

Past Events

- **An illustrated talk on Liturgical Organ Music**
- **Visit to Ponsbourne and Northaw**

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An illustrated talk on Liturgical Organ Music: “Let the Organ Thunder?? Liturgical Organ Playing from 1600 – 2000”

Over twenty people gathered on Tuesday evening 17th September at St Andrew’s Church, Enfield Town to hear Philip Norman give an hour’s illustrated talk on liturgical organ playing. ‘Let the Organ Thunder’ was a brief guide through Western Europe over the past four centuries on how the organ was used in a liturgical context. From alternatim in French Kyries around the reign of the Sun King to present-day Germany where books are still sold that have preludes, inter-verse interludes and postludes to hymns used during the Service. Can you imagine that in an English church? Yet it’s something that did happen up until the late nineteenth century, to a lesser extent. So why not today? One theory from Philip is that we simply ran out of organists skilled in the art of improvisation. Today, it’s just intro with verses straight through (and possibly a last verse reharmonisation) and just maybe an outro ‘to cover the action’. Some hymns already have their own mini preludes, inter-verse interludes and postludes, the best example being Parry’s wonderful Jerusalem. Do we want a return to this art form while keeping to our one-hour Sunday Service? Only if it will reduce the length of the sermon!

This was the third time Philip Norman has given an illustrated talk to EDOA, and for me, the best yet. Do come to the next.

Michael Hennin

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Visit to Ponsbourne and Northaw to see, hear and play two restored nineteenth-century organs **Saturday 19th October 2019**

Over a dozen people attended the day out in all or part on Saturday 19th October, to visit St Mary, Ponsbourne (Walker 1858, restored Mander 2014), where our member Paul Minchinton is the organist. We held our AGM at Ponsbourne in 2015, and many of us attended William McVicker’s inaugural recital in April 2014 following the restoration. A report on that recital and a description of the organ can be found in the June 2014 issue of our newsletter.



EDOA members at the Two Brewers

Photo: Susan Dingle

We then repaired to the Two Brewers at Northaw for a convivial lunch; the landlord is a former pupil of our member Robert Evans. The organ at St Thomas, Northaw is a Willis of 1882, restored by The Village Workshop in 2009.



Robert and Terence playing a duet on the Willis organ at Northaw

Photo: Susan Dingle

It's always a joy to try different instruments and this occasion was no exception. There is also a small chamber organ in the lady chapel.



The chamber organ at Northaw

Photo: Paul Minchinton

Do come and join us on a future visit. It's always nice to see and hear other members. Any queries whatsoever, do email me at secretary@edoa.org.uk.

Michael Hennin