

Southwark & South London Society of Organists

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists ~ Registered Charity No. 279537

President: Dr Harry Brama

Chair: Irene Wolstenholme MVO



Newsletter, April 2025

Dear Members,

Spring greetings to you all! There are lots of events planned and recitals to attend over the next couple of months. We do welcome details of recitals you are giving or organising. Please email items to be included in the next newsletter to southwarksouthlondon@gmail.com by Friday 25 April. We aim to send out the newsletter on the first Friday of the month.

Future SLSO events

For full details of these and other upcoming SLSO events, please visit our website:
www.slsso.org.uk

Saturday 12 April, 2.30pm-4pm, at Christ's Chapel, 14 Gallery Road, Dulwich SE21 7AD: **NOOM (New Oxford Organ Method) workshop**, with Marilyn Harper.

AGM

We had a good turnout at our AGM, held on Monday 24 March, at St John's, East Dulwich. Our thanks to John Webber for hosting and to Callum Orr for playing a couple of pieces for us.

Officers and committee members were elected unanimously. The following will serve for 2025-26:

Chair: Irene Wolstenholme

Vice-Chair: Sam Gover

Secretary: Andrew Chadney

Treasurer: Peter Ramell

Committee: Malcolm Aldridge, Niall Baxter, Norman Harper, Nicky Jones, Richard Pilliner.

Minutes, including the chair's report, can be found online at www.slsso.org.uk

Recent SLSO events

Visits to the Guards' Chapel and St Mary the Boltons on Saturday 8 March.

Twelve SLSO members visited the extraordinary Guards' chapel in Birdcage Walk. This looks nondescript from the outside, but was quite spectacular inside. The organist, Martin Ford, demonstrated the organ, aided by a remarkable app on his phone that made the organ play remotely on his command. The organ has 3 manuals but 4 divisions (the Great comprises two separate divisions); so there was plenty to explore. We could also go to the military band's gallery, opposite the organ, for a good view. Two-and-a-half hours went very quickly!

In the afternoon, we moved on to St Mary the Boltons, where our member John Ward very kindly demonstrated the 2-manual Compton, which had a remarkable variety of tone colours to try out. Many thanks to the team at St Mary's for a very warm welcome.

Opportunities and news

RCO Play the Organ Year 2025: more information at rco.org.uk. Details of RCO events this year are on the attached document.

International Organ Day is 26 April. Charlie Warren and James Carpenter are planning a morning event at Beckenham Baptist Church, Elm Road, to include an opportunity for people to try the organ, a film about the organ, and a composite recital by students. Please put the date in your diary. More details to follow.

This year's **Penge Festival Organ Recital** will be given by SLSO members on **Saturday 7 June**, at 1pm, at Penge Congregational Church, SE20 7QS. *Do put this date in your diary!*

The **London Festival of Contemporary Church Music** takes place from **Friday 9 May to Sunday 18 May**, based at St Pancras Church (details at lfccm.com). The Festival was founded by Dr Christopher Batchelor in 2002, who has just retired from St Pancras Church after 37 years of service (see [Church Times, 28 March](#)).

The **IAO Eastern Region Organ Day**, to which SLSO members are invited, is **Saturday 31 May**, 10.30am-4.30pm. The keynote address will be given by Alexander Berry, of Great St Mary's, Cambridge, on encouraging and training young people in church music. The composite recital will include our member Alan Langridge performing Bach's Prelude in B minor BWV 544. The finishing time should allow people to attend evensong at one of the college chapels. For more details and to book a place (£10), visit the [EEO website](http://www.olemmusic.org.uk/instruments). The organ specification can be found at <https://www.olemmusic.org.uk/instruments>. *If you wish to attend, you do need to book for this and make your own travel arrangements (coach/train are fairly straightforward).*

Recitals

Sundays at 5pm, at Westminster Abbey: weekly half-hour organ recital, admission free.

Mondays at 1pm, at St Michael's Cornhill: [weekly organ recital](#).

Mondays at 1.20pm, at Southwark Cathedral: weekly lunchtime recitals.

Tuesdays at 1.10pm, [Mayfair Organ Concerts](#) at Grosvenor Chapel or St George's, Hanover Square (free, retiring collection).

Wednesdays at 1.15pm, at Temple Church, EC4Y 7HL: free weekly lunchtime recitals.

Thursdays at 1.10pm at St Margaret Lothbury EC2R 6HH: free [lunch-hour recital with commentary](#)

Fridays at 12.30pm at St Margaret Lothbury EC2R 6HH: free [weekly lunchtime recitals](#), relocated from St Stephen Walbrook.

Fridays at 12.30pm, at St George's, Beckenham BR3 1AX: weekly recital series — singers, pianists, string players and more. Free entry, retiring collection for music at St George's.

Saturdays at 11am, at St George's, Beckenham BR3 1AX: weekly recital series.

Saturday 5 April, at 12.30pm, at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, Southwark SE1 1TE: Katherine Dienes-Wiliams (Guildford Cathedral) (free, retiring collection).

Saturday 12 April, at 7.30pm, at St Mary's, Ewell KT17 2AY: Jonathan Holmes celebrates the Golden Jubilee of the Willis Organ at Ewell (free, suggested donation £10).

Sunday 13 April, at 4.30pm, at Southwark Cathedral: A meditation for Holy Week given by James Gough (Southwark Cathedral) (free, retiring collection).

Wednesday 16 April, at 1.05pm, at the Welsh Church of Central London W1W 8DJ: James Andrews (Royal Academy of Music; Royal Hospital, Chelsea) (free, retiring collection towards expenses and organ maintenance), Glyn Lang memorial series.

Thursday 24 April, at 7.30pm, at Guildford URC, GU2 4BS: Peter Wright (formerly Southwark Cathedral) plays Mendelssohn, Bach, Hindemith, Bairstow and Reger (admission £14, students £5).

Saturday 26 April, at 4pm, at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church WC2H 8EP: Colin Walsh (free, retiring collection).

Saturday 26 April, at 7.30pm at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood SE19 2XR: Thomas Trotter (Gala Recital after the organ restoration and enhancement) (free, donations, refreshments).

Sunday 27 April, at 3pm, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster SW1H 9NH: Paul Hale (free, retiring collection).

Saturday 3 April, at 12.30pm, at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, Southwark SE1 1TE: Anne Page (Cambridge) (free, retiring collection).

Wednesday 7 May, at 1.10pm, at St Michael and All Angels with St James, Poplar Walk, Croydon CR0 1UA: Jonathan Holmes (St Mary's, Ewell) (free, retiring collection).

Friday 9 May, at 6.45pm, at St James's, Sussex Gardens W2 3UD: Martyn Noble (Royal College of Music) (free, part of the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music)

Saturday 10 May, at 11am, at St John the Evangelist, Goose Green SE22 9AT: Lucy Morrell (Head of Academic Studies and College Organist, Dulwich College) (free, retiring collection, refreshments).

Sunday 11 May, at 7.30pm, at Christ's Chapel, 14 Gallery Road, Dulwich SE21 7AD: Simon Hogan, of Southwark Cathedral, plays a programme including works by Bach, Boëly, Brahms and Mendelssohn, part of the Dulwich Festival (tickets £8, concessions £5.50).

Tuesday 13 May, at 1.10pm, at The Guards' Chapel, SW1E 6HQ: Benjamin Collyer (St Albans Cathedral) (free, retiring collection).

Thursday 15 May, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood SE19 2RX: Kumi Choi (international concert organist) (free, retiring collection).

Sunday 18 May, at 3pm, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster SW1H 9NH: Andrew Furniss (Methodist Central Hall Westminster) (free, retiring collection).

Wednesday 21 May, at 1.05pm, at the Welsh Church of Central London W1W 8DJ: Jeremy Lloyd (Ely Cathedral) (free, retiring collection towards expenses and organ maintenance), Glyn Lang memorial series.

Saturday 24 May, at 4pm, at St Andrew's URC, Cheam SM2 7HF: Barbara Wadley, of St Andrew's URC, Cheam, gives a VE Day 80th anniversary matinee concert including title music from *Schindler's List* and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Wednesday 28 May, at 1.10pm, at St Michael and All Angels, Croydon CR0 1UA: Lucy Morrell (Head of Academic Studies and College Organist, Dulwich College) (free, retiring collection).

Thursday 29 May, at 6.30pm, at The Guards' Chapel, SW1E 6HQ: Martin Ford (The Guards' Chapel) (free, retiring collection, wine).

Saturday 31 May, at 4pm, at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church WC2H 8EP: Ludger Lohmann (international concert organist) (free, retiring collection).

Saturday 31 May, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, Islington N1 8AL: Johannes Skoog (1st-prize winner at the Montreal organ competition) (free, collection).

Further ahead

Saturday 28 June, at 7pm, at the Royal Festival Hall: an organ recital including improvisations by Wayne Marshall. Tickets from £20; details [here](#).

2025 Saturday-morning recitals, at 11am, at St John the Evangelist, Goose Green SE22 9AT. Admission free, retiring collection; refreshments after the recital.

10 May Lucy Morrell (Head of Academic Studies and College Organist, Dulwich College)

14 June Calum Ward (piano)

19 July Dorothea Harris (Organist of the Stadkirche St Michael, Schlüchtern, Hesse)

20 September Peter Wright (former Director of Music of Southwark Cathedral)

2025 Saturday-evening recitals, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, Islington N1 8AL. Admission free, collection.

31 May Johannes Skoog (1st-prize winner at the Montreal organ competition)

28 June Gary Sieling

26 July James McVinnie

27 September Katelyn Emerson

Last, but by no means least, many congratulations to Irene on being appointed MVO for services to the Royal Household.

We wish you well for all your services and musical activities over these next few weeks, and hope to see you at an event soon.

With very best wishes to you all,

The SLSO committee

