

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

LOOKING AHEAD

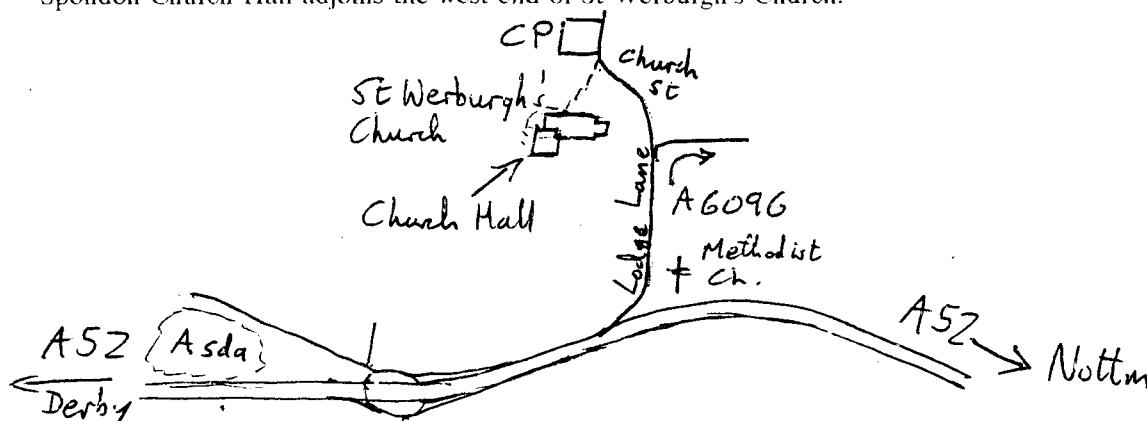
Tuesday 14 October : Social Evening : Spondon Church Hall, 7.30

We hope members will support what should be an enjoyable event in good numbers - the more the merrier. The principal activities will be a quiz organised and presented by Terry Bennett, and eating and drinking.

Everything required for the quiz will be provided (including prizes for the winners), except that members should come armed with a writing implement. We emphasise that the questions will be of a general nature, not requiring specialised knowledge of music, or anything else.

Food is to be provided on a "bring and share" basis: each person attending is asked to bring a quantity equivalent to one person's total consumption. To ensure a reasonable balance, those having surnames beginning with A-M are requested to bring savouries; surnames N-Z should bring sweet items. Drinks will be provided. Members are encouraged to bring as many friends and relations with them as they like, accompanied by a corresponding quantity of comestibles, of course.

Spondon Church Hall adjoins the west end of St Werburgh's Church.



Tuesday 18 November : Annual General Meeting : St Nicholas, Allestree, 7.30

We give formal notice that the 2008 D&DOA Annual General Meeting will be held in the Choir Vestry of St Nicholas' Church, Allestree, on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30pm. The date of the AGM has been changed from that originally advised because of a conflicting booking at St Nicholas'. All members are urged to attend and exercise their Constitutional rights.

The existing Officers, with one exception, have all indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election, if nominated, though this in no way precludes the nomination of alternative candidates at the meeting. The one exception is the Newsletter Editor (see **FROM THE EDITOR** elsewhere in this issue); anyone interested in taking on this important role is invited to contact the Secretary (☎ 01773 606900) or the Chairman (☎ 01283 568028) for more information.

As required by the Constitution, we give notice now that two Constitutional amendments will be proposed at the AGM: (i) to change the title of the Covenants Secretary to Gift Aid Secretary, reflecting current Charities legislation, and (ii) to combine the positions of Honorary Secretary and Membership Secretary, and increase the number of ordinary Committee members from 3 to 4 to maintain the size of the elected Committee. (ii) is simply a reversion to the provisions which applied prior to an amendment made in 1999, now that the duties of the two posts are once again undertaken by one and the same person.

The formal proposals will therefore be:

- (i) In Clause 8 (i) to delete the word "Covenants" and substitute the words "Gift Aid"
- (ii) In Clause 8 (i) to delete the words "a Membership Secretary,"
In Clause 8 (ii) to delete the figure "3" and substitute the figure "4"

OTHER CHURCH/ORGAN-RELATED EVENTS TO NOTE

Sat	4 Oct	Derby Cathedral Choir : All Saints, Ockbrook, 7.30
Sat	11 Oct	Paul Carr : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00
Sat	11 Oct	IAO Midlands Organ Day, Lichfield (<i>contact our Secretary (☎ 01773 606900) for information/booking forms</i>)
Sat	11 Oct	Harvest Concert : St Andrew, Radbourne, 7.30
Sat	18 Oct	Derby Cathedral organists and choir : sponsored hymn play/sing (<i>see note</i>)
Tue	21 Oct	Ron Sherwood : Popular Organ Concert : All Saints, Matlock, 7.30
Sun	26 Oct	Adrian Partington : Albert Hall, Nottingham, 2.45
Sat	1 Nov	RSCM Festival Evensong : Cathedral, 5.15
Sat	8 Nov	Derby Choral Union : <i>Magnificat</i> (Bach), <i>Requiem</i> (Durufié) : Cathedral, 7.30
Sat	22 Nov	Nigel Ogden : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00
Sat	22 Nov	Derby Bach Choir : <i>B minor Mass</i> (Bach) : Cathedral, 7.30

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Those who study the Family Announcements page of the Derby Evening Telegraph will have been particularly saddened on September 12 to read, in successive entries, of the deaths of two of our senior members. Both had long records of faithful service to their churches, where they will be sorely missed.

Norman Smith died, aged 78, on September 6 after a lengthy period of declining health due to cancer. Norman had been Organist of the Central United Reformed Church, Derby, since its inception under the present title, having since 1956 served one of its constituents, the Presbyterian Church in Green Lane. Although only a member of our Association since 1985, to many it seemed he had always been with us, such was the regularity of his presence at our events. Indeed, your Editor recalls that he had declined earlier invitations to join on the grounds that his personal commitments would prevent him from fulfilling what he saw as a duty of membership - to attend the meetings and participate fully in them. The Association was well represented at his funeral; his twin brother Gordon and John Gould shared the organ playing and our Chairman paid tribute on our behalf, at the family's invitation.

Marjorie Smithyman, who died on September 9, joined the Association as a result of our membership drive under Rodney Tomkins' chairmanship in the 1970's. At the time she was Organist of St Michael, Holbrook, a post she was appointed to on a "temporary" basis in 1944 and held for 45 years! Even after retirement she continued as a choir member and deputy organist, and was still functioning in both capacities until recently, at the age of 90. The death of her husband George, a former senior BR engineer, a good many years ago curtailed her ability to get to our events, but she maintained a lively interest.

FROM THE EDITOR

At the Committee's recent meeting I gave notice that I would not be standing for election to another term as Newsletter Editor. As one gets older it becomes less and less possible to "burn the candle at both ends" (or sometimes even at one), and with business paperwork and other "homework" having to be done in the evenings it has proved difficult to find time to do justice to the *Newsletter*.

My stint as Editor has been very short (4 years) compared with my predecessor's, but I have been responsible for the production and local distribution for more than 30 years and feel it is time for someone else to take that over as well. There are obvious advantages in having the whole process "under one roof", if one person with the necessary time, skills and facilities is willing to take it all on, but this is by no means essential, and has not generally been the case in the past.

At the very least, the new Editor will be responsible for receiving and, when appropriate, commissioning material and deciding what is to be included in each issue. We do have an offer from one of our current co-opted Committee members to take on the production side "failing all else" - the precise division of responsibility between him and the Editor in matters such as page layout and presentational style to be agreed. The facilities on offer would include colour printing (not necessarily to be used in every issue) and direct email transmissibility; if the Editor is also able to receive and send electronically the whole process will be facilitated, and the Secretary's current workload eased.

Further, it has been suggested that in place of the past random sequence there should be a regular pattern of major issues during the year, perhaps quarterly, with brief functional issues in between just to give details of meetings, membership announcements etc. Nothing has been decided, however; everything is up for debate at the AGM, but before that we need to secure at least one nominee for the position of Editor - please contact the Secretary or the Chairman if you have any ideas.

CHAIRMAN'S EVENT : Bach and his Rhythm Stick

Nearly 40 members and friends attended the Chairman's evening on 9 September, when Peter Williams gave a lecture-recital with this intriguing title, derived from a number by a rock group called the *Blockheads*. Their track formed an unusual prelude to an Association session, which then became wall-to-wall Bach, concentrating on works which present interesting and possibly controversial choices for the performer/interpreter - whether and when to double or "over"-dot, when to assimilate duplets to triplets, when to employ "rhetorical phrasing" and the like.

Peter provided us with eight scholarly A4 pages, with musical illustrations, to introduce and accompany the recital. This was an excellent idea; he did not go over what he had written, but commented very briefly, leaving the audience to read and digest the comments. What relatively little he said was very much to the point.

Musical notation at all times is an approximate method of representing sound on paper; Bach's music, like all Baroque composition, is not handed down set in stone, not to be deviated from in the slightest. It contains elements of "shorthand". Peter illustrated his own solutions to the problems (while admitting he often comes up with alternative versions in performance) by playing a wide variety of Bach's works. He began with the Toccata (Adagio and Fugue) in C; we heard the Trio Sonata in D minor (with a "wealth of different rhythms") and a range of Chorale Preludes, including *Vater unser* BWV682 (containing "just about every rhythm you'd expect to find"). Occasionally we heard Peter's solutions to ornamentation issues, and some delightful embellishment in repeats. Towards the end he played what he called "one of the most contentious pieces", the Prelude BWV552, and later the "Trinity" fugue in Eb, "one of the most difficult fugues of Bach to play". That surprised me, but if you play the middle section as fast as Peter did, I see what he means!

Peter Williams' playing was superb, as we have come to expect. The St Wystan's organ was in fine voice, thanks to the labours of our Editor, Ed Stow, who had to stand in as tuner in the unavoidable absence of the responsible organ builder; a few sticking notes due to the wet weather were not really appreciable to the audience. Musically the event was a triumph.

There was, however, also a very memorable postlude. It was the seventieth birthday of our immediate past Chairman, Terry Bennett, to whose organ-maintenance, organizational and page-turning skills the evening owed so much. Refreshments were provided by our Secretary Siann Hurt, including three absolutely superb cakes, one of them a birthday cake, all baked by her mother, Mrs Valerie Holland. Thanks go to them, to Denis Littleton and Andy and Frankie Storer, who washed up (not a trivial task for such a large gathering), and to the Vicar and officers of St Wystan's, the church which provided the attractive venue for a very worthwhile meeting.

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Footnote. During his recital, Peter Williams referred to the slow movement of Bach's Trio in D minor as "surely one of the most beautiful of middle movements". I heartily agree. I discovered it fifty years ago in its second (?) incarnation as the slow movement of BWV1044, a concerto for harpsichord, flute and violin, composed a few years after the trios, which I heard at a concert given by Thurston Dart and the Philomusica Orchestra. This inspired me to learn to play the organ version. I do not think I have ever heard it since, though plenty of recordings exist. I discovered one by Trevor Pinnock and Co recently added to YouTube, and I do recommend organists who love the original to listen to this delightful re-creation of the organ trio movement. It is not a straight copy, but a re-composition (unfortunately, by Murphy's Law, the only volume of Bach's works missing from Nottingham University Library is the one in which this concerto appears, so I cannot verify all that follows from the score, but I did try!). An ignoramus like myself would perhaps have expected Bach to give the right hand part to the flute, the left to the fiddle, and the bass to harpsichord and strings playing continuo.. Not a bit of it! The *harpsichord* takes the top line at the start, the flute takes II, and - wait for it - what sounds like an elaborate continuo part is played pizzicato by the solo violin. Then the instruments change and change about with the flute supplying the pseudo-continuo; there are ravishing embellishments and decoration, and the overall effect is delightful. I wonder if this technique of alternating textures and colours gives us a clue to the correct interpretation of the organ works, and if it is an argument against the "pull out a handful of stops and press on to the end without ever changing them" brigade? If you do not know the concerto, I suggest you go on YouTube and give it a listen. The other two movements, by the way, are based on BWV894, a harpsichord prelude and fugue.

James Muckle

WEBSITE UPDATE

1. We are still looking for contributions to the "Featured Organ" page - see May 2008 *Newsletter*.
 2. The Committee has agreed that contact details of members offering organ tuition can be included.
- Contact the Secretary at hurt@one-name.org ☎ 01773 606900

A CELEBRATION OF THE ENGLISH HYMNAL 1906/1933

DERBY CATHEDRAL : SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2008

Peter Gould has supplied the following information:

The Cathedral organists of Derby Cathedral (along with the cathedral choir) will be celebrating Vaughan William's editorship of this important hymn book (1933) by playing every tune on the cathedral organ during the day starting at 8.15 a.m. and plan to finish at 3 p.m. Every tune will be played once and members of the public are invited to come along to listen (and sing too if they feel inclined!) This is basically a sponsored event with the organists raising money for the proposed Italy trip for the choir next Easter. You are asked to sponsor the organists at £6.56, this being sponsorship at 1p. per tune. The rough timetable is printed below. Further details will be available on the day. Please bring your own English Hymnal if you still have one.

8.15 – 8.45 a.m.	1 – 50	Advent/Christmas/Epiphany	PG
8.45 – 9.15 a.m.	51 – 100	Epiphany/Lent/Easter	TC
9.15 – 9.45 a.m.	101 - 150	Passiontide/Easter/Ascension	PG
9.45 – 10.15 a.m.	151 – 200	Whitsun/Trinity/Saints	TC
10.15 – 10.45 a.m.	201 – 250	Saints	PG
10.45 – 11.15 a.m.	250 – 299	Seasons	TC
11.15 – 11.45 a.m.	300 – 350	Holy Communion/Baptism/ Confirmation	BB
11.45 – 12.15 p.m.	351 – 444 (sel)	General	PG
12.15 – 12.45 p.m.	446 – 526 (sel)	General	TC
12.45 – 1.15 p.m.	527 – 588(sel)	Special Occasions	BB
1.15 – 1.45 p.m.	589 – 642(sel)	Special Occasions	PG
1.45 – 2 p.m.	643 – 656(sel)	Processions/Litanies	TC
2 – 2.15 p.m.	363 – 407 (sel)	General	BB +FC
2.15 – 2.30 p.m.	408 – 450 (sel)	General	TC +G
2.30 – 2.45 p.m.	452 – 504 (sel)	General	BB+B M
2.45 – 3 p.m.	506 – 641 (sel)	Special Occasions	TC+FC

(sel) = selections from within these numbers

PG = Peter Gould. TC = Tom Corfield. BB = Ben Bloor. The Organists
FC = Full Choir. G = Girls' Choir. BM = Boys & Men.

NEXT NEWSLETTER will be published late October : deadline 18 October