

BRADFORD ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION
Newsletter August 2019

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Registered Charity

President's letter

Greetings to you all,

We seem to have reached a period, oft described as enervating, the dog days, the lazy daisy days of summer – if young people were not walking past our windows on their way to and from school, one could think oneself on holiday and switch off one's regular routine and self-discipline!

However, we organists and organ lovers have an innate sense of duty which overrides such temporary temptations. I took to heart many years ago a dictum shared to us from the pulpit of St Barnabas, Heaton, during a Lambeth Conference in the 1960s, by the diminutive Bishop of Chota Nagpur: "If I am there, everyone is there – If I am not there, no one will be there!" I think this is a maxim which most church musicians have built-in – mostly from childhood and exemplars.

As your President, I would like to congratulate Sheila and her assistant, Edward, for their brilliant "Magical Mystery Tour" in June. No one, other than the two of them, knew where we were to be driven. We knew that the pick-up times seemed very early: Sam and I were up at 06.30, so the driver as well as Sheila and Edward must have been up before sunrise!!

The first leg of our journey included M606, M62 (including a comfort break), M1, before we were exploring highways and byways which eventually delivered us to an estate village called Ossington.. Here we were warmly welcomed /at the Georgian church (built 1782-1785) which replaced the original 12th century chapel. We were fascinated by the presence of two west end organs, one a Victorian positive organ bought from a London Church in 1913 – a Casson, similar to that in St Wilfrid's, Gilstead – the other, with its pipework higher than the Casson, on the tower wall, is by Robson & Son of Charing Cross (Organ Builder to William IV) in 1836: its wind supply is connected to the electric blower of the Casson, but the barrel is rotated by hand. I think we all found something of real interest – I found the pew prayer books to be ASB but was assured that the services were either BCP or Common Worship.

Further exploratory meanderings brought us to the Waggon at Halam where we fed well and talked a lot! After making full use of the facilities, we ventured on a short walk to the home of David Butterworth, musician and organist (City Organist of the Albert Hall, Nottingham) Fabulous new--build - you could have all our house space in the Music Room and still have room for his concert grand and the substantial gleaming pipe organ! Those of us with computer access can click on the hyperlink to see David in action:

<https://www.facebook.com/228735667216/posts/10156836518287217/>

Then on to Southwell, where Anthony Gray (son of Vicar of St Margaret's, Ilkley) is Organ Scholar (soon taking over as Director of Music at St Wilfrid's, Harrogate.) He took us into the Song Room, where I saw my Grandson Nick's name as Head Chorister 2001, and then to the two organs. I think everyone who wanted to, managed to play one or other of the organs – and we found the Café/Bookshop an asset in itself – why has not Bradford Cathedral such a facility when there is no longer a Religious Bookshop in the city? Evensong was superb [*Stanford in A and Birstow's "Let all Mortal Flesh"*. *The tunes for the two hymns were printed in the Order of Service!*] - 8 trebles + 7 men - even the sermon from Revd Mark Tanner. All the clergy were happy to chat after the Service and I had felicitations to pass on to Revd J.J. Fletcher, former Bishop's Chaplain and Priest Vicar: Sam even had a chat on technical matters with the head Verger!

The journey home was smooth and comfortable – even stopping at the junction nearest Unity Street South to spare the President and wife too much of a walk. Thank you, Sheila and Bibby's!

We now look forward to the next Season. September is not too far away, but in the meantime may I wish you all a gentle and happy summer which fills your needs, whether that be peace and quiet or the excitement of travel. Keep your hands and feet in trim with regular practice but don't overdo it – little, but often!

Blessings, Ron.

Mini-trip

On 20th August David Lowe welcomed three Junior members on a visit to see the Wurlitzer at Saltaire. He demonstrated the sounds made by the instrument and let his visitors sit at the console and disappear!!

Then they were taken to see the 'works' down below and were very impressed. The highlight of the visit was being allowed to play the Wurlitzer.

Thank you, David for giving your time and enabling the visit. Edward Scott