

**Sincere thanks** are due to all our members and friends who provided music for services of remembrance and thanksgiving for the life of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth over recent weeks. Many will have watched the services from Westminster and Windsor and beyond. A Service of Thanksgiving from Washington National Cathedral which may be of interest can also be found at [9.21.22 A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - YouTube](#).

**NDOA Dinner.** A number of members and friends enjoyed a delightful evening of fellowship on 24th September - many thanks to our President, Jonathan Kingston, for making the arrangements.

**NDOA 2022 AGM and Evensong** will take place at St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby on the afternoon of **Saturday 5th November**, with the AGM at 3pm and Evensong at 4pm. Evensong will be sung by a specially-invited choir directed by Stephen Meakins. Do come!

**Organ Stops - Saving the King of Instruments.** Please save the date too for our online November meeting on **Saturday 19th November** when we will be joined by our friends from the Bucks Organists Association to enjoy this fabulous 70-minute feature documentary, and to learn more about the Pipe Up for Pipe Organs initiative to save valuable instruments. More details and timings to follow.

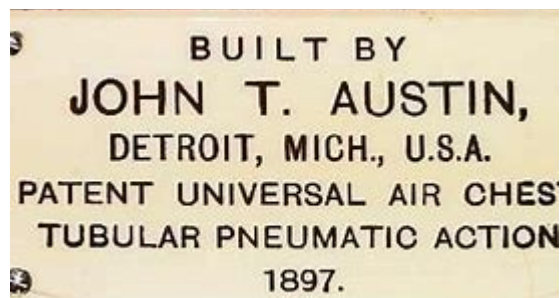
**Springboard Organ Festival.** There are five superb organ concerts in and around Oundle from 24th - 28th October from tutors and students on the October Oundle organ course. Recitalists include Glen Dempsey, Tom Bell, Richard Pinel, and Martin Baker. Admission free, retiring collection. Don't miss it! Full details at <https://creativeoundle.co.uk/oundle-for-organists/courses/springboard-2022>.

**Recital Reports - John Wilson writes:** as usual, the new edition of the *Newsletter* contains reviews of some wonderful organ recitals organised by NDOA members or performed in our district. As heralded in last month's *NE*, since the *Newsletter's* press deadline there have also been several further excellent recitals in the area. One of them was the first of a new series of monthly **Lunchtime Live!** Thursday lunchtime recitals at All Saints' Church, Northampton, given by NDOA committee member **Laurence Caldecote** on 8th September. It included his own *Improvisation* and his arrangement of a *Swan-Hopping Trumpet Tune*. There were also an Aria and Variations by Anton Estendoffer (a baroque composer new to me) and pieces by Buxtehude, Henry Smart, Herbert Howells, Derek Bourgeois and William Harris. A very generous helping for a 40-minute recital. Look out for future lunchtime recitals at All Saints', first Thursday of each month.

Another long tradition given a fresh impetus this year was a Sunday evening recital to conclude the **Finedon Flower Festival**. This was given on 18th September by Finedon's new Director of Music, **James Lloyd Thomas**, whom we are glad to welcome back to the district, with his harpist wife Lizzie. The Flower Festival also featured an organ recital by well-known local organist James Parsons and another by Robert Quinney. James' recital was the only one I attended and it showed off the Father Smith/Holdich/Mander/Holmes & Swift organ to great advantage. The programme, with its theme of variations, included *Unter den Linden Grüne* by Sweelinck, a Ciacona by Buxtehude, Franck's 2<sup>nd</sup> Chorale, and a Theme and Variations by Andriessen (who taught James' teacher). In the spirit of the week, after a two-minute silence, James ended with the Thalben Ball *Elegy*. We can look forward to more good things from Finedon under its new music director. A longstanding NDOA member, **Tony Edwards**, also contributed to a long-running series of recitals – the monthly Summer Sunday afternoons at **Abington Parish Church**. His recital was also on 18th September, a crowded day for some; but do look out for other recitals by local organists or by visiting organists in local venues – NDOA social media and Helen's circulation to members will do their best to keep you informed! (*If you are performing or promoting a recital, do please tell us so we can tell members!* Ed).

## Lee Dunleavy at Park Road Baptist Church, Rushden

**William Baker** writes. As a new member of the NDOA I was pleased to join some members on 19th August 2022 at Park Road Baptist Church, Rushden. As part of the church's 300th Anniversary there was a fabulous organ recital by Lee Dunleavy - and it proved to be a very enjoyable and informative evening.



The church organ is from the US and was designed by John Turnell Austin. He emigrated from Northamptonshire to America in 1889 to find work in the organ industry. Whilst working with an organ company in Detroit, he developed the revolutionary Universal Air Chest system which gives each pipe the same air pressure and also allows ready access for maintenance and adjustments. The first Austin organs were built by the Clough and Warren Company in Detroit in a new pipe organ division led by Austin. About 30 organs were made before the factory was destroyed by fire in 1898. The new independent Austin Organ Company was then formed in Boston but relocated to Hartford, Connecticut in 1899 where pipe organs are still built. The Park Road Austin Organ - Opus 25 - is a 2-manual instrument of 14 voices and was the first Austin organ to be exported from the USA, in 1897. The organ was assembled in the barn at Knuston Lodge Farm, Irchester by Austin himself. Only two other Austin organs (Opus 93 & 97) were exported to England but it is not known where these are or if they still exist. Park Road Baptist Church bought the Austin Organ as a replacement for their existing organ at the Little Street Chapel, prior to moving to the new church in 1901.

It was on this interesting organ that Lee Dunleavy played the 300th anniversary recital. The recital included Edward Elgar's *Imperial March*, Carson Cooman's *Arabesque* and works by Cesar Franck, as well as many others, which I much enjoyed. During the interval, Lee called me over and very kindly treated me to a tour behind the scenes. After a few minutes of searching we found the air chest system and explored around the workings. It was fascinating and made the evening really special for me. As many members of the NDOA will know, Lee Dunleavy has been Director of Music at St Mary's Church in Wellingborough since 2014, and has held similar positions at the Church of St Peter & Paul, Olney, All Saints' Church, Northampton, and Christ Church, Southgate, London. He was an Organ scholar of York Minster and Hertford College, Oxford and is an FRCO and Associate of the Guild of Church Musicians. He is Musical Director of several local choirs, and his last concert with the [Northampton Bach Choir](#) will be on 15th October. Lee is also a published composer, and has recently completed liturgical choral works for the Choir of Portsmouth Cathedral and the Horatio Singers. He will soon begin a new chapter in his life as he begins his studies at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, in preparation for ordained ministry in the Church of England. My thanks to Lee Dunleavy for a great evening of organ playing, and the tour behind the scenes.

**Congratulations to Colin Ashworth** on the publication of his new competition-winning piece *Joyful Angels* in the new anthology of six pieces - *Organ Music for the Christmas Season*. Available from Tim Knight music at [TKM877 Organ Music for the Christmas Season \(6 pieces\) | Tim Knight Music](#).

**Gert van Hoef.** Many will have enjoyed the livestream concerts - more than 80 - presented by Dutch organist Gert van Hoef over the past two years. Sadly, Gert has announced that his these concerts have now come to an end. You can find the final concert at [Livestream orgelconcert - Gert van Hoef - YouTube](#).

**Authors wanted.** Can you write about organs, organ music or topics of interest to members for future edition of the *Newsletter*? Articles by 1st December please to [editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk](mailto:editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk).

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