NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER EXTRA

November 2026



NPOA Annual General Meeting
The Song School, 28 Minster Precincts, Peterborough

Saturday 21st November 2.30pm

Our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 21st November at 2.30pm will take place in the **Song School, 28 Minster Precincts, Peterborough Cathedral PE1 1XS.** Do come along and hear about the Association's work during the year, to thank our current President, Helen Murphy, for all her work during the year, and to appoint 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 attend the cathedral's Christmas Market.

The Agenda and papers for the meeting are being distributed to members by email. Parking is available in the city centre car parks. This is the first AGM we will have held since we have welcomed members of the former Peterborough Association, and it is particularly fitting that our meeting takes place in the Cathedral Song School and coincides with Chris Strange's appointment as our new President.

It would be really appreciated if you could make every effort to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there.

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 notice of events. Members and friends are most welcome to contribute items, musical or otherwise, and should please contact Helen, our President, in the first instance.

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.

NPOA Newsletter. Could you write an article for the next edition of the *Newsletter* - about the organ you play, your favourite organ music or composer, or any organ-related material which would interest our members? All articles are most welcome, to the Editor by 1st December at the very latest, please.

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

Third Saturday at Three All Saints', Queen's Park, Bedford. On Saturday 21st November at 3pm, our member Paul Edwards will be giving the concluding recital in the inaugural *Third Saturday at Three* concert series at All Saints' in Queen's Park, Bedford.

St Augustine's, Limbury, Luton. On Thursday 5th November at 12.15pm Adrian Quarry will present a programme reflecting Halloween, the Feast of All Saints - and even a few Royal Fireworks.

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 - you can find details by searching for Organists' Review on your favourite browser.

RSCM Centenary Launch. RSCM will be starting its Centenary year on 6th December at 6pm in Chislehurst, the place where the RSCM had its first premises. It will join the nearby church of St Nicholas, Chislehurst, for evensong, and would be delighted if everyone could celebrate with them either online or in person. Further details can be found on the RSCM website. You can also join them at Sarum College and online on Monday 7th December at 7pm for their RSCM Connect Centenary Launch to learn about the history of the RSCM and to find out about their exciting plans for next year.

F for Faith. 'F for Faith' is a resource for those involved in music ministry with children and young people. Using the music we sing in worship as a starting point, 'F for Faith' offers activities, games and conversation starters to help children and young people explore the exciting journey of Christian discipleship for themselves. Visit the 'F for Faith' webpage and join our RSCM Connect event on 3 November to find out more.

RSCM Christmas Cards are available at www.rscmshop.com.

Playing worship songs on the organ. Are you asked to play worship songs on the organ? You can find a handy guide by the Lady Organist at https://www.theladyorganist.com/the-beginners-guide-to-playing-worship-songs-on-the-organ/.

Oxford Hymn Settings for Organ. OUP has completed its mammoth, decade-long project of hymn settings for organ. The complete set of nine volumes is now available (at a not-inconsiderable £220 plus postage), but individual volumes are also available from £18 to £30 each. https://global.oup.com/academic/content/series/o/oxford-hymn-settings-for-organists-oxhymnset/?cc=gb&lang=en&.

The Grand Organ of Liverpool Cathedral. As you may know, the Grand Organ of Liverpool Cathedral celebrates its centenary this year, with a sell-out centenary concert having been played by Ian Tracey in October as he retires as Cathedral Organist after 46 years in post. The history of the organ has now been written in a superb, richly illustrated new book by Peter Lynam and is available from Church Organ World in either hardback or paperback from £24.95 plus postage. https://churchorganworld.co.uk/the-grand-organ-of-liverpool-cathedral-a-history-by-peter-lynan/.

New Organist for Liverpool. Ian Tracey's successor as Cathedral Organist has also now been announced. **Martyn Noble** is appointed as Assistant DoM and Cathedral Organist from January 2027. Martyn is a former Organ Scholar at Liverpool, and so continues the so-called Apostolic Succession of Liverpool organists. Many members will know that the cathedral has had only three organists in 100 years, with Ian Tracey succeeding Noel Rawsthorne and Henry Goss Custard. https://liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/liverpool-cathedral-appoints-martyn-noble-as-new-assistant-director-of-music-and-organist/

St Faithful's, Havnot... Those members active on social media may well have come across the fictional (but perhaps very true to life...) antics of the church of St Faithful's, Havnot. Tired of criticism from well-meaning parishioners, the church's organist, Dr Lionel Hargreaves, has prepared an *Organists' Standard Apology Form,* with a response for all occasions, from the organ was too loud/soft/fast/slow, through to the hymns being too old/too new/too well-known/not well known enough, and the usual issues of the voluntaries interfering with the desire of various people to chat before/during/after the service. You can find the Form here. Obviously, no NPOA member would ever have need of such a document!

Creative Oundle for Organists has opened the links for applications for its 2027 courses for young organists at https://www.creativeoundle.co.uk/cofo/applications/. Pulling Out All the Stops is a three-day first steps course, and the Summer School is a week-long festival for more experienced young organists. NPOA is proud to be a Supporter of COO, and our young members are reminded that COO has never turned away a young organist on financial grounds. We'd encourage all our student members to check them out.

Philip Bricher at All Hallows', Wellingborough. Saturday 16th January 2027. Our member Philip Bricher will play a recital at All Hallows' on Saturday 16th January at 2.30pm.

Ellie May McGlone at St Paul's, Bedford. Saturday 14th November. Ellie May McGlone will play a recital at St Paul's, Bedford, on Saturday 14th November at 12 noon.

Looking for more organ recitals? Do check out organrecitals.uk

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

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