

FROM THE EDITOR. Every good wish to all our readers for Holy Week and Easter. This week brings news that, inevitably, we have had to postpone the Young Organists' Day planned for May at SMSG Stony Stratford. However, we are able to bring you a further selection of ideas, including music for Holy Week, an online Come and Sing Stainer's *Crucifixion*, and a recital for Easter. There are also new worship links. We do hope you will enjoy them.



NDOA RESOURCES. Website <http://northamptonorganists.org.uk/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonOrganists/>. Our latest Newsletter is now online at the website - do have a look. We hope you enjoy reading it. Just some of the articles include:

- reports of our Kimbolton visit and Corby Organ Crawl
- the first part of the story of the Northampton School for Boys' Conacher
- H&H to Hauptwerk: how the sound of Peterborough Cathedral's Hill was captured in Hauptwerk sets before and after the re-voicing project
- recital reports from St Mary's Wellingborough, All Saints' Northampton and SMSG, Stony Stratford
- A personal recollection of Sir Stephen Cleobury, his time in Northampton at St Matthew's, and as conductor of the Northampton Bach Choir
- An organ quiz to test your knowledge of organ matters, in Northants and beyond.



ORGAN AND CHORAL MUSIC ONLINE. Many of us have been exploring what is available on the web. There is a huge amount of material available, whether on Facebook, YouTube or beyond. Our top 10 (well, 11 actually) suggestions are:

- On Maundy Thursday, April 9th, at 11am Alexander Binns, Derby Cathedral's DoM, will lead favourite Passiontide hymns on the Derby Cathedral Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/derbycathedral>
- On Good Friday, April 10th, at 5pm the Music Department at St Edmundsbury will present a virtual Come and Sing Stainer's *Crucifixion* run by the Cathedral's Acting DoM, Richard Cook and accompanied by William Saunders. The score will be on their website from Tuesday April 7th. <https://stedscathedral.org/music/>
- Also on Good Friday, BBC Radio 3 broadcasts the St John Passion (2pm) and the St Matthew Passion (7pm)
- Prefer Maunder's *Olivet to Calvary?* The seminal 1964 recording by the choir of Guildford Cathedral under the direction of Barry Rose is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBljx78_O5g
- On Easter Day, April 12th at 5pm, Richard McVeigh will present a virtual organ recital on the Hauptwerk set of the organ of Sint-Laurenskerk, Rotterdam. The programme includes Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E flat BWV 552, Frank Bridge's Adagio in E, and Vierne's Organ Symphony No. 3. Richard's Beauty in Sound channel has much more superb uplifting viewing too, including a previous Sint-Laurenskerk recital, Lenten hymns and a spectacular two-and-a-half hour HymnFest. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1Y-LeizR5I>
- Rob Steffanusson's YouTube channel - the Editor's personal favourite is this David Johnson Trumpet Tune in D which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6MPquYmRnl>
- Oliver Hancock from the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick is uploading organ music - including the G minor Fantasia and Fugue at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbzEoVgLkooqKM7OW_5rb0Q
- Concerts at St Mary's is looking at how it might present online recitals for everyone who is missing the excellent organ recital series at St Mary's Wellingborough - more at <https://www.facebook.com/concertsatstmarys/>
- Our member Callum Alger has uploaded this segment from Mendelssohn's Sonata No.3 in A Major 'to prove there is light at the end of the tunnel - however long that may be' - thank you Callum. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RU70xXa-X3s&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0Ybh2t1ZpBwPG6oziNmSDPkM-cR1_JLLINVUgWrQi_WkSgX-e-x-JXCWs
- Jonathan Scott's virtual recital from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, recorded without an audience just before the Hall had to close <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm3x-74Ybgh>
- And last but certainly not least, Martin Setchell's recital last year re-opening the superb Rieger instrument in Christchurch Town Hall, New Zealand after the earthquake, at <https://livestream.com/shipleysaudiovisual/organrecital/videos/188343606>



ORGAN RESOURCES. Both the Royal School of Church Music and the Royal College of Organists have been very active in making available online resources, and the enterprising music department at St Edmundsbury has launched three virtual music competitions:

- RSCM <https://www.rscm.org.uk/>. RSCM's website now features a Hymn for the Day and a Sunday Self-Service - a simple act of worship with music, readings and prayers which will change weekly. It also has specific resources for Holy Week and Easter and is featuring daily webinars. In the mornings, it is covering a range of topics for choir trainers, organists and music leaders and on vocal coaching, organ studies, aural skills and choral conducting. All these resources are open and free for all, not just RSCM members.
- RCO <https://i.rco.org.uk/>. RCO is making its virtual campus available to everyone free of charge until 30 June. Resources include more than 300 videos, audio files, papers, articles and other content covering everything from technique to repertoire, performance to professional skills. It is also offering a weekly blog of new suggestions of things to do. Anyone wishing to access iRCO for the first time should visit i.rco.org.uk and register for a guest or member account as appropriate.
- St Edmundsbury Cathedral Music department <https://stedscathedral.org/music/> is not only offering a piece of organ music daily on its Facebook page but has launched three online competitions for young musicians - one for organists, one for pianists and one for composers. Entries are to be uploaded to the cathedral's music team and will be judged by professional panels led by the Cathedral's music staff.



WORSHIP ON THE WEB. Many more churches are now live-streaming their daily and Sunday services, including:

- The United Benefice of Cogenhoe and Great Houghton with Little Houghton and Brafield-on-the-Green streams a Sunday service at <http://www.theunitedbenefice.org.uk/>
- The Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes at <http://www.cornerstonemk.co.uk/> is streaming services, and seasonal music at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjlbouJMo0GpymYCzi9geVw>
- Quite a number of churches are now streaming their services through MCN Media weblinks which can be found at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>
- The Church of England offers Sunday services via its Facebook page and broadcast media, and lists local churches online - details via <https://www.churchofengland.org/>
- The Baptist Union is streaming prayer broadcasts every Wednesday and Sunday at 7pm at https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer_broadcasts.aspx
- Wesley's Chapel daily services are at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA>



DO-IT-YOURSELF. Members and friends have made a number of excellent suggestions on their activities, including:

- Learning just some of the new music you can find by searching around the various YouTube resources and channels at <https://www.youtube.com/> - suggestions include the G B Nevin Toccata in D minor, the Ralph Driffield Toccata op.14 no.3, the Feike Asma Chorale Fantasia on 'Nun danket' and the J Grison Toccata in F; many scores are also available on https://www.free-scores.com/index_uk.php
- Trying the puzzles in the Classic FM Puzzle Book - <https://www.octopusbooks.co.uk/?s=classic+fm+puzzle>
- Hearing Peter Webster speaking on *Walter Hussey, Henry Moore, and the Northampton 'Madonna and Child'* at <https://peterwebster.me/category/religion-culture-and-the-arts/walter-hussey/>
- Putting some music on the web yourself for us all to enjoy - and telling us about it!
- Writing about the organ you play, for our *Newsletter* - just email your musings to the Editor.

And finally, of course, please stay well, keep safe, and continue to be in touch with members and friends - make sure you follow distance socialising as well as social distancing!

This edition of *Newsletter Extra* is published by the Northampton and District Organists Association, registered charity no. 274679. We hope you found it interesting. If you have ideas for inclusion in future please email the Editor at editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk.

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