

## Forthcoming events

**VISIT TO ST JAMES CHURCH,  
WOLLASTON AND ST JOHN  
THE BAPTIST, HAGLEY.  
SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**  
[Click](#) for details.

**IAO MIDLANDS ORGAN DAY  
IN WORCESTER.  
SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER**  
[Click](#) for details.

**BAROQUE ORGAN MUSIC  
ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL.  
MONDAY 15 OCTOBER, 7PM**  
[Click](#) for details.

**ANNUAL SERVICE,  
ST MARY'S, MOSELEY.  
SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER, 6.30PM**  
[Click](#) for details.

## BOA newsletter

volume 14 no 3

Autumn 2018



### In this issue



#### Future events:

- [Visit to Wollaston & Hagley](#)
- [IAO Midlands Organ Day](#)
- [Baroque Organ Music](#)
- [Annual service](#)

#### Past event review:

- [Summer outing to Leominster & Ludlow](#)
- [BOA member wins organ competition](#)

or click [here](#) to start

### Birmingham Organists' Association

affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

[www.BhamOrgan.org.uk](http://www.BhamOrgan.org.uk)

[www.iao.org.uk](http://www.iao.org.uk)

**President:** Mick Perrier

07967 595881

**Secretary:** Paul Evans

07504 857088

**Assistant:** Nick Fanthom

07917 444077

**Treasurer:** Paul Geoghegan

07748 128087

**Assistant:** Alan Taylor

07415 855082

## Recital Guide

### THSH Town Hall

Mondays 1pm **Thomas Trotter**  
1, 15, 29 Oct, 26 Nov, 10 Dec

**Sym Hall:** 12 Nov – **Laszlo Fassang**  
[www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

### Holy Trinity, Wordsley, [DY8 5RU](#)

*Sunday Afternoon Organ Music* 3pm  
**Paul Carr** 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec  
<http://www.paulcarr.co.uk>

### St Chad's Cathedral, [B4 6EU](#)

*Thursday Live*  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 1.15pm  
**Tom Winpenny** 4 Oct  
**Paul Carr** 1 Nov, 6 Dec  
<http://www.thursdaylive.org>

### St Alphege, Solihull, [B91 3RQ](#)

Wednesdays 1.10pm  
26 Sep **Stephen Moore**  
24 Oct **Ben Horden**

## Visit to Wollaston & Hagley



*St James Church, Wollaston*

Our afternoon in the Stourbridge area will start at 1.30pm with a visit to St James, Wollaston to play its II/23 organ rebuilt by [Nicholson](#) in 1990 incorporating material from the previous instrument by J W Walker.

*St John the Baptist, Hagley*

Later, we shall visit the grounds of Hagley Hall and the church of St John, which has a III/30 organ originally by Nicholson & Lord.



Saturday  
15 September  
**1.30pm**  
St James  
Belfry Drive  
Wollaston  
Stourbridge  
[DY8 3SE](#)



## Midlands Organ Day Worcester

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER

- 9.45am** Registration & refreshments in the Cathedral Song School, WR1 2LA  
**10.30am** Welcome by **Dr James Lancelot**, interim DoM  
**10.35am** Demonstrations of the four organs in the cathedral  
**12.00noon** Presentation by **Dr Willam McVicker** on the history and future of the Cathedral organs  
**1.15pm** Take lunch in the city centre (not included)  
**2.45pm** St Andrew's Church, Pump Street. **Andrew McCrea**, RCO deputy director, leads a panel discussion on organ education, with emphasis on the needs of young people, with Daniel Moulton, Head of Organ Studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Includes performances by RBC students.  
**4.45pm** Refreshments  
**5.30pm** Choral evensong at the Cathedral  
**Cost: £14 for IAO members, £18 for non-members, free for full-time students.**

For those wishing to stay, a separate ticket needs to be purchased (**£15**, payable at the door, includes interval drinks & refreshments) for....

- 6.45pm** 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary recital on the Tickell organ  
by **David Briggs**  
**8.45pm** (approx.) Close

A downloadable booking form and payment details can be found at <http://iao.org.uk/mod>, where online booking via credit card is also possible.

## Baroque organ music



Monday  
15 October  
**7.00pm**  
**(note start time)**  
St Chad's Cathedral  
St Chad's Queensway  
[B4 6EU](#)

A joint meeting with members of Worcestershire Organists Association, when our guide will be IAO chairman and the cathedral's director of music, Professor **DAVID SAINT**, using the the Walker organ.



An organ student from the RBC will be on hand to help with illustrations. Members are also invited to bring copies of their own Baroque pieces about which they have questions regarding performance, practice, *etc.* Have no fear: no member will be expected to play unless you volunteer!

## Annual Service



Sunday  
25 November  
**6.30pm**  
St Mary's  
St Mary's Row  
Moseley  
[B13 8HW](#)

With many church organists now no longer engaged on a Sunday evening, we have decided to try holding this year's Annual Service on a Sunday.



The director of music at St Mary's is BOA President and Birmingham-area RSCM co-ordinator, MICK PERRIER, so a Choral Evensong to remember is assured. Congratulations to Mick, who has just celebrated his **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary** as DoM at St Mary's.

# Summer outing to Leominster & Ludlow

Eddie Guard

Those organists who play in churches where the minister favours baptism by total immersion might be interested to know that Leominster Priory has the ideal equipment for the job: an 18<sup>th</sup> century ducking stool! It is the finest survivor of its kind in the country and was last used in Leominster in 1813. Originally the ducking stool was a form of punishment for disorderly woman or rogue tradesmen. However we were not at Leominster just to admire the ducking stool but to play its excellent organ.

Leominster Priory has existed as a church since 660AD following the conversion of the local Saxon Ruler, Hereward, and his people by a monk from Northumberland called Edfrith. In 1123 the church was re-established as a Priory of Monks by King Henry I.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, a new nave was built to enable the Priory to serve again as a parish church. The monastery was dissolved in 1539; parts of the church being used by the monks and the central tower & transepts were demolished, leaving three naves as a people's church. In 1699 a devastating fire destroyed the roof, window glass and all furnishings except for two altar tables and some benches, which are now in the Norman nave. The church as it stands today was last restored between 1860 and 1880.

The organ was built by Nicholson & Co (Worcester) in 1924, housed in the 1739 case of an earlier instrument. The only parts of the old organ now remaining are the pipes of the 32' pedal stop. It is in an ideal position and sounds very well in the church's helpful acoustic. 1947 saw the organ cleaned and a new detached console provided. It was reopened by Dr J Dykes Bower in 1950. Further restoration and cleaning took place in 1990, after which the reopening recital was given by Dr Roy Massey. The organ comprises over 2000 pipes on three manuals and pedal with 51 stops. BOA members thoroughly enjoyed playing it.



*Paul Geoghegan in Leominster Priory*

A short car journey took us to Ludlow, where some members successfully found the Park and Ride, whilst others managed to find a car parking space in a very busy town centre.

As part of the Ludlow Festival, Thomas Trotter was giving a lunchtime recital on the organ of St Laurence. His programme included Handel's op7 no4 Organ Concerto, the Overture to *The Thieving Magpie* by Rossini, and a piece by Judith

Weir entitled *The Wild Reeds*, composed especially for Thomas. A big screen projector ensured that everyone could see the maestro 'at work' and, as the audience were very appreciative with their applause, he gave us an encore.

After the recital the DoM of St Laurence, Shaun Ward, gave us a brief demonstration of some of the ranks, the most notable being the original Snetzler pipes of 1764. Unlike the instrument at Leominster, the Ludlow organ was not so ideally placed to speak into the nave of this large church.

Our final destination was the Saxon church of St Peter, Stanton Lacey. The original cruciform building with small chancel, tower, nave, and north & west walls remains, dating from 950 and 1050. Various additions and alteration have taken place over the years including the addition of a vestry, porch, pews, stained glass and altar front between 1849-1860. The single-manual organ by Gray & Davison dates from 1854. Having seven stops in a free standing case, it made a compelling sound in this beautiful church.

With some reluctance, we left this peaceful village and made our way home. A big thank you to Nick Fanthom for organising the day and arranging for all the organs to be available for us to play.

# BOA member wins IAO/RCO organ competition

Alan Taylor



*Callum Alger*

It's no wonder that **Callum Alger**, BOA member and a student of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, is looking pleased with himself. This photograph was taken at the IAO Festival in Peterborough Cathedral just after a distinguished panel of judges (including IAO President Steven Grahl, RCO President Martin Baker and Professor Edward Higginbottom) had announced that Callum had won the IAO/RCO organ competition.

Callum had been successful in the semi-finals, held on the previous day in the chapels of St Catharine's and Sidney Sussex Colleges, Cambridge. There was stiff international competition in the final from students of Shanghai Conservatory and the Eastman School, New York, but Callum's performance was described as "outstanding".



*Steven Grahl*

Congratulations are also due to **Steven Grahl**, who has now left Peterborough Cathedral to take up the post of Organist and Fellow of Christ Church College & Cathedral, Oxford. Steven was already director of the *Schola Cantorum* of Oxford and they provided another highlight of this summer's IAO Festival with a spectacular *a cappella* choral concert in Peterborough Cathedral.

Other highlights of the Festival included some rarely heard repertoire for organ and piano duet played by Libby Burgess and Richard Pinel, concluding with a very successful arrangement of Rossini's *William Tell* Overture; a visit to Burghley House, one of England's greatest Elizabethan country-houses, where we heard a short recital of renaissance and baroque pieces played on its chapel's small pipe-organ (Robert & Gray, 1790) that is built into a harpsichord case; a harpsichord recital by Edward Higginbottom in Peterborough Cathedral; and an organ recital by Richard Pinel on the 2007 Kuhn organ of Jesus College Cambridge.

Seasons ticket holders for the festival were joined by a number of day ticket purchasers for the semi-finals of the organ competition in Cambridge. That day ended with a performance of the whole of Widor's Fifth Symphony given by Martin Baker on the world-famous organ of King's College Chapel. For many of us, this was the first time we had heard the organ "live" since its 2016 restoration by Harrisons: a memorable occasion indeed!



*IAO Festival members seated in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge*