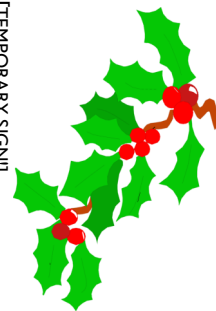




NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

Formerly Northampton & District Organists' Association

[TEMPORARY SIGN]



NEWSLETTER EXTRA

December 2025

WELCOME TO NPOA!

NPOA is GO! At the Annual General Meeting on 15th November, our members agreed to rename our association as the Northamptonshire & Peterborough Organists' Association, welcoming friends from the former Peterborough Association, which has recently closed. Our Association is already very active in the north of the county and Peterborough, as sponsor of the lunchtime recitals at Peterborough Cathedral in 2024 and 2025, and a Supporter of Creative Oundle for Organists. We are delighted to be able to welcome new members from Peterborough and district - whether former PDOA members or not - and to celebrate the fact that we also have members from across Northamptonshire, its neighbouring areas, and much further afield. All are most welcome.

Helen Murphy: our new President. At the AGM, after thanking our President, Tony Edwards for all his work, together with the Association's Officers and Committee who work tirelessly for the Association, we were particularly pleased to welcome our new President for the coming year - our Hon. Secretary, Helen Murphy. Helen began her Presidential year with choral Vespers sung by our own Chorale at the church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Wellingborough, and we really look forward to her forthcoming programme of events.

Chris Strange: our new President-elect. We were also delighted to appoint our President-elect for the year, Chris Strange, Peterborough Cathedral's Acting DoM, who will become NPOA President in November 2026.

NPOA Publications and Social Media. We will transition NPOA's publications and social media to refreshed branding, icons, and social media addresses to reflect our new name in the coming months. We'll be sure to let you know where you can find us as that activity proceeds. The Association's work - including our publications and media - is done entirely by volunteers, and some of the transitions are quite time-consuming or require changes to be made by external providers, so do please bear with us!

NPOA Forthcoming Events. Everyone is welcome at our 2026 events - there will be more to come, but do please make a note of these dates in your new diaries now:

- ♦ **NPOA Epiphany and New Year Concert Saturday 10th January, 2pm - St Peter and St Paul, Abington.** Our very popular annual extravaganza with music and words performed by NPOA members and friends is once again held in the warm and welcoming venue of Abington church - the Church in the Park. More details to follow - do save the date now.
- ♦ **NPOA Members' CD afternoon - with a St Valentine's Theme. Saturday 14th February, 2pm, Northampton.** Do join us for an enjoyable afternoon of members' favourite music, fellowship and food. Joining instructions will be sent to members in the New Year.
- ♦ **NPOA Visit to Eton College and St George's Chapel, Windsor. Saturday 9th May.** The full programme, joining instructions and costs will be sent to members as soon as available. Not to be missed.

May we thank you for all your support during 2025, for your commitment to leading music and worship throughout the year, and wish you a very happy, blessed and musical Christmas.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

EPIPHANY AND NEW YEAR CONCERT

St Peter and St Paul Abington Park NN3 3AB

Saturday 10th January 2pm

DO COME! EVERYONE WELCOME



NPOA Subscriptions 2026 - rates held for another year, and now due please! Our subscription rates for 2026 have been held at only £10 for 2026 for individual members, £15 for family, corporate and church membership, and ENTIRELY FREE for student members. Your subs get you 4 full-colour online quarterly Newsletters, 12 monthly Newsletter Extras, our programme of events (subject to individual charges in some cases, of course) and all our media. Our £10 subscription rate was first set over 30 years ago - we were pleased to offer it again for our centenary in 2021, and to have maintained it ever since! And if you'd like our quarterly Newsletter in beautifully-printed glossy A5 format, it's yours for just an additional £10 for the year to contribute towards the cost of printing and postage.

Lunchtime Live! All Saints' Northampton's regular monthly series continues on **Thursday 4th December** at **1.10pm** with a solo organ recital by our member **Laurence Caldecote** [All Saints' Church, Northampton - Music : Lunchtime Live](#).

Lunchtime Live - March. A little further ahead, **Adam Heron** - NPOA member, former Organ Scholar at Peterborough, now studying at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Organ Scholar at Coventry - will perform music by Leighton, Howells, Bach and Langlais in the March Lunchtime Live! Recital at All Saints', Northampton on **Thursday 5th March at 1.10pm**.

Veni Emmanuel! The 2026 Beauty in Sound organ book, featuring the finest new music for Advent and Christmas, has now been published and is available from the BIS store at for £25 plus P&P. It features 14 new works, including compositions by **Laurence Caldecote** (Reflection on *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*) and **Adam Heron** (very appropriately, Variations on *Coventry Carol*). Treat yourself to an early Christmas present, refresh your seasonal repertoire, or just buy a copy for the organist in your life! [2026 BIS Organ Book: Veni Emmanuel – BEAUTY IN SOUND LIMITED](#)

BBC Radio 3 Christmas Schedule. You can find the schedule [here](#). Of particular interest may be Sir James MacMillan's exploration of Genesis in words and music on Saturdays until 3rd January, Compline each Saturday until Christmas at 10pm, and five Christmas Concerts from 18th December until Christmas culminating in a performance of MacMillan's *Christmas Oratorio* on Christmas Day.

RSCM Christmas Music. You can still find lots of new Christmas music at the RSCM Shop at [Product Search](#).

How do you tune a Cathedral Organ? BBC radio interviewed Mander's Head Voicer, Simon Keeler Walker on the intricacies of tuning the organ of Guildford Cathedral - you can find the link [here](#).

The Organ Manual. The latest edition of the free online organ magazine - this one entitled *Do I look like an organist?* can be found at [The Organ Manual – A place where all things organ come together](#). Well worth a look!

IAO London Organ Day. The next London Organ Day on 14th March 2026 is held at The Royal Military Chapel ('The Guard's Chapel'), Birdcage Walk, which houses a brand new organ by Harrison & Harrison. Details are available now via <https://iao.org.uk/london-organ-day/> including a talk about the new organ involving Andrew Scott (H&H) and Dr William McVicker (project consultant), with recitals by Tom Bell and Erwan le Prado.

IAO Organ Festival 2026. The provisional programme for the IAO's five day festival in Bristol next year, from Sunday 26th to Thursday 30th July, is available now at <https://iao.org.uk/Festival26/>

IAO Offers. We are a member association of the Incorporated Association of Organists - the IAO. As an NPOA member you can get a discounted subscription to the IAO's journal, *Organists' Review*, for only £30 per annum - [Subscribe – Organists' Review](#), discounts of 10% on organ music orders over £20 from Church Organ World, and of 5% on Viscount organs from Aspire Classical Organs.

NPOA Quarterly Newsletter. Our next quarterly Newsletter is due for publication at the beginning of January. Highlights include the organ of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Wellingborough, reports on our AGM, recitals at Bozeat, St Matthew's Northampton, and the latest Organ Historical Trust of Australia conference.

Music for Advent. We thought you might enjoy this lovely performance of [BWV 569](#), the first (and perhaps most beautiful) of Bach's three chorales on Nun Komm de Heiden Heiland (*O come thou Saviour of the world*), performed by Laume Akmeeme at the organ of St Peter's Episcopal Church, Salisbury, Maryland.

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