



# Newbury and District Organists' Association



## Annual General Meeting February 2026

### Chair's report on the past year

I am pleased to be able to report that the past year has again generally been successful.

#### **Monthly Thursday lunchtime Recitals**

These were well supported with between 30 and 50 people attending each recital.

Our grateful thanks to our recitalists for their recitals. They played a wide variety of pieces to a very high standard, there was certainly something for everyone, and they much appreciated the well-deserved applause.

We were pleased to welcome three new recitalists this year, Andrew Brown, Malcolm Pearce and Ian Hockley and our special thanks to them for playing at relatively short notice due to unforeseen events and for coping with limited time to acclimatise to the organ.

I would also like to thank our lunchtime audiences for their generous donations to the work of the NDOA.

Our thanks again go to St Nicolas for allowing the NDOA to hold these recitals, and to their Secretary, Mandy Maskell, for printing the programmes. St Nicolas have still to decide whether or not to restore the pipe organ so we expect to continue our Lunchtime recitals on the digital organ during 2026.

Thanks are also due to Alison Hutchins at The Newbury Methodist Church who again made us very welcome for Clive's December recital.

#### **Play the Organ Year**

The other main thrust to our programme during 2025 was to support the Royal College of Organists "Play the Organ Year" initiative.

NDOA assisted our recitalist Andrew Brown with an event at St George's Preshute and Marlborough College, introducing people to how the organ works, organ music and encouraging them to have a try at playing.

St John's hosted a morning PTOY event with a talk from Julian, demonstrations by Christopher assisted by James and opportunities to play both the St John's organ and the small organ belonging to Newbury Chamber Choir. Good use was made of modern technology to enable people downstairs to view the organ gallery, pipes and interior organ mechanisms on a screen during the demonstrations.

### **The Committee**

The committee has met by a mix of face to face/zoom which has worked well. My grateful thanks to all the committee for their help and support, especially to Christopher our Secretary who works so hard to keep you all informed, to David our Treasurer who make sure all the bills are paid and to John our Membership Secretary for keeping our records up to date.

### **Bursary Scheme**

During 2025 three players have received tuition under the bursary scheme, James and Nathan have had lessons from Christopher Sears, and Emma has had lessons from Rosemary. All three are making satisfactory progress and will be given a further tranche of lessons in due course and will be encouraged to sit ABRSM exams when appropriate. There are still few candidates coming forward asking to receive lessons under the bursary scheme. As at the last AGM, I would ask all of you to encourage anyone of any age who expresses interest in playing the organ to contact me or a member of the committee.

### **Newsletter**

I hope you enjoy the newsletter compiled by Christopher each month to keep everyone informed of events both local and further afield and I encourage you all to support them. Please also look at the NDOA website for other news and information.

Anyone with any news, articles or comments they would like share please send them to Christopher by the end of the third week of the month.

### **Advertising**

Many of you will have seen our NDOA pop up banner at events which has a QR code which links to the NDOA website and has created interest in our events. We are also adding the QR code to programmes and posters wherever possible.

Julian

February 2026