Chester & North-East Wales
Organists' & Choirmasters' Association
Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists
www.cnewoca.org.uk

Newsletter November 2025

This newsletter provides you with information about our future meetings and details of organ concerts and recitals in our area. There is a report from our visit to Llandudno. The November meeting is on Saturday 1st November; there is no meeting in December and in January we are going to the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool.

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter, so if you are able, please consider writing a short article for us. We can cope with most formats of material (including handwritten material). Please send your contributions to the Publications Officer.

Iain Stinson

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Advance notice: Organfest at *Our Lady and St James*, Holyhead Road Bangor, LL57 2EE

When: Saturday 29th November from 12:00-16:00.
Organ details: Three manual and pedal by Bishop & Son NPOR(K00709)
Players wanted: Players can fill a 15-minute slot or a 30-minute slot. If you wish to play less than this, that's fine. Hymns are encouraged.
Refreshments: Will be provided.
For more details: Contact Abhay by email, atporganist@icloud.com
Please note this event is being organised by Our Lady and St James. CNEWOCA members are encouraged to participate.

Our November meeting

On **Saturday 1st November** we shall be visiting **Bangor Cathedral and Bangor University** to see hear and play two rather different organs.

The origins of the Cathedral organ may go back to a Samuel Green instrument of 1779, but most certainly go back to work started by Wm Hill & Sons in 1871 and completed with a rebuild in 1896. Hill, Norman & Beard worked on the organ in 1929 and Rushworth & Dreaper cleaned it in 1935. The John Compton Organ Co. rebuilt the organ in 1953/4 and in 2007 David Wells (Liverpool) rebuilt the organ with new electric actions.





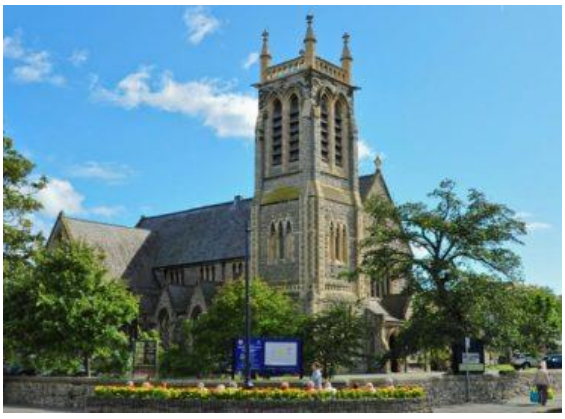
The organ is now a substantial 78 stop cathedral organ! We are very fortunate to be able to hear and play this instrument. (NPOR: R01575)



The organ in the University Prichard-Jones Hall is a 1973 Hill, Norman & Beard instrument with the pipework arranged on the Werkprinzip style. This dates from when some British builders were building neo-baroque style organs (albeit with electric action). It was rebuilt in 2010 by David Wells. (NPOR N11677)

We start at **1:00pm** in the Cathedral and move to the University for 3pm. Our hosts for the visit are Martin Brown (Cathedral) and Joe Cooper (University).

Report on our visit to Llandudno



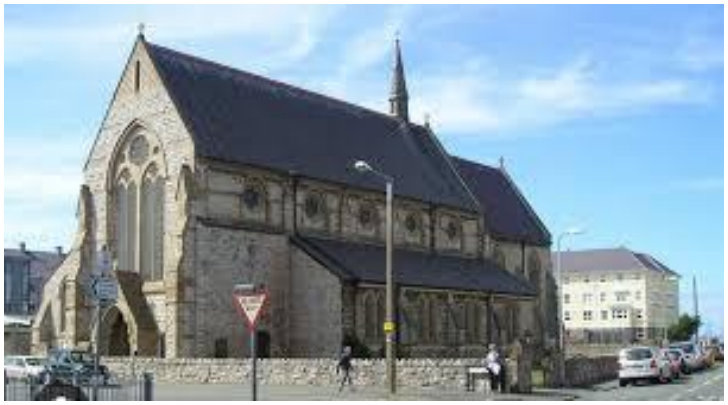
We visited Llandudno on **Saturday 18th October** to see, hear and play two organs built by Hill. We began at Holy Trinity (not far from the promenade). The core of this organ is a Hill organ from 1873 which was rebuilt by John Stringer in 1885c with new action. Rushworth and Dreaper rebuilt the instrument in 1927 carrying out significant changes. Further work was carried out in 2018 by a Liverpool firm. NPOR R01578 and N11691.

Ray Stythe-Jones (the "midweek" organist at Holy Trinity) gave a short introduction to the organ and after demonstrating the instrument for us, opened the console for our members to try the organ for themselves. It has lots of very lovely stops and we heard some of these in the pieces played by our members. The organ also has some very powerful stops and we heard those too!





We moved on to St Paul's, Craig-y-don, a little earlier than planned (as there was a wedding at Holy Trinity), and Ray once again welcomed us, this time to the church where he plays most Sundays. St Paul's is a very large and lofty building (probably more than 60ft high inside). The organ is a three manual and pedal organ with 31 stops; it was built by Wm Hill & Son in 1910, with a major overhaul in 1969 by Hill Norman and Beard. Some work was also carried out in 1938. (NPOR N11694). Ray told us that the organ was largely unchanged from the instrument installed in 1910, unlike the



Holy Trinity organ which had undergone significant changes in its lifetime. Ray demonstrated the organ for us and then members were able to play it themselves.

Unfortunately, the organ is in rather poor condition. Many notes on the Swell don't play, rendering that division essentially unusable – this is due to the pneumatic motors for the Swell having almost completely failed. There are problems with other parts of the instrument too, thought the Great and Choir make some thrilling sounds. The church is hoping to be able to begin a staged restoration programme in 2026, as funds become available. The organ has a *BIOS Historic Organ Certificate (grade II)* and when it is restored, it will indeed be an excellent instrument once again.





We are very grateful to Ray for hosting our visits and to the church authorities at Both St Paul's and Holy Trinity for facilitating our visits.

Future meetings

2026
Monday 19th
January 7:00pm
Liverpool
Philharmonic Hall



The organ in the Philharmonic Hall was built in 1939 by Rushworth and Dreaper, who carried out further work in 1983. David Wells (Liverpool) worked on the instrument in 2004 and in 2022 Henry Willis & Sons carried out a major restoration of the instrument.
The specification of the organ may be found on the

		Liverpool Phil website. The organ has 66 speaking stops over four manuals and pedals. This is a very special opportunity for members of the association to visit this fine instrument.
Saturday 14th February *To be confirmed* West Kirby Methodist Church We hope to also visit a second instrument nearby.		The organ in West Kirby Methodist Church was built by Henry Willis III (1936) and has 25 speaking stop and a full set of couplers. Details of the specification are on the NPOR (N18328)
March		Details to be agreed.
Monday 13th April 7:30pm Christ Church, Willaston		The organ in Christ Church is a two manual and pedal instrument. It was built by Nicholson (Worcester) in 1925/6 and rebuilt in 1999 by David Wells (Liverpool). Details may be found on the NPOR (N01136). The church has recently been reordered and the acoustic improved and the organ sounds better than ever.
May		Details to be agreed.
Saturday 13th June, 2pm *To be confirmed* All Saints' Gresford Annual Meeting and organ visit.		The organ in All Saints' is a fine three manual Wm Hill & Son instrument built in 1871, and rebuilt in 1912 by Hill and in 1995 by Roy Billingsley. Details on the NPOR N11754.

Saturday 25th July 2pm. Christchurch Chester		We are going to visit the Brindley & Foster two manual organ in Christchurch, Chester. The specification is given on the NPOR, N04295. The special Brindley & Foster registration aids (noted in the NPOR entry) are still working on this instrument.

25 Hours of Organ Playing 21st–22nd November

Hugh Morris, Director of the RSCM, will be playing the organ for a marathon 25 hours in 2025 to mark *Play the Organ Year*. This will be streamed on the RSCM YouTube channel live from Viscount Organ's base in Oxfordshire, UK, raising funds to support RSCM's work with young people. There will be a mix of organ music and hymns, with a series of special guests appearing each hour.

Calling ALL Organists! Hands on with Handel: Play your Part! 2:00pm GMT 22nd November

Hugh invites organists everywhere to join him in playing the Largo from Handel's Xerxes – Ombra mai fui – at 2pm GMT on Saturday 22nd November.

More details and how to sponsor Hugh and links to Handel's Largo can be found at https://www.rscm.org.uk/whats-on/directors-challenge/



Orgues Nouvelles magazine is now available in English!

Each issue of this magazine will now be available in English in its electronic version,(pdf format), as part of a subscription. Follow this link to some sample pages.

While Orgues Nouvelles remains focused on the French-speaking musical heritage, the magazine often looks outside France. More details of how to subscribe at https://orgues-nouvelles.org/en/product/orgues-nouvelles-in-english/

Live music!

Chester Cathedral organ recitals

The recitals take place on Thursdays at 1:10pm. The suggested donation is £5.

30th October	Graham Eccles (St Asaph)
6th November	Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)
13th November	David Hirst (Mantes-la-Jolie, Paris)
20th November	Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
27th November	Graham Eccles (St Asaph)

Details of other recitals from https://chestercathedral.com/visit/organ-recitals
Details of Chester Cathedral Grand Organ NPOR: E01969

Sponsor a Recitalist

If you would like to sponsor a recitalist, please get in touch with Philip Rushforth at philip.rushforth@chestercathedral.com (01244 500974)

Liverpool Cathedral

Details of the Willis Organ in Liverpool Cathedral may be found on the NPOR E00301.
(This does not include the details of the Echo organ.)

Music at Wesley

Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester

Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts

12.45pm – 1.35 pm

Retiring collection

4th November	Callum Bisson (Piano)
11th November	Chetham's School of Music Pianists
18th November	Chester Competitive Festival Winners
25th November	Kenwood/Reasbeck Duo (Oboe/Piano)
2nd December	Chetham's School of Music Pianists
9th December	Rose Mclachlan (Piano)
16th December	Pip Clarke (Violin), Havilland Willshire (Piano)
23rd December	William Bracken (Piano)

Saturday Organ Recitals 12.45pm – 1.35 pm

Retiring Collection

15th November	"Organ Day" *10:30am to 2:00pm*
20th December	Christmas Music Concert (Claire, Jeremy & Brian Heald)

Details of the Binns organ in the Wesley Centre are at the NPOR D04853.

Hoole Methodist Church, Chester

We are delighted to welcome the extremely talented Robinson brothers, Hugo and Henry, together with their piano and organ teacher Graham Eccles, for a special concert on Sunday 16th November at 3.00pm. Hugo and Henry, who are also choristers at Chester Cathedral, will be showcasing their glorious singing as well as their exceptional keyboard skills on both piano and organ.

The concert will last around 45 minutes and promises to be a wonderful afternoon of music and talent. We do hope you'll join us to support the boys and enjoy what's sure to be a fabulous musical experience.

Suggested donation £5.

Liverpool St George's Hall

Tuesdays from 12:45pm – 1:30pm. Tickets (at the door) £10.
Professor Ian Tracey, Organist to the City of Liverpool.
18th November 16th December
Tuesday 23rd December 7:00pm Evening Organ Recital of Christmas Music. Cost to be confirmed.
Details of the Willis Organ in St George's Hall may be found on the NPOR N01921

Music at Blackburn Cathedral

Wednesday Concerts

5th November	Eleni Keventsidou
12th November	Karen Au
19th November	Ed Jones
26th November	Arin Nira Maisky
3rd December	John Hosking

***The concerts begin at 12:15pm and are free to attend*.** Suggested donation £5. Unless stated, all Wednesday concerts feature the iconic Wood/Walker organ.
Details of the JW Walker / David Wood organ may be found on the NPOR**: E00533**

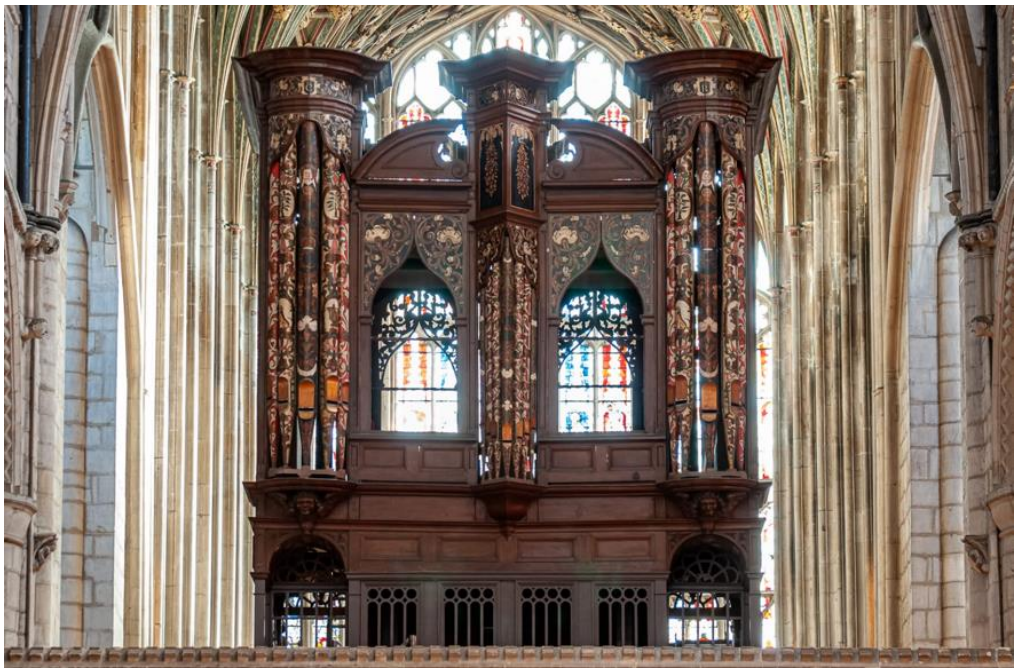
Bangor Cathedral

Details in the Cathedral's bilingual magazine to be found from https://bangorcathedral.churchinwales.org.uk/buchedd/
Details of the Bangor Cathedral organ may be found on the NPOR: R01575

St Asaph Cathedral

Details of the cathedral organ may be found at https://stasaphcathedral.wales/en/music/the-organ

organrecitals.uk lists recitals across the country. You can search for recitals in particular area and register your own recitals, and it's free.



Gloucester Cathedral
Details of the rebuilding of the organ at https://www.nicholsonorgans.co.uk/pf/gloucestercathedral/