

## Past Events

### A visit to two churches in Ware Saturday July 1st

On Saturday 1st July a small group of EDOA members went to Christ Church Ware where the organ was made available to us for a visit. The instrument, built by William Hill c.1890, consists of three manuals and pedals with a fairly comprehensive specification. It soon became apparent that this is a fine organ with excellent tonal qualities. It is a source of real pleasure to encounter an instrument of this pedigree, maintained in very good playing order, and whose registers have not been changed (or 'improved') by modernisers, who do not always respect the tonal integrity of the best of Victorian builders.

All those present much enjoyed playing the organ. Halfway through, we were treated to an unexpected virtuoso drum performance by Mr Hennin (Junior) who spotted a drum kit lurking in the corner of the church. Although still at Primary school, the unbridled energy, volume and torrent of asymmetrical rhythms played by Samuel were worthy of note. Having recovered from this, the group then travelled to St Mary's Ware to see and play the three manual organ recently rebuilt by the Village Workshop.

*Robert Evans*



**A duet at St Mary's Ware**

*Photo: Rosemary Knight*

Our visit to Ware took place on the same day as the Ware Carnival. By the afternoon the High Street and the main car park were closed and I almost gave up trying to reach St Mary's. However, I persevered and was rewarded with the opportunity to play and listen to the fine organ with its sweet and mellow stops.

EDOA member Peter Smith is the organist at St Mary's and he introduced the organ, speaking about the history of the church and its organs. Bishop and Forster & Andrews organs preceded the recent rebuilding/restoration by the Village Workshop. Stops from each of the earlier organs are incorporated in the current one. He then demonstrated the organ with a piece by Alec Rowley – stepping through 20 general piston settings.

Then the rest of us had a turn, with Robin Coxon playing *Integritas* by Andrew Fletcher and *Festive Trumpet Tune* by David German, Tony Bralant playing Boëllmann's 'Prière à Notre-Dame' from the *Suite Gothique* and Michael Hennin playing *Prelude in Classic Style* by Gordon Young. Even young Samuel had a turn with 'Doe, a deer'. For my part I was fazed by the time delay but struggled through BWV 731 (*Liebster Jesu*), with Peter on hand to advise on the various possibilities for registration, the organ being so versatile.

We were also invited inside the organ to admire the workmanship of the builders.

Our thanks go to Peter Smith for hosting this visit. There will be another opportunity to hear this organ at our Members' Recital on Sept 16th.

*Rosemary Knight*