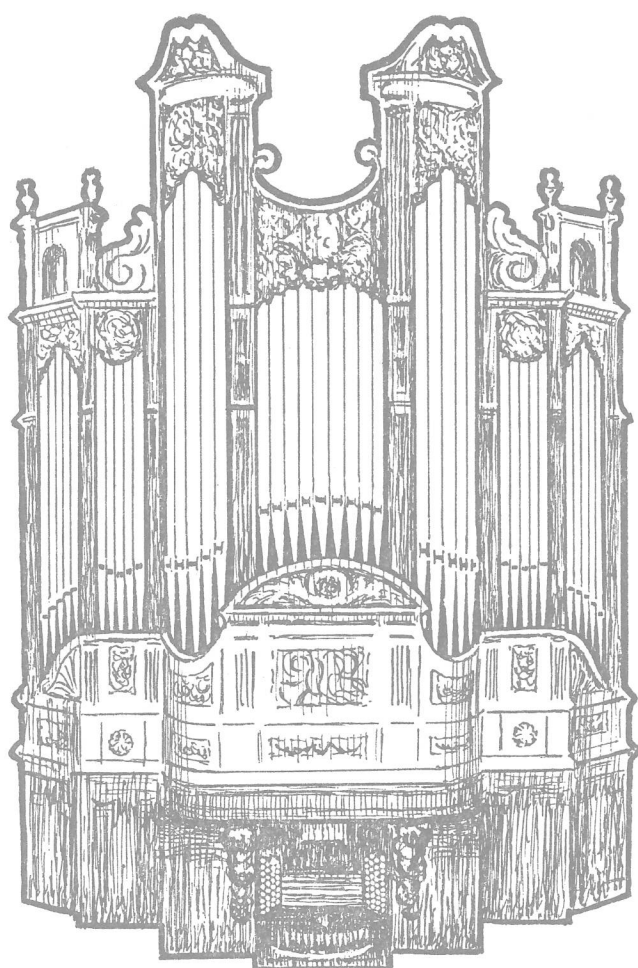


# The Berkshire Organist



Number  
32

1979



THE BERKSHIRE ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

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Thank you for expressions of interest in the continuance of The Berkshire Organist and for the contributions sent in - almost too many to use!

You can see that it hasn't changed much. And it's not going to. Just as well in these days of so-called 'progress'. After all, aren't we organists the most die-hard of all conservatives? Some of us value our heritage, and think deeply enough to prefer GROWTH to change, especially when it comes to the Church and its music. We may well feel that what the Church, out of its vast resources, ought to be giving this crazy age is more STABILITY and less experimentation. Only a fool tinkers with what has taken years to get right and works well. So the magazine won't change!

We Berkshire organists, those of us who have bothered, can be proud of what we have already achieved by our conservatism. Saving our Father Willis organ, for one thing. Oh yes, it was only the unremitting watchfulness and diligence of our committee, working closely with Mr Martyn Reason of the Civic Society, that swayed public opinion and brought pressure to bear upon the local politicians. Also we are greatly indebted to Mrs Mary Biggs, who, as Chairman of that Society, got the whole Town Hall complex (including the organ) listed Grade II in 1974. Likewise to Mr Godwin Arnold, the architectural expert, whose Minority Report in 1976 put a stop to the town council's reprehensible scheme for outright disposal of the lot. You will remember the wonderful joint evening we had with the Civic Society in January last year, when they engaged Dr Eric Arnold of All Saints, Margaret Street, to come and lecture on Willis Organs and give a most enjoyable recital. The local press has also given tremendous support to our 15-year long campaign. We are not quite out of the wood yet, but nearly there, and the Hall has been booked for further recitals in March and October 1979.

And can't we be really proud of that thrilling demonstration by our united choirs, under Lionel Dakers himself, of how marvellous an old-fashioned, non-trendy, non-gimmicky Choral Evensong in a parish church can be! This is summed up to perfection by Albert Barkus in his appreciation further on. Let those choirs who missed it be sure to line up for the next one.

We are reminded of early beginnings by Albert Rivers in his Retrospect, which prompts the thought that the continuity of our Association over 58 years,

and the esteem in which it is held by other Associations, owes much to the Old Stagers, and particularly to Archie Lusty's long and faithful reign as Hon.Sec. We are grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of his successor, Ron Pepworth; long may he also function! We congratulate him on his recent promotion to a high position in British Rail - Assistant (Passenger Systems) at Waterloo - and we acknowledge the hours of work he has put in, over and above secretarial duties, on research and recordings for those social evenings we have so much enjoyed during winter time.

Our retiring President is this year being let off the routine chore of contributing a Presidential Message, which makes it possible editorially to say two things:- (i) how valuable he has long been and still is to our society, and how deeply most of us have appreciated his kindly, wise and tolerant leadership; and (ii) how hurt he has been at the almost rude lack of response on the part of many dormant members; for example, the invitation to the Presidential Service and Reception was completely ignored by the majority. After all the preparation involved, to see a mere handful turn up, and have all those delicious refreshments left over afterwards, is utterly heart-breaking. People don't mean to be so ungracious - but they 'aint 'arf thoughtless. It's the same with our Treasurer, he has had an awful job getting in the subscriptions.

Don't let's go on being like this. All our officers do their jobs voluntarily and out of the goodness of their hearts, and soon we may well find difficulty in getting people to take on these sometimes thankless responsibilities. That said, it was good to see the Annual Dinner so well attended, and we were certainly fortunate in having Mr and Mrs Basil Ramsey as guests of honour.

In the production of this magazine, our thanks are warmly extended to Mrs Foxton for once again typing the stencils, and to the Revd. David Evans of St.George's for undertaking the duplicating, at virtually no expense to the Association.

Our greetings go to those unable through illness or infirmity to attend the meetings, and to friends outside, particularly members of other Associations.

#### BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

The amount sent to the Benevolent Fund this year was £7.95; this, I am sorry to say, is a decrease of £21.11. A large amount is usually collected at our annual Half-Day Conference, which we did not have this year, as we joined with the Surrey Association for their Golden Jubilee.

D.M.GUY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978 - Proposed for adoption at A.G.M. 24 Feb. 1979

It is not my intention in this Report to go into any great detail regarding the events of the past year. Most of them are reported elsewhere in this edition of 'The Berkshire Organist'. Some have also received comment in the News Letter which was published four times during the year.

The Council of the Association met on five occasions during the year and the attendance was excellent. Thanks are extended to Oxford Road Methodist Church for allowing us the use of a room for our meetings.

The Annual General Meeting on February 18th was attended by only 21 members. The election of Officers and Council resulted as follows:

President:	Donovan L.Jones, Esq.	
Vice-Presidents:	Prof. H.C.Barnard	Mr. A.H.Lusty
	Mr. A. Barkus	Mr. R.Nash
	Mr. L.F.B.Davis	Mr. R.Pepworth
	Miss E.G.Goodship	Mr. L.Pratt
	Mr. J.C.Lawes	Mr. A.E.Rivers
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. R.Pepworth	
Hon. Treasurer:	Dr. J.G.Davis	
Hon. Programme Sec.	Mr. D.M.Guy	
Hon. Benevolent Steward:	Mr. D.M.Guy	
Council:	Mr. B.Lee & Mr. I.May (to retire in 1979)	
	Mrs. E.Fisher & Mr. F.G.Spriggs (to retire in 1980)	
	Mr. G.Bohn & Mr. C.B.Griffiths (to retire in 1981)	
Magazine Committee:	Mr. F.G.Spriggs (Editor)	
	Mr. L.F.B.Davis	
	Mr. B.H.Lee	
Town Hall Committee:	Re-elected en bloc	
Hon. Publicity Officer:	Mr. L.F.B.Davis	
Hon. Auditor:	Mr. F.C.Holmes	

The programme of events for the year was as follows:

January 21st	An Evening of Praise in Words and Music at Oxford Road Methodist Church, Reading, arranged by Derek Guy. We were stunned by the news almost immediately afterwards that the organ in this Church had been completely destroyed by fire.
February 18th	Annual General Meeting.
March 8th	Recital at Reading Town Hall by Roy Massey, Organist of Hereford Cathedral.
April 29th	Visit to Guildford by invitation of the Surrey Association to celebrate their Golden Jubilee.
June 10th	Annual Outing, visiting Croydon Parish Church and the Royal School of Church Music at Addington Palace.



September 16th Presidential Service and Reception at Trinity United  
Reformed Church, Reading.  
October 4th Recital at Reading Town Hall by William Davies.  
October 14th Choirs Festival at All Saints' Church, Reading, conducted by  
Lionel Dakers, Director of the R.S.C.M. Organist - Roy Nash.  
November 6th Annual Dinner at Grosvenor House, Caversham. Guests of  
Honour - Mr. and Mrs. Basil Ramsey.  
December 2nd 'Face the Music' at Tylehurst St. George Church Hall  
arranged by Ron Pepworth.

It was with very deep regret that we heard of the passing on Christmas  
Day of Mr. F.V.C.Fawcett. A tribute appears elsewhere in 'The Berkshire  
Organist'.

Congratulations are extended to Peter Marr on gaining his Ph.D., to  
Christopher Griffiths on his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts  
and to Mr. J.W.Holl on gaining his A.R.C.O.

Five new members were elected to the Association during the year. We  
lost sixteen through resignation, removal or prolonged non-payment of  
subscriptions. Total membership stands at 138.

The Town Hall Sub-committee has again been very active and this is due  
in no small measure to the effort put in by Miss Goodship as Secretary. Thanks  
are also due to Gordon Spriggs for his vast amount of work in liaison with the  
Reading Civic Society in the campaign for the preservation of the Town Hall.

Our thanks, as always, to the ladies who have looked after the 'inner  
man' at many of our meetings.

Finally, may I say 'thank you' to all those who have helped in any way  
in making my life as Secretary a little easier.

R.PEPWORTH (Hon. Secretary)

ODE TO THE NIGHTINGALE

(If the Church of England ever gets its hands on it!)

1662 Hail to thee, blithe spirit,  
Bird thou never wert!

Series II Hail to YOU, blithe spirit,  
Bird YOU never WERE!

Series III Hello, happy soul,  
You never were a bird!

Series IV Hi-yer, Lark!!

(From Lionel Dakers' witty and informative speech at the 1977 Dinner)

LECTURE AND RECITAL AT READING TOWN HALL by DR. J. ERIC ARNOLD

11th January 1978

This was organised jointly with The Reading Civic Society, and was graced by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress, who greatly enjoyed it, as did also the Rural Dean. Dr. Arnold, whose doctorate is in science, started at the age of 19 as organist of St. Agnes, Kennington, and, after working at St. Mary Magdalene, Paddington, was appointed to All Saints, Margaret Street, in 1968.

He showed pictures of Father Willis voicing a large diapason pipe, five generations of the Willis family, the organs of the Albert Hall, Alexandra Palace, Blenheim Palace, St. George's Hall, Liverpool, St. Paul's Cathedral - and Reading Town Hall. A dry and witty speaker, Dr. Arnold admitted that he "could not stand the New English Bible, Series II, Series III, decimal coinage, metrical weights and measures - and some of the things they do to Willis organs!" He informed us that the discarded Willis Tuba from Gloucester Cathedral has found a home at Margaret Street.

His programme was perfectly calculated to give pleasure to the general public who might not otherwise have grasped what is so special about our organ. There was not one ugly sound or nasty noise from start to finish, and his rendering of the Pietro Yon on only one stop - the Swell Stopped Diapason, the softest stop on the organ - was utterly delightful.

Programme

Fantasia on the chorale "Valet will ich dir geben"	}	J.S.Bach
Chorale Prelude "Wenn wir in höchsten Nöthen sein"		
Prelude and Fugue in C major (Weimar)		
Voluntary in C Op.5 No.1		John Stanley
Sonata de primo tono para organo con trompeta real		Jose Lidon
Aria		Flor Peeters
Humoresque		Pietro Yon
Tune in E		Thalben-Ball
Introduction and Fugue "Ad nos"		F.Liszt

OXFORD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, READING

One of our rare visits to the Free Churches, this took place on Saturday 21st January 1978 - only just in the nick of time, for the organ was destroyed by fire early on Sunday morning 5th February. Like several of the Free Churches in Reading, it had some jolly good stuff in it, and its loss is a tragedy - particularly to the church, who can only raise enough money from insurance and other sources to replace it with an electronic. Derek Guy, the organist, who gave us the splendid programme below on the occasion of our visit, contributes the following interesting historic details:-

A news sheet published in May 1897 called 'The Reading Circuit Record' records the following about Oxford Road:- "It is now an open secret that Mr.G.G.Gilligan is presenting a handsome organ to the Chapel which is to cost nearly £400 and will contain 752 pipes. Details of design and decoration are being expeditiously selected and in the course of a few months we hope to see the organ in position and rendering much desired aid in the service of praise. The work is in the hands of Messrs. Forster and Andrews, the well known organ builders in Hull."

In a later edition of the news sheet we find the following report:- "A very interesting ceremony took place in connection with the opening of the new organ on Wednesday, July 28th. In the afternoon at 4 o'clock after a brief address the key of the new organ was handed by the donor to the trustees' treasurer, who heartily thanked Mr.Gilligan for the benefit he had conferred upon them. The choir then sang the "Te Deum" after which a very able sermon was preached by the Rev. Walter Briscoe who took for his subject:- "Music as an aid to Worship".

At 7 o'clock an organ recital was given by H. Percy Allen, Esq., B.A., Mus.Bach. etc. to a large and appreciative audience. The organ is the generous gift of G.G.Gilligan, Esq., and was presented in memory of his deceased wife. The organ has been built according to the following specification:-

Great Organ

Open Diapason	8'
Rohrflöte	8'
Dulciana	8'
Principal	4'
Flauto Traverso	4'
Fifteenth	2'

Swell Organ

Open Diapason	8'
Hohlflöte	8'
Gamba	8'
Voix Celestes	8'
Gemshorn	4'
Cornopean	8'
Oboe	8'

Pedal Organ

Open Diapason	16'
Bourdon	16'

Couplers

Swell to Great	Swell to Pedals
Swell Octave	Great to Pedals

PROGRAMME

Prelude and Finale	A.Hollins
Introit: View me, Lord	R.Lloyd
Anthem: O come, ye servants of the Lord	C.Tye
Voluntary in B flat	J.Battishill
Anthem: O ye who bear Christ's holy Name	G.Sampson
Gavotte	M.Camidge
Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord alway	G.Rathbone
Anthem: Sing Alleluia forth	E.Thiman
Allegro (suite in D)	J.Stanley

These items were interspersed with hymns and readings to form an Evening of Praise.

Four Double Action Combination Pedals, two to Swell and two to Great. Pitch-pine case, impost high with handsomely decorated front pipes. College of Organists' Pedal Board. Tubular Pneumatic Action on builders' improved principle is applied to Pedal Organ, ensuring rapidity in speech and absolute silence in working.

#### READING TOWN HALL - CELEBRITY RECITALS

It is still possible to continue this series, and the two recitals in 1978 were remarkably different, yet both outstanding successes.

The polished musicianly playing of Roy Massey was an inspiration, and his programme was deliberately tailored to the qualities of this great nineteenth century instrument. Commenting that "no self-respecting organist plays Guilmant these days!" he demonstrated just how well the music sounds on the right instrument. This was certainly one of the best of our long series of tip-top recitals.

#### ROY MASSEY - PROGRAMME - 8th March 1978

Overture in D minor	Handel
Fantasia and Fugue in G minor BWV 542	J.S.Bach
Cantilene	Gabriel Pierne
Scherzo in C minor	A.Guilmant
Fantasia and Fugue in G	C.H.H.Parry
Canon in B minor Op.56 No.5	Schumann
March on a Theme of Handel	A.Guilmant
Miniature	M.A.Rossi
Symphony VI First movement	C.M.Widor

William Davies did everything but a Storm (we had that from Reginald Porter-Brown seven years ago, and the weather has never been the same since), and had his large audience enthralled and delighted. His genial personality came over in his remarks about the pieces as he played them; the music was a complete tour-de-force, and one thought how wonderful that an entertainer of this status and technical skill was not too big or too busy to play Sunday by Sunday for the services at his own church.

#### WILLIAM DAVIES - PROGRAMME - 4th October 1978

Festival Toccata	Percy Fletcher
Introduction and Allegro	John Stanley
Prelude and Fugue in D minor	J.S.Bach



Orchestral Transcriptions:

Pieds en l'Air  
Scherzo (Concerto Symphonique)  
Serenade (String Quartet)  
First Cuckoo  
Farandole (L'Arlesienne)  
Sarabande  
Toccata for Flutes  
Carillon Sortie  
Andantino in D flat  
Orchestral Transcriptions:  
Praeludium  
Overture - Merry Wives of Windsor  
Pavane  
Ride of the Valkyries

Warlock  
Litolff  
Haydn  
Delius  
Bizet  
Howells  
Pietro Yon  
Mulet  
Lemare

Jarnefelt  
Nicolai  
Faure  
Wagner

A VISIT TO GUILDFORD

Some thirty-five of us (quite a goodly number) accepted the invitation of the Surrey Association to attend their Golden Jubilee Celebration on Saturday, the 29th April. This was of particular interest to me as I had the privilege of taking part in their Silver Jubilee Celebration.

On arrival we were welcomed by the President of Surrey and proceeded into the Cathedral for a conducted tour, our guides competing "personfully" with a "Group" rehearsing for a Youth Festival in the evening. They, like us, were working to a tight schedule and could only stop for a few minutes.

From here we proceeded, via a descending series of steps (a total of 88 steps) to one of the Lecture Theatres of Surrey University where Professor Smith Brindle gave a talk on "Some problems of recording Organ Music". Professor Smith Brindle stressed that when recording organ music we not only have to record the organ but also the building. Many interesting diagrams were supplemented by extracts from recordings including the conclusion of a Messiaen piece as recorded by Gillian Weir on the Festival Organ and by the composer himself on the organ of La Trinité, Paris.

Returning "upstairs" to the Cathedral for Evensong, this comprised:- Responses, Smith; Service Stanford in G; and Anthem "Faire is the heaven" by W.H.Harris. After the service the Organist, Mr Philip Moore, spoke a word of greeting followed by a short recital which included the Overture to the Occasional Oratorio by Handel. After inspecting the organ we proceeded to the Chapel of Charterhouse School at Godalming for a performance of Guilmant's Organ Symphony conducted by William Llewellyn. This was indeed a memorable performance. Altogether a well-organised and most enjoyable day.

A. E. RIVERS.

ANNUAL OUTING

On 10th June 1978 we travelled south eastwards and during the morning visited Croydon Parish Church where we were met by the organist, David Brookshaw. After a short demonstration this fine 4 manual instrument was open for members to play.

After lunch we travelled down the road to Addington Palace where we were met by our good friend Lionel Dakers, the Director of the R.S.C.M. We then joined in a course being taken by Alan Wilson the young organist of London University and a composer, who later in the afternoon had us all singing. After tea Lionel Dakers took us on a guided tour of the Palace and grounds and explained the work of the R.S.C.M. Those who were able to come with us had a very enjoyable day.

DEREK GUY

PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE - TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH READING

16th September 1978

Played before the Service by the President:

Prelude & Fugue in G	Mendelssohn
Liturgical Improvisation No.3	George Oldroyd
Prelude on 'Rhosymedre'	Vaughan Williams
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier (from Short Chor.Prels.)	Reger

Introit	Try me, God	Nares
Anthems	He prayeth well	Ivor Davies
	That God doth love the world, we know	F.W.Wadeley
	Hosanna in the highest	attrib: Palestrina
	Lord, I trust Thee	Handel (ed. Darlow)
Vesper	Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace	Reginald Redman

Played after the Service by Albert Barkus:

O Mensch, bewein' (BWV 622)	J.S.Bach
Caprice Heroique	Joseph Bonnet
Improvisation	

UNITED CHOIRS FESTIVAL - ALL SAINTS CHURCH, READING

14th October 1978

Festal Responses (in A)

Call to Remembrance

Farrant

Office Hymn: Blest Creator of the Light

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis

Stanford in C

Psalms 148

Rejoice in the Lord

Radford

O Thou, the Central Orb

C.Wood

Hymn: Lift High the Cross

Choirs taking part:

All Saints (30 voices)

Earley St. Peter (21 boys)

Oxford Road Methodist

St. Bartholomew

St. George

St. Laurence

St. Luke

St. Mark

Greyfriars (13 voices)

Henley St. Mary

Peppard All Saints

Tilehurst St. Michael

Upton Nervet St. Peter

Winkfield St. Mary

Woodley St. John

As has already been written, the 1978 Choirs Festival was "a most memorable event in the annals of the Association". It will certainly not easily be forgotten, either by those who took part in the music-making, or those fortunate few who were privileged merely to listen and worship.

As a mere "observer", I crept into the church during the rehearsal, was deeply impressed with everything I heard, came back after tea to witness the results of the meticulous preparation, and left at the close of the service feeling that the whole venture had been so successful and so moving that it must without fail be more permanently recorded in our annual magazine. Those of our members and friends who missed the occasion must consider themselves very unfortunate; although All Saints Church was well filled, one wished that all possible seats could have been occupied.

For the beauty and impressiveness of this moving occasion, thanks and congratulations must be extended to a large number of people who contributed in large or small measure to its success. To have at the helm the distinguished Principal of the Royal School of Church Music, Mr. Lionel Dakers, was an enormous privilege, a great delight and to many of us an education. Choristers and choir-masters must have benefitted greatly from his genial and helpful guidance and enjoyed his charming personality. Not only had the tiniest details of the music and words been pointed out and rehearsed patiently and carefully by the singers; they were even taught how to say "Amen". So, with Roy Nash's excellent support

at the organ, no detail of the service failed to make an impression. What a perfect answer to those who would like to hand over our church music to the three-chord guitar strummers (Bless their hearts and their efforts!) and to those peculiar people who advocate the abolition of all psalms and anthems.

Then of course there were the singers themselves - some 250 of them, representing fifteen choirs from all parts of the district - many of them arrayed in their varied and attractive robes and occupying a large part of the beautiful church. They had all clearly taken note of Mr. Dakers' detailed instructions ("Make Thy chosen people JOYful") - and their united obedience contributed such a lot to the significance of the service.

None of the beautiful and thrilling sounds we heard would have been possible unless they had been set down on paper in the first place - in some cases a very long time ago - and one's thoughts turned naturally and appreciatively to the various composers whose initial inspirations were so faithfully interpreted in the service - Farrant ("Call to remembrance"), Stanford (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C), Redford ("Rejoice in the Lord") and Wood ("O Thou the central orb") not forgetting S.Wesley, Bossi, and Holman, composers of the organ pieces so ably presented by Roy Nash. Thanks also to the Vicars of All Saints and St.George's for their respective parts in the conduct of the service.

There must have been many present who devoutly wished our churches everywhere could "be something like that" every Sunday. This is surely what church music is all about. As for me, I came away from this bright and beautiful occasion remembering the Lord God who made all such things.

ALBERT BARKUS

FREDERICK VICTOR GEORGE FAWCETT

We record with real sorrow the loss on 25th December 1978, after a long period of disability, of one of our oldest and most faithful members, and we offer to his wife and son our warmest sympathy in their loss.

Freddy, originally a pupil of Mr. Lusty's, started in his teens as organist of the district church of St. Michael, Elgar Road, Reading, then a daughter church of St. Giles, but long since closed down. From there he went to St. Mark's, Binfield (where he met his wife), and in 1949 he was appointed to the two Mortimer churches, St. Mary's and St. John's, which he served devotedly in all weathers until ill-health overtook him.

In paying tribute to his great qualities of faithfulness and loyalty, his Vicar referred, during the funeral service, to the fact that his whole working life was spent with one firm only (Hickie's, for whom he did tuning and repairs), and that he had the rare privilege of "returning to his God on Christmas Day" of all days. Dr Westcott played for the service at St. John's, and the choir fittingly sang the simple but profound Mozart Ave Verum.

FROM NEWBURY - WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT!

How many members can boast of holding an Organist's post for 50 years and at the same Church?? Not too many, I should think. But it is a fact that Wilfred Barrell, Organist and Choirmaster of Newbury Northbrook Street Methodist Church, has just completed 50 devoted years service at this Church in September 1978 with only a break during the war years.

To mark the occasion Church members made a presentation after a morning service, whilst the choir, so very loyal over the many years of Wilf's leadership, celebrated the event with a special dinner party. This was held in the Church Hall on the 26th September which was also the anniversary of Wilfred's birthday.

The event was carefully planned so that Wilfred should not hear about it, and you can imagine his surprise when reaching the hall to see the excellent food prepared (all by the choir, I might add).

I was particularly pleased to be invited and also to help in the entertainment that followed. Gifts included beautiful engraved glass, tape deck and a book for Mrs. Barrell.

In an after dinner speech, Wilfred recalled as a boy of 12, being asked to play the organ at extremely short notice and although with no knowledge of the pedal organ managed to get by.

This really decided him to buy an organ tutor book and study it very hard. Later, of course, proper organ lessons started, with the result that great music resounds from this fine organ every week and we hope may continue to do so from Wilf's fingers and toes for many years to come.

Wilfred Barrell has seen several rebuilds of the Hunter organ in Northbrook Street Methodist Church, most noticeable the addition of the Choir organ in the 50s, and later a completely new detached console with electric action by Messrs. Osmond of Taunton in October 1963.

The Rededication Service and Recital took place in that year on the 5th October and the organ was played by Mr. Richard Lloyd, then organist of Salisbury Cathedral.

THE SPECIFICATION IS AS FOLLOWS:



GREAT ORGAN

Double Open Diapason	16
Large Open Diapason	8
Small Open Diapason	8
Principal	4
Fifteenth	2
Sesquialtera	III
Clarinet	8
Three blank positions	
Swell to Great	
Swell Super to Great	
Swell Sub to Great	
Choir to Great	

SWELL ORGAN

Lieblich Double	16
Horn Diapason	8
Lieblich Gedact	8
Gamba	8
Voix Celeste	8
Gemshorn	4
Piccolo	2
Mixture	III
Cornopean	8
Oboe	8
Tremulant	
Swell Super Octave	

PEDAL ORGAN

Open Diapason	16
Bourdon	16
Violone	16
Flute	8
Great to Pedal	
Choir to Pedal	

CHOIR ORGAN (unenclosed)

Clarabella	8
Dulciana	8
Harmonic Flute	4
Orchestral Oboe	8
One blank position	
Swell to Choir	

ACCESSORIES

4 Thumb Pistons to Swell Organ	Duplicated by Toe Touches
4 Thumb Pistons to Great Organ	Double Touch to Pedal Organ
2 Thumb Pistons to Choir Organ	
1 Thumb Piston Reversible Great to Pedal	Duplicated by Toe Touch
1 Thumb Piston Reversible Swell to Great	Duplicated by Toe Touch
4 Toe Touches to Pedal Organ	Double Touch to Great Organ

LESLIE J. NEWMAN.

A RETROSPECT - 1929-1979

In 1929 The Incorporated Association of Organists published a Directory of Members. This was never repeated, and one can only imagine that, even in those far off days, the expense proved prohibitive.

There were then thirty-eight affiliated Associations. The President was Sir Hamilton Harty. Among the Patrons was Sir Hugh Allen (an old Reading boy), and one of the Vice-Presidents was S.H.Nicholson Esq.

Our branch showed eighty-three members. Of these six are still with us as members - Mr A.Barkus, Miss E.Goodship, Mr A.H.Lusty, Mr Leslie Pratt, Mr A.E.Rivers, and Mr R.Waters. Of these Mr Barkus and Mr Lusty were foundation members, and I joined following the second meeting.

A.E.RIVERS.

ST. LAURENCE'S, READING: A NOTE ON THE OPENING OF THE ORGAN

Most readers of The Berkshire Organist will know of Byfield's organ in St Laurence's, Reading, from Andrew Freeman's description of it in the first number of The Organ. It is not clear when the instrument was completed and, in his history of the church, Charles Kerry could do no more than put together documents that are now in the Berkshire County Record Office (History of the Municipal Church of St Lawrence, Reading (1883) pp 63-4). However, an anonymous poem in a London journal (The London Magazine: and Monthly Chronologer, December 1741 p 613) recounts that John Stanley "opened" the instrument, hard evidence for which seems to have eluded Kerry and Freeman, although Charles Coates observes that the virtuoso approved of the organ (History and Antiquities of Reading (1802) p 161).

The poem, an eulogy of Stanley's playing, reads as follows; I have added a few textual notes prefaced by relevant line numbers.

To Mr. STANLEY, Organist of the Temple, on his opening the new Organ in the Church of St Lawrence at Reading, 1741

Harmonious Stanley! in thy genius we  
A miracle of art and nature see!  
From one extinguish'd sense a hundred rise!  
Briareus gives you hands, and Argus eyes.  
This truth we may, without a Fable, tell;  
If not their number, you their pow'r excel.  
You through th'inspired tubes, with artful hand,  
Like Aeolus, imprison'd air command;  
But with seraphick sound your part perform,  
You calm the passions, he creates a storm.  
You charm the audience in the house of God,  
And wake the drones that in his service nod.  
Thrice happy we! could we your genius keep  
To waken them who in our temple sleep.  
But when you bid adieu, and hasten home,  
To fill with solemn airs your templars dome,  
Ours will in silence mourn, each ravish'd ear  
Will ne'er forget, but ne'er such accents hear!  
So Phoebus once the Oracle inspir'd,  
And left it silent, when he thence retir'd.

3. Stanley had been virtually blind from early childhood.
4. Briareus: the giant son of Uranus, having a hundred arms and fifty heads.  
Argus: of his hundred eyes, a half were always open.
8. Aeolus: son of Poseidon and guardian of the winds.
16. templars dome: the Temple Church
17. St Laurence's had no permanent organist, as yet.
19. Phoebus: Apollo, the god of music.

(The underlined words are in italic type in the original)

PETER MARR.

THE ORGAN IN THEALE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

by John Shepherd

We have maintained the organ in this Church since taking over the tuning connection of Church Organs Ltd. in 1969.

I had thought for some time that the wooden stops in particular on this organ were quite old, when quite by chance last year when looking in a scrapbook compiled by Donald Penrose in The Organ Club Library at the Royal College of Organists I noticed the following article cut from an unnamed magazine, which I here quote in full:

"Lecture Hall, Newbury

The organ that stood in this building from 1872 to 1919 was in the latter year removed to THEALE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH where it now is. Previous to 1872 it had occupied a position in the gallery of Newbury Independant Church for some 35 years, having been bought of Mr J.W.WALKER in 1847. Till 1919 it remained in its original state, except for the addition of a supplementary Swell pedal at a lower and more convenient level.

<u>Great</u>				<u>Swell</u> Fiddle G to F			
Open Diap.	Both to Gamut G	8		Open Diap.		8	
Hohl Flute	" " " "	8		Mulciana		8	
Stopt Diap.(Treb)	Fiddle G	8		Stopped Diapason		8	
Stopt Diap.(Bass)	GG	8		Principal		4	
Principal	GG	4		Hautboy		8	
Flute	Gamut G	4					
Twelfth	GG	2.2/3					
Fifteenth	GG	2		Coupler Swell			
Pedal	GG to D	18 notes					

Keys from CC couple to Great. Those below acting on extra pipes so provided.

Composition Peds. 2 single action

It had a square case, painted with 3 flats."

The present specification of the organ is given overleaf. It was built virtually new forty or so years ago by Liddiatt & Sons, Leonard Stanley, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, but incorporating much of the 1847 Walker pipework, though with many stops on different manuals and some stops transposed. The voicing of the stops does not seem to have been altered, other than perhaps the reed. Unfortunately none of the upperwork was put on. Another unfornunate feature is that the action is pneumatic with "Weigle" type sliderless soundboards. This type of action is particularly susceptible to low humidity, whether caused by church heating or exceptional summers such as that in 1976.

Present Specification

<u>Great</u>		<u>Swell</u>		<u>Pedal</u>	
Open Diapason	8	Open Diapason	8	Bourdon	16
Clarabella	8	Stop Diapason	8		
Dulciana	8	Salicional	8	<u>Couplers</u>	
Principal	4	Principal	4	Swell to Octave	
Flute Ten.C.	4	Oboe	8	Swell to Great	
		Tremulant		Swell to Pedal	
				Great to Pedal	
2 thumb pistons to Swell				45 <sup>o</sup> Drawstop jambs	
2 thumb pistons to Great					
Compass of Manuals CC to A	58 notes			Pneumatic action	
Compass of Pedals CCC to F	30 notes			Electric blower	
(Radiating & Concave, but not standard)					

On a recent tuning visit we spent a good while examining the pipework, and we have been able to deduce which pipes are Walker of 1847, and which are later pipes. Our findings are as follows:

Great

Open Diapason 8. Lowest 21 pipes on the front are modern. From Tenor A to top F are Walker. Top 4 pipes modern.

Clarabella 8. Was Swell Open. Lowest 7 pipes modern. Bottom G to top F are by Walker. Top 4 pipes modern.

Dulciana 8. Tenor C. Was on Swell. Lowest 7 modern. Tenor G to top F Walker. Top 4 pipes modern.

Principal 4. Bottom C to top F Walker. Top 4 pipes modern.

Flute 4. Tenor C. Former Swell Stopped Diapason transposed. All Walker pipes except top 4 metal pipes. Below these pipes there are 6 open wooden pipes presumably from the former 4ft Flute.

Swell

Open Diapason 8. Not Walker, but older than Liddiatt rebuild. Probably circa 1890.

Stop Diapason 8. Walker, but was originally Great Stopt Diap. Top 4 pipes modern.

Salicional 8. Was formerly Great Twelfth transposed. All pipes Walker except lowest 3 which are modern.

Principal 4. Former Great Fifteenth transposed. Fifteenth pipes used from bottom G up. Lowest 7 pipes also Walker but from Great Open Diapason (where they were displaced by modern zinc front pipes).

Oboe 8. Lowest Octave and a half modern (Bottom octave bassoon bass) Tenor G up Walker, though with some transposed and a couple of odd pipes put in. Pipes of light spotted metal (very small spots). Top eight flue pipes are quite old though not original.

Pedal Bourdon 16. Modern throughout.

For modern read Liddiatt, circa 1930.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr John Shepherd, who contributed this interesting piece of local history, and his brother (often to be seen at our Celebrity Recitals) run the organ building firm of B.C.SHEPHERD & SON of Edgware, which was commenced by their father, appropriately enough at Shepherds Bush, in 1927. Mr B.C.Shepherd, who had previously worked in turn for Noterman, Walkers, and Aeolian, carried on until his death in 1971, and the firm now has a busy practice in the South of England. Ed.

#### EARLEY ST.PETER

Last year mention was made of the fine work being put into the choir at St.Peter's, and of their hopes of having the organ rebuilt. The organ had been cleaned and overhauled in 1957 by Walkers, but by 1975 it had become so unreliable that a conservative rebuilding scheme was drawn up. It was not a particularly old organ, and it carried no builder's nameplate, but there is a story that when Dr. (then Mr.) Probert Jones was organist a visitor asked permission to play on it. Questioned severely as to his credentials - for you didn't let anyone touch your organ in those days - he replied "Oh, I built it!" His name turned out to be Dalladay.

The rebuilding scheme included modest improvements, also a detached console, and was well received by the Diocesan Advisory Committee; difficulties arose, however, with pressure from a certain quarter to scrap the organ entirely in favour of a new and much smaller 'classical' type tracker instrument to be placed half way down one side of the church. This recommendation proved as unpopular as it was wasteful and unpractical, and was resisted at both diocesan and local level, resulting in seemingly interminable arguments, delays and frustration. Eventually permission was received to go ahead with the rebuild, but not the detached console; the work was carried out by Osmonds of Taunton, and the opening recital was given by Raymond Isaacson on 24th June last year. This was a triumph for good sense - which had already prevailed in the case of the splendid little 2-manual (also by Osmonds) at St.Nicolas, Earley - and Leslie Pratt and Gary Turner, together with their Vicar and supporters, are to be congratulated on the result. It is a pity that the original solid ivory turned stop-knobs had to go, but it has brought new life to good existing material, it is rewarding to play, sounds much better down the church, and is perfectly suited to the needs of Anglican worship; moreover it makes good economic sense, for what better could you do for £16,000 these days?

One of the prime functions of a good Organists' Association, besides providing churches with organists (which it cannot when there are none to spare),



should be to guide the local clergy and PCCs over the dilemma of what to do about a decrepit organ. This is very tricky ground indeed, but some official organ advisers in their ivory towers do seem to be a bit out of touch with practical parish church requirements. Also, we already have two tragic examples in Reading of good substantial 3-manual organs being discarded and replaced by inadequate toys costing money that should never have been spent that way, and all because nobody quite knew where to get the best advice. How desirable it is that every organist should really know what he is talking about in connection with organs, also that he should be a respected member of his PCC (or equivalent body), able to influence it at such a time. Churches should be reminded, too, that a poorish organ is not going to attract a good organist when the post becomes vacant.

# Specification

<u>Pedal</u>	Acoustic Bass	32	<u>Great</u>	Open Diapason I	8
	Open Diapason	16		Open Diapason II	8
	Bourdon	16		Hohl Flute	8
	Bass Flute	8		Flute	4
	*Trombone	16		Principal	4
				Harmonic Piccolo	2
<u>Swell</u>	Violin Diapason	8		Trumpet	8
	Rohr Flute	8		Clarion	4
	Viol di Gamba	8			
	Voix Celestes	8	<u>Choir</u>	Lieblich Gedact	8
	Gemshorn	4		Dulciana	8
	Twelfth	2 2/3		Clarinet	8
	Fifteenth	2		*Trumpet	8
	Oboe	8			
	Cornopean	8	<u>Couplers</u>	Swell to Great	
	Tremulant			Swell to Choir	
				Swell to Pedal	
4 Thumb Pistons	Swell & Pedal			Great to Pedal	
4 Thumb Pistons	Great & Pedal			Choir to Pedal	
4 Toe Pistons to each of the above				Swell Octave	
1 Reversible Toe Piston each to:				Swell Suboctave	
Great to Pedal, Swell to Great,				Gt. to Pedal Pistons	
Pedal Trombone.					

\*New - from Great with 16ft octave added.

## HON. TREASURER'S REPORT 1978 (submitted for approval at A.G.M. 24th Feb. 1979)

### No.1 (General) Account

Our financial position continues to be satisfactory. During the year our total expenditure amounted to £816.61 and our total income to £849.06, giving an excess of income over expenditure of £32.45. Our expenditure included a payment for the "Organists' Review" for 1977 of £30.02, and so far there is a deficit of

£26.72 on music for the choir festival. Other items called for no special comment.

Our balance at the bank on the 1st January 1978 was £124.80 and on the 31st December £173.65. Allowing for the loan of £100.00 to the No.2 account we finish with a true balance of £273.65.

We acknowledge with considerable gratitude donations from members amounting to £29, and some members have arranged printing for us at low rates or have taken care of printing bills, which is equivalent to making a donation. We are most grateful to these members for supporting the Association in this way.

We must anticipate an increase in certain charges in 1979. Our capitation fee for the I.A.O. has been increased to 20p per head, and the charges for the "Organists' Review" may increase.

One disturbing feature of our activities is that altogether 16 members have either resigned or had their names removed from membership because of non payment of subscriptions in 1978, and we have only recruited 5 new members (excluding Newbury) during this year. It is obvious that we must attract new members and especially young members.

#### No.2 (Celebrity Recital) Account

The Roy Massey Recital on the 8th March resulted in a profit of £14.55, and the profit on the William Davies Recital on the 4th October was £86.17.

The balance of our No.2 account on the 1st January was £226.01 and on the 31st December £270.38. Allowing for the borrowing of £100.00 from our No.1 account, the true balance becomes £170.38.

I feel that the celebrity recitals are a most valuable and important function of the Association from several points of view. They publicise the Association and also the unique Town Hall Willis organ. In addition they help to further the cause of the organ in general as a musical instrument, and are likely to increase interest in recitals given by our members and visiting organists in churches in Reading. I suggest that we should extend this activity as far as practicable, even if we occasionally lose a little money on some recitals.

The total funds of the Association on the 31st December 1978 stood at £444.03.

I would like to pay a tribute to our honorary auditor, Mr F.C.Holmes, who has been most helpful to me as an inexperienced treasurer. The Association is greatly indebted to him for his most valuable honorary work for us over many years.

J.G.DAVIS. Hon. Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

No.1 (General) Account 1978

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions for 1978		Hon. Secretary's expenses	£69.03
Subscriptions for 1977		Hon. Treasurer's expenses	13.47
Subscriptions for 1979 (in advance)		"Organists' Review"	157.04
	<u>£418.25</u>		
Donations	29.00	I.A.O. Capitation fees	34.99
Newbury Branch	30.38	Cost of coach (Addington)	50.00
Coach payments (Addington)	62.80	Royal School of Church Music	15.25
		R.S.C.M. teas	18.50
Sale of music for choir festival	66.28	Cost of music for choir festival	93.00
Choir festival collection	28.00	Expenses of choir festival	14.46
		I.A.O. appeal fund	15.25
Annual dinner receipts	206.40	Cost of annual dinner	215.00
Benevolent fund collection	7.95	I.A.O. Benevolent fund	18.60
		"Berkshire Organist"	13.90
		"Newsletter"	21.60
		Programme secretary's expenses	13.50
		Donations re premises for meetings	25.00
		Subscriptions paid in advance	28.00
		Excess of income over expenditure	32.45
	<u>£849.06</u>		<u>£849.06</u>

BALANCE SHEETS FOR 1978

No.1 (General) Account

Balance at bank 1st January 1978	£124.80	Balance at bank 31st December 1978	£173.65
Loan to No.2 account	88.40	Transfer from No.2 account	100.00
Subscriptions in advance	28.00		
Excess of income over expenditure	32.45		
	<u>£273.65</u>		<u>£273.65</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

No.2 (Celebrity Recital) Account 1978

Roy Massey Recital - 8th March

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Tickets and programmes	£91.75	Payments as per list	£182.99
Tickets	105.79	Excess of receipts over expenditure	14.55
	<u>£197.54</u>		<u>£197.54</u>

William Davies Recital - 4th October

Tickets and programmes	£227.64	Payments as per list	£210.11
Tickets and refund	68.64	Excess of receipts over expenditure	86.17
	<u>£296.28</u>		<u>£296.28</u>

BALANCE SHEETS FOR 1978

No.2 (Celebrity Recital) Account

Balance at bank 1st January 1978	£226.01	Balance at bank 31st December 1978	£270.38
LESS cheques outstanding at 31.12.77			
Geoffrey Tristram Recital	£39.60		
" " "	28.35		
Loan from No.1 Account	<u>88.40</u>		
	156.35		
	69.66		
ADD transfer from No.1 Account	100.00		
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure			
Roy Massey Recital	14.55		
William Davies Recital	86.17		
	<u>£270.38</u>		<u>£270.38</u>