

Obituaries

- **David Felstead**
- **John Smythe**

David Felstead (1935-2021)

Members of the EDOA will be saddened to learn of the passing of David Felstead who died on June 20th after a short stay in hospital.

Born in Enfield in 1935, he spent some 70 years of his life as an organist and choirmaster at numerous churches in Enfield and beyond. David had unbounded energy and an infectious enthusiasm. He immersed himself wholeheartedly in church music and parish affairs. His unfailing sense of humour coupled with an inexhaustible fund of stories made him great company. Wherever he was organist and choirmaster he built up a thriving choral tradition. As a young teenager in the early 1960s I clearly remember playing the organ for David's 'Bring it and sing it' Messiah events. His sheer force of personality and drive made these gatherings eminently successful, raising considerable sums of money for charitable purposes.

Whilst even S S Wesley could not possibly match the plurality of David's appointments, David cared greatly about producing the very best music wherever he was.

David was especially active in the early days of the EDOA being its co-founder, with Eric Pask, and first secretary in 1963. He would always inject the proceedings with words of common sense and practicality. The EDOA produced an annual choirs' festival for a number of years, drawing together the many local churches and beyond. These events proved to enormously successful and David's organisational talents played a large part in making it happen.

He spent many years as an organist at Enfield Crematorium. I remember well his great adaptability and skill at being able to play from memory much secular material which was asked for minutes before a funeral began. Not many of us could do this.

The passing of David deprives us of a very colourful personality who was a force for great good in church music. He will be much missed.

Robert Evans

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John Smyth

EDOA members were saddened to learn of the death on August 13th 2020 of John Smyth. John joined EDOA after the North London Society of Organists folded, and remained a member even after he left Royston and moved to Lydney in Gloucestershire, which is where he died after a long and brave battle with cancer. In the 1990s he worked in the US and his son Andy writes: "The hotel he stayed at had a grand piano in the foyer. After work, he would play on this piano to the pleasure of the guests staying at the hotel, who thought he was part of the hotel staff!"