



ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION
Editor: James Strike, 1950-52, Archivist.
Last update: June 2020

ORGANISTS and DIRECTORS of MUSIC at ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

JAMES PLUMLEY	-1559
PETER ROWLE	-1577
<i>At Rochester the organist's fee seems to have been £10 a year, but in 1577, Peter Rowle received a gift of £14 for teaching the choristers well. (Centre for Kentish Studies, DRc/Ac1.A) and (Hartley, 2016, William Byrd, Gentleman of the Chapel Royal, Routledge, p33)</i>	
THOMAS CHURCHMAN	1577-1579
THOMAS HILLYE	1579-1588
ROPER BLUNDELL	1588-1599
<i>Probably a Minor Canon at the same time.</i>	
JOHN WILLIAMS, the elder	1599-1609
<i>Probably a Minor Canon at the same time.</i>	
JOHN ROBINSON	1609-1614
JOHN HEATH	1614-1663
WILLIAM ROTHWELL	1663-1672
CHARLES WREN	1672-1673
<i>afterwards: Organist, Gloucester Cathedral, 1673-1679.</i>	
DANIEL HENSTRIDGE	1674-1698
<i>Organist, Gloucester Cathedral, 1666-1673. afterwards: Organist, Canterbury Cathedral, 1698-1736.</i>	
ROBERT BOWERS	1698-1704
<i>Chorister, 1684-92.</i>	

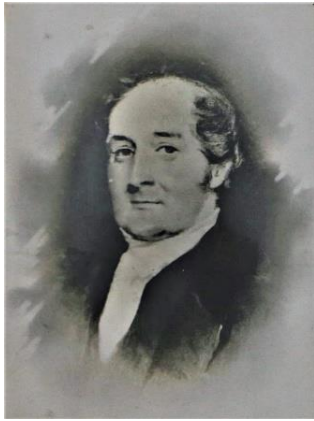
JOHN SPAYNE 1704-1721
Chorister, 1689-1698.
Lay Clerk.

CHARLES PEACH 1721-1753

JOSEPH HOWE 1753-1780
Father of the chorister Joseph Howe, 1761-1769.

RICHARD HOWE 1780-1790
Chorister, 1757-1764.
afterwards, Lay Clerk.

RALPH BANKS 1792-1841
Chorister, Durham Cathedral.
Lay Clerk.
Teacher of the Choir, 1790-1792.
Composer.



HENRY EDMUND FORD, Dr. Assistant Organist, -1841.

JOHN LARKIN HOPKINS 1841-1856
Mus. Doc.
Chorister, Westminster Abbey.
afterwards:
Organist, Trinity College, Cambridge.
Five sons in the choir at Rochester between 1880 and 1897.



PHILIP ARMES, Assistant Organist, 1851-1856.
 MA. Mus..Doc. FRCO.
 Chorister, 1849-1851.
 Lay Clerk.
 Organist, Holy Trinity Church, Gravesend, Kent, 1854.
 Organist, St. Andrew's Church, Wells Street, London, 1857.
 afterwards:
 Organist, Chichester Cathedral, 1861-62.
 Organist, Durham Cathedral, 1862-1907.
 Professor of Music, Durham University.



JOHN HOPKINS..... 1856-1900
 FRCO.
 Cousin of J. L. Hopkins.
 Chorister, St. Paul's Cathedral.



FREDERICK BRIDGE, Assistant Organist, 1859-1865
 afterwards:
 Sir Frederick Bridge.
 Organist, Westminster Abbey.

ALFRED ALEXANDER, Assistant Organist, 1865-1868.
 Mus. Bac.
 Chorister, 1854-1861.
 Organist, Shorne Church, Kent, 1862.
 Organist, Strood Parish Church, 1865.
 afterwards:
 Organist, St. Michael's College, Tenbury, 1874-77.
 Organist, Wigan Parish Church, 1877.
 Organist, St. John's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, 1896-1914.
 Composer.

JOSEPH COX BRIDGE, Dr, Assistant Organist, 1869-1871.
Chorister, 1862-67.
Studied under John Hopkins
afterwards:
Organist, Exeter College, Oxford, 1871-76
Organist, Chester cathedral, 1877-
Composer.



'JOHN JASPER'. In 1870, Charles Dickens used the 'Choirmaster' of Rochester Cathedral (Cloisterham) as the central character of his last and unfinished novel 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood'.

GLANVILLE HOPKINS, Assistant Organist, 1899-1901.

BERTRAM LUARD SELBY. Dr. 1900-1916
Magdalen College, Oxford.
Royal College of Music.
Leipzig Conservatoire, 1876.
Organist, St. Barnabas, Marylebone.
Organist, Salisbury Cathedral, 1881-83.
Organist, St. Johns, Torquay 1884.
Organist, St. Barnabas, Pimlico 1887.
Musical Editor, 1904 edition, Hymns Ancient & Modern.
Composer.
Founder of Rochester Cathedral Old Choristers' Association, in 1909.
Assistant Master at King's
Composer of the music for the School Song 'Carmen Roffense' 1914,
(Lyrics by Canon William Parker, Head Master, KSR, 1913-1935)
afterwards:
Bradfield College, Berkshire.



HECTOR E. SHALLCROSS, Assistant Organist, 1902-1908.

CHARLES ARTHUR LESTOC HYLTON STEWART 1916-1930

MA. MUS. Bac.

Chorister, Magdalen College, Oxford.

Organ Scholar, Peterhouse, Cambridge.

Assistant Organist, King's College, Cambridge, 1906-7.

Organist, St Martin's Church, Scarborough, 1908-14.

Blackburn Parish Church, 1914-16

Enlisted into the Army Pay Corps during 1918.

Part Editor, The Oxford Psalter and Oxford Chant Book.

afterwards:

Organist, Chester Cathedral, 1930-32

St. George's Chapel, Windsor, 1932.

Composer of the hymn tune 'Rochester'.

Composer.



HILDA MILVAIN, Interim Organist, 1918.

Pupil of Dr. Bairstow at York Minster.

Organ Scholar under Charles Hylton-Stewart at St Martin, Scarborough.

Interim Organist, for six months, at Rochester Cathedral during the absence of Hylton Stewart who was required for war military service.

(Probably the first women to be appointed as a cathedral organist.)

ALFRED H. ALLEN, Assistant Organist, 1919-1920

PERCY WHITLOCK, Assistant Organist, 1920-1930.

Chorister 1911-1918.

Head Chorister.

Scholarship to the Royal College of Music, 1920-24.

Choir Master, St. Mary's, Chatham, Kent.

afterwards,

Director of Music, St. Stephens, Bournemouth 1930-35

Composer.



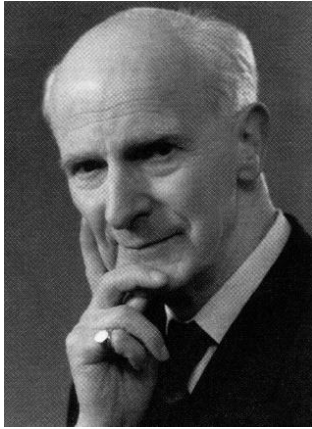
HAROLD AUBIE BENNETT 1930-1956

FRCO. FTCL. Hon. RCM.

Assistant Organists, York Minster, 1914-1923.

Organist, Doncaster Parish Church, 1923-1930.

Member of staff, King's School.



JAMES LEVETT, (Joe) Assistant Organist, 1930–1976.

ARCO, CHM.

Son of Head Verger.

Choir Master, St. Mary's, Chatham, Kent.



ROBERT JAMES ASHFIELD, Dr. 1956-1977

FRCO.

Royal College of Music.

D. Mus, London University.

Fellow, Guild of Church Music.

Assistant to Sir Ernest Bullock, Organist, Westminster Abbey.

Organist, St John's, Smith Square, London, 1934-1941.

Served in the Army during the Second World War.

Master and Rector Chori, Southwell Minster, 1946-1956.

Member of the Council, Royal College of Organists.

Commissioner, Royal School of Church Music.

Composer.



DAVID POULTER, Assistant Organist, 1976-1981.

FRCO.

Chorister 1964-1968.

London University.

Foundation Scholar, Royal College of Music.

Walford Davies prize-winner, Royal College of Music.

Limpus & Shinn prizes, Royal College of Organists.

Organist, Cranbrook Parish Church, Kent.

Head of Music, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School.

Director of Music, Coventry Cathedral, 1975-1997.

afterwards:

Organist & Director of Music, Chester Cathedral, 1997-2008.

Hon Fellowship, Guild of Church Musicians, 2008.

Director of Music, Liverpool Cathedral, 2008.



BARRY FERGUSON 1977-1994

MA.(Cantab) FRCO.

Chorister, Exeter Cathedral.

Honours Degree, Cambridge University.

Organ Scholar, Peterhouse, Cambridge.

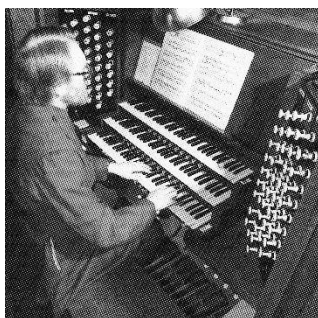
Studied Composition under Herbert Howells.

Assistant Organist, Peterborough Cathedral, 1964-1971.

Organist, Wimborne Minster, 1971-1977.

afterwards, Director of Music, St Peter's, Shaftesbury, 1993-2003

Composer.



PAUL HALE, Assistant Organist, 1982-1989.
MA Oxon, FRCO, FRSCM, FGCM, FRSA.
Organist, Tonbridge School.

afterwards:

Cathedral Organist & Rector Chori, Southwell Minster.

Conductor, Nottingham Bach Choir.

Examiner, Royal College of Organists.

Trustee, Percy Whitlock Trust.

Organ Advisor.



ROGER MARTIN SAYER..... 1994-2008

ARCM. FTCL. LRAM. Dip.RCM.

Chorister, Portsmouth Cathedral.

Organ Student, St Paul's Cathedral.

Organist, Woodford Parish Church, 1981-1989.

Assistant Organist, 1989-1994.

afterwards:

Cathedral Organist, 2008-2013.

Director of Music, Temple Church, London, 2014-

Organ recitalist.

Recital organist at the Temple Church for the sound track
music 2014 film 'Interstellar'.



WILLIAM WHITEHEAD, Assistant Organist, 1994-1998.
Organ Scholar, University College, Oxford.
Royal Academy of Music.
Organ Scholar, Westminster Abbey.
Assistant Director of Music, King's School.
Co-founder of the Girls' Choir, 1995.
Director of Music, St. Mary's Bourne Street, London.
Council Member, Royal College of Organists.



SEAN FARRELL, Assistant Organist, 1998 – 2001.

JAMES EATON, Acting Assistant Organist, 2002.

EDMUND ALDHOUSE, Sub-Organist and Assistant Director of Music, 2002.

WILLIAM SCOTT FARRELL.....2008-2018

DAN SOPER, Assistant Director of Music and Director of the Girls' Choir 2006-2010.
MA(Cantab), FRCO.
Organ Scholar, Chelmsford Cathedral.
Organ Scholar, Winchester Cathedral.
afterwards:
Assistant Director of Music, St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, 2012-2016.

SAMUEL RATHBONE Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir , 2010-2014.

CLAIRE INNES-HOPKINS, Assistant Director of Music and Sub-Organist, 2014-2018
MA(Cantab), FRCO.
Assistant Organist, Winchester College.
Selwyn College, Cambridge.
Organ Scholar, Peterborough Cathedral.
Associate Organist, Magdalen College, Cambridge.
Assistant Organist, Lincoln Cathedral.
afterward:
Director of Chapel Music, University of St Andrews.



BEN BLOOR, Assistant Sub-Organist, 2015.

FRCO.

Chorister, Derby Cathedral

*Organ Scholar at New College, Oxford, Westminster Cathedral
and St Georges Windsor.*

afterwards:

Organist, London Oratory, 2016-

JAMES NORREY, Assistant Sub-Organist, 2016.

Organ Scholar at, Canterbury Cathedral and Chelmsford Cathedral.

Assistant Organist, Llandaff Cathedral.

Assistant Director of Music, Newcastle Cathedral.



ADRIAN BAWTREE,

Interim Director of Music,2018-2019

MA Oxon, FRCO, LRAM.

Royal Academy of Music.

Organist, St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London.

Organ Scholar, Worcester College, Oxford.

Post-graduate Dipl, Orchestral Conducting, Royal College of Music.

Director of Music, Christ's Hospital, Horsham, 2009-11

Cathedral Organist, Rochester, 2014- 2015.

Second Assistant Organist, Canterbury Cathedral, 2015-.



JEREMY LLOYD, Assistant Director of Music and Sub-Organist.. 2018 –
FRCO.

Royal Academy of Music.

Organ Scholar, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, 2012-13.

Organ Scholar, The London Oratory, 2013-14.

Organ Scholar, Peterborough Cathedral, 2014-16.

Assisting Organist, York Minster, 2016-18.



FRANCESCA MASSEY2019-

Cambridge University.

Organ Scholar, St. George's Chapel, Windsor; Gonville College, Cambridge; Caius College, Cambridge; and Manchester Cathedral.

ABRSM Scholar, Royal Northern College of Music.

Assistant Organist, Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge.

Assistant Director of Music, Peterborough Cathedral.

Sub-Organist and Assistant Director of Music, Durham Cathedral. 2011-2019.

