

SCT

**Sustaining
Scotland's
Places of Worship**



Newsletter June 2020

Organ Dedication

Scotland's Churches Trust is established for charitable purposes only and, in particular, aims to advance the preservation, promotion and understanding of Scotland's rich architectural heritage represented in its churches and places of worship of all denominations. SCT aims to advance heritage and religion by the preservation and upkeep of churches and other places of worship, to encourage these places of worship to open to welcome visitors, tourists and pilgrims and to advance education and promote understanding of the public about the history, art, architecture and traditions of churches and other places of worship and their position as a focal point in the community.

One of the groups which feeds into the main Trust at SCT is the Organ Committee. The principal functions of this committee are to distribute grants for organ lessons, finding suitable teachers where necessary, and to provide subsidies for concerts in places of worship where the organ is featured.



WHO WE ARE

The Organ Committee is chaired by a Vice-President, Lady Gill, and includes three Trustees: Very Rev. Sheilagh Kesting DSG, a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland and for many years the Kirk's Secretary of the Church of Scotland Ecumenical Liaison Officer; Very Rev Prof Iain Torrance

KCVO Kt OstJ TD FRSE also a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland and Co-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen, and Liam Devlin, Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms, who is a professional organist and teacher.

The Committee also includes a range of highly qualified and experienced church organists whose

advice is greatly valued: Sheila Chisholm, who is organist at St Peter's Lutton Place, Edinburgh, Stuart Muir, Director of Ceremonial Music at the University of Aberdeen, Andrew Forbes, Director of Music at Glasgow Cathedral, and Stewart Alston, formerly organist, New St Andrews Church, Coatbridge.

WHAT WE DO

Support Organ Lessons

Our most regular activity is to solicit and review applications from people of all ages, all over Scotland, who are interested in taking organ lessons. We offer substantial grants to pay for these lessons which are allocated in sets of six. After suitable reviews from teacher and student,

we can offer further sets of lessons up to a value of about £1000.

Currently we have students in Gretna, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Oban and regard this as a good investment for the future of church services and organ playing in Scotland.

Support Organ Concerts

The SCT Organ Committee is also very happy to give grants to places of worship to enable them to put on musical events involving the organ. We are well aware of the incidental expenses in such events, even when a celebrity player is not being brought in from outside and like

to help where we can. Our grants for this are not enormous - £250-£350 on average – but can make the difference between the event's going ahead or not.

Most recently we sponsored concert series in Aberfoyle, Perth and Glasgow.

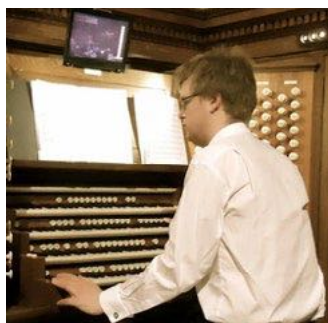
SCT Sir Boyd Tunnock Organ Travel Bursaries

Through the generosity of one of our Vice-Presidents, Sir Boyd Tunnock, Scotland's Churches Trust was delighted to announce last autumn the creation of up to two annual Travel Bursaries,

each worth up to £2000, to allow organists up to the age of 40, attached to a Scottish church, to spend a period of time playing and studying organs in one or more foreign countries, to take some consultation

lessons with a recognised teacher of high repute and if possible visit the atelier of an organ builder.

The below organists have been appointed for 2020.



Tom Wilkinson
MA(Oxon),
MMus, FRCO

City of Edinburgh
Methodist Church

Tom intends to use his scholarship for advanced study in Stuttgart, Leipzig and other places in Germany.

Tom is a former Organ Scholar at Truro Cathedral and The Queen's College, Oxford.

He is University Organist to the University of St Andrews and Organist of the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church.

Tom founded the Kellie Consort providing training and performance opportunities in the field of historically-informed performance and is currently completing a PhD on the music of J.S.Bach.



Steven McIntyre
BMus (Hons),
FRCO, FTCL,
PGDE

St Mary's Episcopal
cathedral, Glasgow

Steven is the assistant organist at St Mary's Episcopal cathedral, Glasgow, and intends to study in Paris, chiefly at St Severin with M. Christophe Mantoux, and to explore some of the Parisian organs of Aristide Cavallé-Coll.

Steven comes from Grangemouth and is a former assistant organist to Paisley Abbey and organ scholar at Peterborough Cathedral.

He is currently assistant organist at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow, and teaching in Balfron, as well as having a busy concert career. He won all the prizes for his year of Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists including, most prestigiously, the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.



Andrew Forbes
BEng (Hons),
MMus, ARCO

Glasgow Cathedral

Our third appointee is for 2021, and is Andrew Forbes BEng (Hons), MMus, ARCO, Director of Music at Glasgow Cathedral, whose studies will take place in the United States, at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and the Boston Organ Studio.

Andrew's first degree is in naval architecture but he was drawn to a musical career and took an MMus with Distinction at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland where he won the RCS Prize for Early Music. He runs the Cathedral Festival in Glasgow and has given recitals all over Europe including in the extraordinary Philharmonie in Paris (pictured) on the Rieger organ.

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We congratulate all three of our Bursars most warmly and look forward to hearing their recitals and reading their accounts of their studies in our Annual Review. Andrew gave the 2019 SCT Annual Recital in St Columba's, Ayr, while Tom will give the 2020 SCT Recital, in conjunction with the University of St Andrews, in St Salvator's Chapel, St Andrews on Tuesday 27th October 2020 at 1.10 p.m. Steven's recital

will be announced later in the year.

The Trustees who made the awards were Liam Devlin (Chairman), Very Rev. Sheilagh Kesting DSG, and Very Rev. Prof. Iain Torrance KCVO Kt OSTJ TD FRSE.

We also announce the publication of our volume Eleven Hymn Preludes for Organ, a series of meditations on well-known hymn-tunes kindly donated to the Trust by church organists from all over Scotland, which will be distributed free to all

of our subscribing churches. We are enormously grateful to our contributing composers.

Finally, the SCT Organ Committee has agreed on a partnership with the University of St Andrews on a project to be called Sowne of Organe which aims to record and conserve historic organs in Scotland.

We continue to award generous grants to anyone who wishes to take up

organ lessons – we can arrange for the tuition – as well as some financial support to concerts and concert series in which the organ is featured.

Full details can be found on our website.

To find out more of what we do, or to join as a Church or Friend please contact us or visit our web site. Church Membership is £50 a year and becoming a Friend starts at £20.

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SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST