



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



Affiliated to the
 Incorporated Association
 of Organists

2016 Events Diary

- Date TBA Hauptwerk Digital Organ Demonstration
- 19th Jan 2016 New Year Meal Sophie's Choice. Closing date for booking (through Linden):
11th January
- 9th April 2016 Choristers' & Choirs' Competition at St Paulinus' Church, Crayford.
 Documents previously sent (also on Dropbox).
 Closing date for entries: 23rd March
- Date TBA ? May Celebrity Recital
- Date TBA Spring Organ Crawl - hoping to visit Oxford again to go to Merton college to
 ? 25th June see the new Dobson organ, and 3 nearby college chapel organs. A small
 coach may be arranged.
- Date TBA Summer Organ Crawl
- 30th July 2016 Treasure Hunt
- Please contact committee members for further details.

January 2016

Last publication October 2015

Inside this issue:

(It's a short one this time!)

2016 Diary	1
Visit to St Michael's Chester Square	1
Thomas Trotter recital	2
Your Committee	2

Visit to St. Michael's Church, Chester Square.

On Friday the 5th of December 3 members worked their way to Chester Square, to St. Michael's where we were welcomed by Tom Bell, who you remember did a very fine concert on the Christchurch organ in May for us. In amongst all the fine period houses on by such as Andrew Lloyd Webber, Nigella Lawson and Roman Obromovich and all the cars worth more than your house is this oddly sized church. It is a very squat cross shape in late decorated Gothic style, it looks large on the outside, but seems small on the inside. We were welcomed by Tom with a warming cup of tea and then had a tour and potted history of the church where Sir Arthur Sullivan was once organist. The Organ has been in various position, North transept, south chancel but now rests on a gallery above the North transept. It is a fine 2 manual Walker, installed in 1994. It retains some of it's original 16ft "Hope Jones" bourdons on the pedal and has a rather raucous pedal reed. Tom demonstrated its tonality and flexibility with an impressive improvisation, the organ could clearly be heard in every corner of the building and especially so in the chancel with its marble floors. After Tom had demonstrated, Bruce, Reg and Myself played a few tunes whilst Tom listened on. When we had acquired enough of a thirst we ventured of to "The Cask" in Pimlico with an impressive array of real ales where Myself and Tom swapped some of those amusing stories you acquire as organists over a beer or 4 and chips with Parmesan and Truffle oil! Tom was a most interesting and welcoming host, it is a shame a lot of people missed out. An evening I for one thoroughly enjoyed. Nik Kerwin.





Impressions of the Inaugural Recital by Thomas Trotter on the Refurbished Organ in the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London. 30 September 2015

The 3 manual 44 stop organ in the Grand Temple of Freemasons' Hall was built by Henry Willis and Sons and inaugurated in 1933. Because of space restrictions the organ was tightly packed into two chambers one either side of the Temple, the pipes speaking through open caseworks to each other across, rather into, the Temple. The concealed console was centrally placed high above floor level.

Since 1933 the organ has had little attention other than maintenance until 2014 when it was restored by Harrison and Harrison of Durham with the addition of a new section placed centrally above the console speaking directly into the Temple and containing a diapason chorus plus trumpet and a new Grand Tuba.

Following an interesting introductory talk by Ian Bell, the Organ Consultant, Thomas Trotter mounted the stairs and disappeared into the console reappearing as a large, clear, projected image on one wall of the Temple. With a few well-chosen words he introduced the first item, Bach's Toccata in F with its formidable pedal passages. He pressed a general piston, the rocking tablets above the top manual flipped and off he went, no fuss, no anxious glances at the stop jams to see which stops were drawn. He was obviously well prepared and throughout the recital I only saw him draw one stop manually.

He played an interesting selection of pieces with something for everyone; items by Bach, Mozart, Vierne, Goss-Custard, Coates, a Dutch composer Wammes and, as a grand finale, Liszt's Prelude and Fugue on B.A.C.H. A delightful selection indeed. His playing was accurate and choice of stops ideal. Indeed he is a brilliant organist and consummate musician.

From my position in the Temple the impression of organ was that it sounded very much as before with the extra decibels emerging from the new division enhancing but not essentially transforming the overall sound. One will never experience that 'tingle' factor from this instrument due to the dry acoustic which was designed for clarity of speech rather than organ recitals. However, from those more knowledgeable and better positioned it is understood that the tonal quality of the old organ is very much improved, probably due to the removal of some 80 years of dust and grime, and the new division is most effective in adding to the grandeur of the sound.

Full marks should go to the presentation of the recital. Two angled walls, one either side of the Temple were employed as screens. The projected images from the console camera were large and clear. We did not suffer from what I call the 'restless camera' syndrome; the timing was perfect, images switching from manuals to pedals and to Mr Trotter at just the right time as the music progressed.

The recital was well attended and the audience very appreciative of Mr Trotter's accomplished playing. Two superb organists, Ian Tracey and Jane Parker-Smith, are lined up for further recitals-but not until next year. With a bit of luck I shall be there to hear them.

David Ball 30 October 2015

Your Committee

Nik Kerwin, President
020 8311 4126 or 07850 787772
nik.kerwin@ntlworld.com

Lydia Gray, Assistant Secretary
01322 551286
lg35@lydiagray.plus.com

Bruce Davis, Ordinary Member
01322 558129
bruce.davis11@yahoo.co.uk

Reg. Boulton, Vice President
01322 614260 or 07889 172319
reg.boulton@btopenworld.com

Geoff. Hempstead, Treasurer
01342 313112
geoffh_08@btinternet.com

John LeMasurier, Ordinary Member
01322 522112 or 07850 719090
thelemasuriers@btinternet.com

Linden Morris, Secretary
01689 87017 or 07817 537945
lindendownham@gmail.com

Sue Moore, Ordinary Member
020 8859 6997 or 07713 348323
allsaintsmusicdirector@gmail.com