

**FROM THE EDITOR.** We hope that *Newsletter Extra*, and the *Newsletter*, continue to be of interest. Presently, we intend to continue to publish *Newsletter Extra* monthly until things return to some form of normality. Issue 3/2020 of the *Newsletter* is now live, and your Editor is most grateful to all the contributors - John Wilson (our President), Helen Murphy (our Secretary), Robert Tucker, Jonathan Mack, Mark Gibson, Lee Dunleavy, and Paul Bland. It also includes an interview with Rachel Mahon, newly-appointed DoM at Coventry, and some superb photos by Alan Cufaude of the organ which Robert plays at St Andrew, Kimbolton. Perhaps you will have been inspired to write for the *Newsletter* next time? Do send your contributions to me at [editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk](mailto:editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk).

As usual, *Newsletter Extra* includes links to websites which may be of interest. We know that embedded links work perfectly on some browsers but not on others. If yours doesn't like them, don't worry - just go to [www.northamptonorganists.org](http://www.northamptonorganists.org) and click on the *Newsletter* page. Download a copy of *Newsletter Extra* - July 2020, and the links from there should work perfectly. Finally, just a note for members who subscribe to the hard copy of the *Newsletter*. Issue 3/2020 is presently somewhere in the postal system having been dispatched to me by the printers a week ago. Your copies will be sent as soon as received. **Richard Tapp**



**NDOA EVENTS: HARRINGTON AND THORPE UNDERWOOD.** Printing deadlines mean that the *Newsletter* has to go to press ten days or so before publication, so John's President's Letter in the *Newsletter* was written before the most recent changes in the lockdown rules. John hoped that it may be possible for us to visit Harrington Church and Thorpe Underwood Hall, at the kind invitation of Dominic and Katherine Cadbury, on Saturday 18th July. Sadly, the present restrictions mean that this will not now be possible on the planned date, but Dominic and Katherine have most kindly offered to rearrange the date in due course.

**NDOA EVENTS: ZOOM AROUND THE WORLD.** Instead of the Harrington and Thorpe Underwood visit, at 2.30pm on Saturday 18th July there will be an illustrated tour of organs on 5 continents in the company of our President, John Wilson, who has seen them and played many of them. It will be a virtual event and Zoom ID details will be sent out nearer the time.

**MIDLANDS ORGAN DAY - NOW 2021.** You may already have seen Helen's email advising that the Midlands Organ Day and St Matthew's 125th anniversary recital have had to be postponed. However, we aim instead to hold them both on **Saturday 25th September 2021** as part of NDOA's centenary celebrations. Do hold the date in your diary now - it will be really spectacular.

**ORGANS IN CHURCHES.** The Prime Minister announced on 23rd June that places of worship could re-open from 4th July. More detailed government guidance was issued on 29th June, and can be found [here](#). The guidance delegates responsibility for opening decisions to individual places of worship and it is anticipated that individual churches will prepare their own guidance. For example, at the time of going to press the Church of England was reporting that it would shortly publish new guidance on its [website](#).

**ORGAN SOUND COLOURS.** Our member Jonathan Kingston has recorded some of the pieces from Ian Higginson's new collection of versatile pieces written in different styles including [Trumpet Tune](#), [Postlude on Forty Days & Forty Nights](#), [Prelude on There is a Green Hill Far Away](#), [Dance on B.A.C.H.](#) and [Prelude on Drop, Drop Slow Tears](#), some of which will be very suitable for services where music - but not singing - is permitted. The collection is available from the RSCM [web shop](#) at the introductory price of £18.50 during July. Ian publishes a variety of choral and liturgical music too, which is also available through RSCM, and has recently published [Cotswold Collection](#), available from [Forsyth's Music Shop](#).



**ORGAN AND CHORAL MUSIC.** How are you getting on with new ideas in the lockdown or post-lockdown world?

- At the time of writing, [Musicroom.com](https://www.musicroom.com) is offering free UK postage on all sheet music orders, offering a very worthwhile saving.
- The enterprising [music department](#) at St Edmundsbury has extended the deadline for entries to its virtual organ competition for young organists aged up to 22 to 4 July, with worthwhile prizes including a voucher for £500, a lesson with David Briggs and a chance to play a lunchtime recitals.
- The concert organist Richard Brasier is continuing his series of performances of the complete works of Bach virtually on YouTube. The seventh concert in the series begins with the G minor Prelude and Fugue [BVW 550](#). Richard's performance is on the Tickell organ of [St Lawrence, Upminster](#).
- Missing live Choral Evensong? Join the Rudolphus Foundation's splendid [virtual choral evensong](#) instead.
- Those of you who have enjoyed Jonathan Scott's lockdown organ recitals may like the Scott Bros Duo's [Midsummer Concert](#), starting with the William Tell Overture as a piano duet, and including the lovely Guilmant *Pastorale* Op.26, originally written for piano and harmonium.
- In Issue 1/2020 of the Newsletter we learned about Northampton organ builder A E Davies' African adventures, with a report on the Davies instrument in Dar es Salaam. Now news of more Davies work in Africa has come to light. It seems that in St Paul's Cathedral, Namirembe, Kampala, Davies overhauled the Positive Organ Company two manual and pedal instrument in 1952. Following more substantial work in the early 2000s by Peter Wells, it is apparently still giving good service, and the cathedral organist, Paul Luggya LRSM ARCO can be seen and heard putting it through its paces in the [Allegro Maestoso e Vivace](#) from Mendelsohn's Sonata No. 2. There are also some excellent videos of the cathedral choir at the same YouTube channel.
- We hope you are enjoying the *Newsletter* articles on the former Northampton School for Boys Compton, which is now being restored by author Paul Bland and his colleagues in Melton Mowbray. If you would like to be kept informed of the progress of the restoration and to support the group, there is a Facebook group you can join at [East Midlands Cinema Organ Association](#). We hope to arrange an Association visit to the newly-restored organ once the work is complete.
- If you've checked out any of the livestreamed recitals from the Netherlands mentioned in previous editions, you might also like Gerben Budding and Evan Bogard's Grand Recital from the [Westerkerk Amsterdam](#).



**WORSHIP ON - AND OFF - THE WEB.** As we start to come out of lockdown, it seems that even as live worship is allowed to resume, it may be some time before singing is allowed. It would be great to have readers' ideas on music we could play instead of hymns, but which might inspire and enrich our congregations. Obviously chorale preludes come to mind - perhaps *Lobe den Herren* as most appropriate for the resumption of worship? The Editor's favourite version is the [Walther](#) but of course there are many more - have you come across the four Larry Visser [chorales](#), for example? Alternatively, might you look to some of Howells Psalm Preludes or Whitlock's Hymn Preludes?

And what about some of the variations on hymn tunes by June Nixon in [Hymns Amazing](#), now in two volumes published by Kevin Meyhew, or the more traditional variations - coincidentally by another Australian (at least by birth) George Thalben-Ball in his [113 Variations on Hymn Tunes for Organ](#). If last verse arrangements appeal, then [Noel Rawsthorne's 200 Last Verses](#) include some rather wonderful arrangements - although you might find they encourage anyone present into song. For something closer to home, perhaps Peterborough's Henry Coleman's hymn-tune pieces, including his [Interludes based on Communion Hymn Tunes](#)? All suggestions are most welcome, to [editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk](mailto:editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk), and we'll include them in the next *Newsletter Extra*.

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