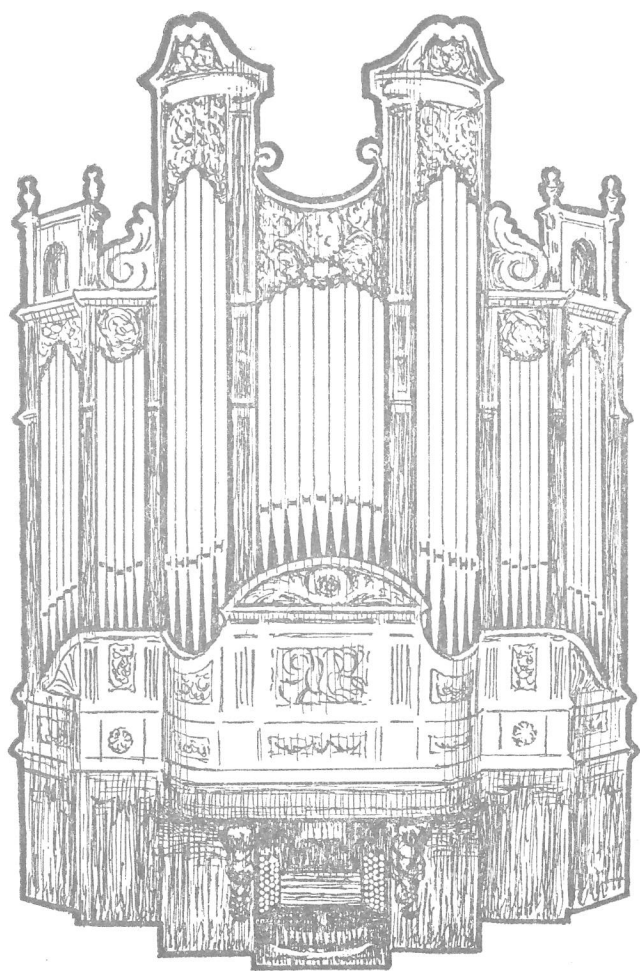


The Berkshire Organist



Number

30

1977



THE BERKSHIRE ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

Editor:

L. F. B. Davis
99 Tilehurst Road,
Reading. 57367

Hon. Secretary:

R. P. J. Pepworth
44 Shepley Drive,
Reading. 51506

A FEW REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has passed during which it has been my privilege to continue in office as your President. Since our last Annual General Meeting you will have learnt that our very worthy and revered Secretary (for almost forty-seven years) Mr A. H. Lusty has retired from this office and I am sure we all wish him well, good health and a happy continuation of membership within our fellowship for many years to come. Mr Leslie Pratt also gave notice of retiring this year after many years of valued service to the Association, and it is the intention of your Council that arrangements are made to show some appreciation of the work of these two good and faithful servants - both past presidents - sometime during the year. You will be notified via the News Letter which I am sure you must appreciate and I trust look forward to receiving. The News Letters spring from an idea put forward by the Association's new Secretary, Mr Ron Pepworth, whom you all know as our immediate past president and as the 'chap' who organises the Annual Outing (amongst other things) so ably assisted by Derek Guy. Many members have commented very favourably on the letters. Ron is a very dedicated member of the Association and I am sure that he will prove to be a worthy successor to Mr Lusty, and trust that you will support him in every way possible. I personally thank Mr Lusty and Mr Pratt for their support during my particular term of office, and indeed Ron Pepworth, members of the Council and Town Hall Organ Committee during this my second year in office, especially over the last few months during which I have found it very difficult to show the interest and give the support which the Association deserves of its president and officers, due to personal domestic circumstances.

You will be receiving information which will tell of members of our Windsor Branch reforming into their own Association. We have enjoyed the fellowship with them and wish them well.

I trust you have enjoyed the meetings during the year now past and I shall look forward to seeing you during the ensuing year which I hope will be a happy and prosperous one for you all.

Finally, my wish is that our Association will continue to foster an atmosphere of Christian fellowship and goodwill amongst its members in the future as in the past, and I feel sure you will do your best as individuals to further and maintain such an environment in which to serve.

My very best wishes to you all,

Jesse Lawes.

EDITORIAL

It cannot be said that this year has been uneventful for the Association. Our leaders have maintained continued action alongside our allies the Civic Society in campaigning for the preservation of the Town Hall and organ. Much has been reported in the press and the cause was given a slot on Thames Valley Radio. Further petitions have been prepared but we must beware of becoming victims to the Fabian tactic of wearing down opponents and inducing a growing apathy by strategic delay. The present calm is no time for respite, and really, much is on our side. One thing is certain, every member must undertake to sell a batch of tickets for the 1977 Celebrity Recitals, other local musical organizations exercise some insistence over this procedure and it is time we came into line or else.....

I am sure that every member has appreciated the News Letters issued during the year. These keep us well up-to-date on topical proceedings within the Association. You do not now have to wait twelve months to read the chronicles of the Annual General Meeting and all that entails. Notwithstanding, the 30th edition of the Berkshire Organist follows the traditional format although the future shape of the magazine will be a matter for consideration.

I gratefully acknowledge those members who have contributed articles for this issue.

L.F.D.

SECRETARIAL

Having almost completed my first year as your Secretary I must place on record my appreciation for the help and support I have received from the other Officers and members of the Council of the Association.

It is very pleasing to me to know that the News Letters have been so well received. It is my hope that in future there will be four each year and these will be sent out with the Quarterly Review. This will save the Association a considerable amount in postal charges.

I would like, once again, to appeal to all members to send in reply slips, orders for tickets, etc in good time. This makes the lives of both Derek Guy and myself very much easier. Could we all resolve to give the Association a little more support this year? I am thinking particularly of the Town Hall Recitals. Please put all the dates in your diaries as soon as you receive the Syllabus.

Ron Pepworth.

NEWBURY REPORT

- " I hear that you suffered a defeat."
"I'd rather not talk about that, if you don't mind."
" Not talk about little brother beating big brother?"
"Oh, very well then, if we must!"
" Fancy you not knowing the metre of the National Anthem."
"So what: they didn't even know when Bach was born!"
" Didn't you even catch the quiz devisor out?"
"Yes we did. I thought everyone knew that the English Hymnal was first published in 1906."
" Do you hope that someone will organise a return match in 1977?"
"Yes, I do. Then we will teach Newbury a lesson!"

1976 proved a year of change. The branch tried new programme items including challenging Reading to a General Knowledge Quiz and combining with a local ladies choir "The Dulcist Singers" to sing Christmas Carols. Newbury, too has seen some changes. St Mary's Speenhamland is no more, although of course, the organ continues to give good service at St John's. David Reynolds is no longer organist and choirmaster of Newbury Parish Church. Membership has stayed more or less the same although we have lost one or two of our younger members to Army and college duties elsewhere. In the light of these and other changes 1977 is viewed with some apprehension. Will a brass band permanently replace the organ at Newbury Parish Church? Does the trend towards unison modern hymns make formal choirs a thing of the past? To deny that some conflict exists would be nonsense. It is thus important that we both individually and collectively grasp every chance to demonstrate what we believe in. If the organists association is not to become just another forgotten tradition we must support the events organised - otherwise those who do the behind-the-scenes work will become dis-illusioned, just as they are with the current trends in church music. Newbury News of 1976 has not all been of bad changes: why does only bad news hit the headlines? The branch has continued to prosper and the number of people who regularly attend increased. The trip to the Brentford Piano Museum was really exciting and left me wondering whether Berkshire Organists were destined to be replaced by paper rolls and player pianos! I suppose that would be one way of recording our contribution to church worship.....

Best wishes for 1977.

Robert F. Willis
Events Secretary Newbury Branch

SYLLABUS 1977

- Jan. 22 An Hour with the Wesleys arranged by Roy Nash at All Saints' Church, Reading. 7.30 p.m.
- Feb. 19 Annual General Meeting at Oxford Road United Reformed Church, Waylen Street, Reading. 7.30 p.m.
- Feb. 24 Celebrity Recital by Jane Parker-Smith at Reading Town Hall. 7.45 p.m.
- Apr. 30 Half-Day Conference at Trinity United Reformed Church followed by organ recital. Speaker and recitalist Richard Seal from Salisbury Cathedral.
- May 21 Visit to the Windsor Branch followed by evensong in St. George's Chapel.
- June 18 Annual Outing to the North Cotswolds and Worcester Cathedral.
- July 9 Visit to Basingstoke Association.
- Sept. 24 Presidential Service.
- Nov. 7 Social Evening.

THE LADIES COMMITTEE

We place on record our grateful thanks to the Ladies Committee for their kindly service during the year. Thanks are extended to the committee of the "Berkshire Organist" and Mrs Alice Foxton, also to Miss Evelyn Goodship and the Town Hall Organ Committee.

56TH ANNUAL REPORT

The 1976 Annual General Meeting was held at Oxford Road United Reformed Church when the following officers were elected.

PRESIDENT:	J. C. Lawes Esq.
VICE PRESIDENTS:	Prof H.C. Barnard, D.Litt. MA. FTCL.
	A. H. Lusty, Hon FTCL, LTCL, ASGO.
	L. Pratt, LTCL.
	A. E. Rivers
	R. Nash
	I. F. B. Davis
	R. P. J. Pepworth
	R. P. J. Pepworth
HON SECRETARY	L. Pratt
HON TREASURER	Dr. J. G. Davis, OBE
ASST HON TREASURER	D. Guy
HON PROGRAMME SECRETARY	D. Guy
HON BENEVOLENT STEWARD	D. F. C. Reynolds, LTCL. ARCM. (Newbury)
COUNCIL MEMBERS (ex officio)	N. P. Hutt (Newbury)
	Miss B. Reid (Windsor)
	T. E. Reed, FRCO. LTCL. (Windsor)

56TH ANNUAL REPORT contd

COUNCIL MEMBERS	W. Claridge. Miss D.Griffin I.R.A.M. (Ret. 1977)
	A. Barkus F.R.C.O. D.L.Jones. (Ret. 1978)
	B. H. Lee. I. S. May. (Ret. 1979)
MAGAZINE COMMITTEE	L. F. B. Davis. (Editor)
	The Revd M. J. Kingston.
	N. P. Hutt. (Newbury Representative)
	T. E. Reed. (Windsor Representative)
TOWN HALL ORGAN COMMITTEE	The President and Hon Treasurer
	Miss E. Goodship (Secretary). H. Hartley,
	F. G. Spriggs, P. B. Marr, R. Nash, A. Barkus
	D. L. Jones, R. P. J. Pepworth, L. F. B. Davis.

EVENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR

- Jan. 24 The Music Goes Around and Around. A Tape miscellany arranged by Ron Pepworth.
- Feb. 21 Annual General Meeting at Oxford Road United Reformed Church Hall.
- Mar. 28 Concert arranged in association with Reading Concert Orchestra with Francis Jackson at the organ in Reading Town Hall.
- May 1 Half-Day Conference at All Saints' Hall. Speaker and recitalist Christopher Robinson of St George's Chapel, Windsor.
- May 22 Visit to Newbury.
- June 16 Six Centuries of Organ Music presented and arranged by Gillian Adams and Peter Marr at Reading Town Hall.
- June 19 Annual Outing to Thaxted Parish Church and St Albans Cathedral.
- July 10 Visit to Henley and Shiplake.
- Sept 25 Presidential Service at Shinfield Parish Church.
- Oct. 6 Celebrity Recital by Arthur Wills at Reading Town Hall.
- Nov. 9 Association Dinner at Caversham Bridge Hotel. Guest Speaker Dr Arnold Bentley.

BENEVOLENT FUND

Thanks to your generosity we have continued our support during the past year by contributing the amount of £13.16.

DEPUTIES

M. Allured	Windsor District	Bourne End 21214
J. A. Blaber	Windsor District	Burnham 4090
D. F. C. Reynolds		Newbury 43793
J. G. Stilwell		Yateley 3052

ADVERTISEMENT

Choirmaster/Organist required for Newbury Parish Church. Responsible post offering considerable opportunities. Good salary according to qualifications and experience. Please write to the Rector, Revd. J. W. Gann, St Nicholas' Rectory, Link Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 7LU.

PROGRAMMES 1976

- March 28 Concert at Reading Town Hall in association with
and 29 Reading Concert Orchestra with Francis Jackson
 at the organ.
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Fanfare | Francis Jackson |
| March Crown Imperial | William Walton |
| Adagio for Organ and Strings | Albinoni |
| Organ Solos:- | |
| Scherzo in G minor | Bossi |
| Aria | Flor Peeters |
| Naiades | Vierne |
| Tuba Tune | Cocker |
| Orchestra:- | |
| Bolero | Ravel |
| Overture Academic Festival | Brahms |
| Organ Symphony No.3 in C minor | Saint-Saens |
- May 1 Recital at All Saints Church by Christopher Robinson
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Sonata No.1. F minor | Mendelssohn |
| Chorale Preludes | Bach |
| (a) Schmucke dich, O liebe Seele | |
| (b) Jesus Christus unser Heiland | |
| Andante in F. K.616 | Mozart |
| Sonata in C. | Elgar |
| Chant de mai | Jongen |
| Transports de joie | Messiaen |
- Sept. 25 Presidential Service at Shinfield Parish Church
- | | |
|---|---------------|
| Organ:- Allegro Deciso in D. | M.Spark |
| Choral Prelude on an Ancient Melody | Bach |
| Processional Hymn 493 | |
| Introit: Holy, Holy, Holy. (German Mass II) | Schubert |
| Series Three Holy Communion Service | Appleford |
| Anthem: From all that dwell below the skies | Walmisley |
| Organ: Chorale and Fugue | Healey Willan |
- Oct. 6 Celebrity Recital at Reading Town Hall by Arthur Wills
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Prelude and Fugue in D. (BWV 532) | Bach |
| Sonata No.1 in B flat (BWV 525) | Bach |
| Finale in B flat | Franck |
| Sonata in F minor | Mendelssohn |
| Prelude and Fugue on the name of BACH | Liszt |
| Variations on "Amazing Grace" | Wills |
| Toccata | Guillou |
| Tongues of Flame | Wills |

RETROSPECT 1976

Our collaboration in the spring concert of the Reading Concert Orchestra by presenting Francis Jackson provided one of those magical events that seemed for both organisations impossible to transcend. The excellence of the highly popular orchestra and the virtuosity of the celebrated organist undoubtedly gave us a night to remember.

Christopher Robinson displayed consummate skills on the organ at All Saints, rightly befitting the organist of so regal an edifice as St George's Chapel, Windsor. The music selected covered a satisfying range culminating in an impeccable performance of Messiaen's *Transport de joie*.

The Lecture-Recital arranged by Peter Marr and Gillian Adams is widely reported elsewhere in these pages.

What could have been more delightful in the simple sense of the word than the Presidential Service at Shinfield Parish Church? and what a joy to hear the bells ringing out again. The whole character of the service, completely unpretentious with not one discordant note was perfectly prepared and performed under the direction of Jesse Lawes. Added to this was the peaceful atmosphere and our sharing communion in Series Three. A big thank-you is due to the ladies of the choir and others who provided an excellent buffet supper as the finale to a happy evening.

The October Celebrity Recital by Arthur Wills was surprisingly well attended; quite possibly we were basking in the sunshine of the March event. Once again when meeting celebrities it is consoling to learn that they share in the problems and prejudices of their more humble brethren, e.g. the incursion of the purely neo-classical organ into places of worship. At this recital we heard a well-contrived programme from Bach and Mendelssohn right across the board to Guillou and the recitalist's own products of the avant garde school. Undeniably this latter was terrific stuff technically, which even to the turner-over was extremely demanding (one is inclined to be mentally sharing in the playing and consequently sweating a little at times). After-concert comments experienced too much *fff* and the modern works shared an indifferent reception. However, Dr Wills is a brilliant exponent and obviously an outstanding composer *a la mode*. He is currently working on a setting for Series Three, and I couldn't help expressing the hope that in so doing he would spare a thought for the average church choir and congregation. So we shall see!

I claim no breach of trespass for herewith extolling our next recitalist on February 24th. At twenty-five Jane Parker-Smith has achieved world-wide popularity based on countless achievements. If it is a case for credentials in the field of performance, Jane, who last appeared in our Recital Series as turner-over for Nicolas Kynaston appears to have more commendations than any other organist. For further details I refer you to her L.P. recording made at Blackburn Cathedral.

SIX CENTURIES OF ORGAN MUSIC - Reading Town Hall - 16th June 1976

'An Instructive Entertainment' presented by GILLIAN ADAMS and PETER MARR

This was something very special indeed. Father Willis in a different role. Immense amount of research and preparation by two of our busiest and most accomplished musicians. We all know something of what happened between 1685 and 1940, but this ranged from 1525 to 1973. Should have been much better supported by our members. When will some of them wake up?

Fascinating account by Mr Marr of the growth of organ music as such, with demonstrations on the organ by Miss Adams:-

ESTAMPIE Continental, writer unknown. From Ms of monastery at Robertsbridge in Sussex - 1325 - by which time the organ was already 2,000 years old. The earliest complete keyboard music extant. This piece consists of seven repeated sections called Puncti (one of which was played), each having an open or unfinished ending, and after repetition a closed ending.

PRAEAMBULUM c.1448 and VARIATIONS ON 'FROM AL MYN HOFFEN AN DYR LYED'
Writer of both was Adam Illseough, a monk at Stendal in N.Germany. Wrote the earliest sets of keyboard variations known to exist, and which include a double pedal shown in 'Tablature' i.e. letters written under the right hand part, a method used continuously until Bach's time.

ALLEGALEA (anon. c.1470) An example of organ music more lyrical than liturgical; not based upon a given melody, but 'free'. From Buxheimer Orgelbuch, which also contains a piece entitled 'The Sweet Nightingale'.

KYRIE 'FIRMATOR SANCTE' by John of Lublin, a Polish composer; betrays Eastern influences. On this occasion performed 'alternatin' with monks and boys from Douai Abbey under Dom R.Simpson OSB. Illustrates use of larger organ in liturgy by 16th century - alternating with professional singers rather than accompanying a congregation.

VARIATIONS ON 'ES C'EST MARI' by J.P.Sweelinck, friend of John Bull. He crystallised the idea of chorale variations, the result of cross-fertilisation between Lutheran countries (with highly developed organs), and Italy and England (with small organs, but strong choral emphasis).

'MANNER OF PLAYING IN SIX PARTS' - two in each hand, and double pedal - one part for each foot. By S.Schmidt, still grossly under-rated; pupil of Sweelinck, carried on the German tradition of the pedal organ in its own right.

DIFFERENCIAS SOBRA LA PAVANA ITALIANA Cabezon. Spanish organs at this time notable only for reeds 'en chamade' (horizontal), fiery and hopelessly out of tune. On Willis in-tune reeds this piece lacked a certain impact!

VOLUNTARY Thos.Tomkins of Worcester, hangover from English virginalists, with occasional false-relations. Puritan England, having turned from its high-calibre pre-Reformation organ music, developed solid diapason movements by the 18th century, but these now suffer through lack of the purity of the old tuning systems or temperaments.

TOCCATA PER L'ELEVATIONE (FIORI MUSICALE) G. Frescobaldi. In complete contrast, Southern Catholic atmosphere of incense and jewel-encrusted chasuble.

OFFERTOIRE (MESSE POUR LES COUVENTS) In France, a splash of glorious technique from the court of Louis XIV brought into the liturgy by Couperin.

ELEVATION Also French - A. Raison - use of melody in Tenor part, either Tierce or Crumhorn (en taille). Not so very far removed in technique from Bach's Trio Sonatas.

Eb FUGUE - Trinity Fugue - St. Anne Fugue. Bach (closely knit theology of his cantatas and chorale preludes) arrived on the scene at a point where all the foregoing developments converged, and at a time when all were competing for musical excellence.

VOLUNTARY IN D John Bennett (c.1760). Handel subscribed to his voluntaries, but in England the Scarlatti-Corelli-Handel style was wearing thin; Purcell would have gone the same way, had he lived longer.

PRELUDE IN C MINOR c.1790 by Charles Burney, the music historian; a rejection of the smoothness of William Poyce and John Stanley.

EVOCATION A LA CHAPELLE SIXTINE Liszt using pictures rather than structure.

THE MIRRORED MOON Karg-Elert doing the same impressionistic thing in 1919.

TRANSPORTS DE JOIE (L'ASCENSION) Messiaen breathing new life with novel rhythmic patterns and harmonic language. Catholic mystic.

SONATA II/i Hindemith in the thirties. Calm and impeccable, but dry.

PSALM PRELUDE 1/i Howells also calm and impeccable. English Cathedral atmosphere as it was, high, detached, and aloof from social inequality.

TOCCATA ALLA PASSACAGLIA Humphrey Searle in America introduces 12-note music into the organ world. This piece ends on a final chord containing almost all twelve.

CHROMATIC POEM (1973) Sergei Slonimski. Break with all the foregoing traditions. Link with contemporary orchestral music. Note-clusters, and performing freedoms, but just stopping short of using taped insertions and other completely non-traditional media.

Final thought - what does this organ do best?? Obviously, the music it was designed for, the popular taste of the later 19th century. So we heard Mendelssohn's War March of the Priests as a postscript. Will any clergyman retaliate with a War March of the Organists?!

Great care was taken working out registration for every period represented, revealing how remarkably well our Town Hall organ can cope with such widely varying demands. Still more remarkable was the versatility with which Miss Adams identified herself with so many changing idioms, conveying the atmosphere of each one with obvious authenticity - and handling the organ with a dexterity equal to that of any visiting celebrity. And these brief jottings do no justice whatever to Mr Mann's nine pages of foolscap, which merit close study at first hand for their scholarship and insight.

NOTES ON A TALK GIVEN BY CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

AT THE HALF-DAY CONFERENCE 1976

This talk was both interesting and homely, and reflected the feelings of most of us towards modern trends with just that essence of commiseration with the problems that currently face all of us from cathedral to rural parish church. The speaker did not hesitate in his criticism of the danger attending the North European influence in organ design which he aptly referred to as the "snarling and spitting" breed. A Barocq organ perhaps, but not for churches where smooth chord progression and texture is synonymous with worship. Music in church these days is not always of a sacred nature and many choirmasters have discarded the old "anglican hoot". For comparison Mr Robinson mentioned two famous Cambridge choirs; he felt that freedom of the voice allowed of more personal expression, although we all know this needs some measure of control and discipline. He then outlined his experiences at two major posts, one at Worcester Cathedral where a flow of boys was assured from a large Direct Grant school from the age of eight to fourteen. At Windsor, St George's Chapel tended to assume the status of a private chapel within the castle, and, so fortified, a sheltered existence prevails. Here unfortunately the boys were drained away under the Education Act in common with a problem facing many cathedral choirs.

As to the future; one thing is certain, big organs will disappear in the wake of costly maintenance. The objective of every organist and choirmaster must be that the music produced in a place of worship **MUST** be good, otherwise it is a major distraction, and in this connection conducting should be done inconspicuously. In conclusion Mr Robinson impressed upon us that such remarks made to the effect that people go to such-and-such a church only because of the music, should not be absorbed as a compliment, but that the music is an outstanding element in the worship of God.

REFLECTIONS BY A. H. LUSTY

I have been invited by the Editor to write the story of my musical life and experiences. I think I was about nine when my mother and father went one evening to Thomas Waite's music shop in Duke Street and purchased an upright piano. The next step was of course to have me taught. After a short while my mother decided that a change of teacher was needed and she approached Mr W.H.Strickland who was then organist of St Mary's Church, but he was unable to accept me, so an approach was made to Mr P.R.Scrivener of St Giles, who upon hearing me play said it was a "wonderful concoction". He agreed to accept me and under his tuition I passed all the Trinity College grades up to and including ATCL both for organ and piano. Before taking ATCL for organ I was under Mr Scrivener at Reading College (now the University). Upon leaving school I became an articulated pupil to Mr Scrivener. Alas! I regret that the title "Articled Pupil" no longer exists. What firm experience one gained from playing for choir practices and deputizing for the organist - believe me it was an invaluable experience. After four years I became a student at Trinity College for organ under Edward d'Evry, organist at Brompton Oratory, and paperwork under Dr Percy Wood. There was however a short period before entering Trinity College during which I coached myself for ARCO which I failed by three marks, but of course passed when a student at the College. I started teaching when about 15 years old and up to date have successfully coached some 1,400 pupils through various exams for Royal Schools, Trinity College and Guildhall School of Music, including several for diplomas. I have held appointments as Music Master at several schools. From my private pupils I have provided more than 25 churches with organists. It was in 1921 that I founded the Berkshire Branch of the Incorporated Association of Organists when John Brooks was secretary of what was then the National Union of Organists. I enlisted the co-operation of Mr Durbridge of St Peter's Earley and a meeting was held at Hickies in Friar Street when Dr Prendergast (organist of Winchester Cathedral) came and advised the meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr P.R.Scrivener with Mr S.T.Chamberlain as first secretary. In 1930 I was appointed secretary terminating office in February 1976 having served 46 years. In 1950 I was elected to serve on the National Executive of what had become the Incorporated Association of Organists, a position I held for 21 years. It has been my pleasure to be organist and choirmaster at several churches in the district before my present appointment at Sonning. While at Hambledon I had the great pleasure and privilege of accompanying May Harrison in a violin recital. Of conducting I have derived wonderful pleasure in not only forming choral societies but of success in musical festivals - one highlight being that of conducting a choir from Reading in the Royal Albert Hall when we won the runners-up cup for all England and Wales in the National Festival of Song. The Reading Operatic Society founded by me in 1950 is still flourishing. Compositions include an Impromptu in G published by Nightingale, Autumn published by Banks and a Mass in E flat in manuscript. On the occasion of the coronation my composition "Crowns" was accepted by Her Majesty the Queen. In 1960 a fellowship was conferred upon me by Trinity College in recognition of work for music in Reading.

W. HUGH ROWE, MBE., ARCO

Hugh Rowe will long be remembered with real affection by many of us, both for his quiet and kindly manner and for his lovely gift of improvisation. Elected president of The Berkshire Association in 1947, he served for two years, and took a deep interest in the well-being of the Association right up to the time of his sudden death on Saturday 13th March 1976, at the age of 75. He had only just been retired (to his great sorrow) from St Andrew's, Caversham, to which he was appointed in 1947 after nineteen years at Caversham Free Church, and where he kept a high standard to the last as organist and choir-master, taking a leading part in the combined Caversham choirs' visits to sing in Westminster Abbey, St Paul's and other cathedrals, and more often than not having a waiting list of boys for his own choir.

He gained his ARCO in 1926, having studied part time at the Guildhall School of Music, later with Allan Brown of Kingsway Hall, and E.K. Deacon of Caversham Parish Church. He was awarded the MBE in 1962 for his services to Forestry, being an acknowledged authority on Trees, and having published no less than three books on the subject.

It was under his presidency that "The Berkshire Organist" was launched, and he continued on the editorial committee until a year ago. He was certainly one of our wise elder statesmen, and his thoughtful wisdom and gentle humour has been recorded in its pages from time to time. We shall deeply miss seeing him and Mrs Rowe at our functions, and we offer her our sympathy in her great loss, together with wishes for the future and our thanks for all that she did in the background to help him and us.

F.G.S.

I was able to represent the Association at the St Cecilia's Eve service at St Andrew's Church, Caversham which this year was designated as a special Thanksgiving Service for Hugh Rowe, organist for twenty-eight years. The programme of hymns, anthems and service music, which included the Magnificat to a chant of Hugh's composition, preceded and followed by short organ recitals, was rendered by John Simpson, with an augmented choir from all the churches of the parish. The collection was donated to the Hugh Rowe Memorial Fund for use in the musical activities of the church.

A.E.R.

OUR TOWN by Michael Kingston

I know that many members of the Association are staunch Reading people. I am a relative newcomer to the town, having worked here as a priest only two and a half years. The following piece started life as an article in our parish magazine; I wrote it as someone who had come to live right in the town centre (my parish is roughly from the IDR to Reading West Bridge along Oxford Road) and to like it very much - almost in spite of itself!

A booklet recently published containing photographs of Reading a couple of generations ago was called Reading as It Was. Many people seem to think that "as was" sums up the town of Reading; "as was" is better than "as is" - the Good Old Days are over. But is this really true? In the course of my work I talk to many people about the town they live in; on the whole, it is those who have been here longest who lament its state, and newcomers (like myself) who are happier. Of course, if you have lived a long time in Oxford, or Cambridge, or Bath, or one of our medieval towns which have been better preserved, you will miss the beautiful buildings; handsome architecture is not a strong point of modern Reading. If you have lived in London for a long time, you'll miss the amenities of the big city - the wide choice of entertainment and shopping, speedy underground trains and convenient taxis. And, if you are a country person at heart, you will miss the tranquillity of the countryside, the time to do things slowly, the friendliness of knowing everyone you meet in the village street.

One can only speak in comparative terms, of course, but I believe that the present-day town of Reading (and even more, its future potential) compares very favourably with other towns in this country. Just think of others not far distant: Slough, Swindon, Woking, Southampton - the average large English town. That Reading is still a pleasant town to live in was brought home to me earlier this summer when I spent an evening touring around on the top deck of a bus. I know that an awful lot of nice buildings have been pulled down, and that the substitutes are often inferior architecture - and I strongly disapprove of this piecemeal destruction programme - but there are still nice streets and areas left: Kendrick Road, London Street, London Road and Castle Street - to give just a few examples - still have buildings of character. Even in the newer areas there are charming and interesting localities if you search them out: Tilehurst church, for example, or Surley Row, Caversham.

But what gives its distinctive atmosphere to the town is Reading brickwork (of which the house where I live, 32 Baker Street, happens to be a good example). The next passenger to me on the bus, who was a visitor to the town, expressed genuine admiration as we passed those rows of houses in the Liverpool Road / Cholmeley Road area, and agreed that the setting sun over the roof-tops of west Reading, as we looked down from Tilehurst Road near the football ground, served dramatically to enhance the impressiveness of that solid block of red streets.

I think a citizen should take a pride in his town. Is Reading worth it? Let us recognise that the town has lost its county town/market town image of former years and can never recapture that. Now it is one of the twelve

largest towns (as distinct from cities) in the country. Yet, in a way, it is a very convenient size: not a vast conurbation, like Birmingham, so as to be impersonal; nor too small, so that everyone knows everybody else's business; but just in the middle, so that you stand a fair chance of meeting someone you know in the street, while you are able to conduct most of your affairs in sufficient privacy.

A second feature of the town, apart from its size, is its compactness. The centre is in the centre. That might seem an odd thing to say, but in fact some towns have not spread outwards evenly, and the centre is awkward to get at. The convenience of Reading's centre makes both shopping and transport relatively easy, with the result that the town has a large shopping centre and a good public transport system - whatever people may say! (Again, compare other towns.)

Thirdly, the town has an interesting geographical situation: I mean, specifically, its location on the map. Standing as the gateway to the West Country, and the capital of the Thames Valley, Reading is a very easy place to get from to many other places of historical and recreational interest - like Oxford, Windsor, Ascot, Henley, Newbury. The River Thames and its valley, in fact, form an attractive and pleasant asset. London is also very near, and Reading is probably the best-served provincial town in the whole of British Rail's system (largely because it is on the main line west from the capital.)

Proximity to London, however, is a mixed blessing. It is supposed to account for the lack of entertainment facilities, but does so only up to a point; a town with Reading's population and catchment area deserves more. What would be unfortunate for the town would be if it were to be absorbed by Greater London - this we should fight against. It will happen more easily if we lose faith in Reading. But if we do believe in the worth of the town, and strive to maintain its identity, then it will in fact be a nice place to live in, and a good example to the rest of Britain.

One thing to strive for is increased amenities. It is true in any town, of course, that people always complain of having nothing to do, and Reading is no exception. It is not necessary to pull down any more buildings with character, and if some deem it "necessary" then it must be for political reasons rather than genuine ones; the transformation of the old Great Western Hotel shows what can be done, and I'm sure the old town hall can be given a similar new lease of life as a cultural and social centre which the community needs. So they want to build a ski-slope at Prospect Park? All well and good. Here is an attempt to create a new amenity, yet local residents complain about it! And what about the area all along the banks of the Thames? The river is the only natural amenity we have; why not make that a more exciting place to go to, with plenty of things to do and refreshments available? It could be as nice as the Serpentine in Hyde Park!

To strive for the improvement of his town I believe to be a duty of a Christian, for it is in a town - in the local community - where the church can most effectively touch the hearts of non-Christians, and make its presence felt in a non-Christian world.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Proposed for adoption at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on Saturday 19th February 1977

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 1976

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>INCOME</u>	
Capitation fees 190 @ 10p & VAT	£20.52	<u>Subscriptions:-</u>	
Quarterly Review & delivery	183.78	113 Reading @ £2	£226.00
"Berkshire Organist"	40.98	8 " Students @ £1	8.00
Syllabus, envelopes & postage	22.16	2 owing	
Expenses of meetings	53.06	29 Newbury @ 85p	24.65
Floral tribute	4.35	152 Windsor 34 @ 42½p	14.45
Secretary's postages	23.52	Donations	7.00
Programme Secretary's postages	2.10	Half Day Conference	14.15
Printing of circulars	13.85	Excess on June 19th Outing	1.70
Stationery - Fairway Press Ltd	9.45	Annual Dinner receipts	118.80
Annual Dinner	110.00		<u>£414.75</u>
Hon.Treasurer's postages	5.71	Excess expenditure over income	74.73
	<u>£489.48</u>		<u>£489.48</u>
Benevolent Fund	19.91	Benevolent Fund	19.91
	<u>£509.39</u>		<u>£509.39</u>

BALANCE SHEET

General Fund Account		Cash (Float) in hands of	
as at 31.12.1975	£129.01	Hon.Secretary	£20.00
Deficit for year		Balance in hand at	
ending 31.12.1976	<u>74.73</u>	BARCLAYS BANK LTD.	54.78
	£54.28	64-65 St.Mary's Butts	
Reading subscriptions		Reading	
paid in advance for 1977	20.50		
	<u>£74.78</u>		<u>£74.78</u>

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED Account

1.1.1976 To balance in hand	£47.95	By Deficit on 16th June 1976	£41.15
cheque unpaid		ditto 6th October	30.53
S.A.A. 25.11.74	5.00	ditto Moods in Music	7.00
			<u>£78.68</u>
8.1.1977 Cash from Trustee	81.58	Hire of Town Hall for	
Savings Bank SID		24th February 1977	27.00
do. Ordy a/c	8.74		<u>£105.68</u>
Cheque from		By balance at Bank	103.59
Borough Council	40.00		
Deposits paid			
in 1975 for 1976	26.00		
	<u>£209.27</u>		<u>£209.27</u>

L. Pratt
Hon.Treasurer 7. 2. 1977

BERKSHIRE ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

Six Centuries of Organ Music
 "An Instructive Entertainment"
 Presented by Gillian Adams and Peter Marr
 Reading Town Hall - Wednesday 16th June 1976

To hire of Town Hall	£26.00	By sale of tickets and	
" advertising	17.00	programmes	£40.40
" printing of tickets	7.83	By excess expenditure	
" out-of-pocket expenses	5.72	over income	41.15
" gratuity to:-			
Gillian Adams	10.00		
Peter Marr	10.00		
Dom Romuald Simpson	5.00		
	<u>£81.55</u>		<u>£81.55</u>

CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL by ARTHUR WILLS
 Wednesday 6th October 1976

To hire of Town Hall	£26.00	By sale of tickets	£142.13
" advertising	32.00	ditto programmes	17.90
" printing of tickets	11.07		<u>£160.03</u>
" fee to Arthur Wills	100.00	By excess expenditure	
" hospitality (hotel)	11.85	over income	30.53
" gratuities	9.00		
" preparing program notes	.64		
	<u>£190.56</u>		<u>£190.56</u>

THAMES VALLEY TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK

Ordinary Account		Special Investment Account		
1. 1.1976	Balance in hand	£8.42	Balance in hand	£44.33
20.11.1976	Interest to close	<u>.32</u>	Hickie Ltd. - Records sold	25.00
			Further records sold	9.00
8. 1.1977	Cash to		Interest to close	<u>3.25</u>
	Barclays Bank	<u>£3.74</u>		
			Cash to Barclays Bank Ltd.	<u>£81.58</u>

MUSIC RECEIVED

Quite a large batch of music has been received from Oxford University Press. Five books comprising much for manuals only and several easy pieces with pedals edited by C.H.Trevor embrace 16th and 17th century music. It is impossible to over-estimate the value of these books, especially to organists with limited resources. Next we have a facsimile edition of Six Fugues with Introductory Voluntaries for organ or harpsichord by James Nares. A new edition by Daniel Chorzempa of the Reubke 94th Psalm Sonata excels in clarity the earlier Ellingford, being mainly attributed to the composer's brother and involving only absolutely necessary corrections. One wonders what demand for this large-scale and difficult work has prompted a new edition at this time. To hand quite recently, and very useful are two attractive volumes containing the complete organ works of William Croft. In book form comes a Gloria for mixed voices, brass, percussion and organ by John Rutter - powerful music this, with Latin text. Some 54 popular hymns with typical arrangements by David Willcocks appear in Hymns for Choirs. This has many uses from descants to alternative harmonies. No.4 of Anthems for Choirs contains 26 high standard works ranging from Bairstow and Vaughan Williams to Jackson and Rutter. It has been my experience that Series Three does not permit ringing the changes, but from William Mathias comes a very usable setting for congregation or optional SATB. Moving back to the Tudors there is O Quam Gloriosum (Byrd), great music if you can afford a set of copies at 40p and have trebles with an aptitude for divisions. The Babe of Bethlehem (John Madden) is quite appealing if you have "Kings" standard and acoustics at 30p. Preces and Responses (John Holmes) 25p is essentially Cathedral music; the majority of us and our congregations will prefer to stay with Tallis and Smith. For choirs who delight in 16th century polyphonics there is a revised edition of Hosanna to the Son of David (Orlando Gibbons) SSAATTB at 30p. Similarly, Tallis's Te Lucis ante terminum (18p), Homo natus de muliere (John Wilbye) 20p and Thomas Weelkes Alleluia, I heard a voice, 30p. In contemporary vein we have modern words and music in The River Flows - The Seasons Turn by Michael Frith. This very effective work with non-religious text is commended to our local secular choirs. A re-edition of S.S.Wesley's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis appears at 90p !! and a setting of the same canticles by William Walton SATB at 50p bearing a dedication to John Birch and the choir of Chichester Cathedral in whose exalted province we may leave this fine work. Albeit, most of these publications are destined for Cathedral use where it is hoped funds and resources still allow experimentation before adoption. Publication policies are to say the least bewildering, and with the problems facing churches, unless you have a bulging music fund I feel we shall have to preserve and rely on our traditional fare with just an occasional sample from the modern school for which no doubt sales will boom in the 21st century. Anyway, take your choice now, prices will never be lower. Finally, no self-respecting organist or choirmaster should be without a copy of A Handbook of Parish Music by Lionel Dakers published by Mowbrays £1.95. This is a down-to-earth book of reference and authoritatively considers every aspect of our work and its problems. If you missed out at Christmas remember it for a birthday suggestion.