



NDOA's Centenary Year sees work continuing on our Centenary Projects including the NDOA Centenary CD, the NDOA Organ Book and a short history of the Association. We will also be announcing details of our Centenary Organ Scholarships shortly - watch this space for details. Membership of the Association is available to anyone interested in the organ, at the rate of only £10 for 2021 individual membership, £15 for corporate and family membership, and free for students up to the age of 22. Do please encourage your friends and organ contacts to join. Details can be found at www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/join.

The New Oxford Organ Method. The year begins with an outstanding NDOA Zoom event on Saturday 16th January at 5pm, when Anne Marsden-Thomas and Frederick Stocken will speak about their *New Oxford Organ Method*, recently published by OUP. Helen will circulate details to members in advance of the meeting. If you're not a member but would like to join the Zoom event, do please contact us at the email overleaf. Do join us!

Newsletter Issue 1/2021. The latest edition of our quarterly *Newsletter* has been published and is on its way to members. Just some of the fascinating articles in this Issue include:

- ◆ Exciting news of the forthcoming restoration of the **West Organ at All Saints' Northampton** and details of the history of the church's organs.
- ◆ **Composer Anniversaries 2021** to help you plan your repertoire for the year.
- ◆ The story of the American Guild of Organists' Chapter, and the organ scene, around Northampton's namesake US city, **Northampton, Massachusetts**.
- ◆ **Reports of Association online events** - and much more.



New Finedon CD. A brand-new CD recorded by our member Jonathan Harris at the organs of St Mary's, Finedon, is available. The CD includes two preludes by Robert Page, as well as works by Bach, Croft, Stanley and more. If you would like a copy of the CD, please email Jonathan on jonathan.harris1717@gmail.com with your address. £5 to cover costs including p&p will be appreciated (online banking details can be provided by Jonathan). If you wish to contribute more than that (!) then feel free to make a donation separately to NDOA.

NDOA New Year Quiz. In January, we would normally enjoy a Members' CD Afternoon, with a scrumptious tea and an organ quiz. Sadly, COVID-19 regulations preclude such a get-together, but we do have an organ quiz! Answers will be included in next month's *NE*. (Hint - how carefully have you read recent *Newsletters*?)

1. Who wrote the 2020 St Matthew's commission?
2. Which organ builder is based in Woodland Street? And in which city?
3. Who was NDOA's first President? And which hymn-tune did they write?
4. Why did Herbert Howells come to Northampton?
5. In which cathedral can you find statues of Luther and Melancthon? And who built the organ there?
6. What is the title of Canon Davidson's seminal book on church music in the county?
7. Who gave the opening recital for the organ of St Michael and All Angels, Northampton?
8. Who is the current Organ Scholar at Peterborough Cathedral? And where did they study?
9. Which local church normally hosts a New Year's Day concert? And which animal did it star in 2020?
10. Which local organ was rebuilt by Geo. Osmond of Taunton?
11. Who built the new organ for Robinson College, Cambridge?
12. Where is the NSB Conacher now?
13. Who built the Hauptwerk set of the Organ of Peterborough Cathedral? And why?
14. Where did Dr Arthur Wills live as a child? And what is the title of his autobiography?
15. What connects the author of *I saw Eternity the other night* to Northampton?
16. Which local organ was originally powered by a water engine? And which cleric funded it?
17. Where did the last NDOA physical event take place before lockdown?
18. When is the Midlands Organ Day 2021? And who will play the recital which follows?
19. In which year did Louis Vierne become *Titulaire* at Notre Dame? For how long did he serve?
20. Who is Corno Dolce II?



New Year - things to hear and play:



- ◆ The Vienna Philharmonic's iconic **New Year's Concert** from the Golden Hall of the Musikverein will go ahead (without an audience) on New Year's Day conducted by Riccardo Muti. Find it on BBC 2 and Radio 3 from 10.15am, and thereafter on BBC iPlayer and BBC Sounds.
- ◆ **An Epiphany Organ Meditation** from Peterborough Cathedral will be played by Chris Strange, the Cathedral Organist, at 6pm on Sunday 3rd January. Featuring Gigout's *Rhapsodie sur des Noël's* and the Dubois *March of The Three Kings* it can be found on at [Peterborough Cathedral - YouTube](#).
- ◆ **York Minster** will have Lessons and Carols for Epiphany on 6th January at 5.30pm at [YorkMinster.org](#).
- ◆ A **New Year Spectacular** from the Westerkerk, Amsterdam by Evan Bogerd is on Saturday, 9th January at 6pm at [LIVE - Nieuwjaarsconcert - New Year's Recital Evan Bogerd - Westerkerk Amsterdam - YouTube](#)
- ◆ **Faith in Music** is an excellent Radio 4 series in which James Macmillan considers the life and faith of four composers - Thomas Tallis, Edward Elgar, Richard Wagner and Leonard Bernstein. The four episodes can be found online on BBC Sounds through the programme website at [BBC Radio 4 - Faith in Music](#).
- ◆ Still with Radio 4, **John Wesley and Methodism** is a discussion led by Melvyn Bragg on John Wesley's role in the 18th century religious revival which brought us so many well-loved hymns. It can be found at [BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, John Wesley and Methodism](#).
- ◆ For those who may particularly enjoy Charles Wesley's hymns, you may like to consider a collection of almost 100 favourite hymns, many not now included regularly in hymnals but much-loved, in an excellent volume of **Wesley Hymns** published by Hinde St Chapel in London. The hymnal can be had for £18 including p&p from [Wesley Hymns - Hinde Street Methodist Church](#).
- ◆ **Online and physical recitals** are now listed at [organrecitals.com](#). Physical audiences are not permitted for events in Tier 4, which now includes Northamptonshire.
- ◆ Two of **Robert Page's** chorales are played on Jonathan Harris's new CD (see overleaf). If you would like a PDF of the sheet music please email Rob on rpmusic@hotmail.co.uk. Rob would also be pleased to hear of any performances of his pieces. A full list of his works are on his website at www.rpmusic.org.uk.

Sad News. We note with great sadness that **Catherine Ennis**, DoM of St Lawrence Jewry in the City, former President of both the IAO and the RCO, passed away on Christmas Eve. With the deaths earlier in the year of **Jennifer Bate** and **Jane Parker-Smith**, the organ world will mourn the loss of these three iconic organists.

John Wilson, immediate Past President (and first Virtual President) of NDOA reports that he has been involved in three recent musical events at local churches that involved the masked congregation humming while a small socially-distanced choir sang hymns. John advises he is thinking of writing an article for the Newsletter called 'Hums Ancient and Modern' (gettit?) but these few lines will do for now. The first event was on 6th December at Harrington Parish Church, as part of the Music at Harrington series organised by Benedict and Katherine Cadbury. Ian Clarke played the 2-manual tracker organ (which we hope to visit in April) and a 6-person choir sang, with the audience humming the carols. Then at Sulgrave Parish Church on 20th December, John played the Binns organ for the annual Carol Concert. His daughter Rosanne sang duos with a local soprano and again the congregation hummed along. You can see this on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RheeHGLmebc>. There have been humming choruses also at SS Peter & Paul in Kettering for Lessons and Carols, and for Christingle, and no doubt elsewhere in our district during the festive season. Let's hope the voices can sing out loud and clear in our churches before too long!

The Book of Common Prayer **Collect for St John the Evangelist** (this year transferred by the Church of England to 29th December) with its call for enlightenment, seems particularly apposite to follow up John Wilson's fervent hope:

MERCIFUL Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it being enlightened by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Happy New Year!

Newsletter Extra and the quarterly **Newsletter** are published by Northampton and District Organists Association, registered charity no. 274679. Find us at <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/> and on [Facebook](#)
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