

NEWSLETTER EXTRA

October 2026



IAO Midlands Organ Day, St Chad's, Shrewsbury (pictured, left) on **Saturday 10th October**. Tickets can be booked at [Midlands Organ Day 2026](#) at only £10. Registration is from 10am. The full programme is:

10.00 am – Doors open

10.30 am – Welcome and demonstration of the St Chad's Ill/40 Norman & Beard organ (last rebuilt by Harrisons in 2011) by **Tony Pinel** (St Chad's Church)

11.00 am – Presentation by **Martyn Rawles** (Lichfield Cathedral) on 'Accompaniment'

11.45 am – Organ recital by **Eilidh Harris** (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

12.30 pm – Extended lunch break, with opportunity for an **Open Consoles** session involving St Chad's and two other local churches

2.15 pm – **Choral Concert** by the Choir of St Chad's, Shrewsbury, director Tony Pinel

3.00 pm – Tea and cakes

3.30 pm – Organ recital by **Martyn Rawles**

The day is expected to finish no later than 4.30pm.

This event is sponsored by members of the IAO Midlands' Region Organists' Associations, allowing the ticket price to be reduced to only £10. Do consider attending if you can. This is our regional organ day, and our friends in the local associations have worked very hard to put this day together for our members.

NPOA Annual General Meeting, Peterborough Cathedral Saturday 21st November 2.30pm.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place in the precincts of Peterborough Cathedral, and will include the appointment of our 2026-27 President, Chris Strange, the cathedral's Director of Music.

There will also be a unique opportunity to play the lovely Vincent Woodstock practice organ in the Music School, (pictured, left) and (subject to final details) to hear choristers sing in Queensgate Shopping Centre during the course of the day, and attend the cathedral's Christmas Market.

This is an important day in our year with the chance to hear all about the Association's activities and future plans, and to thank our current President, Helen Murphy, for all her work during an outstanding Presidential year. Final details will be circulated to members in due course. **Do put the date in your diary now.**





FREE
ORGAN
RECITAL

ZSOMBOR TÓTH-VAJNA

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29TH
AT 6.30 PM

**THE SOUND OF
RESTORATION ENGLAND**
John Blow and the Organ of Bernard Smith

ORGAN WORKS OF
(VERSES, VOLUNTARIES, PSALMS)
BY JOHN BLOW.

ZSOMBOR TÓTH-VAJNA
Zsombor Tóth-Vajna is a Hungarian organist, harpsichordist and conductor, and one of the leading international performer-scholars specialising in the organ music of John Blow and English Restoration keyboard repertoire. His work brings historical research into direct dialogue with performance on period instruments, with particular emphasis on reconstructing the sound world and performance practices of late seventeenth-century England.

He has performed widely across Europe and the United States as a soloist, conductor and continuo player. He is founder and artistic director of the Budapest-based baroque orchestra Harmonia Caelestis and specialises as a conductor in historically informed performance, particularly Purcell, Handel and Bach.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
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NPOA Social Media Update. With many thanks to Alan Cufaude and Glyn Hughes, our website name has now been updated to www.nporganists.org.uk to reflect our new name of Northamptonshire and Peterborough OA, and our officers' email addresses also updated accordingly and listed in the quarterly Newsletter. If you have the previous northamptonorganists domains saved, don't worry, they will still work, but going forward hopefully our new domain will be easier to access and allow us to continue to update our social media offering.

Lunchtime Live, All Saints' Northampton For the *Lunchtime Live* recitals at 1.10pm on 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December, Jem Lowther, the church's DoM, plays three *Back to Bach* concerts.

NPOA Epiphany Concert Saturday 9th January 2027, 2 pm, St Peter and Paul, Abington. Our very popular annual Epiphany Concert returns for 2027. We know it's a long way off, but some members like to have early warning of events so do please mark your diaries now - a very warm welcome is assured. Members and friends are most welcome to contribute items, musical or otherwise, and should please contact Helen, our President, in the first instance.

NPOA Newsletter. Our latest quarterly *Newsletter* has been issued to members and includes detailed articles on the historic Father Smith organ at Finedon, by Alan Cufaude, and the important Jonathan Austin organ at Denton, by Glyn Hughes. There are also reports and pictures of our visits to both organs, together with those at Northampton Cathedral, Thrapston, Benefield, Grendon and Bozeat, recital reports from Northampton, Castle Ashby and Geddington, and Corno Dolce II's musings on the pleasures and perils of the peripatetic organist. If you're not a member, why not join now and enjoy? Full details on the website.

IAO Organists' Review. As an NPOA member you are entitled to a discount on your subscription if you buy the print edition; it's also now possible to subscribe only to the digital edition and a significantly reduced cost. [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Organists' Review Magazine](#)

Are you playing or hosting a concert or event? Tell us and we'll gladly include it in our media.

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Find us at www.nporganists.org.uk / and on [Facebook](#).

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