

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007

For once your Editor can report that he has been oversubscribed with members' contributions to the *Newsletter*; some have had to be held over for a future issue. Anyone thinking of submitting an article should not be deterred, however; everything (subject to the usual Editorial scrutiny, of course!) will be printed eventually.

LOOKING AHEAD

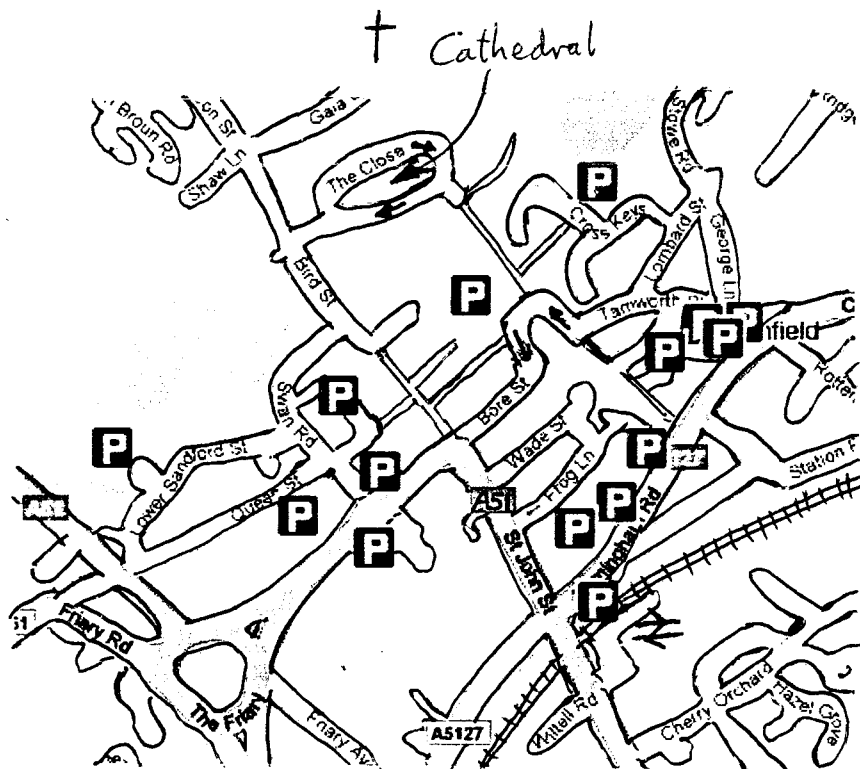
Saturday 15 September : Langlais Event at Lichfield Cathedral

Members will be aware that 2007 sees the centenary of the birth of Jean Langlais, an important figure in the long line of French organist-composers. Your Committee authorised the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to arrange a significant event in recognition of this anniversary, and the meeting at Lichfield is the result. We are indebted to Philip Scriven (Organist and Master of the Choristers at Lichfield Cathedral), who has been enthusiastic about the idea from the outset, and to the Dean and Chapter, who have kindly allowed the use of the building. Neighbouring Associations have been invited to attend, and of course the event is open to the general public; there is no admission charge. The programme will be:

5.15 Choral Evensong (including music by Langlais)

6.30 - 7.30 Philip Scriven will play a programme of organ music by Langlais and talk about the composer's life and times

Needless to say, this is a major event in our calendar, which we urge members to support in force. Transport necessarily has to be by members' cars, and as always seats can be found for those unable to get under their own steam (contact the Secretary ☎ 01773 606900 or any Officer). As the map below shows, there is plenty of car parking in Lichfield within walking distance of the Cathedral.



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From A38
Burton, Derby

LOOKING AHEAD (cont)

Saturday 13 October : Visit to Local Organs

Our plans for this date have, for good reasons, suffered a series of changes. The itinerary now is:

- 2.30 All Saints, Wingerworth (3m Snetzler/B&F/Groves - see note in February Newsletter)
- 4.00 SS Mary and Laurence, Bolsover (3m Lewis/Willis)

More details in our October issue.

VISIT TO LONG LANE AND LONGFORD

Tuesday 17 July saw our visit to the Parish Churches of Long Lane and Longford. Fortunately the rains held off for the duration.

The red brick church at Long Lane, dating from 1859 the newest of a group of 8 under the care of the Revd. Michael Bishop - a veritable mine of information on unusual vicarages and listed wallpaper, houses an unusually large 1-manual organ by Abbott of Leeds. This leviathan of 13 speaking stops (see July Newsletter) could be described as having two divisions on a single manual, which must make playing it on a regular basis interesting, necessitating frequent stop changes. The diapason chorus will support a good congregation and there are some pleasant flutes; however the action is rather heavy and the springs on the pedals seem very stiff.

We then proceeded in convoy to Longford, taking care not to park in the way of the adjacent farm. Following the 2006 restoration by Ed Stow, this 2-manual Abbott organ has 18 speaking stops, including a 16' pedal Trombone. The casework here is quite striking for an organ of its period. Members played a variety of pieces, making good use of the pedal reed.

Thanks go to Ed for making the arrangements, to Mr Bishop and David Vincett, the Organist of both churches, for access to the instruments, and to Siann for provision of refreshments.

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OTHER CHURCH/ORGAN-RELATED EVENTS TO NOTE

- Sat 1 Sept Come and Sing *Elijah* (Mendelssohn) Pt. 1 (dir: Peter Williams) :
Melbourne Leisure Centre, workshop 2.00, perf. 7.30 ☎ 07765 819428 to book
- Sun 2 Sept Nigel Ogden : Albert Hall, Nottingham, 2.45
- Sat 8 Sept Jennifer Bate : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00 & 2.45 (Hanley Mendelssohn Organ Festival)
- Sun 16 Sept. Alastair Kiernan : Burton Town Hall, 2.30
- Wed 19 Sept Daniel Hyde : Southwell Minster, 7.30
- Sun 30 Sept Philip Rushforth : Albert Hall, Nottingham, 2.45
- Sat 13 Oct James Lancelot : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00
- Sat 13 Oct David Wells (annual Harvest concert) : St Andrew, Radbourne, 7.30
- Wed 17 Oct Tom Corfield, Rodney Tomkins, Edmund Stow : St Mary, Cromford, 7.30
- Wed 17 Oct James Vivian : Southwell Minster, 7.30

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

John and Gill Hunt have moved to 74 Highfield Lane, Southampton SO17 1RJ (☎ unchanged).

VACANCY

St John the Baptist, Ault Hucknall. Organist required from September, to work with existing Choir Director. One Sunday service, 11.00, plus weekly choir rehearsal. For further details contact Gerry Beal (Church Warden) ☎ 01246 827141.

NEXT NEWSLETTER will be published late September : deadline 22 September

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