



INFORMATION FOR VISITING ORGANISTS (updated April 2018)

[The Father Willis Organ 2019 and 2020](#)

Please note that, between January 2019 and March 2020, the Cathedral's Father Willis Organ is undergoing restoration and will be unavailable. The Cathedral is hiring an Allen Digital Organ to accompany the liturgy during this time, and this will be available for you. There may also be some disruption to layout in the quire, owing to scaffolding. Precise details and updates can be given nearer the time of your visit, but we advise that there should be no need to alter repertoire choices during this period. Please be aware that some of the notes below refer to the Willis Organ (access, pistons, etc), and not to the Allen Digital Organ. We apologise for inconvenience while we secure the future of our great Father Willis Organ.

Notes for visiting organists

Welcome to Salisbury Cathedral Organ Loft. Please take a moment to read the following notes.

- 1) If you obtained the key to the organ loft from a member of Cathedral staff, please return it to the Vestry the moment you have finished playing the organ.
- 2) Please take particular care when lifting up or replacing the roll-top organ console cover, and ensure that the console is covered if you are away from the organ for a significant length of time.
- 3) Switches to the blower and console lights are located underneath the left hand stops, below the manuals. When you have finished practising, please ensure that the expression boxes are **SHUT** before you turn off the power.
- 4) The piston control panel to the left of the Choir stops allows you to set Divisional and General pistons. To set combinations, select your stops then hold 'Load' (bottom left button) and press the chosen piston. Visiting organists may use Divisional Channel 16, and General Channels 501-512. We advise you to 'lock' your settings by ensuring that the respective green lights on the control panel are switched on. Please leave a note of any channels you have used in order to retain your settings, and **under no circumstances change any channels other than those allocated to you.**
- 5) The camera system is switched on with the button on the front of the monitor. The position of the camera may be moved via the control panel to the right of the console.
- 6) In order to prevent bits of eraser from falling onto the keys, please do not erase pencil markings while the music is on the stand.
- 7) Please do not adjust the console lights.
- 8) Please do not allow visitors into the loft, or let anyone else play the instrument.
- 9) We understand the need for visiting organists to familiarise themselves with the instrument before playing a service; however, we also ask that organists are respectful of the Cathedral as a place of prayer, and that loud playing is thus kept to a minimum. If you are practising during the day (1000-1600), any playing must be *pianissimo*.
- 10) When accompanying singing in the Quire, it is easy to play too loudly. For climaxes, Full Swell (box half shut) coupled to a modest amount of Great and Pedal is usually more than enough. When accompanying singing in the Nave, it is easy to play too quietly. Therefore, please ensure that your hymn accompaniments are sufficiently strong to be heard if there is a large congregation in the Nave.

We hope that you enjoy your time on our famous and historic instrument. If you require any further assistance during your visit, the vergers will be on-hand to help you. In particular, please report any faults with the instrument to the vergers.

Thank you.

John Challenger
Assistant Director of Music
July 2014

Practical arrangements for visiting organists

The Father Willis Organ is one of the Cathedral's great treasures and must be respected as such. Please study these notes carefully. In particular, please do not allow visitors into the loft or let anyone else play the instrument, and please be sensitive to other activities which may be occurring in the Cathedral, keeping loud playing to a minimum.

Access

Access to the Organ Loft is via the South Quire Aisle. Please obtain the key from the Vestry (also in the South Quire Aisle).

Organ Practice

On the day that you are due to play, a slot between 0830 and 0930 will have been booked automatically for you to practise (this does not include Sundays). Other slots may be possible, but only with the very quietest stops, and through prior arrangement with the Vestry (01722 555150).

Please note that the following times are automatically booked for visiting choirs to rehearse and are therefore not likely to be available for the organist's use:

Monday-Saturday

Choir stalls: 1600-1700

Sunday

Choir stalls: 1500-1600 only

Playing for a service

Although we very much hope that you will enjoy playing the instrument, we ask you to be sensitive to the style and volume appropriate to the liturgy and the size of the congregation. We ask that you choose voluntaries that reflect the tone of the service (in length as well as mood), and the liturgical season. Please take care not to play too loudly for services in the Quire, but equally please do not play too quietly when accompanying large congregations (in hymns at the Sunday Eucharist, for example). Outgoing voluntaries should begin immediately at the end of the liturgy: there is no need to provide an outgoing improvisation first. Rubrics for Evensong and Eucharist services are included below - please study these carefully.

The Father Willis Organ

The Father Willis Organ was installed in 1877 and has remained largely unaltered to this day. The current console was installed in 1934 and the manuals are in the order of a standard English four-manual organ. The North Organ Case contains the Great and Solo divisions, and the South Organ Case contains the Swell and Choir divisions. The Pedal division is dispersed on either side, and the majority of the 32ft Pedal work is located in the North Transept. There is an abundance of couplers, pistons, registration aids and memories. Further information, including a specification and pictures of the instrument, can be found on the Cathedral website: <http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/worship-music-father-willis-organ/father-willis-organ-history>



Service rubrics (*Organist*)

Choral Evensong (Monday-Saturday 1730, Sunday 1630)

- from 1715 (1615)* **Quiet Organ Music** may be played
1725 (1625) Organ music ceases; silence; a welcome is given by the Canon in Residence
1730 (1630) The vestry prayer ends with 'Amen'; this is the cue for the **Organ Improvisation** to cover the incoming procession
- Opening Responses**
- announced* **Psalmody**
Old Testament (first) Lesson
- announced* **Office Hymn** (on certain days only)
Magnificat
New Testament (second) Lesson
Nunc Dimittis
Creed
- announced* **Second Set of Responses; Collects**
Anthem
Prayers

Weekdays

Ferial Responses (Naylor) Organ Voluntary and Recession
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Saturdays

<i>announced</i> Hymn ; improvisation may be required to cover the collection Blessing Festal Responses (Naylor) Organ Voluntary and Recession
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Sundays

<i>announced</i> Hymn ; improvisation may be required to cover the collection Blessing, concluding with... Sung Amen (Gibbons) Organ Voluntary and Recession
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During Christmas, Epiphany, Easter or Ascensiontide, weekend Choral Evensongs begin as follows:

- from 1715 (1615)* **Quiet Organ Music** may be played
1725 (1625) Organ music ceases; silence; a welcome is given by the Canon in Residence
1730 (1630) The vestry prayer ends with 'Amen'; this is the cue for the **Organ Improvisation** to cover the incoming procession to the Crib or Easter Garden at the Spire Crossing
Short Introit
Prayer (*NB: wait for this!*)
Short Improvisation to cover arrival into stalls

The service then proceeds as normal.



Sung Eucharist (Sunday 1030, Weekday Feasts 1730)

- If a bespoke order of service has been produced, the hymns will be unannounced as they will be included in the booklet. If a non-bespoke general-use order of service is being used, the hymns will not be included in the booklet and therefore will be announced
- Please make sure that you have the correct accompaniments for the appointed **Gospel Acclamation** and congregational responses for the season; these are well-known to the congregation
- The **Creed** is said out of choir term time.

from 1015 (1715) **Quiet Organ Music** may be played (silence is requested during Advent and Lent)

1025 (1725) Organ music ceases; silence; a welcome is given by the Canon in Residence

1030 (1730) *Please note that the paragraph below does not apply during Advent and Lent, where the Advent or Lent prose is sung, and there is no organ improvisation.*
The vestry prayer ends with 'Amen'; this is the cue for improvisation to cover the procession down to the west end of the nave; when the procession can be seen moving eastwards down the centre of the Nave (*ie* towards you), please play over and accompany the **Processional Hymn**; further improvisation may be required if the clergy are not in place by the end of the hymn

The service then proceeds as follows:

Greeting and Prayers of Penitence

Kyrie (omitted on *Sundays* during Easter and Ascension; retained on weekdays)

Short Prayer of Absolution

Gloria (omitted during Advent and Lent)

Collect

Reading

Gradual Hymn followed immediately by...

Gospel Acclamation set for the liturgical season

Gospel Responses ('Glory to you, O Lord') sung by all

Gospel Reading

Gospel Responses ('Praise to you, O Christ') sung by all

Improvisation may be required as the Gospel Procession returns

Sermon

Creed; said out of choir term time (usually omitted during weekday Eucharists)

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace (please leave around 20 seconds' pause before starting the hymn)

Offertory Hymn; improvisation may be required if the collection has not arrived

The **Eucharistic Prayer** (unaccompanied) may be intoned by a member of the clergy or said

Sanctus (& Benedictus)

Prayers of Consecration including **Congregational Responses**

Agnus Dei

Communion Motet

Choir receives communion if desired; **Improvisation** may be required

Post-Communion Prayers and Dismissal

Final Hymn during which the choir takes the lead of a Verger to the West End of the Cathedral (Sundays only); following the hymn, please cover the procession until stationary, and cadence clearly into G major for the...

Sung Dismissal ('Go in the peace of Christ')

Organ Voluntary and Recession