

Volume 6 Issue 5

Winter
2010

BOA

BIRMINGHAM
ORGANISTS
ASSOCIATION

Birmingham Organists' Association

NEWSLETTER



*We wish all our readers a
Very Merry Christmas*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SLIDES AND MUSIC FROM THE AGO CONVENTION.

**BROADWAY URC, GILLITY AVENUE, WALSALL WS5 3PH
MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM.**

When Mike Irvine, Secretary of the Gloucester Organists' Association, attended the American Guild of Organists Convention in the USA, he recorded the event in photographs and music. Mike is going to present this record to us and talk about his experiences in the States. Now we've all heard the old jokes about watching the neighbours' holiday slides for hour upon hour on a winter evening, but this really is something quite different! He has presented his 'show' to other Associations and he comes to us highly recommended, so be sure not to miss this. Admission, including refreshments, is free to BOA members and £5.00 to non-members. There is ample car-parking available at the church, which can be found at the junction of the A4148 and B4151.

ADVANCE NOTICE

THE ORGAN AS AN ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENT

**KING EDWARD VI TH FIVE WAYS SCHOOL,
BARTLEY GREEN
MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30PM**

Includes cheese, wine, pate and other delights to tempt you afterwards. Don't miss it!!

REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

ANNUAL SERVICE - ALL SAINTS, WEST BROMWICH - SEPTEMBER 2010

I suppose Church Services are like toast! First there's the choice of basic style; brown, white or wholemeal – not to mention the more exotic, like French toast. Then there's the complex decision of how you like it done to suit your own taste; lightly done, light/dark brown, crisp, burnt to a cinder, hot, cold, etc., etc.

So what were we to expect from our visit to All Saints? I suppose that the description; "High Mass for St Michael and All Angels" gave us a clue, and at least we can't complain under the Trade Descriptions Act! Some 20 or so BOA members and church friends gathered for the service. As usual, at All Saints, we were given a warm welcome into a warm church building.

The choice of music was interesting; the hymns, all celebratory, were cheerfully sung with appropriate accompaniments in the skilled hands of Aled Liddington, demonstrating the climax points with liberal use of the more recent additions to the Brindley & Foster organ. I had not sung Martin Shaw's *Anglican Folk Mass* for at least 35 years, but it was surprising how, as soon as the music commenced, it was just as if the 'play' button had been pressed in my brain, and it all came back to me. The augmented choir sang Maurice Greene's traditional *Thou visitest the earth* during communion, the choir also singing the plainchant introit, gradual, etc., under the enthusiastic direction of Kevin Blakey.

The playing of the *Fugue* from Wesley's *Duet for Organ* by the BOA's resident duo, Nick Fanthom and Alan Taylor brought the service to a fitting conclusion. Following the service ample refreshments were generously provided for us, and those interested had chance to browse through the second-hand music stall. Perhaps my abiding memory of the service is the incense. Now in a way, that's a pity, because the most memorable aspects should be the liturgy and the music.

And finally, I wonder if they engage a chimney-sweep to service the organ?

But there you are, as I said at the start, it all depends on how you like your toast!!

John Stormont

LOUIS VIERNE EVENING - EDGBASTON OLD CHURCH - OCTOBER 11TH 2010

A good number of Association members and parishioners enjoyed a splendid evening of organ and piano music by Louis Vierne, who was born 140 years

ago on October 8th 1870. A retiring collection was donated to the EOC Organ Fund.

The evening began with a thoroughly absorbing biographical sketch of Vierne by Richard Corser who has written the programme notes for Daniel Roth's recording of the complete Vierne symphonies. We all know Vierne as one of the most notable French organist-composers, and Paul Carr performed, with his customary aplomb, an exciting selection of Vierne's organ music, including the *Final* from the first of his organ symphonies.



Vierne in the tribune of Notre-Dame de Paris

Perhaps more intriguing were the rarely heard piano pieces, enthusiastically introduced and immaculately played by the indefatigable Michael Jones. For me this underlined the fact that so many organ composers did not spend their entire musical career focusing on the King of Instruments. For organ *performers*, some exposure to music by these composers featuring other instruments can often result in much more informed, stylistic performances.



French music was followed by French *cuisine*, and *félicitations* and *remerciements* go to *Messieurs* Nick Fanthom *et* Eddie Guard who provided a *gastronomique* coda in the form of *vins*, *vol-au-vents*, *quiches*, and of course the *tartes*.

My apologies for the use of "*français*" – I couldn't resist it!

David Griffiths

Vierne performing for whom? Any guesses?

JOB SPOT

All Saints Parish Church, West Bromwich, a church in the inclusive Anglo-Catholic tradition, seeks to appoint an organist and choir director. 3-manual Brindley & Foster organ with some digital enhancements. Small robed choir with potential additional resources for larger performances. Sundays 10.30am and 6.30pm with weekly choir practice and occasional holy days. Good number of weddings and funerals. For further information contact the Parish Priest, Fr. Andrew Smith 0121 588 3698

St. Philip's Cathedral: Music for Lunch

Fridays at 1.10pm: www.birminghamcathedral.com
 12th Nov.: Andrew Stone-Fewings Brass Ensemble; 16th Nov.: Andrew Wyatt (Organ Scholar); 26th November: Andrew Smith (Flute) & Rebecca Hung (Harp); 3rd Dec.: "Joyeux Noel" - The Curlew Ensemble

THSH Town Hall/Symphony Hall:

Mondays at 1.00pm: www.thsh.co.uk
 15th November: works by J S Bach & sons (SH)) Thomas Trotter
 29th November (TH) ;)
Wednesday 8th December (SH) Lunchtime Christmas Music
 Thomas Trotter with the choristers of Salisbury Cathedral
 13th December (TH) "Sing Carols with the City Organist"
 Thomas Trotter & Cambrian Brass

Holy Trinity, Wordsley: Sunday Afternoon Organ Music

Paul Carr: 1st Sunday in the month at 3.00pm: www.paulcarr.co.uk
 5th December: Festal Flourish; 2nd January 2011: Happy New Year!

St. Paul, Birmingham: Thursday Live

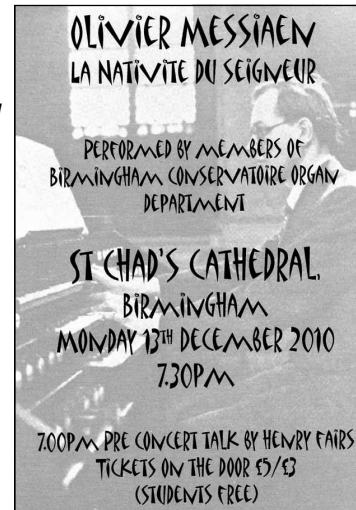
1st Thursday of the month at 1.15pm:
www.saintpaulbrum.org
 2nd December; 6th January 2011; Paul Carr

Emmanuel, Wyld Green:

"Anniversaries & Celebrations"
 Andrew Fletcher: 1st Friday in the month at 1.00pm:
www.andrewfletcher.org.uk
 3rd December; 7th January 2011

All Saints, West Bromwich:

Saturday 13th November at 11.00 am.
 Aled Liddington (final recital)



Nick Fanthom: Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Occasional Services
 0121 552 8774 or 07917 444077 e-mail: Nick@nazard.com

BIRMINGHAM ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION
www.bhamorgan.org.uk



President: Paul Carr
 Secretary: Paul Evans
 Treasurer: Alan Taylor
 Assistant Secretary & Newsletter Compiler: Nick Fanthom

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists
www.iao.org.uk

07966 269860
 07980 013368
 01922 628810
 07917 444077