



Coventry and Warwickshire Organists' Association

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members

A slightly belated Happy Easter to you all. I hope you managed to meet some Family and Friends and enjoy some chocolate!

There has been an absolute plethora of music for Easter available online, including some excellent organ recitals of meditative music (I especially recommend Christ Church Oxford), and I was also most impressed with the ENO's 'Messiah' on BBC2 – not the whole thing, but an hour of selected arias and choruses. Excellent soloists.

Lots of musical items and links to various websites and You Tube are regularly added to our website, so do please visit it regularly. Thanks to Peter and his Apprentice for the work they are doing.

It was good to see so many faces on the AGM Zoom. The minutes have been written up and are available for viewing on the website.

A date for your diary – Saturday 22nd May, 2021 at 11.00am

Tom Keogh (secretary of the Leicester & District Association) and myself are putting together a fun quiz for the combined Associations – nothing too challenging or academic, just a chance to see a few friends on screen and have a go at our questions. It will be self-marked, and, sorry, there are no prizes! I'll be sending out the Zoom link the week before.

Programme for 2021

The committee met recently (over Zoom) and we are anxious to try to get some activities going as soon as possible. Everything we arrange will be subject to prevailing Government Covid guidance prevailing at the time, so expect some social distancing, masks and sanitiser.

So assuming that the Boris roadmap is achieved, our 2021 programme looks like this:

May 22	Zoom Quiz – joint with LDOA
June/July	Barcheston
Aug/early Sep	Leicester, city organs
Sep 25	Midlands Organ Day, Northampton
Oct/Nov	Kings High, Warwick
Nov/Dec	Lunch/dinner.

You will note that mostly a specific date is not yet assigned. I am already busy contacting the various venues/people to try to fix some dates and times and I will update the website as things progress.

All activities dependent on latest Government advice regarding COVID 19, and subject to any conditions required by venues being visited. Social distancing, wiping of keyboards, masks, hand gel, all as appropriate at the time.

Barcheston – the organ was a 'new' installation in 2019, and was visited in April 2019 when the (Henry Groves) organ was about three weeks from completion. This will be an opportunity for Members to try the organ out.

Leicester – There are at least four good organs in the city centre area, so this will be a day visit, with a lunch break.

M.O.D – this was planned for 2020, and the intention is the exact same planned programme (which looks very good) will now take place in September on the date published.

Kings High, Warwick – Members will no doubt be aware (good article in last OR) of the new installation (by Richard Young, Rugby) of the 'Susi Jeans' organ in the Kings High School music department.

Lunch/dinner – it was suggested that the now regular annual lunch be brought forward to a date in late November/early December in case Christmas 2021 creates a new Covid spike. The weather may also be better! Dr Peter King has been suggested as a very good Guest Speaker.

Our future plans – 2022 and beyond

Many thanks to those Members who contributed some thoughts and suggestions about future events and developments.

There were a number of suggestions about trying to encourage young players, and we have decided to run a further Organs for Pianists event in 2022. We will run this in a similar way to the last time we did it, but this time in Rugby. We will start planning this quite soon, so that a date can be fixed and advertised widely. We are also considering establishing a 'Student Section' with suitable special events designed for young members.

I will also be re-arranging the Cambridge trip during 2022; and we have a number of other ideas in the pipeline.

Finally, for now.....

Some years ago, I was asked to play some 'Scottish' music for a funeral, and struggled to find anything other than some well known folk tunes, and my medley of these was greatly appreciated by the widow. However, she really wanted to recess to 'Highland Cathedral' – which I have to confess I had never heard of. (But it is top of the bagpipe charts north of the border).

So in case you ever get a similar request, here's an answer, both an organ arrangement AND a choral one:

On Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 1:20 PM alan calder-mcnicoll <caldermcnicoll@icloud.com> wrote:

Ed, here is the general email I have been putting out. So so grateful you can help with getting the word out there. Please remember to give me feedback thanks!

My name is Alan and I live in Dundee Scotland. I'm trying to spread the word as much as possible. I have written lyrics to a new hymn. "Praise To The King The Lord Of All We See" It was published only last month. The publisher snapped it up after only one week! It is an organ arrangement to Highland Cathedral the world famous iconic bagpipe tune. The piece was originally arranged without lyrics by organist Anthony Baldwin and can be heard here <https://youtu.be/GSgPiDrh518> played on organ by Professor Winfried Bonig in Cologne Cathedral. It can also be heard played by Anthony here <https://youtu.be/iJNHVUBClqg> The Cologne Cathedral one has almost 300,000 views to date. Anthony contacted me when he had heard I had written lyrics and he altered his original version. heard on YouTube links, slightly to accommodate that.

I hope you enjoy it. This is the first time I have ever written lyrics. If you manage to get a choir to sing it then please let me know. Because of Covid, it has never been sung before. If you do then please let me know beforehandall post Covid of course. It is available from the publisher at the link at the bottom of email. My phone number is 07778674508

Regards, Alan Playfair Calder-McNicoll

<https://www.banksmusicpublications.co.uk/publishers/banks-music-publications/praise-to-the-king-the-lord-of-all-we-see-highland-cathedral>

Here are the two organ versions mentioned.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSgPiDrh518&authuser=1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJNHVUBClqg&authuser=1>

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