



**The Berkshire Organist**

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Reading.

INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF  
ORGANISTS - BERKSHIRE BRANCH

SECRETARY : A. H. LUSTY  
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Reading.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT — A. E. RIVERS.

Organist of St. Mary's Parish Church, Whitchurch.

I commend to you the fourth issue of THE BERKSHIRE ORGANIST. During 1950 the chief "milestone" has been the re-establishment of the Newbury sub-branch under the Chairmanship of Mr. G. A. Sellick F.R.C.O., F.T.C.L., Organist of Newbury Parish Church. I sincerely hope that this may be fruitful in much good work in the Newbury district and I earnestly appeal to all Newbury members to do all in their power to keep things going. 1951 is to be the year of the FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN and I hope we may all, whatever our local circumstances do our utmost to see that music is not overlooked and that our great tradition of English Church Music is kept well to the forefront of our thoughts and activities during the Festival period.

Very best wishes to all for 1951.

EDITORIAL

Unfortunately Mr Eric Few, who had done yeoman service in cutting all the stencils (an awful job!) for the first three numbers, has had a change of circumstances which, whilst of great benefit to him personally, has deprived him of access to a typewriter. Fortunately Mr Gordon Spriggs, who has already contributed materially to the appearance and success of the Magazine, has nobly stepped into the breach, and, although this issue may be a little later in appearing, I trust it will be found worth waiting for.

Our thanks are due to Messrs Few, Rowe, and Spriggs for their continued help and to all those who have contributed in any way to this issue.

SECRETARIAL

Members are asked, in a special endeavour to increase our membership - and thereby the usefulness of the Branch - to introduce at least one new member during the next three months. Application Forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

The President or Hon. Secretary will at any time be pleased to advise members regarding applications for appointments.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

March Proposed Theatre Party to Oxford.

14 Apr 3 pm Annual Half-Day Conference at S.Marys Church House, Reading  
Talk by Dr. W. Probert Jones, FRCO.  
Organ Recital by Dr. O. H. Peasegood, FRCO.

26 May 7.15 pm Composite Organ Recital by Lady Members of the Association at S.John's Church, Reading.

June Garden Party at Twyford (by kind permission of Mrs Stephenson)

Please keep these dates free and ensure a good attendance at all these meetings, and also a warm welcome to our distinguished visitors.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr C. Hunt - - - - Caversham Free Church

Mr A. Warren, FRCO - - S.Laurence's Church, Reading

Mr A. H. Lusty, ARCO LTCL - Cholsey Parish Church



BRANCH MEETINGS - 1950

18th February ORGAN RECITAL at Greyfriars Church, Reading, by Mr Stuart Allen, late organist of the Church: the Association's first visit to this 5-manual Compton organ.

Overture to "Otho"	Handel
Organ Concerto No.5 in F (1st Set)	Handel
Psalms Prelude No.2	Herbert Howells
Solemn Melody	Walford Davies
Song: "King of Glory" (Soloist: Muriel H. Shoppard)	Stuart Allen
South Wind and Angelus	Alec Rowley
Larghetto from Serenade for Strings	Elgar
Overture to "Oberon"	Weber

Followed by ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Palmer Hall, Reading.  
Officers were re-elected, and Miss E.Hewett and Mr W.H.Rowe, ARCO elected to vacancies on the Council. Mr A.H.Leaver resigned as Hon.Auditor after 30 years service; Mr H.E.Goodall appointed.

5th March ANNUAL DINNER at the White Hart Hotel, Reading.

Guests: His Majesty the King.  
His Worship the Mayor and the Corporation of Reading.  
Proposed: Mr P.R.Scrivener, FRCO  
Responded: Alderman H.V.Kersley (Deputy Mayor)  
The Guests  
Proposed: Mr L.Pratt, LTCL  
Responded: Mr A.R.England  
The Incorporated Association and The Berkshire Branch  
Proposed: Rev S.C.Robinson, MA  
Responded: Mr H.W.Spicer, Vice-President, Oxford Branch  
and Mr A.E.Rivers, President, Berkshire Branch.

5th April ANNUAL HALF-DAY CONFERENCE at S.Mary's Church House, Reading.  
Addressed by visitors from the Swindon Branch.  
Talk by Mr R.Alwyn Surplice, MusB FRCO (Winchester Cathedral) on "Where do we stand?" followed by discussion  
Recital, after tea, on S.Mary's organ.

Prelude in A flat	Charles Macpherson
A Fancy	John Stanley
Prelude and Fugue in D major	Bach
Pastorale on the Choral	Horzogenberg
"Now thank we all our God"	(ed. Ley)
Sonata No 3 in A major	Mendelssohn
(Con moto maestoso: Andante tranquillo)	
A Fantasy	Harold Darke
Toccata-Prelude on "Pange Lingua"	Edward C. Bairstow
Chant de Mai	Joseph Jongen
Allegro from Symphony No.6 in G major	Widor

Branch Meetings (continued)

3

"WHERE DO WE STAND ?"

It gives me great pleasure to come and speak to you today. I am a Berkshire man and my first post was at Easthampstead Church where I succeeded Mr Lusty. From there I went to S.George's, Windsor, working under that great man Sir Walford Davies. After a period at Bristol Cathedral I have recently succeeded Dr Harold Rhodes at Winchester. I come to you today fresh from the meeting of the Cathedral Organists Association which has just been held at Winchester.

I know there are differences in the problems in village churches, parish churches, and cathedrals, but, believe me, we have our difficulties in the cathedrals just as you do in other places.

With regard to the lack of boys which is being so alarmingly felt in so many choirs today, we shall not get any improvement until we have got a better influence in the home, and we must strive to promote this in every way. Our Church Music is a peculiarly English institution, but I am optimistic about the future. What we need is a revival to compare with what took place in the 20's, after the first World War. The work of those great men, Sir Sydney Nicholson - in this connection I would remind you that the Archbishops' Report on Church Music is being revised and should be re-issued in 1951 - and Sir Walford Davies, is too well known to need comment. It sometimes seems that we are waiting for another leader of this nature, but if such a man is not forthcoming we must carry on the work without waiting.

I would urge young organists not to despair, but to do everything to build up the standard, and we should all be ready to co-operate in any adaptation of the services to meet the needs of a new generation of worshippers (eg. in such matters as the 'Parish Communion') whilst being careful not to be tempted into spoon-feeding the congregation.

Our Cathedrals have a wonderful tradition to uphold, but we must see to it that their services do not become just "museum pieces".

In the evening members attended Bach's Mass in B minor performed by the Reading Festival Chorus and Reading Symphony Orchestra in the Town Hall.

6th May      CONCERT in the Memorial Hall, Sonning Common, arranged by Mr Rodney Brewer: the Reading Lady Singers, under A.H.Lusty, ARCO LTCL: Vera Buswell (Violin), Mavis Light, (Pianoforte), and Gwendoline Hewitt (Recitations). Pianist - Beatrice Baker.



## Branch Meetings (continued)

Reading Lady Singers

Singers	Signature Sing	Lusty
	Come Lady Day	Roger Quilter
	music, when Soft Voices Dio	Charles Wood
Violin	Sarabando	Bach
	Bourree	Handel
Singers	Shepherds Song	} Elgar
	Fly Singing Bird	
	The Snow	
Pianoforte	The Cherry Tree	John Ireland
	Dance of Flowers	Tchaikovsky
Singers	Lullaby	Cyril Scott
	To Daisies	Thiman
Recitation	Selected	
Singers	Valse Viennoise	Poldini
Violin	Aria in D minor	Duranto
	A Galop	C. Bohm
Singers	Now is the Month of Maying	Morley
	The Lass with the Delicate Air	Arne
Pianoforte	Arabesque	Debussy
	Rhapsody in G minor	Brahms
Singers	Old King Cole	Forsyth
	Follow me down to Carlow	arr. Fletcher
Recitation	A Pathetic Tale in seven versions	
Singers	A Lake and a Fairy Boat	Montague Phillips
	Goodnight	Har Jones
	THE KING	

17th June VISIT to HENLEY-on-Thames

Joint Organ Recital in Holy Trinity Church:

A.C.Neville, ARCO Chm. (Organist)

Theme and Variations (Sonata 10)

Pastorale on "Dominus Regit No"

Postlude on "Hanover"

Rheinberger

Eric Thiman

Coleridge Taylor

E.R.Allwright, ARCO (Hambleton Parish Church)

Prelude in minor

A Little Tune

Postlude in D minor

Chaminade

Felton

Stanford

Followed by talk on "HYMNS ANCIENT & MODERN, 1950 REVISED EDITION"  
by Mr A.C.Neville:

The publication of a revised Hymns Ancient & Modern is of more than passing interest to all Church Musicians. It is now seventy-five years since the last revision took place. The book published in 1904 was not a success and although Supplements were issued in 1989 and 1916 this is the first complete revision since that of 1875. There have been many additions and deletions (here followed a quotation from the Editors preface). There was some criticism in the Press regarding the deletion of certain hymns: some of it apparently written under a misapprehension, as the hymns referred to were among those retained in the book. The Editors must have had a very difficult task, and a

## Branch Meetings (continued)

great number of old favourites have been retained, although it is difficult to see the reason for some of the omissions, eg: "Sweet the Moments Rich in Blessing", and one wonders why the Vaughan Williams tune to "For All the Saints" is missing, but this may have been due to the difficulties of copyright. Some of the tunes have been altered and older texts of the hymns brought back. There is a generous measure of English, Scottish and Genevan Psalm Tunes and also of Folk Tunes. The lay-out is an improvement on the old book, and the old numbers for familiar hymns have been retained where possible. The sequence of Morning and Evening hymns and hymns for the Seasons of the Church has been retained, but the General Hymns are divided under subjects. There are a number of hymns of personal devotion grouped together, and a selection of hymns of Praise and Thanksgiving. The Processional Hymns, forty-three in number, are grouped under seasons, and the hymns for use at Holy Communion are increased to some forty hymns and form a fitting selection.

For anyone who likes to retain the best of the old tunes with a sprinkling of new ones, I think this is an extremely good book, and the suggestion that the new tunes should be introduced by means of Congregational Practices is also good.

The illustrations, sung by a small choir, were:

Easter Day "He is Risen" tune by Sir Sydney Nicholson.

Whitsunday "Our Lord His Passion Ended" tune by Harold Darke.

"Father, what'er of earthly Bliss" tune by H.A.Bate

"Praise to the Holiest" new 2nd tune by Sir A Somervell.

"Our Blest Redeemer" 2nd tune ~~XX~~ "Shrewsbury"

"O Jesu I have Promised" tune by W.H.Ferguson.

Holy Communion "Hail True Body" tune by Dr Dykes Bower (this tune is not truly congregational and seems more appropriate for use as a Choir Motet).

All Saints "How Bright those Glorious" tune "Sennen Cove" by Dr W.H.Harris.

Processional "Hail the Day" (Ascension) tune by Sir S.Nicholson.

After tea and Exhibition Squash Match at Henley Squash Club, a visit was made to Henley Grammar School for a programme by the School Orchestra and Girls Choir under the direction of Mr R.J.M. Brind, ATCL, (Music Master):

Orchestra	Toy Symphony	Haydn
(	Christopher Wren	
Choir	( Rolling Down to Rio	
(	The Camel's Hump	
Pianoforte	The Golliweg's Cake Walk	(Shirley Turner)
Vocal Solo	Art Thou Troubled?	(France Evans) Craigie)
Pianoforte	The Tumblers	(Shirley Turner and Margaret
(	Praise	Dyson
Choir	( O Lord God	Buck
(	Music Makers	Shaw
	THE KING	



## Branch Meetings (continued)

21st October PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION - S.Mary's Church House, Reading.  
Vocal Solos by Mr R.W.Gale, and Pianoforte Solos by Miss F.E.Hale, LRAM  
 ATCL. 'Quiz' in the form of a Musical Alphabet.

9th December ORGAN RECITAL at S.Laurence's Church, Reading, by Mr  
 Arnold Warren, FRCO, and Mrs Marie Warren, LRAM (Soprano).

	Introduction - Moderato - Allegro (Suite in D)	Stanley (1715-1785)
	First movement, Trio Sonata I	Bach
	Prelude and Fugue in F minor	Bach
	( "Tell me Lovely Shepherd"	Boyce
Vocal Solos	( "O Turn away mine Eyes"	Boyce
	( "O Praise the Lord"	Greene
	Choral Prelude "Liebster Jesu wir sind hier"	Karg-Elert
	Liturgical Improvisation	Oldroyd
	Grave-Allegro from Fantasia Sonata	Rheinberger
Vocal Solos	( "A Song of Wisdom"	Stanford
	( "The Little Road to Bethlehem"	Head
	Allegretto Whitlock	<del>W. O'Connor Morris</del>
	Carol	O'Connor Morris
	Toccata in C	Rheinberger

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LIST OF PAST PRESIDENTS

1921 - 1924	P. R. SCRIVENER, FRCO LMustCL.
1924 - 1927	A. C.P. EMBLING, MusD (Dunelm) MusB (Oxon) FRCO.
1927 - 1928	P. R. SCRIVENER, FRCO LMustCL. (Annual Congress held at Reading)
1928 - 1931	F. G. GOODENOUGH, FRCO.
1931 - 1935	W. PROBERT-JONES, MusB (Oxon) FRCO HonARCM
1935 - 1937	A. BARKUS, FRCO.
1937 - 1938	W. PROBERT-JONES, MusB (Oxon) FRCO HonARCM.
1938 - 1943	A. YOULD, FRCO LRAM ARCM.
1943 - 1946	A. H. LUSTY, ARCO LTCL
1946 - 1947	P. R. SCRIVENER, FRCO FTCL. (Mr Scrivener's Jubilee year as Organist of S.Giles Church, Reading).
1947 - 1949	W. H. ROWE, ARCO.
1949 - 1951	A. E. RIVERS.

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HONOURS

The following distinctions have been awarded to members during the  
 year :-

Mr E. R. Allwright	ARCO
Mr J. Eric Few	LTCL
Dr H. C. Barnard	(Hon) FTCL

## RESIGNATIONS

Dr A.C.P.Embling, FRCO, has retired from S.Laurence's Church, Reading after 42 years service. Dr Embling was formerly Organist of S. Stephen's and S.Luke's Churches, Reading.

Mr D.Fraser has resigned his post at All Saints Church, Basingstoke, owing to ill-health.

## OBITUARY

We regret to record the passing of the following members :-

10th January 1950 Mr A.J.Harris, organist of Carey Baptist Church, Reading: an early member of the Branch and a former member of the Council.

17th December 1950 Mr T.Ellis Rogers, who had just retired from S.John's Church, Farley Hill, after 53 years service.

## BENEVOLENT FUND NOTES

May I once again remind all our members of the Benevolent Fund. During the past year one of our own members has received help from the Fund. This fact, in itself, should add force to the appeal. As was the case in a similar application some years ago, the Trustees of the Fund have given prompt and sympathetic consideration to our request. All members are entitled to assistance when this is really necessary, and to ensure that no deserving case is refused regular subscriptions from all members are important in order that the Trustees may have the wherewithal to meet these appeals. Will you please give the Fund your support, and if unable to attend our Meetings kindly forward a donation to me :-

<del>A. Warren</del> (Hon. Benevolent Steward) <del>13 Hamilton Road,</del>	A.E.Rivers 17 S.Bartholomews Road Reading.
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## MUSIC RECEIVED - 1950

Jan Two Evening Responds Overture to "Jephtha"	George Oldroyd Handel (arr. William Pearson)
Mar Sonnet Jubilate Deo	Alec Rowley H. G. Ley
May "Be Thou but near"	Bach (arr. Harvey Grace)

Specimen copies of these pieces have been received and may be inspected on application to the Editor.



# THE ORGAN AT TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, READING

by Albert Barkus FRCO

## EAT

Double Diapason	16 ft.
Large Open Diapason	8 ft
Small Open Diapason	8 ft
Hohl Flute	8 ft
Flute Harmonic	4 ft
Principal	4 ft
Fifteenth	2 ft
Mixture	3 ranks
Trumpet	8 ft

- I Swell to Great
- II Sw. to Gt. Octave
- II Sw. to Gt. Sub
- IV Choir to Great

## SWELL

1. Lieblich Bourdon	16 ft
2. Open Diapason	8 ft
3. Godact	8 ft
4. Vox Angelica	8 ft
5. Viole d'Orchestre	8 ft
6. Vox Celeste	8 ft
7. Suabo Flute	4 ft
8. Principal	4 ft
9. Flautina	2 ft
10. Contra Fagotto	16 ft
11. Mixture	3 ranks
12. Oboe	8 ft
13. Horn	8 ft
14. Clarion	4 ft

## PEDAL

1. Harmonic Bass	32 ft
2. Open Bass	16 ft
3. Sub Bass	16 ft
4. Flute Bass	8 ft
5. Octave Bass	8 ft
6. Trombone	16 ft
7. Tromba	8 ft

- VIII Swell to Pedal
- IX Great to Pedal
- X Choir to Pedal

- V Swell Octave
- VI Swell Sub-Octave
- VII Tremulant

## CHOIR (enclosed)

1. Geigen Principal	8 ft
2. Concert Flute	8 ft
3. Viole de Gamba	8 ft
4. Dolce	8 ft
5. Flauto Travverso	4 ft
6. Piccolo	2 ft
7. Clarinet	8 ft
8. Oboe Orchestral	8 ft

Manuals CC to C 61 notes  
Pedals CCC to F 30 notes

- XI Swell to Choir
- XII Choir Octave
- XIII Choir Sub-Octave
- XIV Tremulant

## Combination Pistons:

Five to Swell Organ: five to Great and Pedal Organ:  
Three to Choir Organ

## Toe Pistons:

Five to Swell Organ: five to Great and Pedal Organs

Reversible Pedal for Great to Pedal

Balanced Expression Pedals to Swell and Choir Organs

There cannot be many organists who are completely satisfied with the organ on which they play regularly. Who doesn't sometimes wish that his instrument possessed an extra stop or two, or even another manual, this or that gadget or what-not? The present writer is not immune from this universal malady of organists (or is it a sign of musical vigour?) He would like a detached console: he would like a



lighter 16ft and 32ft pedal: he wishes . . . but we are starting at the wrong end. The present organist at Trinity Congregational Church hastens to assert that he finds his instrument one of the most satisfying, from the player's point of view at least, that it has ever been his pleasure (or otherwise) to play.

Perusal of the specification will show that, at least on paper, most ordinary requirements for service and recital work have had due attention. Furthermore, this proves to be true as regards the instrument itself, for almost everything in the specification is what it sets out to be, and disappointments are very few.

The specification was largely drawn up by the late F. G. Goodenough, FRGO, former organist of the church and one time President of our Association, and the work was carried out by James J. Binns of Leeds in 1913. The church's decision to procure a new organ in that particular year proved a most fortunate one, for never again since then would it have been possible to obtain such an instrument at such a cost. The quality of the workmanship is testified by its trouble-free life of 37 years, with no more drastic attention than a single cleaning in the early thirties.

To attempt to describe in words the quality of musical sounds is no more easy than to define one's enjoyment of a nicely cooked meal, but it might be helpful to make a few comments, or rather to express a few opinions on some of the details in the specification.

The Great Diapasons are all that Diapasons should be, and a fine crescendo may be built up almost imperceptibly. It is, by the way, a feature of the whole organ that a gradual build-up of tone can be effected without any of those "gaps" to be found on some organs. The Hohl Flute, the softest stop on the Great, could have been somewhat lighter with advantage. The Trumpet adds beautifully to the Diapason chorus without the slightest jar, and when used alone is clean and smooth. The full Great is a magnificent body of sound, truly living up to its name.

Turning to the Swell department, here we have ample variety of 8ft tone, enabling the soft accompaniment of the solo voice to be made interesting. The individual character of the various Swell registers compensates largely for the lack of a Solo Organ, and in this connection the Oboe and the Contra Fagotto may be specially mentioned, both having excellent quality throughout. The Horn is slightly rough. In spite of the variety of tone colour of individual stops, the whole builds up gently to a truly magnificent Full Swell. Mention should be made of the Lieblich Bourdon, which might well have been borrowed for incorporation with the Pedal Organ. Space does not permit a more detailed examination of this fine group with its almost endless possibilities.

The Choir Organ gives a number of delicately voiced stops, including the Dolce, the softest stop on the whole instrument, but perhaps one can be forgiven for casting a longing ear in the direction of certain pianissimo stops on other organs which are next-door to silence itself. The orchestral imitations are quite faithful, again helping to make up for the missing fourth manual. This department is both charming and useful.

By means of a completely unobtrusive use of the extension principle, three ranks of pipes provide the Pedal department with seven draw-stops. The bottom octave of the 32 is resultant, being taken from the heavy Open. This section would be improved with a



lighter 16 and 32, which might well have been borrowed from the Swell as suggested above, and would more suitably match the softer registers on the Swell and Choir.

The tubular-pneumatic action is efficient and provides a trouble-free, even touch of uniform weight, although there is a slightly late response which makes rapid passage-work somewhat tricky. The Combinations given by the pistons are not perhaps every organist's choice, and one is envious of the adjustable pistons provided elsewhere - and once again the writer reveals his susceptibility to the weakness (or strength) of suggesting possible improvements to an already highly satisfactory instrument.

### REMINISCENCES OF 60 YEARS EXPERIENCES

by P.R.Scrivener FRCO FTCL

Having been a choirmaster and organist for more than 60 years, it follows inevitably I must have encountered many incidents, humorous or otherwise, which may interest my readers.

Casting my mind back to the start of my career at S.Giles Church I recall an Alto (male) who was an out-and-out Radical and who never would stand up when the National Anthem was sung at a service. As a singer he was particularly raucous, in fact he became unbearable and I had to ask the Vicar - then Canon Ducat - to dismiss him from the Choir. This was done and the man vowed vengeance. In fact, whenever I met him in the street he would utter threats as to what he would do if he met me in a dark and deserted spot. It was only when my solicitor wrote him a letter that he stopped being a nuisance.

Then I remember an elderly woman dying in church during a Lenten service. She was a large woman, and when the body was placed in a cab to take her home she promptly fell through the floor, and broke a plank in two when being carried into the house.

At another Lenten service a curious thing happened. A special preacher came to preach, and he was asked to read the first Lesson. He started reading and then stopped abruptly. For the space of about two minutes there was dead silence. Then the Curato-in-charge rose and gently led the reader back to his seat and finished the Lesson in his place. We learnt afterwards the visiting priest was subject to mental 'black-outs'. But it was a little uncanny, all the same.

I suppose very few organists ever hear anyone forbid the banns? But it did occur once in S.Giles during a morning service, much to the joy of the choirboys.

And here are some choirboy 'howlers'. I have always found 99% of the boys are poor readers, and it was my custom to make them read aloud the words of any psalm or hymn about to be rehearsed. The following are examples of some of their efforts -

"The firmament showeth his handiwork" read as "The firemen showeth his handiwork". "By the waters of Babylon" read as "By the waters of Baby lion". "And streams do murmur all around" read as "And streams do murder all around". One day we were practising the hymn "The strain upraise of joy and praise" in which comes the line "The



glittering planets on their heavenly way". I stopped them and asked "Can any boy tell me what is a planet?" One boy replied "A large bright star." "Right," I said, "give me the names of two." After a moment's thought he replied "Mars and Judas, Sir!" One occasion a small boy presented himself for admission to the choir. "Have you been baptised?" I asked. Seeing the boy was puzzled, I put the question differently. "Have you been christened?" "No Sir," came the quick reply, "but I have been vaccinated!" (In after years this lad became a very fair tenor, though I never could break him of the habit of singing half a beat behind the rest of the choir).

Only a few days back one of my small boys, absent from morning service, turned up for the evening service. Questioned as to the reason for his absence in the morning, he replied "Please Sir, I could'n't find my vest."

Some years ago I had two boys in the choir who were cousins and both bore the same surname - Hasker. A musical friend, a priest who did occasional work at S. Giles, undertook the choir practices whilst I was away on holiday. On my return he told me (thinking the Hasker boys were brothers) he stopped the practice and turning to one of them said "Hasker, how much older are you than your brother?" The boy, of a nervous disposition and afflicted with a stammer, replied "P-p-please Sir, th-three months, Sir!"

Now I turn to the clergy. A famous preacher came to deliver the sermon one Easter Sunday evening. The church was packed. When the time for the sermon arrived, the preacher ascended the pulpit and gave out the text: "And Jesus said 'Mary!'" At this moment a small girl toddled across the church to the pulpit and called out "Here's a sweetie for you!" She was quickly deported by a churchwarden. On another occasion a curate was intoning the evening service. When the end of the Creed was reached, two voices were heard to sing "Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us." Absentmindedly, the Vicar had joined in. Whereupon the curate rose and walked out, and the Vicar finished the service.

When the Bishop of Oxford was seriously ill his name headed our list of sick and dying; the second name on the list was one of our own church members, viz: Frederick Butcher. One day a curate, who was inclined to be a little absent-minded, read out "The prayers of the church are asked for Kenneth our Bishop, and Frederick our Butcher!" This same curate was once officiating as sub deacon at a High Mass on a Saint's Day. The last hymn was "Ten thousand times ten thousand." (The hymns are not given out during the 11 am service). Whilst we were singing it, a server whispered to the sub deacon "What is the number of the hymn?" "I don't know, but it is 'Ten thousand times ten thousand'." The server retired, but came back and announced "I can't find it, my book only goes up to one thousand!"

I conclude with two stories about Reading University. When on the staff I was examining - with two others - some candidates for the Palmer Scholarship, and one of them presented us with a rendition of "The Maiden's Prayer" as her test piece! Another time, examining an end-of-term candidate on the University organ, who turned up in plus-fours, I noticed Gustav Holst - my co-examiner - eye him closely but he said nothing. After he had played a Bach fugue very creditably Holst asked him "What do you do in your spare time? Do you play cricket or football?" "Oh no" the candidate replied, "I go for a walk in the woods, and listen to the birds." Holst turned to me and whispered "What a twerp! Lets put him at the bottom!"



# BERKSHIRE ORGANS

by F.Gordon Spriggs

As an organ lover I have often wanted to copy some of the eminent enthusiasts of the past by visiting all the organs within reach and recording their specifications, builders, players, history and curiosities, with photographs of consoles and cases. Not just the big organs, but a comprehensive and authentic survey of that amazing variety which awaits the free-lance deputy, to his delight or embarrassment (as I well remember!); all of them capable of glorifying God in some way that no other instrument can, in spite of so much insulting rubbish written against the organ nowadays. I've never had the facilities for doing it thoroughly, but it is something every Association ought to attempt.

Take Berkshire, for instance. It is a great pity that it has no Cathedral City, and that its county town entirely lacks the atmosphere and tradition, but it is a Royal county and does boast the cathedral music and famous organ of S.George's, Windsor. This glorious 4-manual 61-stop instrument, the foremost in the county, is interesting among other things for the Walford Davies 'antiphonal' consoles, casework dating back to the very beginning (1790) of the Gothic Revival, and Parratt's old keyboards preserved down below. At the other end of the county is another large organ, the 4-54 (excuse a convenient Americanism) Rushworth and Dreaper at Radley College. This once stood in a richly designed case by Sir G.T.Jackson, but it is now buried away out of sight.

Of Reading's organs, five have already appeared in print, four of them in this magazine. The largest is the modern Willis 4-51 at S. Mary's, on which we have heard memorable recitals by several eminent players; next in size comes the 3-38 Binns at Trinity Congregational, about which you will have read three pages back, and which was for years the only recital organ in the town; another Binns (3-22) is at the University; S.Laurence Church, historic but rather out of date (3-28), now being fitted with a sadly overdue new console; and the grand old Father Willis (4-37) in the Town Hall, whose modernisation could have been paid for many times over by the exorbitant charges demanded from players gallant enough to pound its ancient action - where has our musical leadership been all these years?

Altogether Reading possesses about 50 organs, including a modest 4-manual at S.Bartholomew's, and 13 3-manual instruments, among which must be mentioned - S.Giles, a Walker, bearing the honoured fingerprints (and foot-prints) of Mr P.R.Scrivener through 57 years; Christchurch, a Gray & Davison rebuild, where both Vicar and Organist are accomplished recitalists; and Greyfriars, 10-rank Compton with luminous stop-control - and a fine church organ, whatever your views on extension. At S.Mary Castle Street there is an oldish organ by Monk with so much similarity in its 33 stops that half of them are unnecessary.

As far as age is concerned, the oldest organ in the county appears to be the 1725 Jordan at S.Helen, Abingdon - now a Harrison rebuild. Its fine case is pictured in Rev.Andrew Freeman's book "English Organ Cases". Next is probably S.Laurence, Reading, (Byfield 1741) with another lovely 'period' case; the old black keyboards with short Swell are also preserved - but not in use!

A remarkable thing about Berkshire, and perhaps due to its



central position, is that it contains work by almost every English organ builder. A friend who has visited ninety-three of its organs has noted nearly forty different builders. Bevington was responsible for five out of eighteen single-deckers, others are by Holdich, Speechly, R.W.Rouse (Oxford), Cole (Manchester), C.H.Walker (London), and Hill Norman & Beard; I am glad to say that not one of those seems to be without Pedals!

Fifty-six more are 2-manual, and besides all the bigger firms there are represented P.G.Phipps, C.Martin, from Oxford; Sweetland of Bath; Hardy & Son, Stockport; S.F.Dalladay, Hastings; Wood Wordsworth, and Abbott, both of Leeds; Ingram, Hereford; Nicholson, Worcester; and Ginns Bros, Auguste Gorn, Maley Young & Oldknow, G.H.C.Foskett, all of London.

At Purley there is a charming little 1-manual Holdich on whose three or four stops one can play for hours without exhausting their sweetness. Bearwood has an organ with an interesting domestic history. On the small modern 2-manual at Pangbourne one of our leading cathedral organists had his early lessons from his mother. Then there is the larger 2-manual at Sonning by Beale & Thynne, a most pleasing instrument and surely one of the earliest detached consoles. Just over the county boundary (but still in the Berkshire Association) at Monk Sherborne is an exquisite little case designed by none less than G.F.Bodley - an illuminating contrast to the unorthodox effort, for example, in S.Mary's, Reading.

And so one could go on. Newbury, Wokingham, and Maidenhead, as well as Henley and Basingstoke (also outside the county but in the Branch), must be left to someone who knows them better; and all would have their place in that official survey, if ever we could get together and compile it.

#### DEPUTIES

The following have signified their willingness, as members of the Association, to act as Deputies. Application should be made direct to them.

Miss E.Aldor	Any C.of E. service.
51 Grange Avenue, Reading.	
Mr J.Ash	C.of E. or Free Church.
12 Matlock Road, Caversham.	
Mr P.G.Cusdin	Available for weddings or
58 Easthampstead Road, Wokingham.	Funerals on weekdays.
Mrs K.F.Shorter	/Anglican.
148 Kidmore Road, Caversham.	Free Church or simple
Mr D.Tuson	
38 Auckland Road, Reading.	C.of E. or Free Church.
Mr R.A.C.Whitehouse	
112 Basingstoke Road, Reading.	Any C.of E. service.
Mr G.A.Winterton	
10 Upavon Drive, Reading.	C.of E. or Free Church.