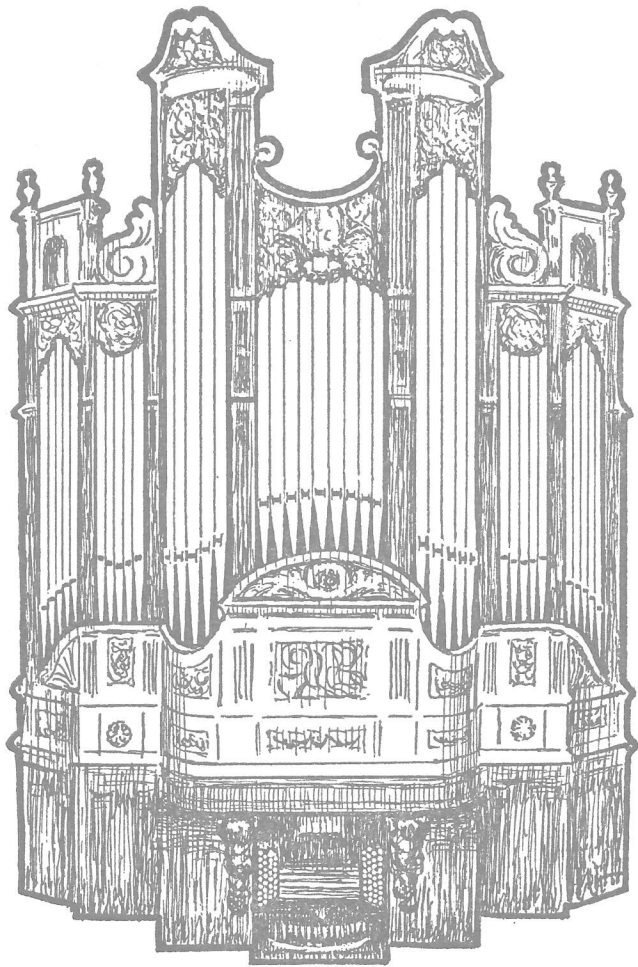


The Berkshire Organist



Number
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1975



THE BERKSHIRE ORGANISTS ASSOCIATION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

R. P. J. Pepworth Esq.

By the time this issue of "The Berkshire Organist" is in your hands the Association will have elected a new President. Whoever he or she may be may I wish him or her as happy and rewarding a term of office as I have had.

One of the disappointments of my term is that the problem of the preservation of the Reading Town Hall organ has still not been resolved. This year is European Architectural Heritage Year and I have just been listening to a discussion between H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh and various conservationists. The main point emerging was that buildings of architectural interest and importance which we, as a nation, wish to preserve must not remain just as museum pieces, but must be restored for active use in one way or another by the community.

This is just what several local societies, including our Association, in conjunction with the Reading Civic Society are endeavouring to persuade the Reading Council to do with the Town Hall. In the present sad economic situation this is most certainly something which will need all the support that we can muster. It naturally follows that if we can save the Town Hall, the whole of which has now been listed by the Department of the Environment as a building of architectural importance, we save our wonderful 'Father' Willis organ.

In taking leave of you from the office of President may I thank you, one and all, for your support over the past three years and give you my very best wishes for the future.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WINDSOR BRANCH

John A. Blaber, Esq.

We now have over 40 members in the Windsor Branch, and it is encouraging to see how this number continues to increase. I have no doubt that at the end of 1975 we shall have reached the half-century.

However, my greatest concern over the last few meetings has been the low attendance. Although the membership increases, the percentage of attendance seems to be dropping. I worry about this because the reason is not readily apparent. I do hope that those who have not supported our meetings in 1974 will do their utmost to give real support in this new year. If you have any comments regarding the poor support please let myself or the Committee have them. They will be noted with great interest. Do we hold meetings on the wrong day, at the wrong time, or perhaps they are not of interest to the majority of members?

One meeting at which I hope to see a large attendance is a joint meeting of the Windsor Branch and the Buckinghamshire Organists' Association. This will be an informal meeting which will start with a composite organ recital (by both Bucks and Berks members) followed by tea. After this we will have some form of informal musical hour when it is hoped members from both Associations will participate. As always, our meetings are open to all members of the Berkshire Organists' Association and anyone will be welcome at St. John's Church, Victoria Road, Farnham Common, Bucks (just north of Slough) at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8th.

Details of the organ at St. John's appear elsewhere in this magazine.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you at the various meetings.

In Remembrance Dr Leslie Smith

The late Dr Leslie Smith was remembered at the Annual Remembrance Service held at the church of the Holy Sepulchre London recently. In the north part of the church lies the Musicians' Chapel containing memorials to many notable musicians. Within the chapel is the Musicians' Book of Remembrance in which the name of Herbert Leslie Smith has been inscribed: on the same page is the name of Sir William Harris (late of St George's Chapel).

Both Dr Smith and Sir William Harris were members of the Windsor Branch of the Berkshire Organists' Association and members of the Branch, together with Mrs. Bridget Smith and her family, were present at the deeply moving service.

The Book of Remembrance was brought in procession from the Musicians' Chapel and placed in the centre of the church during the service which was sung by students from the Royal Academy of Music assisted by organ and brass ensemble.

At the conclusion of the service relatives and friends filed past to inspect the Book of Remembrance which contains over a thousand names.

EDITORIAL

With what we hope will be typical British stoicism the nation has embarked upon this year-of-inflation 1975. In our own small sphere we shall have to cope with increases in the cost of books and music, organ maintenance and repairs, costlier transport and motoring. Our churches will be faced with higher charges for heating and lighting to mention just two major items. The fabric of decaying buildings will become an anxiety, and the church authorities will be hard put towards increasing revenue whatever system of giving is in use. Fortunately more people are already being drawn towards the church through the simple virtue of friendliness, and, whatever your feelings, post-service coffee and Series Three have over a short period of time induced many friendlier churches, or should I say friendlier congregations. In the interest of economy churches are now producing duplicated typewritten parish magazines in gay covers reflecting a more intimate and friendly image than cold type ever could, also the compilation brings together small groups in a Time and Talents exercise. This brings to mind the preservation and repair of church books and music, an operation calling for certain skills. Incidentally I have a useful home-made device for the repairing of anthem copies which I should be happy to lend; however much repair work can be eliminated by assembling anthems into volumes with stiffish covers.

In the absence of detailed commentaries on the 1974 Celebrity Recitals I am sure no one will fail to agree that they were extremely well performed and appreciated. Was this something to do with the choice of programmes? I'm sure it was, notwithstanding the popularity of Noel Rawsthorne and Geoffrey Tristram; we are most grateful for their impact on the audience. It cannot be denied that the public loves to witness a display of physical energy towards the achievement of some goal whether on the football ground, in the boxing ring or at the organ console where certain pieces make heavy demands upon the player's resources. Each half of a programme should be loaded with one of these pieces - a sure stimulant to conversation at the coffee break. I cannot help wondering if we are not too often inclined to be unknowingly selfish (I mustn't say - snobbish) in our musical appreciation. As revealed at our last recitals the organ repertoire is not as limited as some would try to have us believe, so why should not recitalists and promoters alike realize just what music enraptures and delights a Reading audience the majority of whom are seeking music for pleasure and leisure.

I should like to express my sincere gratitude to those members who helped me through my task by contributing the articles appearing within these pages.

L.F.D.

SECRETARIAL

Please make a note of the dates of all activities on the new Syllabus which covers the whole of 1975. Particular attention is drawn to the Celebrity Recitals, the Half-Day Conference and the Annual Outing. Please let me have your replies before the very last day when these are announced. Changes of address etc should be promptly notified thus ensuring that you will receive magazines and correspondence. The Constitution of the Incorporated Association has been revised and has necessitated the revision of our Bye-Laws details of which will be circulated in due course.

SYLLABUS 1975

January 25th	An Evening arranged by Albert Barkus and Raymond Isaacson. Some Far Away Places and Abbeys and Cathedrals - Slides and Music. Trinity United Reformed Church, Reading.
February 22nd	Annual General Meeting at All Saints' Church Hall, Reading
March 12th	Celebrity Recital at Reading Town Hall by Fernando Germani.
April 26th	Annual Half-Day Conference.
May 17th	Visits to Local Organs.
June 21st	Annual Outing to Cirencester and Gloucester.
September 27th	Presidential Service.
October 15th	Celebrity Recital at Reading Town Hall by Roger Fisher.
November 10th	Annual Social or Dinner.

HONOURS

Professor Howard C. Barnard MA, D.Litt, FTCL.
Adrian Boynton, BA, ARCO, LRAM, LTCL.
Harold Hartley elected a Fellow of the Royal
Astronomical Society (FRAS)

APPOINTMENTS

A. E. Rivers to St Laurence's Church, Reading.
J. L. Dussek to St Peter's Church, Caversham.
W. E. Lower to St Bartholomew's Church, Reading.
J. M. Lawes to Grazeley Parish Church and Beech Hill.
D. Sidwell to Pangbourne Parish Church.
R. A. Seaton to Finchampstead Parish Church.

OBITUARY

Nelson Cooper
Ewart W. Masser
W. B. Green

Harry Goatley
The Revd A.S.Caswell
Philip H.C.Edwards

BENEVOLENT FUND

Thanks to your generosity we have continued our support during the past year by contributing the amount of £13.40.

D.M.Guy.

DEPUTIES

The following members are available for duty as deputies, and application should be made direct to them.

M. Allured (with car)	Windsor District	Slough 45158
J. A. Blaber (with car)	Windsor District	Burnham 4090
J.C.Lawes (with car)	Reading District - midweek events	883504
J.G.Stilwell (with car)	Midweek events	Yateley 3052

54TH ANNUAL REPORT

Officers elected at the Annual General Meeting held on February 23rd 1974 in All Saints' Hall, Reading.

PRESIDENT	R. P. J. Pepworth Esq.
VICE PRESIDENTS	Professor H.C.Barnard, D.Litt, MA, LTCL, ARCO. A. H. Lusty Esq. Hon FTCL, LTCL, ARCO. L. Pratt Esq. LTCL. A. E. Rivers Esq. Miss E. G. Goodship, ATCL. R. N. Nash Esq. L.F.B.Davis Esq.
HON.SECRETARY	A. H. Lusty Esq.
HON.TREASURER	L. Pratt Esq.
ASST. HON.TREASURER	F. V. G. Fawcett Esq.
HON. BENEVOLENT STEWARD	D. M. Guy Esq.
HON. PROGRAMME SECRETARY	D. M. Guy Esq.
COUNCIL MEMBERS (Ex Officio)	D. F. C. Reynolds Esq. LTCL, ARCM. (Newbury) Miss B. Reid (Windsor), T. Reed Esq. FRCO, LTCL (Windsor), N. Hutt Esq. (Newbury)
COUNCIL MEMBERS	I. May Esq, B. H. Lee Esq. to retire 1975 R. Isaacson Esq. Mus B, C. B. Griffiths Esq. ALCM to retire 1976 W. Claridge Esq, Miss D. Griffin, LRAM to retire 1977

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

L. F. B. Davis Esq. (Editor)
F. G. Spriggs Esq.
W. H. Rowe Esq. MBE, ARCO.

Representative from Newbury: N. P. Hutt Esq.
Representative from Windsor: T. E. Reed Esq. FRCO.

TOWN HALL ORGAN COMMITTEE

The President and Honorary Treasurer.
Miss E.G.Goodship, ATCL. H.H.Hartley Esq. MA, BSc, ATCL, FRAS.
P.B.Marr Esq, ARCO, GTCL, FRSA. R.N.Nash Esq. F.G.Spriggs Esq.
Donovan Jones Esq. A.Barkus Esq. FRCO. L.F.B.Davis Esq.
G.A.H.Turner Esq.

- Jan.26 Stereo and Hi-Fi. Talk by Mr Roy Edwards (Edwards Telecolour Ltd)
at Trinity United Reformed Church. Well attended and most interesting.
- Feb.23 Annual General Meeting at All Saints Hall, Reading.
- Mar.27 Celebrity Recital, Reading Town Hall by Noel Rawsthorne.
- Apl.27 Half-Day Conference at All Saints Hall. Speaker the Revd Edgar
Landen, organist of Cirencester Parish Church. After tea
a recital in All Saints Church by Mr T.E.Reed.
- May 11 Visit to Wellington College.
- June 22 Annual Outing to Bristol. Well attended - highly successful
arrangements - thanks to President and Programme Secretary.
- Sept 28 Presidential Service at Waltham St Lawrence Parish Church.
- Oct. 9 Celebrity Recital, Reading Town Hall by Geoffrey Tristram.

MEETINGS OF THE NEWBURY BRANCH

- Jan.24 Annual General Meeting
- *Feb. 9 Organ Recital. Margaret Cobb.
- *Mar.16 Slides and Organ Music (Continental churches and music)
Presented by John Rowntree and David Reynolds.
- *Apl. 6 Organ Recital. Robert Munns.
- *May 18 Organ Recital. Jane Parker Smith.
- * In connection with the Newbury Parish Church Organ Appeal.
- June 5 Visit to Lambourn Parish Church.
- June 22 Joined Reading on annual outing to Bristol.
- July 11 Visit to Whitchurch (Hants) Parish Church.
- Oct.19 Visit to Buckland Parish Church to give Choral Recital.

The various events have been well attended, and particularly the Annual Outing to Bristol.

At Lambourn we were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. A.S. Caswell, who gave a description of the organ, and then played a Bach Prelude in D. The church organist, Miss Peters, then played two more items by Bach, the chorale prelude Liebster Jesu wir sind hier, and the Prelude from Prelude and Fugue in G. The Vicar then played Stanley's Trumpet Tune, and the Finale from Music for the Royal Fireworks by Handel. After this members were able to try the organ themselves.

At Whitchurch (Hants), the Parish Church Organist, Michael Noble, demonstrated the instrument and played the Alain Litanies, the Prelude and Fugue in G by Buxtehude and a Chorale Prelude by Flor Peters, and then invited members to play.

It was suggested at one of our committee meetings that we might form a choir of members of the branch, with a nucleus of the Parish Church choir, the object being to visit churches in the area, to give choral concerts or to sing evensong on occasions and particularly in villages where the opportunity to hear choral singing is limited.

The result was a visit to Buckland near Faringdon on October 19th. We were welcomed by the Rev. Phipps, a former minister of St Mary's Speenhamland. After an afternoon rehearsal and tea, the following items were performed, conducted by David Reynolds with Gillian Lovett at the organ.

If ye love me	Thomas Tallis
O come ye servants	Christopher Tye
The Lord is King	William Boyce
O Praise the Lord	Maurice Greene
O Praise the Lord	Adrian Batten
I will magnify Thee	Joseph Corfe
God is gone up	William Croft
Organ solo - Interlude pour la nativité	César Geoffroy
Scherzo from Sonata in E minor	Rheinburger
O for the wings of a Dove	Mendelssohn
Soloist - Timothy Wilson	
Thou visitest the Earth	Greene
Soloist - Micky Graham	
Hymn - All creatures of our God and King	Tune: Easter Alleluia
Te Deum in B flat	C.V. Stanford
Evening Hymn	Balfour Gardiner

Hymn - Glorious things of Thee are spoken	Tune: Abbots Leigh
Hosanna to the Son of David	Hutchings
Psalm 65	Chant: Turle in C
Behold now Praise the Lord	Arthur Wills
Vesper Hymn - May the Grace of Christ our Saviour	Tune: Waltham

OBITUARY

In October, we had the misfortune to lose one of our members, the Rev. Arthur Sherwood Caswell, Vicar of Lambourn, who died as a result of a car accident. He joined the association in 1973, and was a keen member and competent organist. Although he was not known by many members, he made some useful and productive suggestions designed to further the interests of members in the branch. His invitation to Lambourn will be remembered by all who attended in June. We offer his family our deepest sympathy.

MEETINGS OF THE WINDSOR BRANCH

During 1974, the Windsor Branch held nine meetings.

Saturday, January 12th

Visited Maidenhead Methodist Church for a demonstration of the organ which had been re-built by Bowen of Northampton. The demonstration was given by Mr. Allured. This was followed by a composite organist recital.

After the recital, tea was provided in the church hall by Members of the church. The chairman thanked Mr. Henderson the organist for inviting the Windsor Branch to the Church, and also thanked Mr. Allured for the demonstration of the organ.

Saturday, February 9th

A talk with illustrations on tape by Mr. Pinder who is a Lay Clerk at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. This talk was given in the vestry of All Saints Church, Frances Road.

Coffee and biscuits were provided by Miss Campbell, the organist.

Saturday, March 9th

Visit to Sandhurst Military Chapel for a talk about the organ by Dr. Douglas Hopkins, followed by recital by Squadron Leader Jones. After the recital, tea was provided.

Saturday, May 18th

Visit to St. Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Sunninghill. Mr. Reed, the organist of the church, gave a demonstration of the organ which had recently been repaired and tonally improved by Bowen of Northampton. The organ is a three-manual Gray and Davison. After the demonstration, members were free to play the organ. Tea was provided by Mrs. T. Reed, the organist's wife.

Saturday, June 8th

Visit to Eton College. Mr. Smallbone, who is Director of Music, gave a talk about three of the organs in the College.

The first organ we heard, which is a Flenthrop, was in the school hall. The second organ we heard was in the chapel. This organ is a Snexler. It was placed in the chapel in the reign of George III. The last organ we heard, a Hill four-manual, was also in the chapel. A short recital was given by Mr. Sampson which included the First Movement of Sonata in G major by Elgar.

Thanks were expressed to Mr. Smallbone by the chairman for a most interesting afternoon.

Three records have been made of these organs by Wealden Recording Studios. Also included is a written history of the organs. These records can be obtained from any record shop, but must state recorded by Wealden Recording Studios.

Saturday, July 20th

Miss Reid thanked members for their support during the year, but had decided that she would not be able to continue as chairman; it was with regret that she had come to this decision.

Before asking for a new chairman, the Secretary wished to thank Miss Reid for all she had done for the Windsor Branch as chairman, and he was sure that members would understand.

Mr. Blaber was elected as chairman, Mr. Hughes as treasurer, and Mr. Reed as secretary, Mr. Allured as Benevolent Steward. Other members of the committee: Mrs. Apps, Miss A. Keen, Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Poole and Mr. Macey.

We were pleased to welcome our President, Mr. Pepworth. He spoke to the Meeting about the new set up in the I.A.O., the revised memorandum of the Association, and the Articles of the Association. I shall not dwell on this subject as I understand that it appears elsewhere in the Magazine.

The meeting stood in silence to the memory of Dr. Leslie Smith, Sir William Harris and Dr. Sydney Campbell who had passed away.

Before the A.G.M. the Dedication Service was held in All Saints Church, Frances Road. Miss Campbell was at the organ. Mr. Blaber read the Lesson. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. David N. Griffiths. Tea was provided by Miss Campbell and others, in the Vestry.

MEETINGS OF THE WINDSOR BRANCH contd from P.9.

Monday, October 14th

Annual Dinner at the Bear Hotel, Maidenhead.

The Guest Speaker was Mr.J.Busbridge, Head of the Music Department of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Saturday, November 9th

Visit to Farnham Royal Parish Church. A demonstration of the computer organ was given, after which members were free to try their hand at the instrument. Tea was provided at St.John's Church Hall by Mrs. Blaber and others. After tea the chairman invited members, if they so wished, to play the organ in the church.

Saturday, December 14th

Carols at Wexham Parish Church. The Vicar opened with prayer. The chairman announced the carols; Mr. Poole was at the organ. Refreshments were provided in the church hall. The chairman thanked the Vicar for making us feel so welcome, and also thanked Mr. Poole for arranging the programme.

* * * * *

There have been good attendances at the meetings, and it is hoped that 1975 will be just as successful.

Congratulations to Miss A. Keen, Mr. Ian Peter Davidson, in passing Grade V Organ Associated Board, with distinction, and Mr. Sawyer Grade V Organ Associated Board, Pass.

It is pleasing to note our membership has increased by ten new members. Total membership at 31st December 1974 was 41.

Your Committee have met on four occasions during the year.

The amount forwarded to the Benevolent Fund for 1974 was £7.00.

Thomas E. Reed. Hon.Secretary.

* * * * *

Again our thanks are extended to the Committee of the "Berkshire Organist" and Mrs Alice Foxton for another excellent edition, and sincere thanks to Miss Goodship and the Town Hall Organ Committee.

The Congress at Newcastle was attended by Mr.A.H.Lusty.

Once again our thanks are extended to the Ladies Committee for all they have done for us during the year.

REPORT ON CONGRESS 1974 by A.H.Lusty

The Congress for 1974 was held in Newcastle from August 5th until the 10th and was housed in the various halls of residence of the University. After the Executive Meeting which was held at 11.30 a.m. on the Monday the members of Congress were the guests of the University at a reception at 5.30 p.m. It was disclosed to the executive that the Revd Eric Routley who was to have succeeded Mr Lionel Dakers as President was unable to do so, having been offered an appointment in America. The executive however persuaded Mr Dakers to continue for a further year which he agreed to do. At 8.00 p.m. Mr Dakers gave what he called an introductory talk on "The Church and the Composer". This was more than a talk, it was a brilliant lecture. On Tuesday after the rehearsal of the Congress Choir (which was held each morning at 9.00 a.m.) the Annual General Meeting was held at which Mr Geoffrey Gibbons (the Incorporation's solicitor) outlined the Charity Commission's requirement for the reconstitution of the Incorporation to be registered as a charity and thus become exempt from Corporation Tax. The outstanding change is that membership of local associations shall not be restricted - meaning of course that any person may be admitted to membership. It was at this meeting that the President conferred the honour of Honorary Membership of the Incorporation on Mr A.H.Lusty in recognition of his 44 years of service to the Incorporation. At various times during the week stages of the Organ Playing Competition were held. It was on Tuesday at 2.00 p.m. that a visit was paid to Durham for Evensong by the choir of Buffalo Cathedral followed by an organ recital by Margaret Phillips, a very youthful player and an FRCO prize winner. The recital consisted of three pieces, Suite No.1 (1973) (John Hall), The St Ann Prelude and Fugue (Bach), and Eighteen Variations (Jean Guillou). Needless to say it was generally felt by those present that the Bach was by far the most appreciated - neither of the other two creating any impression. Returning to Newcastle at 8.00 p.m. a discussion on contemporary trends in composing for the Church in which Paul Patterson and Peter Aston took part. This subject was approached from two quite different angles. This was followed at 9.30 p.m. by a Chamber Concert of music composed by the late Sir Edward Bairstow performed by Francis Jackson (piano) and Anthony Borthwick (violin). This was really a wonderful experience and was of course our first hearing of Francis Jackson as a pianist. Wednesday was the day for the RCO Lecture which this year was delivered by Dr Arthur Wills. An introductory talk was given by the President Mr Lionel Dakers and the subject of the Lecture was the Church and the Composer, which was the theme of the Congress. Dr Wills said that Church music should have more vitality if it is to survive. A choirmaster must understand the composer's intention if he is to put it across to the choir and congregation. Concerning sacred and secular music in church the speaker pointed out that people go to church to glorify God, but it seems that by the latter they go to glorify themselves. Thursday was the day for a visit to Hexham Abbey with a recital by Gillian Weir. On the return to Newcastle a Composers Forum took place consisting of Peter Aston, Francis Jackson, John McCabe, Paul Patterson and Arthur Wills. The writer had to return to Reading for an appointment on the Friday and therefore had to miss Francis Jackson's lecture on Sir Edward Bairstow, the centenary of whose birth takes place this year. The closing Service of Congress took place in the Cathedral - the Congress Choir directed by Peter Aston and the Cathedral Organist, Russell Missin.

PROGRAMMES 1974

March 27	Celebrity Recital at Reading Town Hall by Noel Rawsthorne	
	Grand Jeu	Du Mage
	Three Chorale Preludes	J. S. Bach
	Prelude and Fugue in G major	J. S. Bach
	Psalm Prelude No.1.	Howells
	Fantasia in F minor	Mozart
	Te Deum	Langlais
	Toccatina for the Flutes	Pietro Yon
	Finale to Symphony No.1	Vierne
	Encore: Toccata in F	Widor
April 27	Recital by Thomas E. Reed at All Saints' Church, Reading	
	Voluntary in G major	John Stanley
	Alla Breve in D major	J. S. Bach
	Nun Komm' der Heiden Heiland	J. S. Bach
	Prelude and Fugue in C major	J. S. Bach
	Four Pieces for a Musical Clock	Haydn
	Sonata No.3 in A major	Mendelssohn
	Psalm Prelude No.1	Howells
	Chorale No.3 in A minor	Cesar Franck
September 28	Presidential Service at Waltham St.Lawrence Parish Church	
	Introductory Organ Music - Mr R.P.J.Pepworth	
	Prelude in D major	Thomas Adams
	Andante Tranquillo	Percy Whitlock
	Psalm 119 vv 49-64	
	Canticles: E.J.Moeran in D	
	Anthem: O Clap your hands together	Thomas Bullis (junr)
	Closing Organ Music	
	Interlude	Cesar Franck
	Postlude in B flat	Charles Hutchings
October 9	Celebrity Recital at Reading Town Hall by Geoffrey Tristram	
	Fantasia and Fugue in G min. (BWV.542)	J. S. Bach
	Voluntary in F	John Stanley
	Pastorale	Roger-Ducasse
	Introdn and Fugue on 'Ad nos, Ad Salutarem Undam'	Liszt
	Allegro Resoluto from Symphone No.2	Vierne
	Berceuse	Vierne
	Cortege	Vierne
	Elfes	Bonnet
	Caprice Heroique	Bonnet
	"Stella Maris" from Symphone No.1	Guy Weitz
December 7	Inaugural Recital by Raymond Isaacson on restored organ at All Saints' Church Reading	
	Christ unser Herr, zum Jordan kam	J. S. Bach
	Von Himmel hoch	Kauffman
	Toccatina and Fugue in D minor	J. S. Bach
	Voluntary in D minor and D major	John Alcock
	Chromhorne sur la Taille	Couperin
	Allegretto from Sonata in G	Elgar
	Placare Christe Servulia	Dupre
	Grand Choeur in A	Guilmant

AN ORGANIST ABROAD - Albert Barkus

Set a keen organist loose in a strange town or city and he will be almost certain to nose out an interesting organ or two. In recent years I have had the good fortune to do just that in many faraway places. In one or two places in the Antipodes I was even more fortunate; I was taken round by friends and allowed to "try" quite a number of instruments. Occasionally I found that my Fellowship proved a useful passport, but in some parts I had to content myself with a mere inspection of the console - sometimes a very frustrating and finger-itching experience - but nevertheless quite interesting. I am glad to have this opportunity of sharing some memories - and often they can be no more than somewhat vague ones - with my organ loving colleagues.

During two extended holidays in New Zealand my organ adventures have been largely possible through the help of a friend who is himself an organist and an organ builder employed by the firm of George Croft of Auckland. On one occasion Arthur drove me many miles round the city of Wellington, knowing where to find organ keys or some other open sesame, and in many cases he was able to give me much more information than would otherwise have been available. More recently Arthur has taken me on a similar tour of New Plymouth on the west coast of the North Island.

Many of the instruments I inspected were either almost new or recently rebuilt, so that specifications were mostly of an up-to-date character giving bright and clear tonal schemes. (We found that many things in New Zealand seemed to be either Victorian or very up-to-date - not surprising perhaps in a rapidly developing young country). Somewhere I played an attractive 2-manual with an additional Mutation section which could be coupled to either or both manuals at will. I had not seen this elsewhere, although I was told it was not uncommon in that part of the world. I had an enjoyable half-hour or so on the organ in the beautiful new St. Paul's Cathedral in Wellington; originally built by Hill about 1880 for the old cathedral, it was rebuilt and electrified by Croft when the new building was completed about ten years ago; no larger than my own organ here in Reading, but given a splendid tonal quality by the lofty building in which it is placed.

Thanks to the assistance of Wellington City Organist, I had a pleasant hour on the Town Hall organ there. A 4-manual Hill Norman & Beard, about 1907, it proved to be a very typical romantic organ of the period, somewhat larger than our Father Willis if I remember rightly, enjoyable in its own particular character.

The giant 5-manual Hill in Sydney Town Hall was of course an attraction to me on a four-day stay in that city. As I sat on the stool I could not help thinking of W.T. Best, Alfred Hollins, E.H. Lemare, and many others who had sat there and made glorious noises on this world famous instrument. The only thing that barred me from actually playing this tremendous collection of 127 speaking stops was a dramatic rehearsal going on in the hall, which incidentally was interesting and enjoyable. However, I was taken into the interior of the organ to see the forest of 8,672 pipes, but how I wished I

could hear the sound of that fantastic 64 foot Contra Trombone and take a few samples from the vast 5-manual scheme.

I had no better luck at the nearby St. Andrew's Cathedral, for here the organ was undergoing a complete overhaul and rebuild. I had a short chat with one of the organ builder's lads ("coom out from Oodersfield") and I was permitted to inspect the 100 stop 4-manual console, but to do so in silence was tantalizing to say the least. I had to be satisfied and grateful to play one or two other smaller instruments in the city.

Of the many organs I played in New Zealand, I recall with pleasure the Whiteley Methodist Church and St. Mary's Church in New Plymouth, Khandalah Presbyterian and others in Wellington, to say nothing of the tiny gem at Raumati Beach - a single manual with four stops and a detached console which somehow reminded me of a portable typewriter! A big new instrument at the new Napier Cathedral was not quite complete when I was there, but the console looked very inviting and I understand that the completed job is a "thrilling affair".

But not all my most delightful memories are associated with the inspection of organs. I shall not forget for a long time a short visit to St. Andrew's Cathedral in Honolulu. Picture if you can a warm sunny Sunday morning in Hawaii's elegant capital city. As we wandered into this beautiful building I was immediately aware of the lovely sound coming from the organ - Franck's Prelude, Fugue and Variation. Worshippers were assembling for Morning Service, and the large mixed scarlet-robed choir was lining up at the west end of the great nave. Although our time was limited we took a seat by a window which was wide open to the refreshing breeze and delightful bird-song. The Franck came to an end, and the choir moved slowly up the aisle singing "O come, Emanuel" very beautifully (it was Advent, 1973). This was for me a most moving experience, and one came out into the lovely sunshine and breath-takingly beautiful surroundings feeling somehow strangely transported with delight.

Mention of warm sunshine in Advent reminds me of the enjoyable Service of Lessons and Carols in a tiny church at Upper Hutt, when the building was beautifully decorated with roses and sweet peas, and the sound of familiar Christmas music mingled with the song of birds coming in through the open windows. I was privileged to have one or two practices in this church on the delightful little 2-manual Croft.

I remember too the happy times I had conducting choir practices and playing for services on a large ocean liner, when congregations number several hundreds and the singing goes well.

World travel can be relied on to provide many delightful memories of all kinds, and for the organist there are some special ones too.

THE CHANGING SCENE - W. H. Rowe

The first decade of this century was in effect the tail-end of the Victorian era. It was a time of calm, largely unruffled by the rumbles of an approaching storm. Relative prosperity prevailed, in spite of extremes of wealth and poverty. For many it was a comfortable time. Britain was great and there was a feeling of stability: the rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, each knew his appointed place and for the most part accepted it. Such was the world into which I was born and to few came the idea that these things could change. One did not miss our present conveniences because they did not exist. In most homes there were very few labour saving devices, but who wanted them when domestic labour was plentiful and cheap. The services of a washerwoman cost fourpence an hour so who wanted a washing machine? The wages of a full time maid were about £8 per year. Anyone earning £300 per annum was considered "quite comfortable" and for such a one a year's salary would buy a house. Income tax was only a few pence in the pound.

Sundays followed the Victorian pattern. There were few cars, no T.V. or radio and secular activities on the sabbath were regarded with disfavour. Church attendance was considered the normal thing, the better off in the morning and others in the evening - although some went twice. A cynic has remarked that in those days there were more bodies in the pews but fewer souls. These conditions were reflected in the churches and, indeed, in church music. In the more fashionable churches (of all denominations) the Sunday parade at 11 a.m. was a truly social occasion when frock or morning coats and silk hats predominated among the men and the ladies' hats were often glamorous creations of sartorial splendour. The wearers were careful whom to acknowledge with a stately bow. The evening congregations were less formal.

Stainer had been dead only a few years, Parry and Stanford were still alive and Nicholson was an up and coming young man. In the Anglican churches all male choirs were the rule and there seemed to be no shortage of choristers. Standards were variable and often not very high. Victorian hymn tunes and anthems held sway and opportunities to hear the best in church music were not readily available. In keeping with the general mood religion tended to be rather soothing. Some organists laboured valiantly on less than £20 per year but one could buy a very reasonable church organ for round about £500. In general static complacency prevailed.

In 1914 the existing order was shattered and a new social pattern emerged. The old order had gone for ever and there began a period of rapid technological advancement - the car, radio, television, great strides in education, air travel, more and more speed, opportunities to see foreign lands, these over the course of years changed the face of society. There arose new ways of spending one's time and one's money. Gradually these changes were reflected in church activity. Church attendances fell but in some directions interest in religious matters became keener. Now, after fifty years many once loved shibboleths have been discarded and an ecumenical spirit has emerged which would have been regarded with horror by many people even thirty years ago.

Some of the effects of change as seen in the Anglican churches are the holding of the main Sunday service at an earlier hour thus leaving people free for other pursuits, the dwindling numbers attending a second service and coupled with this a more critical attitude to musical standards. Boys have more competing interests, girls and women are more in evidence in choirs but fewer men are prepared to devote time to church choirs. The higher standard of musical appreciation, especially among the young, is a desirable change but it means that a greater demand is made on church musicians if they are to satisfy modern needs. But the problem goes deeper than this and the new situation presents a new challenge.

We are in an age of revolt against the existing order. The young are militant, the old frustrated. Some have discarded all faith and others feel that organised religion, as seen in the churches, is irrelevant and ineffectual. The cry is for change. It is a period of seeking and experiment. How are the churches meeting this situation as regards their services and in particular their music? Some demand changes which others find hard to accept. Each church must work out its own salvation for what is apt in one place will fail elsewhere and sweeping generalisations are dangerous. Gimmicks designed to bring people into church are often self defeating and their lasting value is doubtful. The mission of the church is to convince people that in a world of change it has a truth which is unchanging and that it can be expressed in a way which is meaningful in our day and age. Music which is at best an ear tickler or another form of entertainment will have little real value. It must be a vehicle of worship and some guide lines may be suggested. Firstly the words and music must have meaning for those who sing or listen to them. This may seem obvious but does not some of the music we use fail this test? Sometimes the music itself may be excellent as such but if it is in a language which is not understood will it not fail in its purpose? But, it will be said, one man's meat is another man's poison. No one knows this better than an organist! Even a hymn may have great significance for one person and be sentimental nonsense to another. A hymn may be an inspiration when sung by a large congregation but be quite dead when sung by a small group of elderly people. It is not reasonable to expect an intelligent congregation to respond favourably to a poor performance by an incompetent choir of poor music or music beyond their ability. The music must be matched to the situation, to the resources available and the capacity of the listener. This sounds simple but it is not. Of course we endeavour to improve our resources but it is a wise organist who knows the limits of his choir - and his own. We cannot give a facile answer to these problems for we are in an age of change and experiment in contrast to the more static and settled conditions which prevailed some sixty years ago. An age of experiment is an age of seeking and the final answers may be far from clear. At this stage we need broad, flexible but critical minds based on a clear concept of the true aims of worship. It is in this way that we need to approach new liturgies, new forms of worship, new sorts of tunes, even the introduction of new art forms, such as drama or dancing, the use of instruments other than the organ, recorded music etc. Some things will last and others fade away.

The question we do have to answer is, what is our attitude to change? Do we resent it and resist it or do we, with Henri Bergson, feel that change is an essential part of being and through it we may achieve the insight which leads to better things. From time immemorial the arts, and especially music, have been a gateway to a divine vision. While there remain men and women whose horizon is eternity music will continue to be a light to lighten many. What music? Who can say? We can only hope that we may be sensitive, with sympathy and discrimination, to the surging forces around and within us.

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PERCY RAVENSCROFT SCRIVENER

Jottings by Miss E.G.Goodship

Mr. Percy Scrivener - St.Giles, Dr. Embling - St.Laurence, Dr. Daughtry - St.Mary's, formed a trio of organists at the three ancient parish churches of Reading, all of whom were considered giants in their profession.

"Scrivie" as many of us knew him was an outstanding organist, choirmaster and teacher, and followed Mr.F.Davis (grandfather of our esteemed fellow member and Vice President Mr. Leslie Davis) as organist at St.Giles. At first he was organist only as the Rev. Hurst Jones - a member of the Clerical Staff was Precentor and Choirmaster. When this gentleman emigrated in order to become Precentor in Grahamstown Cathedral Mr.Scrivener was appointed organist and choirmaster.

An old chorister 90 years of age writes "I remember Mr.Scrivener coming to St.Giles, as I was in the choir three months before he came - Mr.Davis was organist then. He made St.Giles a wonder in music. We used to sing Gounod's Solemn Mass, also the Messiah and sometimes we sang Vaughan Williams unaccompanied Mass for two choirs; and one time the choir from St.James' R.C. church came to choir practice to hear it".

Until the outbreak of the 1914-1918 War there was an all male choir of about 24 boys and 19 men. Latterly ladies were included and these sat in the Lady Chapel.

He was a martinet at choir practice and a firm disciplinarian, and nothing but the best would satisfy him. Three practices per week, boys on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with full practice on Fridays. Always punctual - he was always in the Vestry at least half an hour before service - he usually commenced full practice with new or difficult music, this having the effect of ensuring punctuality from the senior members who could quite easily have been "caught out" during a critical performance. His assistant was only allowed to use the soft stops on the choir organ but woe to the one who played wrong notes - "Organ, if you will play a B natural how can the tenors sing their B flat?" Quite frequently tunes were transposed into a higher key during rehearsal thus rendering actual performance easier when sung in the original key.

Devotion to worship was the keynote of his accompaniment and his playing was never allowed to degenerate into showmanship. The incoming voluntary was invariably an improvisation on the first hymn, while in the days when the Creed and Lord's Prayer were accompanied by the organ he would improvise on the theme of the preceding chant. His voluntaries were played after the evening service and often an audience of 6 to 36 folk would stay to listen. Many of us have reason to be grateful to him for our knowledge of the great organ classics. Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Rheinberger etc were given a masterly performance.

To him we owe our knowledge of many of the famous piano concertos as, together with our fellow member Miss Doris Griffin at the piano, they would give recitals and delight us with Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart or Grieg with PRS. playing the orchestral part on the organ.

He was too busy to have much time for composing but his Communion Service in Eb was a great favourite with the congregation. He also composed one in Ab for gentlemen only, three sets of Kyries, a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (the Gloria of which makes a useful "outgoing" voluntary), a piano duet on "Ten Little Nigger Boys", and a Toy Symphony which we rehearsed in the choir vestry and was great fun to play.

He was very sparing in his praise but gave his assistant responsibilities at unexpected times. I well remember at a festival he was ill and unable to play and at 10 a.m. one Sunday his son coming to the front door with the vestry key and a request that I play for the High Mass which on that day was to be accompanied by a small orchestra - butterflies in my tummy but a wonderful and humble feeling that he should consider me capable - in those days lady organists were not so popular as they are today!!

Just a personal note to end. Good training counts and if I am of any use today I owe it to the influence and training of P.R.S. It is another happy thought that the cassock he wore for so many years is still being worn by the present organist of St.Giles and I feel that the mantle of P.R.S. has fallen on the shoulders of P.M., a very gifted and worthy successor, and this would have given him great pleasure.

These few notes would not be complete without mention of the great interest and enthusiasm of P.R.S. for our Association. During his membership such great personalities as Sidney Nicholson, Walford Davies and Harold Rhodes - to name but three - all came to our meetings as guest speakers. When he was elected to the Executive he ceased some of his immediate activities as he felt there were other members who should take a more prominent part in the administration of local affairs.



E.G.G.

AN HONOUR FOR PROFESSOR BARNARD

Those of us who remember Professor H.C. Barnard as an active member of this Association will have been delighted to hear of the honour conferred upon him last July by Reading University, on the successful development of which he had, from 1937 onwards, exerted very great influence.

At the sprightly age of 90, the Emeritus Professor of Education was guest of honour at his University's degree ceremony, and received for himself an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the Chancellor, Lord Sherfield.

Among the tributes paid to him it was said that he could have achieved distinction in many fields, and we who knew him as our President from 1953 to 1955 can testify to his prestige as an amateur musician and a lover of the organ. An honorary Fellow of Trinity College of Music, he knew all the best people in the organ world and got them here to talk to us, and it was during his presidency that the 1953 I.A.O. Congress was held in Reading. He loved our Society and added tremendous lustre to it - he literally 'sparkled' - and, like Dr Anthony who later followed him as our President, no great man could have been humbler or more friendly. We miss him these days, but he is still warmly remembered, and we send him our greetings.

F.G.S.

MUSIC RECEIVED

We are grateful to the publishers for sending copies of the following works which have been on exhibition at our meetings, and are available for inspection on application to the Editor.

Banks Music Publications have issued these S.A.T.B. items:-

Salvator Mundi

ECS.4. by Robert Ashfield - in modern idiom - not difficult to small but competent choirs. (5p)

The Word

ECS.9. by Andrew Wilson-Dickson. As ECS.4. above but tricky accompaniment. (5p)

The Spirit of the Lord

ECS.13. by Norman J. Barnes. modern idiom - not difficult. (5p)

An Easter Introit

ECS.16. by Gwilym Beechey. In hymn form very suitable for small rural choirs. (3p)

For the Organ

Toccata-Prelude by Edward Bairstow. A brilliant piece of moderate difficulty.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Proposed for adoption at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on
22nd February 1975
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended
31st December 1974

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>INCOME</u>	
Capitation fees 210 @ 11p	23.10	<u>Subscriptions:</u>	
Quarterly Review & Delivery	109.21	4 @ £1 Reading	4.00
"Berkshire Organist"	34.21	2 owing at £1 each	222.00
Syllabus and Postage	18.46	5 owing at £2 each	
Expenses of Meetings	5.98	8 @ £1 Students	8.00
Council meetings postcards	3.85	additional	.50
Printing of circulars and postage	9.31	1 owing at £1	
Half Day Conference expenses	7.25	26 @ 80p NEWBURY	20.80
Floral tributes	4.04	WINDSOR	
Congress Registration fee	4.00	Half Day Conference - Teas	4.75
Hon.Secretary's postages	7.22		
Hon.Treasurer's postages	4.32		
	<u>£230.95</u>		<u>£260.05</u>
Excess income over expenditure	29.10		
Benevolent Fund	13.40		13.40
	<u>£273.45</u>		<u>£273.45</u>

BALANCE SHEET

General Fund Account as at 31.12.1973	£45.15	Balance in hand at:	
Surplus for year ending 31.12.1974	29.10	BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED	
	<u>£74.25</u>	64-65 St.Mary's Butts	
21 Reading subscriptions paid in advance for 1975	42.00	Reading	£122.25
1 - ditto - 1975	1.00		
1 Student - ditto -	1.00		
2 Reading - ditto - 1976	4.00		
	<u>£122.25</u>	L. PRATT	<u>£122.25</u>
		Hon. Treasurer 30.1.1975	

YOU ARE REMINDED THAT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1975 IS NOW DUE

READING LARGE TOWN HALL - 1974 ORGAN RECITAL ACCOUNT

NOEL RAWSTHORNE - 27th March

Sale of programmes (442 $\frac{1}{2}$)	24.25	Hire of Town Hall	20.00
" tickets at door	45.00	Music purchased	4.48
Ditto per Pickfords Ltd. £20.10		Circular, envelopes, postages	7.08
less commission	1.65	Advertising:-	
	18.45	Berks Three Paper Group £20.80	
Ditto per R.P.J. Pepworth	56.90	The Musical Times	5.00
less postages, phones	.30	Musical Opinion	7.50
	56.60		33.30
	144.30	Fee - Ibbs & Tillett	75.00
DEFICIT	£65.59	Floral Decorations	7.15
Balance in hand Barclays Bank	4.14	Gratuities	8.00
Withdrawn from Thames Valley	50.00	Refreshments - Mrs.M.M.Crane	5.00
Trustee Savings Bank	11.45	Printing programmes	
		tickets etc. - Able Printers	49.88
	£209.89		£209.89

GEOFFREY TRISTRAM - 9th October

Sale of tickets at door	45.30	Hire of Town Hall	20.00
Ditto per R.P.J. Pepworth £70.80		Fee to Recitalist	50.00
less postages, phones	2.10	Advertising:-	
	£68.70	Berks Three Paper Group	39.54
Ditto per Pickfords Ltd.	44.95	Gratuities	8.00
less commission	3.65	Able Printers - tickets	9.18
	41.30	Refreshments - Mrs.M.M.Crane	5.00
	155.30	Southern Arts Assn - Subscription	5.00
Withdrawn from T.V.Savings Bank	50.00	Reading Civic Society - Donation	10.00
		Postages on tickets to Schools	.63
	£205.30	Refund of ticket moneys	3.75
			£151.10
	£205.30	By excess receipts	4.20
		" Bank balance in hand	50.00
			£205.30

THAMES VALLEY TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS Ordinary Account

20.11.1972 Balance in hand	28.25	Printing etc - Save the	13.80
20.11.1973 Interest to date	.40	Organ Campaign	7.03
20.11.1974 " " "	.28		20.83
	£28.93	By balance in hand 31.12.74	8.10
			£28.93

SPECIAL INVESTMENT Account

20.11.1973 Balance in hand	161.63	Withdrawals as above	111.45
Donation from Reading Corp'n	90.00	Cheque to R.Figgins Esq.	100.00
20.11.1974 Interest to date	6.24		211.45
		By balance in hand 31.12.74	46.42
	£257.87		£257.87

L. PRATT

Hon. Treasurer 29.1.1975