



Bexley & District Organists' &
Chormasters' Association
NEWSLETTER
BDOCA Website: <http://bdoca.myzen.co.uk>
Patron: Daniel Moulton

IAO

Affiliated to the
Incorporated
Association
Of Organists

Diary Dates 2023

Outline of events we hope to hold this year.

Dates subject to confirmation.

May 30 th 7:30pm	Celebrity Recital - Tim Harper - St John's, Sidcup
June 3 rd 2pm	Members' Composite Recital
July 8 th	Treasure Hunt
Aug 16 th 12:00	Meal at Hall Place, Miller and Carter
Sept 20 th 7:30pm	BDOCA AGM

Further details about events in this and future issues

Please do support these events - the more the merrier!

April 2023

Last issue January 2023

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'The ups and downs of life as a cathedral chorister'

This talk by a former Manchester cathedral chorister was booked for Wednesday 26th April - sadly it has been cancelled due to a double booking.

Please look out for new date in the future.

Celebrity Recital

Tim Harper (Ripon cathedral)
together with Charlotte Harper (soprano)
Tuesday 30th May, 2023 at 7:30pm
St John's church, Sidcup

Join us for the third Celebrity Recital by members of the Harper family. Tim has been the Assistant Organist at Ripon cathedral since 2014.

Tickets (at the door):

Adults - £10

BDOCA members - £5

Under 16 - £1



Tim trained as organ scholar successively at St Barnabas Church, Dulwich, Clare College, Cambridge, Canterbury Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral; as a pupil of David Sanger, he gained the major prizes at ARCO and FRCO and was subsequently awarded the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

(Cont.....)



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In 2010 he was appointed Assistant Director of Music at Birmingham Cathedral. During these years, he appeared with the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, Ex Cathedra and the Birmingham Bach Choir, while studying organ with Andrew Fletcher and singing with Matthew Venner.

Alongside his cathedral duties, he enjoys recital, accompanying and continuo work; he is also accompanist to Ripon Choral Society and the early music course NORVIS. An interest in jazz keeps his improvisational instincts exercised, while also finding employment in settings as diverse as boat, restaurant, funeral, Spain, Harrogate, organ recitals, and jazz Eucharists at St Paul's Cathedral. In 2016 he developed an interest in transcription through his arrangement of *A Colour Symphony* by Arthur Bliss, while in 2020 he ventured into YouTube online recitals with his *Six Sixes* series from Ripon Cathedral.

The programme will include pieces by:
Schmidt, Buxtehude, Bach, Vierne, Wilby, Jackson and Lanquenet.

There will be a big screen presentation and an opportunity to chat with Tim over refreshments.

Members' Composite Recital

Saturday 3rd June, 2023 at 2pm

St Michael's church, Ravenscroft Road, Beckenham, BR3 4TN

The organ in St Michael's was put in 10 years ago, paid for by the then organist, now deceased. It's a Mander and was supposed to be a copy of the one in St Giles, Cripplegate, although John Mander modified the voicing. It's a nice instrument, but Sw to Gt has developed some weight.

We can have access from 1pm, with the recital starting at 2pm.

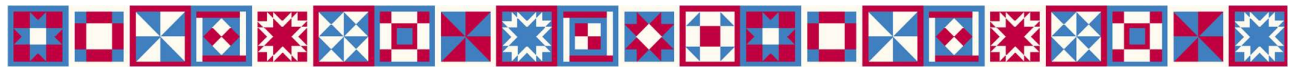
It would be good to see more than the "usual suspects" offer to play. Please let Reg. know if you will pay, telling him the piece(s) and timing(s) **BY 26 MAY.**

Treasure Hunt

Secret Destination
Saturday 8th July 2023

More details will follow nearer the time regarding our annual afternoon of sleuthing to be followed by an organ recital and an evening meal in a nearby hostelry.





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Summer Meal

Wednesday 16th August, 2023, 12 noon
Miller and Carter Restaurant
Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley, DA5 1PQ

All are welcome to join us at Hall Place for our summer lunch at the restaurant at Hall Place. We will need to book so further details will be given nearer the time. There is ample parking, and if it's a nice day, we can enjoy a stroll round the gardens and visitor centre - that's free! The house is only open for pre-booked guided tours. The Bexley Butterfly House and Jambs Owl Experience can be found next to the glass house - charges apply for entry to both. The date for final booking will be published in due course.

BDOCA AGM

The BDOCA AGM will be held at All Saints' church, Foots Cray on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7:30pm. This will include a members' composite recital and conclude with light refreshments.

REPORTS OF PAST EVENTS

Canon Giles - 8th March 2023

On Wednesday 8th March – 22 of us gathered together in the warm prayer room at St. John's church – Welling. Our speaker was the Rev. Canon Dr. Gordon Giles, currently the Canon Chancellor at Rochester Cathedral. His talk was entitled "*English Hymns Ancient and Modern - the Past, Present and Future*". Canon Giles is an editor for Hymns Ancient & Modern and a director of the English Hymnal Company and therefore had an extensive knowledge on the subject.



He shared and related matters concerning the history of hymns, how they are chosen and rejected, for inclusion in a hymn book. How words were the important fact all though of course how the music (tune) helped to bring out their meaning and importance. He talked about what was a hymn and challenged us to think about who it was being sung to or for what purpose. He gave examples of poor and theologically incorrect words and noted that some hymns have several tunes to them. We sang several examples of hymns showing the points he was making.

Gordon was happy to answer our questions including if it was thought that the hymn book as such had had its day and we would all be singing from our electronic devices or the overhead presentation. He felt that the next edition of A & M and English Hymnal may indeed be the last.

Members, friends and guests then had a good time of engagement with one another while consuming a delightful finger buffet and hot drinks. We thank St. John's for allowing us to use their facilities and for Doug getting everything organised there.

Melvyn French



London Organ Crawl 25th February 2023 (1st report)

On a very chilly Saturday morning (the last one in February) eight of us met up at The Brookmill Pub (SE8) for some warm drinks and lunchtime sandwiches. Many of us had got there by getting off the London bound train at the St. John's station - which few of us had ever been too.

We then set off for a short walk uphill to St. John's church, Deptford where we were welcomed by the vicar, the Rev Chris Hanning. The organ was located in the chancel and is a three- manual instrument built by J. J. Binns in 1901. It shows some evidence of the influence of Schulze, with open-tip voicing on the Large Open Diapason on the Great, and unweighted reed basses. Members were able to spend an hour playing various pieces of music and trying out some 35 stops.



It was then time to take a short walk to the bus stop and board a number 47 bus to Bermondsey. Our timing was spot on for just as we arrived at St James's church, Thurland Rd, our host was opening the door. The church is a Church of England parish church in Bermondsey, south London. Designed by James Savage, it was the most expensive of the churches built by the Commission for Building Fifty New Churches. It was completed and consecrated in 1829 and given a separate parish in 1840. The organ located in the west end balcony, was built in 1829 by J. C. Bishop, and was one of the earliest English instruments with a reasonably independent pedal division and composition pedals since many English organists were unused to pedal-boards. The most unusual feature was that Bishop also provided a small keyboard to play the pedal division. Again, members were able to spend time playing although the pedal board only went down to G and made this somewhat disorientating.

Then it was time to get the bus to Southwark Bridge Road so we could take the short walk to the Church of the Most Precious Blood (Ordnate of OLW) (O'Meara St.). We were welcomed by the organist - Mr. Colin Peacock who gave a very clear presentation about the organs history and its several moves to this lovely restored church. The organ, located in the west end balcony was a recent addition to this Ordnate church, having been installed recently by Gary Owens; the core is from an instrument by Lewis in 1875 for St Mark's, Battersea Rise, later expanded in 1912 by the same firm (after Lewis's departure from the firm); there have been further additions in Lewis's style since installation in MPB. Three recordings demonstrated its versatility. It is blessed with a Tromba stop which one of our members later ably demonstrated with CS Lang's Tuba Tune. Other members then had an opportunity to play their own pieces.



Really interesting to be able to compare different instruments while having each one's features and sounds still in mind – comparing and contrasting each of the unique individual characteristics that is *The Organ*. This was very enjoyable day, very well organised and led by Aeron – thank you for much for an interesting day.

Melvyn



London Organ Crawl 25th February 2023 (2nd report)

Matthew 13,52 “.... which bringeth forth out of his treasure things old and new.”

Treasures might be pushing it, but the group that gathered for this jaunt included refreshingly young people as well loyal long-serving members.

Old organs with a new lease of life was to be our theme.

From the Brookmill Pub (nice pub, nice area) to St John's Deptford, new built in 1855. (The railway station came later and was named after the church.) Its organ (not the pub's) by Binns was installed in 1901 so not quite Victorian, but impromptu bits of Stainer's crucifixion and Sullivan's "Lost Chord" with organ accompaniment added a touch of appropriate Victoriana exactly suited to that church. Several members enjoyed playing. Reg was pleased to find the organ in much better condition than when last he was there.

So... by bus through a London redeveloped beyond the recognition of us old people (*It was all fields here when I was a boy and even the horses had rickets.*) to St James Bermondsey (One of Sir John Betjeman's favourites He saved it from demolition in the 60s.) built by government money, along with several others, to give thanks for victory over Bonaparte. The J.C.Bishop organ of 1829 was daringly innovative in its time, having among other things, a pedal division – very un-English. Innovation aside, in its English insularity it retained a tonality identified by Bicknell as a perfect match to an Adams interior; refined, elegant, and understated; which might be said of the members who played it. It was this organ's good fortune to remain mostly unaltered until Goetze and Gwinn could restore it as nearly as possible to its as-new condition.



Another adventure with TFL took us to the ordinarate church of the Most Precious Blood which everyone had never noticed before from the train. (West of Borough Market, rose window in a tall, brick gable. Do look next time.) Its 1875 Lewis had been salvaged from Battersea Rise and put in safe storage between 2012 and 2019 awaiting the restoration of the church, and what a joy to find a church lovingly restored in impeccable good taste! But for the loss of one rank of reeds and the addition of three others, all the Lewis pipework remains unaltered and benefits

from a rebuild based on very modern electro-pneumatics and an uncluttered west gallery disposition.

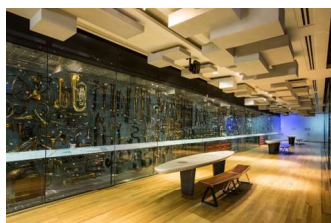


And so to dinner in Zizzi, a short walk away, there to reflect upon the generous hospitality of the three churches visited, and the gratitude owed to all involved in preserving our organ heritage, and special thanks to Aaron Preston who planned the day.

Barry



Horniman Museum Visit 25th April 2023



On Saturday 15th April a group of 8 of us met at the famous Horniman Museum in Forest Hill. Melvyn had devised a quiz for us to do. Questions as diverse as 'How many strings does the horrible instrument have?' 'What is the Irish drum called in Gaelic?' or 'Where are cymbals said to originate?'. The Music gallery is packed with instruments from all corners of the World and a multitude of cultures, whether they be plucked, struck, bowed or blown. Some are on loan from places like the

V&A and others are on permanent display. From time-to-time recitals are given on renovated instruments. Tucked away in a side room is 'Hands on Space'. This room contains some interesting chances for children of all ages to try out various instruments, from an electric 'piano to a West African xylophone. Two of our quiz clues were found in here.

The Horniman Museum was founded by Frederick Horniman, who inherited his father's tea business, in 1890 as Surrey House (the family home) Museum but changed its name to Horniman Museum in 1901. Frederick Horniman was a collector of objects, specimens and artifacts relating to natural history, the arts and handicrafts from all around the world. Frederick visited many places such as Egypt, Sri Lanka, Burma, China Japan and the Americas, collecting items that appealed to him or he felt likely to interest those who had never had the opportunity to travel abroad. The museum is set in beautiful gardens adjacent to the South Circular. A little oasis of beauty amid the hub bub of a busy, vibrant area of South London.

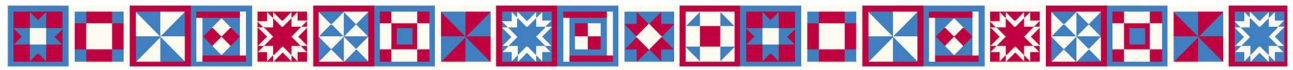
At the end of our visit, it seemed fitting to visit the café and have some tea. Tea after all, is where it all began.

Marilyn Downs

A Little Musical Quiz For You - (Thank you, Melvyn)

1. How many Symphonies did Schubert compose
2. Who developed the Tonic Sol-fa system
3. What is the highest recorder called
4. Who wrote the Tuba tune for the organ
5. Name five instruments that can use a mute
6. What is a Requiem
7. What is Lohengrin, WWV 75
8. Who leads/arranges the singing in a Cathedral
9. What instrument did Larry Adler play
10. What was the forerunner of the trombone





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