



# Bexley & District Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Patron: Daniel Moulton  
**NEWSLETTER**



Affiliated to the  
Incorporated Association  
of Organists

## Happy New Year

Happy New Year from the President! Your organisation is changing, but have you noticed? Behind the scenes, the committee is lining up interesting events as detailed in this newsletter. It is also exploring ways to bring on young organists and help fellow organists. Also, in the wake of Gareth Malone and the popularity of choirs and singing, we are laying on singing events and exploring other ways of enabling singing along with our choristers competition. I have noticed more members coming to events, but still it is only a small percentage of the membership. I look forward to seeing you all at at least one event this year.

**Make 2012 the year that you find out what your organisation is doing, and enjoy yourself in the process.**

Nik Kerwin, President

**P.S. I thoroughly recommend the Oxford trip - it looks like being a really interesting and enjoyable day. Don't forget that this trip is open to non members—please spread the word.**

### WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

Richard Decker, who recently won the BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister of the Year 2011, sings in the choirs of The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy and All Saints, Belvedere, and he is a Deanery Chorister. He has grade 6 piano and grade 3 oboe, and has recently started to learn the organ at St Olave's school, where he is a pupil.

We look forward to seeing him at our future events.



### DON'T FORGET.....

**BDOCA has a long standing commitment to support financially youngsters learning the organ. Contact Sue Moore for details, giving as much information as you can.**

Bruce is to give a slide show at his home (Beech Haven Court—corner of Bourne Road/London Road, Crayford) of his organ tour of Romania. Tuesday 24.1.12 7pm. Members welcome.. Phone no. on p.4

### SUBS NOW (over)DUE

#### BDOCA's BANK DETAILS

Alliance & Leicester  
a/c no. 56371087  
Sort Code 72-00-04,

You can pay through your bank

or set up an annual standing order

or over the internet  
**(be sure to show your name in the "reference" box)**

or by post to:  
Geoff. Hempstead  
4 Windsor Place  
East Grinstead  
RH19 4RP

Payable to "BDOCA"  
Subscription is £20 p.a.  
or £15 unwaged (student £5) and is due on 1st September each year

### January 2012

Last one was November 2011

Newsletter Co-ordinator

Reg. Boulton

19 Willow Avenue

Swanley BR8 8AT

Tel: 01322 614260

Fax: 01322 661015

E-mail:

reg.boulton@btopenworld.com

### Diary dates:

**3.3.12 Choristers' Competition**

**24.3.12 Oxford trip**

**26.5.12 Nigel Ogden recitals**

**21.7.12 Treasure Hunt**

### Inside this issue:

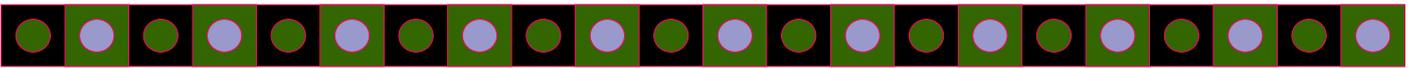
Note from Nik; New member; Subs 1

Young organists Tony Baldwin 2

Oxford trip Nigel Ogden day 3

Worship Workshop Vacancy 4

Dinner Other coming events 4



## Young Organists

Our Patron, Daniel Moulton, is a most energetic and vibrant advocate of bringing to youngsters knowledge of the wonder of the organ as a musical instrument. We have had some stunning ideas from him to work on—and we are grateful—and we have worked. And, with deference, we (the BDOCA committee) have decided to take one step back and look at the motivation for youngsters tackling the instrument. Our past, local, efforts to generate interest have come to nought. None of us has a youngster in the wings, ready to take over. [if you want to contradict me on this, please explain why you didn't respond to previous messages!] We organists are a dying breed. Vacancies can remain unfilled, or filled by those who have little grasp of the joy of the organ as pre-eminent instrument to lead worship. There are exceptions, be it said—but they are rare. The RSCM has, over the last 40 years, moved from a palace to a threadbare house, and now to a shared office. Over the same period, the RCO has lost around 90% of its membership and is now no more than a postbox number at Bermondsey sorting office.

The basis for using an organ in church is to overawe with sound, in the same way that vision, sight and smell [in some churches] is overawed (generally, without question).

Those who do tackle the RCO etc. exams now seem to fill such as the various inner north London parishes, where quality choral music is still valued. Gareth Malone and St John the Baptist probably share an exclamatory predicament. In outlying parishes, the “accessible” myth has taken a grip, and organists have become little more than strummers *alla* Debenhams background music. Our stuff is *not* “accessible” - it needs effort, but offers untold reward.

We need to know what would attract youngsters to work as church musicians. I tried putting this question to my own PCC and asked for comments. You can guess the amount of feedback I got. If you've got some views on this, please do let the committee have them. See the article below—I repeat that church music is not entertainment.

We've approached the Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley for his ideas on how we might get the clergy “onside”, if that is feasible. We're currently awaiting a response.

### From Evening Standard 17.1.12

A choirmaster has won £76,000 for unfair dismissal after he was sacked in a row with clerics amid fears they wanted "rock music" in church.

Tony Baldwin, 54, has conducted at St Paul's and Westminster Abbey and performed for the Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury. He had worked at The American Church in London, in Tottenham Court Road, for 27 years.

But last May he was sacked from his post as director of music for failing to "create a vision" for the choir.

Mr Baldwin, of Blackheath, has had 75 choral and organ compositions published and twice won the Royal School of Church Music's competition for composers. But last year he was put on 90 days' probation, and when worshippers wrote in his support, was accused of "political manoeuvring".

He was then sacked. In his dismissal letter he was told he had failed to help create a "vision for the choir's ministry" and gave "the impression of going through the motions". Mr Baldwin took his case to Central London employment tribunal. "I was under the impression the church was likely to dismiss me no matter what I did," he said. He told the hearing he been given no indication of what the "vision" should be: "I wrote to the pastor suggesting that we discuss what he wanted. [He] did not reply."

**Choir member Nancy Rousset told the tribunal she feared church leaders wanted to make services similar to those at Anglican church Holy Trinity Brompton, with "rock music, drums maybe, definitely more contemporary, perhaps with screens with words. It's a completely different atmosphere".**

The American Church claimed Mr Baldwin failed to meet the goals set out for him. Pastor John D'Elia said the choirmaster was trying to "obstruct any change or growth in our worship experience ... Service of worship should be designed with a heart for people who were not members of the church."

**Yesterday the tribunal found that the "new vision" was too vague. It ruled the dismissal was unfair and awarded Mr Baldwin £76,408.**

**Tony—well done! Pity that he was forced out of a job he enjoyed for the sake of providing entertainment—his successor is a Professor of jazz music. Church music is not entertainment. “Vision” indeed!**





## Oxford trip

Through the good offices of Sue, we have a spiffing trip lined up.

Saturday 24.3.12

- 10.00 Coach starts from Nik's house, 11 Canberra Road, Bexleyheath, DA7 5SD—plenty of free parking near.
- 12.00—14.30 Merton College: meal (inc. drink), then look at organ - Merton Street, OX1 4JD.
- 15.00 Exeter College, Turl Street, OX1 3DP: look at organ (designed by David Sanger after Cavallé-Coll).
- 16.00-17.30 time to view town and eat—OR you could come to
- 16.30 Tea and buns at Christ Church cathedral, followed by Evensong at 18.00 (St Aldate's, OX1 1DP); after that, one of the organ scholars will show us the organ.
- 19.30 Leave—one “comfort break” on way back.
- 21.00 Home

COST—which includes the meal—£25—deposit (£15—non-refundable) to Sue or Nik by 29.2.12. Sue's and Nik's details on next page. Non members welcome.



## Nigel Ogden Day

Saturday 26.5.12

This has grown! He's going to do a “turn” at St John's, Welling in the afternoon; then, in the evening, at Christ Church, Bexleyheath. Discounted ticket for those going to both. More publicity to follow very soon. (There will be a 50% price reduction for members) Please put the date in your diary.



The CofE is launching **Worship Workshop**, a music and liturgy planning website aimed at primary schools, but also for use in churches, if they want to register.

[www.worshipworkshop.co.uk](http://www.worshipworkshop.co.uk)

## Vacancy

Christ Church, Erith. 2 manual Walker organ in a bit of a state, but they're sorting a fund-raising campaign to put it right. Salary (according to indications in long e-mail copied to me) will be a matter of hopefulness. There were 18 weddings there in 2011, and the e-mail says there are “many” funerals. One sung service—Sunday 10am—per week. Choir practices are “rare”, yet choir “keen”. 24 in the choir. Contact: [Julia.King@thls.org](mailto:Julia.King@thls.org)



**Bexley & District  
Organists' & Choirmasters'  
Association**

Secretary:  
Sue Moore  
55 Avery Hill Road  
New Eltham  
London SE9 2BJ  
Tel: 020 8859 6997  
Mob: 07713 348323  
E-mail: [sue.moore@churchofengland.org](mailto:sue.moore@churchofengland.org)

**BDOCA website:** <http://bdoca.myzen.co.uk/>

COMMITTEE:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Nik Kerwin</b>            | President  |
| 020 8311 4126 / 07850 787772 | <a href="mailto:nik.kerwin@ntlworld.com">nik.kerwin@ntlworld.com</a>             |
| <b>Dennis Moor</b>           | Vice President   |
| 020 8462 7907 / 07780 970663 | <a href="mailto:dennis.moor@ntlworld.com">dennis.moor@ntlworld.com</a>           |
| <b>Sue Moore</b>             | Secretary  |
| 020 8859 6997 / 07713 348323 | <a href="mailto:sue.moore@churchofengland.org">sue.moore@churchofengland.org</a> |
| <b>Geoff. Hempstead</b>      | Treasurer  |
| 01342 313112                 | <a href="mailto:geoffh_o8@btinternet.com">geoffh_o8@btinternet.com</a>           |
| <b>Reg. Boulton</b>          |  |
| 01322 614260 / 07889 172319  | <a href="mailto:reg.boulton@btopenworld.com">reg.boulton@btopenworld.com</a>     |
| <b>Bruce Davis</b>           |  |
| 01322 558129                 | <a href="mailto:bruce.davis11@yahoo.co.uk">bruce.davis11@yahoo.co.uk</a>         |
| <b>John LeMasurier</b>       |  |
| 01322 522112 / 07850 719090  | <a href="mailto:thelemasuriers@btinternet.com">thelemasuriers@btinternet.com</a> |
| <b>Nic Turner</b>            |  |
| 01322 526434 / 07789 771443  | <a href="mailto:organictee@tiscali.co.uk">organictee@tiscali.co.uk</a>           |

*There are—as was mentioned at the AGM—a couple of vacancies on the committee. It would be good to have some varied input into proceedings. If you feel able to volunteer to join the committee, do step forward.*



Our dinner, on 10.1.12, went very well. Nineteen members shared a pleasant evening—and good nosh.

## Other coming events etc.

Saturday 3.3.12 Choristers' Competition—St Michael's, Abbey Wood. Roxy Summerfield, Assistant Organist at St James the Greater, Leicester and Leicestershire RSCM's Education and Training Officer (we met her at Cambridge—pupil of David Sanger) is adjudicator. <http://www.roxannesummerfield.co.uk/> The music details have been sent out and are available on Dropbox.

Saturday 24.3.12 [clocks go forward that weekend] Coach trip to OXFORD - see page 3.

Saturday 26.5.12—NIGEL OGDEN at St John's, Welling (afternoon) and Christ Church, Bexleyheath (evening).

Saturday 21.7.12 TREASURE HUNT

Also...

A visit to Lullingstone Castle gardens and chapel with some sort of musical end to the visit—details being sorted.

And, perhaps, RC Vespers... - all being worked on.

And we've been invited to go and look at the new extension organ at St Joseph's RC church, St Mary Cray—perhaps taking in Orpington Methodist church at the same time: [http://www.npor.org.uk/cgi-bin/Rsearch.cgi?Fn=Rsearch&rec\\_index=P00113](http://www.npor.org.uk/cgi-bin/Rsearch.cgi?Fn=Rsearch&rec_index=P00113)