

**John Bertalot RIP.** We learnt with great sadness of the passing of John Bertalot on 21st February. John was a long-standing Honorary Member of the Association, having been President of the Northampton Association in 1962-63 whilst DoM at St Matthew's, Northampton. From Northampton, John moved to Blackburn Cathedral where he was instrumental in the design and installation of the iconic Walker organ, then to Trinity Church, Princeton, before retiring back to Blackburn where he continued with undimmed vigour with musical activities including the authorship of a series of choir training books which are widely used today.

**Peter Whittle RIP.** We are also very sorry to report that our member, Peter Whittle, died on 29th January. Peter was heavily involved in the music of Raunds parish church and the wider benefice, and Helen Murphy, our President, represented the Association at his funeral at Stanwick.

A fuller appreciation of the lives and work of John and Peter will appear in the next quarterly *Newsletter*. The Association records with gratitude their contribution to the musical life of the county and beyond, and sends its most sincere condolences to their families and friends.

**NPOA Eton College and St George's Chapel, Windsor, Visit. Saturday 9th May.** We shall be visiting Eton College and St Georges Chapel, Windsor, on Saturday 9th May. In Eton, we shall see several of the fine organs, with opportunities to play them. In St George's Chapel (*pictured below, after the splendid 2019 work by Nicholsons*), we shall attend Evensong at 5pm and then stay to see (and play) the organs in the Chapel. We plan to start the day with lunch in Eton town at midday, visit Eton College until 4pm, then go to St George's Chapel and return quite late in the evening. People can arrange their own transport, but we also plan to hire a minibus, with driver, which will cost around £35 per head (possibly for a 16-seater) depending on numbers. We need to know numbers as soon as possible - please let our President, Helen Murphy, know as soon as you can if you wish to join the visit, even if only as a 'possible', and whether you would like to join us or lunch and to use the minibus - [helen.e.murphy@outlook.com](mailto:helen.e.murphy@outlook.com).

**Northampton Chamber Choir Spring Concert - Honouring Stephen Meakins. Christchurch, Northampton NN1 5LL - Saturday 14th March at 7pm.** Castle Ashby's Stephen Meakins, who passed away last year, founded the Laurence Lloyd Singers in Northampton in 1959 when he was only 19. He led the choir for the next 42 years, during which time it sang at many churches and cathedrals around the country, and concerts in Northampton and beyond, and he led singers from the choir in the NDOA Centenary Evensong at Castle Ashby. Now known as Northampton Chamber Choir, it has continued to flourish and evolve under many notable conductors, including Stephen Moore and Justin Miller, both DoM at St Matthew's, Northampton, where Stephen's love of music was formed as a chorister. In honour of Stephen's outstanding contribution to the musical life of the county and his service to the Choir, the Choir's Spring Concert will pay tribute to Stephen. It will include several movements from the Requiem which he himself wrote in 2010, together with other (mainly sacred) music which would have been sung under Stephen's direction. Everyone is welcome. Tickets £15 from the choir's website or on the door. [www.northamptonchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.northamptonchamberchoir.org.uk).

**Lunchtime Live! All Saints' Northampton.** On Thursday 5th March at 1.10pm **Adam Heron** - NPOA member, former Organ Scholar at Peterborough, now studying at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and acting as Organ Scholar at Coventry - will perform music by Leighton, Howells, Bach and Langlais. [All Saints' Church, Northampton - Music : Lunchtime Live.](#)

**The archive of Recorded Church Music** now has over 12,000 recordings from 1902 to the present day [www.recordedchurchmusic.org](http://www.recordedchurchmusic.org).





# Roger Smith Memorial Organ Recital

At St Mary the Virgin Wellingborough

Saturday 7th March 2026 at 11:00am

A recital in memory of Roger Smith, past organist and Musical Director Emeritus at St Mary's church.

Including works by Léon Boëllmann, Louis Vierne, J. S. Bach, Théodore Dubois, Vaughan Williams and Lefébure-Wély



**Simon Bland**  
Organist

Free entry, with a retiring collection to be shared between the Motor Neurone Disease Association and St Mary's Church.

With refreshments and cake stall to follow afterwards where all proceeds will be donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.



Knox Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 1PX

**The Roger Smith Memorial Organ Recital**  
Saturday 7th March at 11am at St Mary the Virgin, Knox Road, Wellingborough NN8 1PX. **Simon Bland** will play the annual recital in memory of our much-loved former



President and Secretary, Roger Smith, who was past organist and Musical Director Emeritus at St Mary's. The recital will include work by Boëllmann, Vierne, Bach, Dubois, Vaughan Williams and Lefebvre-Wely. Free entry with a retiring collection shared between the MNDA Association and St Mary's. Refreshments and an (outstanding!) cake staff to follow with all proceeds to MNDA.

**Laurence Caldecote: St James the Greater, Leicester,** will host a recital by Laurence at 3pm on Sunday 8th March.

**Olivet to Calvary St Andrew's, Berrymoor Road, Wellingborough NN8 2HU Sunday 29th March 6pm.**

Our Past-Presidents Tony Edwards and Alan Cufaude will lead a performance of Olivet to Calvary by J H Maunder on Palm Sunday, 29th March at 6pm, at St Andrew's church, Berrymoor Road, Wellingborough NN8 2HU. Singers are most welcome and should please contact Tony on 07867 554476. There will be a rehearsal at 3pm followed by refreshments, and a Saturday morning 'note-bashing' session earlier in the month for those who feel they would like to join it.

**IAO London Organ Day.** The next London Organ Day on 14th March 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.

**Bedford Music Club Bach: Life and Death 8th-18th April.** Based on the Orgelbüchlein and The Orgelbüchlein Project, Bedford Music Club's Bedford Festival *Bach: Life and Death* includes organ and choral concerts, readings, film and much more. Details and tickets [Bach and Mortality - Bach and Mortality - Product brochure - Page 1.](#)

**Paul Carr Hinckley URC** LE10 1NL will host Paul Carr (Birmingham) for a recital on the beautiful 1867 Holdich organ on Saturday 23rd May at 3pm. Admission £5; under18s and students free.

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

**First Stop!** A new tutor book and introductory website have been launched to encourage and support anyone inspired to learn and find out more about the pipe organ. *Fingers and Feet: A Journey to the Organ Bench* is a new tutor book developed by the Royal College of Organists and the Diocese of Leeds Keyboard Studies Programme. The book and 34 short accompanying tutorial videos are being made available as one of the many free resources on the RCO's new *First Stop!* website – a major online resource designed to welcome newcomers into the world of the organ. [Home - First Stop!](#)



## OLIVET TO CALVARY

by  
**J. H. MAUNDER**  
Palm Sunday

March 29<sup>th</sup>  
6.00pm

St Andrew's Parish Church  
Berrymoor Road  
Wellingborough

Choirs and Singers from across the Wellingborough area

Conductor: **Tony Edwards**  
Organist: **Alan Cufaude**

A Meditation of Hymns & Anthems for the start of Holy Week through to Good Friday for the whole of the Wellingborough Deanery  
Open to all singers. Contact Tony on 07867 554476

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Contact us at [editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk](mailto:editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk)