

From the President. Our journey through Advent this year may be rather different from the norm, but we can still travel in good heart. While our activities this year necessarily differed from those we had planned, we have been able to continue to celebrate our shared love of the organ, and to do so in new and different ways. Our members have recorded music for online services and live-streamed events. We have held Zoom meetings, introduced *Newsletter Extra*, and enjoyed socially-distanced and online recitals. We even managed an online AGM!

I must offer sincere thanks to John Wilson on behalf of all of us at NDOA for his hard work in 2020 as President, most ably supported of course by Phylis and Rosanne. We are also greatly indebted to Helen for all she does as Hon Secretary, to Glyn as Hon Treasurer, and of course to our colleagues on the Association's Committee. Any organisation is only as strong as its members, and it is a privilege to see all that is done so willingly in our name.

While I may be our centenary year President, I am conscious that at present I am also our second 'virtual' President. I hope that we will be able to bring an exciting programme of 'real' events to you in 2021, restrictions permitting. With some virtual events and our centenary projects - our CD, Organ Book and History - all in train, I'm sure our centenary year will be one to remember. Do keep watching *NE*, Helen's updates, and our social media for full details as they become available. In the meantime, may I send you and your families every good wish for Advent and Christmas, and sincere thanks to you all for your continued support for NDOA. **Richard Tapp**



NDOA Subscription Renewals. We are very pleased to report significant reductions in membership subscription costs for our centenary year of 2021. Individual membership for the year is only £10, family or corporate membership £15, and student membership completely free. If you would like your *Newsletter* in hard copy, there is an additional cost of £6.

Subscriptions are now due, and a renewal form is enclosed with this edition of *NE* for you to complete and return to Glyn with details of your payment. If you are able to pay by bank transfer (bank details are on the form) do please do so as there is no cost to the Association. If you prefer to pay by PayPal or cheque you may do so too. Glyn has been able to change our PayPal contract to a charity arrangement which is less costly to us, and if you normally pay by PayPal, Glyn will be in touch with you directly.

Not yet a member? We hope that the new membership rates offer great value to members. We have produced a new membership flyer, which you will also receive with this *NE* - do please pass on the flyer and membership form to anyone you think may like to join us - and if you're reading this and you aren't yet a member, why not join us now? You'll find all the information you need at <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/join/>

David Flint RIP. Sad news reaches us of the passing of our former member, David Flint, on 20th November. In past years, David played the organ at Finedon, sang in the Bach Choir and was a strong supporter of the David Morgan Education Fund. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Congratulations! We are thrilled to report that our student member **Matthew Foster** has won a place at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for September 2021. Members will remember that Matthew has performed with aplomb at several NDOA events. We offer our sincere congratulations to Matthew and wish him every success.

A Musical Advent Calendar. The Music Department at St Edmundsbury has put together a musical advent calendar, with each window offering a seasonal musical offering for you to enjoy. You can find it at [Advent Calendar - St Edmundsbury Cathedral \(stedscathedral.org\)](http://stedscathedral.org),

Bach, Cubed!

- ◆ The **Cathedral Music Trust** has produced a video of 54 cathedral organists playing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor at [Cathedral Organists Play Bach for the Future: Toccata & Fugue in D minor - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). Donations are welcome to [Cathedral Organists is fundraising for Friends of Cathedral Music \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/...).
- ◆ **Weekly lunchtime lectures** are being offered online by the RSCM at their YouTube channel, focusing on various aspects of sacred music. The most recent is **From Advent to Epiphany with J. S. Bach** by Canon Charles Stewart, Vicar of Christchurch Priory, which is available at [Friday Lunchtime Lecture: From Advent to Epiphany with J. S. Bach - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).
- ◆ **Bach** is BBC Radio 3's Composer of the Week in Christmas week, beginning with *Bach and the Organ* on Monday 21st December [BBC Radio 3 - Composer of the Week, JS Bach \(1685-1750\), Bach and the Organ](https://www.bbc.com/radio3/...).

Music for Advent and Christmas



- ◆ **Peterborough Cathedral Choir** under the direction of Tansy Castledine has made a series of live recordings for parishes to use for their online Advent and Christmas services. For Advent, these include *Hills of the North* and *Rejoice, O Come O Come Emmanuel*. For Christmas, there are a range of carols including *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, the Harold Darke *In the Bleak Midwinter*, *O Come all ye Faithful* and much more, together with *In Dulci Jubilo* as an organ solo performed by Chris Strange. Details from music@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk.
- ◆ **An Advent Organ Meditation** from Peterborough, again performed by Chris Strange, including Buxtehude's *Praeludium in G minor BuxWV149*, Bach's *Wachet Auf BWV645* and *Le Monde dans l'attente du Sauveur (Symphonie-Passion)* by Dupré can be found on the Cathedral's YouTube channel at [Peterborough Cathedral - YouTube](#).
- ◆ The RSCM's **Big Christmas Carol Service** will take place on Saturday 12th December at 6pm. Music, details, and online arrangements can all be found at [The Big Christmas Carol Service | RSCM](#)
- ◆ **A Christmas Organ Spectacular** can be heard on Saturday 12th December at 12 noon, when Chris Strange will play a range of Christmas music from Peterborough Cathedral, including Ireland's *The Holy Boy* and Bédard's *Variations on In dulci Jubilo*. [Peterborough Cathedral - YouTube](#)

Looking for Christmas presents for the organist in your life?

- ◆ **The Orchestral Organ** is a new CD from Jonathan Scott, recorded on six different organs including the Marcussen at Bridgewater Hall, the Lewis of Chesterfield Parish Church and the magnificent Binns at Rochdale Town Hall, and with music ranging from Strauss's *Radetzky March* to Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave* and John Stanley's *Trumpet Voluntary*. Only £11, from [SCOTT BROTHERS DUO RECORDINGS](#).
- ◆ **Parker Ramsay** has recorded a CD in King's College Chapel of his transcription for harp of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* which he played at one of the Harrington Concerts last year. The CD is on the King's College Music label. It is available at £12 plus postage at [Kings College Recordings - Shop](#)
- ◆ **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: the Centenary Service** is also available as a new CD from King's, and celebrates not only the centenary of the service, but the final time that the late and much-missed Sir Stephen Cleobury led the service. Accompanied by a 50-page book documenting the festival's legacy, it is available at £14 plus postage, also at [Kings College Recordings - Shop](#)
- ◆ **And of course - membership of NDOA** makes an excellent present for anyone interested in the organ! Details at <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/join/>

Online recitals

- ◆ **Online recitals** are now listed as well as physical events at organrecitals.com - do check them out.
- ◆ **Regular online recitals.** A couple of members have asked for the links to the regular events presented by a number of organists. Do have a look at Richard McVeigh at [BEAUTY in SOUND - YouTube](#), Gert van Hoef at [Gert van Hoef - YouTube](#), Minne Veldman at [Minne Veldman - YouTube](#) and Jonathan Scott at [scottbrothersduo - YouTube](#) - and share any others you find for us to include in NE. You might particularly enjoy Richard McVeigh's 3-hour 5pm Sunday evening hymn fests and his Advent Sequence, and Jonathan Scott's concert on the Schultze at Ellesmere college, which you can find on their respective YouTube links.
- ◆ **Anna Lapwood's** Cheltenham Festival organ recital from St David's Hall in Cardiff can be heard at [Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert - Organ music by Gowers, Park, Ravel and Kerensa Briggs - BBC Sounds](#).

Thomas Trotter has been awarded the Queen's Award for Music 2020 - we offer Thomas NDOA's sincere congratulations. Thomas is also scheduled to play an Organ Gala on Thursday 3rd December at the Royal Albert Hall. At the time of writing the event is off sale while the Hall reviews how to comply with Tier 2 requirements but may be re-listed - see [What's On | Royal Albert Hall — Royal Albert Hall](#).

Liverpool Organ Gala. It may not be practical for most of us to attend, but it's marvellous to be able to report that the planned Liverpool Organ Gala will take place - with a socially-distanced audience - at the Anglican Cathedral on Tuesday 8th December with five organists led by Ian Tracey. Tickets are only £10 from [Christmas Organ Gala Tickets, Tue 8 Dec 2020 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#) . Booking is essential.

May we take the opportunity to wish all our members and friends in Northampton and District and beyond a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

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