



"Lenten Organ Recitals 2026"

We are most grateful to the organists for taking the time to come and play as part of our Lenten series. The organists for Lent 2026 are

20th February; Gerard Anderson	27th February; Frances Atkinson
6th March; George Orme	13th March; Peter Willett
20th March; Martin Paxton	27th March; Andrew Winton

Chesham URC and Buckinghamshire Organists' Association (BOA) together started the Lenten Organ Recitals back in 2018. The majority of the organists are members of the BOA. We are delighted that we are continuing with these in Lent 2026.

The recitals will be every Friday from 20 February to 27 March, at 12.30pm, are free to attend and last about 25 minutes.

Afterwards, there is an optional light lunch with suggested donation of £4. Donations will be shared between the upkeep of our organ and the Thomas Gascoigne Bursary Fund (see below).

History Behind the Thomas Gascoigne Bursary Fund.

Thomas Gascoigne was born in Buckinghamshire in 1917 and is reputed to have become the organist of Bow Brickhill Church at the age of 12. He became a student of composition under Dr Eric Thiman at Trinity College, London. Having attained FRCO, LRAM and LTCL he taught in the Slough and High Wycombe areas and was for some time teaching music at Oakdene School, Beaconsfield. In 1950 Thomas Gascoigne was appointed Organist at St Mary's, Beaconsfield – a post he held for 44 years until 1994 when he retired due to declining health.

A founder member of the Buckinghamshire Organists' Association (BOA), Thomas served on the Committee from 1963 and was elected Chairman 1984 – 1987. His outstanding service was recognised in 1991 when he was made an honorary member of the Association. Thomas died in February 1997.

In remembrance of Thomas Gascoigne's significant contribution, the BOA agreed to establish a Bursary Fund of £100 approximately per annum to provide support to students of the organ. Currently the Bursary is £250 per Applicant.

Aim of the Fund and what has been funded

The Thomas Gascoigne Bursary Fund aims to support students of the organ who wish to further their organ playing aspirations and achievements. Over the past 25 years the BOA has successfully assisted students with costs of organ lessons, organists' training courses and organ examinations.

Eligibility

The BOA welcomes applications only from *individuals* and only from organ students, ideally resident in Buckinghamshire or supported by a member of BOA, who meet the aims of the fund, which are to help with taking organ lessons, purchasing organ music, attending church organist related courses or workshops, or paying for organ examination fees. Awards are *not* made to Churches. Consideration is also given to other funding requests.