual and pedal instrument and is in the west-end gallery of this very fine church.

Put the date in your diary now!

Chester Cathedral Organ Recitals and choral services

Philip Rushforth told us that the music staff at the Cathedral had been furloughed, but as the levels of Covid-19 infection are declining and the situation is beginning to improve, services are once more being held in the Cathedral. (Choral Evensong takes place at 5.30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday afternoon at 3.30 with a service of Choral Eucharist at 10am on a Sunday morning).

Some of you may have watched the moving service for the Duke of Edinburgh on the Cathedral's YouTube channel.

The cathedral's South Transept has become a Covid-19 asymptomatic testing centre. Philip is not entirely sure how it will affect the organ recitals, although, so far, he says there is little disturbance caused by it. Philip hopes that organ recitals can begin again on May 27th. We'll post more information when it is available.

Philip adds: "Many of you are kind enough to still ask about Roger. Simply to say there is really no improvement in his situation, but he continues to be comfortable in the nursing home and is looked after very well by the staff there".

Other organ related articles

Herford Cathedral has posted its Easter Monday organ recital by Peter Dyke on YouTube.

The details of the fine Father Willis organ may be found on the NPOR at <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=N09756> and on the Cathedral website at <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/organs> and <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/willis-organ-spec>.

Here is the link to the recital <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKvoQpb4RZ4&t=4s>.

The programme (with approximate start times) is as follows and the recital lasts about 50 minutes.



00:30 SUSATO Mohrentanz
03:05 WALTON Coronation March: Orb and Sceptre
12:00 GRIEG Morning
18:15 THALBEN-BALL Vreuchten (This joyful Eastertide)
19:15 SMYTH Erschienen ist der herrlich' Tag
21:25 BACH Christ lag in Todesbanden
24:20 HANDEL Organ Concerto in F, 2nd movement ("The Cuckoo and the Nightingale")
29:45 SAINT-SAËNS Fantaisie in E flat
37:20 DEARNLEY Dominus regit me

41:05 BRAHMS Herzlich tut mich verlangen
43:50 WIDOR Toccata (Symphony no 5)

Thanks to Jim Treloar for passing this on.

There is an excellent Hauptwerk sample set of this instrument from Lavender Audio and information about the sample set (and the organ) may be found at <https://www.lavenderaudio.co.uk/organs/herford/>



"Organs, organ music and organists around the world will be celebrated in a week of online broadcasts leading up to **interNational Organ Day** on Saturday 24 April.

With global pandemic restrictions still in place, The Royal College of Organists (RCO) has turned interNational Organ Day 2021 into a fully online event, and made it the culmination of a full week of broadcasts running from 18 to 24 April.

The Organ Show will be a week of live daily programmes featuring a mix of interviews, chat, features and studio guests, and explore different themes. RCO Chief Executive Sir Andrew Parmley and British soprano Cheryl Enever will present the shows, with organist and broadcaster Anna Lapwood joining them as guest interviewer.

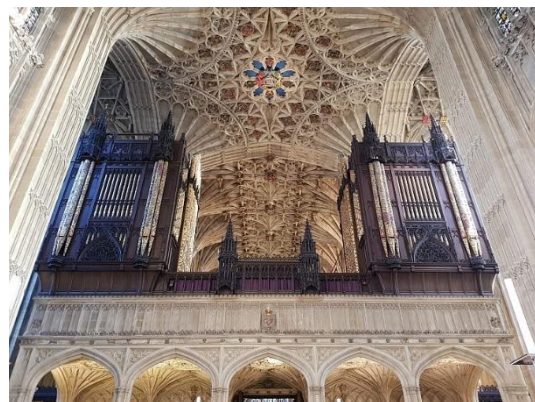
The entire week has been designed to inspire non-organists to engage with the organ, seek out organ music and events, to learn to play, and to support the work of the RCO in developing new generations of musicians and enthusiasts.

So download and forward the flier to family and friends; share the link and the hashtag #InternationalOrganDay; and encourage everyone you know to tune in to The Organ Show from 18-24 April!"

Further information and details at <https://www.rco.org.uk/internationalorganday2021.php>.

Many will have watched the funeral of Prince Philip from **St George's Chapel, Windsor**. Although much reduced from the "usual" royal service, it was very moving and most effective.

The organ music played at the service by Luke Bond included:
Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele BWV 654 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Adagio espressivo (Sonata in A minor) Sir William Harris (1883–1973)
Salix (The Plymouth Suite) Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)
Berceuse (Op 31 No. 19) Louis Vierne (1870–1937)
Rhosymedre Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) (Three Preludes Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes)
Prelude and Fugue in C minor BWV 546 Johann Sebastian Bach



The singing by the three lay clerks and the lady soprano, directed by James Vivian, was excellent and very beautiful. The Britten Jubilate in C (written at the Duke's request for the Royal Chapel) worked wonderfully well, even though it was only sung by four singers. If you missed the service it is available on iPlayer (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000vndp/the-funeral-of-hrh-the-prince-philip-duke-of-edinburgh-no-commentary>).

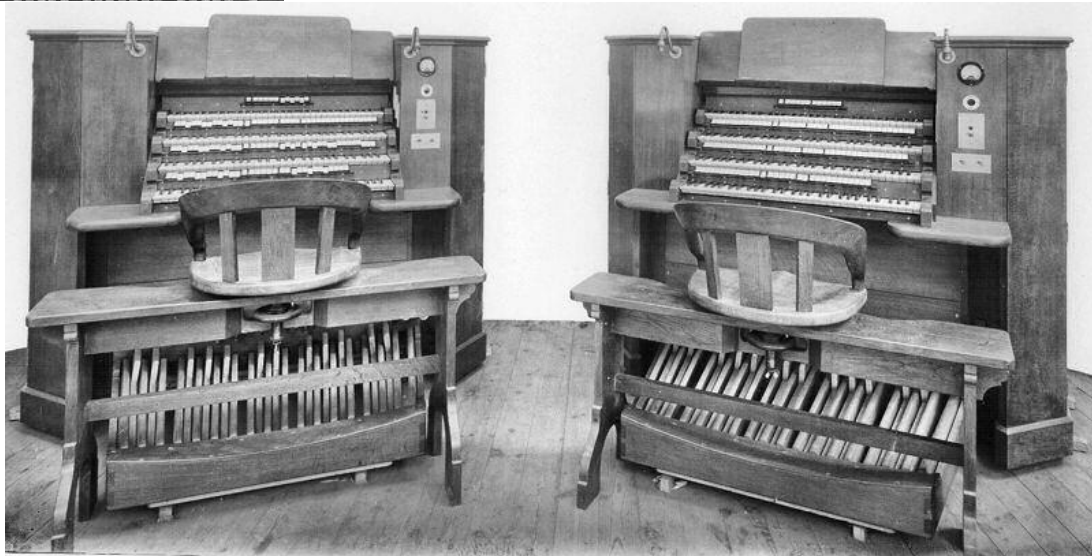
The organ in the Chapel has recently been rebuilt by Nicholson & Co (Malvern); details may be found at <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=C01318> and on the Nicholson website at <http://www.nicholsonorgans.co.uk/pf/windsor-sgc/>. There is an interesting document which gives details of the work Nicholson carried out (<http://www.nicholsonorgans.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/websitespec-SGCW.pdf>).



If you look back at some of the earlier incarnations of the instrument you will see that the rebuild of 1930 provided two consoles located next to each other and that the stop control was via stop keys between the manuals see <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=D02818>.

The article referred to in NPOR record can be found at <https://www.pipelinepress.com/seeing-double---part-2.html>,

The current console (one only) is of the conventional type!



John Evans recently received a letter from Andrea Web (a composer) which said:

"Dear Mr Evans

*Hello, I'd like to bring to your attention, if I may, music composed and arranged by my friend and colleague **Paul Ayres**.*

Below are a few online recordings of Paul's pieces for organ. If you're currently searching for repertoire, I can arrange for some free perusal scores to be sent (as PDF files).

I'm helping with Paul's promotion by getting the word out to organists -- I found your details on the web -- if this is of no interest at all, then please forgive my troubling you. But I really hope that you'll enjoy the music, and will regard this message as a useful introduction to new pieces, not just a mindless mail-out!"

The letter included a list of some music to look at and the link to Paul Ayres website, www.paulayres.co.uk. Why not have a look around?

Aria (from Suite) <https://youtu.be/j0bCdjBm6yA>

Duo (from Suite) <https://youtu.be/0oqsTjnU550>

Intermezzo (from Suite) <https://youtu.be/Fg6KQlmnNB8>

Recitative on Yesterday (Beatles song in French Baroque style) <https://youtu.be/ydeD80A6Mcg>

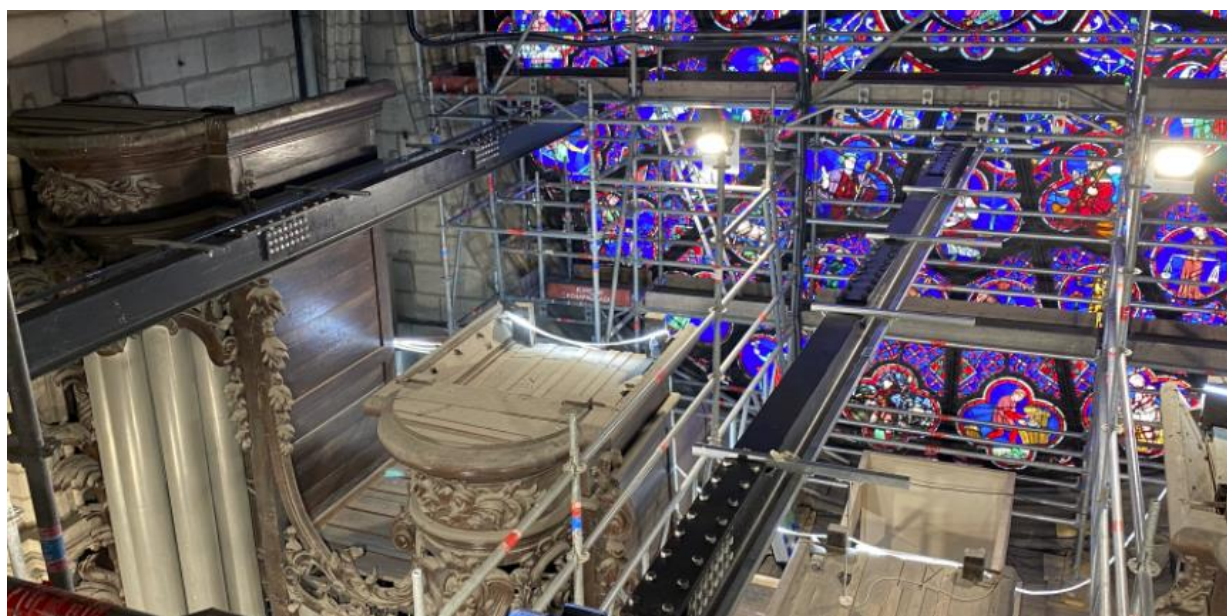
The Radio 4 UK Theme (transcription) <https://youtu.be/oVwxQWEzNRs>

Now thank we all our God (last-verse harmony) http://youtu.be/DMDmo_DR1e4

Once in royal David's city (alternative harmonies) <http://youtu.be/V67K8MSo0Ws>

Rainbow Toccatas CD (youtube preview compilation) <https://youtu.be/wnRb5oythOY>

It is now two years since the terrible fire at **Notre Dame** in Paris. Many of us will never forget seeing the wonderful building engulfed in flames. With great skill the restoration of the building is now very much underway. The Grand Organ at the west end of the Cathedral was rather miraculously spared and restoration of the instrument is underway. Olivier Latry has recently given an interview to the online magazine Vox Humana which offers an update on the work on the organ. Follow this link <https://www.voxhumanajournal.com/latry2021.html> to read the most interesting article.



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