

Season's Greetings to all our members and friends. As the season of Advent begins this year on 3rd December, this is the final *Newsletter Extra* of the year, and we would like to take the opportunity to send Season's Greetings to all our members and friends, and to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year, and those who are busy preparing and performing concerts, carols and the Advent and Christmas services. May we wish all our readers a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas when it comes.

From the President. John Wilson writes that he is privileged to have been elected as President for the second time and looks forward to working with the new Committee, whose other members are Steve Bell, Stephen Taylor, Robert Tucker, Don Kennedy, and Alan Cufaude, together with President-Elect Tony Edwards, Past-President and Treasurer, Glyn Hughes, and your Editor Richard Tapp, as well as our Hon Secretary, Helen Murphy. The Committee will be developing plans for events in 2024 and has some ideas for the things for which the Association might aim. John promises a fuller Presidential Address in the New Year.

NDOA Forthcoming Events. Plans for NDOA events in January and February have now been firmed up - full details below. We hope everyone will support them if possible. More information will be circulated in due course, or you can contact our President, John Wilson, at johnfwilson@btopenworld.com.

Christmas/New Year Musical Party - Saturday 6th January 2024 2.30pm - Ss Peter & Paul, Abington ('the Church in the Park') by invitation of the Rector the Revd Jun Kim, and NDOA member Tim Dolan who is the DoM there. An informal afternoon of seasonal music-making, including duos for piano and organ, and 'fun' items by various members. Contributions from members of their own compositions and ideas are welcome. Another chance for choral singing and organ playing by members.

Members' CD Choice Afternoon - Saturday 17th February 2024 2.30pm. At the home of Alan and Gabriela Cufaude in Northampton, thanks to their generous invitation. Alan's hi-fi equipment caters for CD, USB, video, DVD etc. We share our favourite recordings, and then enjoy a nice tea (to which members can contribute).

Talk by Ann Elise Smoot. In March we hope to bring you a talk by Ann Elise Smoot, Director of Creative Oundle for Organists. Likely to be online and on a weekday evening - more details soon.

NDOA Annual Subs - please pay now! Annual subscriptions are now due - still only £10 per year for individual members, £15 for family and corporate members (including churches) and entirely free for student members. If you would like a printed copy of our quarterly *Newsletter*, there is an additional contribution of £10 towards printing and postage costs. They can most easily be paid by bank transfer to our account at NatWest - sort code 56-00-60, account number 05476240, account name *Northampton & District Organists Association*. Alternatively you can pay via PayPal using the links at <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/join/> or by cheque made payable to *Northampton & District Organists' Association* to Glyn at the address on the website. We think our annual subscriptions are a real bargain - they're still at 1994 (yes really!) levels. We're wholly dependent on your subscriptions to maintain the Association, our publications, social media, visits and events so would very much appreciate your early attention to payment!

Follow the Star. The Church of England is inviting choirs from across the country to Join the Song this Christmas with a new arrangement of *The First Nowell* by Bob Chilcott. The RSCM has free resources to help choirs learn and perform the carol - including a downloadable score, lyric sheet, and learning videos at [Follow the Star – Join the Song | RSCM](#).

Parlez-vous Français? You may like the excellent French-language organ publication *Orgues Nouvelles*. The December 2023 edition is free to read online at [Oned61 \(calameo.com\)](http://Oned61.calameo.com) and there is a 30% discount if you wish to subscribe.

Peterborough Cathedral has many Advent and Christmas services and concerts over the coming month, including the beautiful Advent Carol Service on Sunday 3rd December at 6pm, the Christingle service with the Cathedral's junior choirs on Sunday 17th December at 3pm, and a Service of Readings and Carols at 4pm on Christmas Eve. Midnight Mass is at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day, Sung Eucharist at 11am and Festal Evensong and Procession at 3.30pm. The Cathedral Choir's Christmas Concert is on Friday 22nd December at 7pm with tickets from [Peterborough Cathedral Music online ticket sales powered by TicketSource](#).

Wellingborough Singers perform Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* on Saturday 2nd December at 5pm at the United Reformed Church, High Street, Wellingborough. Tickets £15/U18 £5. [Future Concerts - Wellingborough Singers](#).

All Saints' Northampton features former DoM [Richard Tanner](#) playing Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur* on Thursday 7th December at 1.10pm. [All Saints' Church, Northampton - Music : Lunchtime Live \(allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk\)](#)

Harrington Concerts [Home - Harrington Concerts](#) has a splendid Christmas Concert by the **Swarbrick Singers** on 10th December. Tickets from Katherine at musicharrington@gmail.com or 01536 713944.

Northampton Bach Choir performs its Christmas Concert at Northampton School for Boys on Saturday 16th December at 7pm. [Northampton Bach Choir : Concert : Carols for All!](#)

Chris Strange, Organist of Peterborough Cathedral will perform an organ arrangement of **Holst's Planets Suite** at the Cathedral on Saturday 13th January at 7pm as part of the display of Luke Jerram's extraordinary artwork *Mars: War and Peace*, which follows from the previous highly-successful artworks *Museum of the Moon* and *Gaia*. This is a unique opportunity not to be missed. Tickets are available at [Peterborough Cathedral Events online ticket sales powered by TicketSource](#).

Incorporated Association of Organists London Organ Day 2024 will take place on Saturday 2nd March 2024 at Our Lady of Victories, High St, Kensington, and will feature the new Skrabl organ (IV/53) and much more. Details of the organ are at <https://www.npor.org.uk/survey/S00149> and of the day at [London Organ Day - The Incorporated Association of Organists \(iao.org.uk\)](#).

Jenny Setchell - help required for new book! Many members may have met our good friend Jenny Setchell, who together with her international recitalist husband Martin has been a frequent visitor to Northants. Jenny has written a number of organ-related books including *Organ-isms: Anecdotes from the World of the King of Instruments* and *Organs and Organists: Their Inside Stories* which are still available - see [Pipeline Press - Pipeline Press](#). However, Jenny's new book will be different: a recipe book! Jenny writes that 'So many organists I know around the world have shown a great interest in food; all kinds, prepared by themselves or others. I am gathering some of the most popular dishes from organists, their spouses and partners, organ builders, organ music publishers, composers of organ music, and organ lovers to be published in a quirky little book (working title: *Manuals for Mealtimes*)'. Any comments that could accompany such favourite dishes would be most welcome, including photos, personal stories, anecdotes, or tips. If you'd like to contribute to the book, do please contact Jenny by email at setchells@gmail.com or via Twitter or Facebook - by the end of December, please. Jenny hopes to include a short description of your current position and a link to your website/contact details if you wish.

Union Chapel Willis. The famous 1877 hydraulic-powered Willis in Union Chapel, Islington has suffered significant damage to the Swell soundboard and has begun an appeal to raise £130,000 for urgent repairs. More info and how to help at www.unionchapel.org.uk/organ-at-risk.

Newsletter Extra and the quarterly **Newsletter** are published by Northampton and District Organists' Association, registered charity no. 274679. Find us at <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/> and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Contact us at editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk