

Affiliated to the

Incorporated Association

Of Organists

**Diary Dates 2024**

**Mainly an outline of events we hope to hold this coming year.**

**Dates subject to confirmation.**

24th February Organ Crawl

13th March, 7pm Dinner at Assos, Crayford

27th April, 5pm BDOCA Singers Evensong

April TBC Visit to Dulwich College and/or Southwark RC Cathedral

11th May, 2pm Hand Bells at The Vine, Welling

14th June, 7:30pm Celebrity Recital – Herman Jordaan

31st July, 12:00 Summer lunch at White Cross Inn, North Cray

17th August, 2pm Treasure Hunt

25th Sept, 7:30pm Composite Recital & BDOCA AGM – All Saints’, Foots Cray

**Further details about events in this and future issues**

**Please do support these events - the more the merrier!**

**February 2024**

**Last issue October 2023**

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**Organ Crawl - Saturday 24th February**

This year, we are roughly following the route of the No. 54 bus. Please bring a packed lunch with you. It is proposed to have dinner at 6pm - there are plenty of places to eat nearby. **Please contact Aeron by Monday 12th February to book for dinner.** If you do not book for dinner, you are still very welcome to join the tour but will have to make your own arrangements for an evening meal.

Itinerary:

1.00pm: St George's Church, Beckenham (BR3 1AX). *A four-manual instrument last rebuilt in 1984 by Kenneth James, formerly of Harrisons of Durham, who added the fourth manual. The original instrument was built by Forster & Andrews of Hull in 1887, and rebuilt in 1895 and 1911.*

2.30pm: St Dunstan's Church, Bellingham (SE6 3HA). *An organ of national historical importance. It was built by Hill & Son in 1866 for the Chapel Royal at St. James's Palace, incorporating some Father Smith pipework c1699, (7 stops alleged) and the case of its predecessor from 1837.  It was brought to the church in 1925 by Hill, Norman and Beard.*

3.30pm: St Swithun's Church, Hither Green. *This organ was originally built by in 1888 by Isaac Abbott for Blenheim Palace, and had three manuals. It was removed when replaced by the famous ‘Father’ Willis instrument in 1891, and it was re-homed in St Swithun’s in 1893. In 1959, Henry Willis 4 rebuilt it, with two manuals, in his distinctive style.*

4:30pm: St Margaret's Church, Lee. *The earliest manifestation of this organ was built in 1850 by Bishop of Norwich, and opened by S. S. Wesley. It was greatly enlarged by Walker in 1876, and later by the same firm in 1928, retaining as much of the old pipework as possible. The Harrison & Harrison carried out an extensive restoration in 1999.*

Dinner at 6pm in Blackheath (venue TBA).

**BDOCA Dinner at Assoss**

Wednesday 13th March, 2024 at 7pm

Assos Restaurant, Crayford Road, DA1 4ES

Our ‘New Year’ meal has moved to March! It is open to all members, friends and family. Assos has updated their menu which has already been sampled by some BDOCA members. Reports are extremely favorable! The menu still offers a wide range of Turkish and Mediterranean dishes. There is a choice of the set meal (Meze style) or ‘à la carte’. There is convenient street parking nearby, or in the Sainsbury’s carpark (4 hours free), or the Tower Retail carpark (3 hours free).

**The booking requires a £10 deposit – please send this to Lydia by bank transfer by 15th February.**

Bank details: A/C name: Lydia Gray; Sort code: 07-01-16; A/C No. 15753254

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**BDOCA Singers Evensong**

**Saturday 27th April, 5pm.**

Venue to be announced

Introit: *Now the green blade riseth.* Old French harm. Martin Shaw, (Arr. RGB)

Ebdon: *Preces & Responses*

Ps. 84: *Quam dilecta!* C H H Parry

Holman *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in F min*

H Walford Davies: *O sons and daughters*

Hymn: *Farley castle. Most glorious Lord of life*

**BDOCA Singers Membership**

The BDOCA Singers are keen to increase membership. The SATB choir was formed in 2018 and first sang Evensong in March 2019. The proposal at that time was to sing Choral Evensong 2-3 times a year at various churches in the area with 4-5 rehearsals in the preceding months. The pandemic interrupted this somewhat, but the choir resumed in 2022 and the Evensong at St Mary’s, Welling, in October was the second such service given in 2023 (report later in this issue). In order to continue to enjoy a varied and interesting repertoire, the choir needs to grow. Rehearsals are held at All Saints’ church, Foots Cray. Singers do not have to be BDOCA members and there is no subscription fee other than a small donation for the church at each rehearsal, so please spread the word.

Rehearsals for the Evensong detailed above commence on Thursday 21st March at 7:45pm. Further details can be obtained from Reg. Boulton, or any committee member.

**BDOCA Singers Evensong 21st October**

The choir from our association sang Evensong in St. Mary the Virgin, Welling, on the afternoon of 21st October, conducted by Aaron Preston and ably accompanied by Peter Mitchell. The Vicar from St. Mary’s was away that weekend, and so the service was conducted by the Rev. Cathy Knight-Scott.

The church is blessed with a decent acoustic, and the choir sounded wonderful – clearly a lot of rehearsal time had gone in to the preparation for the afternoon. Whilst the main point of any religious service is the praise of God, it was a huge shame that there were only three people in the congregation. Reg Boulton was incarcerated in hospital following his surgical procedure, but we were able to live stream the service to him – so maybe that counts as four in the congregation??

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the occasion, and St. Mary’s have indicated that they are very willing to host any future events.

Francis Eastwood

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**Dr. Canon Giles talk on Christmas Carols**

On Wednesday evening 24th of January 2024 some 14 folks gathered at St. Johns Church, Welling, to hear Dr. Gordon Giles (Canon Chancellor at Rochester Cathedral) share his thoughts and views on Christmas carols.

The first collection of carols was *The Cambridge Carol Book* published in 1924. However, this was not well received and led to the *Oxford Book of Carols being published* in 1928 and was edited by [Percy Dearmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percy_Dearmer), Martin Shaw and [Ralph Vaughan Williams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Vaughan_Williams). It became a widely used, and still is the source of carols among choirs and church congregations in Britain.

Dr. Giles went on to disuses, and point out, with examples, the failings and inaccuracies in many of the so called well known and popular carols. He pointed out that many carols are macaronic i.e. mixing two languages, usually in Latin and English e.g. *In Dulci Jubilo.*

He raised the point of who are we singing many of the Carols too. To God, ourselves, or to the church?

We got onto looking at when the term *Merry Christmas* was first quoted and apparently this can be traced back to a 16th-century letter from a bishop to England’s Chief Minister, in which the religious leader hoped God would bless the politician with a “Merry Christmas.” The carol “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” also dates back to that period and is proof that the phrase was gaining popularity.

He played us a carol that he had help write where The Three Magi defer to their trusty steeds in Thomas Hewitt Jones’s hilarious Camel Carol.

See: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yehgi1ugWZc>)

Various other examples were given and discussed on their appropriateness and accuracy.

The group then continued to discuss over light refreshments and drinks.

Melvyn French

**New Members**

We are delighted to welcome two new members, **Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal** and **Conor McGlone**.

**Rodolphe** was born in France with a French mother and his father son of Polish immigrants. He has played music since primary school (violin, recorder). At 14, he decided to play the cello, then the viola da gamba. The latter instrument became his passion. In lycée and for his baccalaureate, he chose the scientific path. Rodolphe obtained his scientific baccalaureate in 1990. After a period of hesitation, he decided to study music, musicology and hymnology. He was ordained in 2013, and is now the minister at Geddes Place URC, Bexleyheath.

**Conor** is a Graduate Music Assistant at Eltham College. He enjoys liturgical organ playing, piano accompaniment and composition.

We look forward to getting to know both members at forthcoming BDOCA events.

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**Tony Holcroft**

As many of you will already know, our member Tony passed away at the end of December last year. His funeral was held at Christ Church, Bexleyheath, on 2nd February. Several BDOCA members were able to attend the funeral.

A more fulsome obituary will appear in the next newsletter. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Website**

In conjunction with Alan Hunt (who has kindly run our website for many years), Aeron has updated it. Aeron now invites contributions and also needs to update the “available to deputise” information.

Your contributions will be very welcome.

**Bursary**

BDOCA is keen to encourage youngsters to learn the organ and will give sympathetic consideration to requests for financial support. Please write to Melvyn with your request and supply supporting details.

**Extra Quiz Questions**

Following on from our recent 5th Musical Zoomed Quiz evening Melvyn has supplied a few questions that we didn't get round to doing as we were timed out – good luck! The answers will be published in the next newsletter.

*20 Questions?*

1. What is an old fashion name for timpani?
2. What is the title of the piece Andrew Lloyd Webber composed for the Kings coronation?
3. Which cathedral first admitted girls in the front line in 1991?
4. When was the so called Romantic Period?
5. How many students took A level music last year - 2500, 4000, 5000, 7500 or 8100?
6. Which cathedral’s ambitious organ project enters its final stage in 2023 and can be followed on YouTube?
7. What is a Melodica?
8. Ice skating champions music was a …………..?
9. What is a Tone Poem?
10. Who is the President Elect of the Royal College of Organist?
11. Which country won the so called European Song Contest this year?
12. Who wrote music for two domestic animals?
13. Which cathedral was recently planning to close down its choir?
14. At what sound level does H & S state that hearing protection must be worn?
15. What type of instrument is a Theorbo?
16. He was good with Hungarian Rhapsodies?
17. Where would you find a Capo?
18. How many saxophones are there in the family?
19. Orchestral music piece with a number in its title?
20. At which cathedral was the first lady Organist and Master (!) Of Choristers appointed?

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**A BDOCA Composer Word Search**

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| T | B | U | J | O | P | L | I | N | W |
| C | W | P | D | F | U | G | N | V | I |
| H | Q | U | N | R | C | L | E | S | L |
| A | I | R | O | T | C | I | V | M | L |
| I | P | C | G | Q | I | S | O | X | I |
| K | L | E | H | E | N | Z | H | L | A |
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**Beethoven Chopin Handel Williams Byrd Kodaly Bach**

**Purcell Joplin Tchaikovsky Elgar Puccini Victoria Liszt**

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| --- |
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