

**President's Message
September 2014**

For sheer friendliness towards visiting choirs, the clergy and staff of Rochester Cathedral set an example that some other cathedrals might well consider emulating. An added pleasure during our August week was to discover that one of the West Door welcome team is secretary of the Kent County Organists' Association. A day or two later I was duly handed recent copies of their *Journal*, and it is good to see that, like us, they are in good heart and share similar aspirations for a wide range of suitable and (one hopes!) well supported events for the membership.

We are fortunate that in spite of summer breaks for cathedral and collegiate choirs, there is no let-up in the much treasured weekly broadcasts on Radio 3 of Choral Evensong, thanks mostly to the several Eton Choral Courses at a variety of venues. However, on Wednesday 20th August the service was relayed, as it is every year, from Edington Priory Church as part of the Festival of Music within the Liturgy, reflecting the wonderful range of music sung by three choirs throughout the week, from plainsong to, say, Matthew Martin and Judith Weir. This year, the new versatile 2-manual Harrison & Harrison organ was inaugurated and so there was much additional organ music to enjoy, including two of the *Chorales* of the Orgelbüchlein Project (by Phibbs and Bovet, played in their respective recitals by Stephen Farr and Andrew Lumsden). At Edington the organ voluntaries are very much part of the service and we were daily treated to some marvellous offerings by Daniel Hyde and the young, promising Charles Maxtone-Smith. If you ever have the chance to be in Wiltshire during Edington week, it is well worth seeking out – and the services are free, of course. For a 'good' seat, arrive in plenty of time and you may also be privileged to observe some top-notch rehearsing; BUT, be warned: Edington is addictive! [<http://www.edingtonfestival.org/>]

Back to our own here and now, indeed to the EDOA's spiritual home, and it is good to learn that work on the organ of St Andrew's, Enfield is beginning this month, in the capable hands of David Wells of Liverpool. It is hoped that all will be ready for Easter next year. See the St Andrew's website for more information, including on ways of donating towards their final stretch of fund-raising. Our good wishes are with Linden Innes-Hopkins at this time.

The 'new term' is already upon us and our first EDOA event is on Thursday, 18th September – see details elsewhere in this newsletter and at www.edoa.org.uk (for both of which we continue to be grateful to Rosemary Knight). Those of us who have been before to Ted and Ruth Sharp's for an 'At Home' know what a warm welcome awaits and we thank them.

Terence Atkins