

Issue 7

OCTOBER 2023

# *Cantemus News*

*L e t u s s i n g !*

**Around the World  
in 80 Minutes!**



**UMS Conference 2024**

*Unitarian Music Society*



[www.unitarianmusic.org.uk](http://www.unitarianmusic.org.uk)

## Meet our new Chair - Louise Rogers

Hello All UMS members. I'd like to introduce myself to you, as I am now chairing the UMS Committee.

I was born in 1954 in Central London, and moved out at aged two to West London. I loved school and was involved in the choir, the orchestra, sports teams, plays and speech competitions. I often had more enthusiasm than talent.



I studied economics at the University of Manchester. My career has been varied: economics, social care, social work, social care management and planning, community regeneration and governance advice for the charities. I first started volunteering when I was 12 and have continued with that throughout most of my life. Now I'm focused on Unitarian activities and the London choir that I sing with, the Mixed Up Chorus.

After moving around a bit I finally settled in Staffordshire in 1984. Walking into the Newcastle-under-Lyme Unitarian Meeting House for the first time was extraordinary – I felt immediately that I had found my spiritual home. Such relief and joy as I had been searching for many years.

In 2014 I moved back to my home town to care for my Mum. I maintained my connections with the Echoes choir, I'd helped to start in 2011, which met in Macclesfield. Its purpose was to provide a focus for Unitarians from the East Cheshire Union and the Manchester District to get together and sing, creating firm friendships. I believe passionately that what makes an organisation robust, is not the individual people but the relationships between individuals: the spaces in-between

Echoes developed as we offered to lead services with a strong focus on music and singing, taking a collaborative approach. This reinforced to me the importance of doing things together – we may have a leader but the experience is so much better if others participate bringing their voices and their ideas. Standing together at the front singing to the congregation, with them singing back to us, created a space in the middle which was rich with sound and energy. This always felt very special. It was becoming difficult to meet so we wound up Echoes in November 2018.

In June 2020, with COVID restrictions on face-to-face meeting, I asked on Facebook if anyone wanted to help me start an online hymn-singing group. Marianna got straight back to me and we started soon afterwards.

And it's still going. We call it Uni-Sing! You may find out more about Uni-Sing! via this webpage <https://sites.google.com/view/ring-of-voices/uni-sing>. I only joined UMS in 2022, thinking that I really should, as UniSing! shared similar objectives. I was not the most obvious person to become the new chair when Nick Morrice decided to step down. But as all the obvious choices did not have the capacity to take it on. I was the first to say, 'Yes, I'd love to'.

I attended the 2023 Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting. I also led the Sunday service. I decided on Water as the theme. Unfortunately I was too disorganised to do a truly participatory service – but there was lots of singing, and music to listen to.

So what would I like to achieve during my tenure as chair of UMS? The Society has two aims as detailed in its constitution - <http://unitarianmusic.org.uk/membership19.htm>)

*(1) To provide a focus for all Unitarians interested in music, particularly in Unitarian worship; and (2) To provide music education in the widest sense.*

The committee met in early October when we had some initial discussions about what we could do to work towards these objectives. Some of the ideas are:-

- *Create service packs with the focus on the music;*
- *Record further hymns, either individuals or at any Unitarian gathering;*
- *Encourage people to write hymn words and music e.g. through the Dorothy Archer Award of the NUF. Uni-Sing! is sponsoring a tune-writing competition –see here <https://sites.google.com/view/ring-of-voices/2023-activities/2023-hymn-tune-competition> ;*
- *Make connections with other Unitarian societies and groups;*
- *Send out a questionnaire asking how UMS can help re music for worship; and*
- *Encourage UMS members to be UMS champions in their own Unitarian groups.*

If anyone would like to help with any of this, do let me know.

I finished the service at the UMS conference weekend with these words about the choral composer, Eric Whitacre:

*He described his own experience with his first choral rehearsal as a turning point in his life, saying, "In my entire life I had seen in black and white, and suddenly everything was in shocking Technicolor. It was the most transformative experience I've ever had—in that single moment, hearing dissonance and harmony, and people singing..."*

Wouldn't it be great to think that the music we offered in our worship spaces had that power?

Louise Rogers, [louise.rogers256@gmail.com](mailto:louise.rogers256@gmail.com)



## Memories of Penny

My first memories of Penny are from long, long ago when we were both in our 20s. Penny Laws (as she was then) would come over to Coventry from Birmingham to participate in regular Unitarian competition-type events designed for young people (this was before she trained for the ministry). Penny played the violin in those days, and as I was musical as well we found a common ground for friendship which has lasted ever since.

Penny trained at Manchester College Oxford, and her first job as a minister was to be in joint charge of ten churches in the Midlands! This did not include Coventry church, and we saw less of each other during that time as she was incredibly busy - as indeed she seemed to be throughout her working life. Penny really cared about people and would go far above the call of duty to keep in touch, to help, to visit, to talk - whatever she felt needed doing. She managed to reunite me with 'Jane'. Jane and I had lost contact for about 35 years, and then about ten years ago Penny and I were both to be in Buxton one Saturday afternoon. Penny told me Jane would be there, and would I like to meet her. Of course I said yes, and that led to a close friendship with Jane which has continued and will continue. Thank you, Penny.

In 1981 Penny moved to three churches for her ministry, Dean Row, Hale Barns and Styal, all SW of Manchester. Here she met Ken whom she married - they made a wonderful couple.

I moved to Cumbria and we saw more of one another, partly because we were all in the Unitarian Music Society - Penny now played the French horn - and we were also able to visit each other. She enjoyed painting, and gave me a beautiful framed scene she had done of a Cumbrian lake and fells - I am so happy to have it, and of course every time I look at it I think of her.

We had a lot of laughs as well. Recently Penny and Ken were visiting me and we all went to Sizergh Castle, a local National Trust place. Penny and I managed to lose Ken on our way round and we were all wandering round trying to find each other. Ken ended up at reception and asked, '*Have you seen two ladies walking round?*' '*What do they look like?*', he was asked. '*Well*', he said, '*They're not very big, but one's got purple hair and one's got orange!!!*'

Penny will always remain in my heart. She was thoughtful, loving, reliable, funny, caring, good company ... I am grateful that my life has been enriched by her friendship.

*Jo Rogers*

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in the light of Penny's passing, I expect members will include their own remembrances. If so, I'd just like to note the following.

I scarcely knew Penny as a musician but I remember her as my gentle and friendly mentor in the first two years of my ministry. The relationship was just perfect!

*Marianna Michell*

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## Two memories of Penny we can share.

When we were without our own minister at Wirral Unitarians Penny, alongside her already busy schedule, sometimes kindly took a service for us. When this was on the same day as one of our charity concerts she contributed to the concert on her horn - a bonus. Richard very much enjoyed accompanying her on these and other occasions.

When we travelled to North America with "British Unitarians in Concert", Penny suffered with a bit of a cold. She was having big trouble one night playing her French Horn and couldn't understand why until she found a cough lozenge stuck inside the instrument!

*Best wishes  
Helen and Richard*

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I have chosen an extract about her love of music from one of Penny's reflections.

## More memories of Penny from Jen Atkinson

*//Should we ever give in, or give up?*

*For the last twenty-five years I have played the French horn. I took it up when I realised that I was never going to be another Yehudi Menuhin. I decided that since I had reached my personal limit on the violin, there was still a lot of music that needed an instrument to enable it to come out, and the horn was probably the right choice of instrument for me. The horn is not the easiest of instruments to play. It requires a good deal of breath control, stamina, use of the diaphragm and a good firm embouchure, and when you start playing the horn at forty-one, the development of all these skills can take years.*

*If you are a young musician, especially if you are musically gifted, the sky is the limit, success before you, on the concert platform at the age of ten, winner of the young musician of the year at the age of 12, with recording contracts to follow. At least that is the scenario as it appears to me. A friend, Sue Evans and I attended the final of the Young Musician of the Year some years ago. The four finalists were brilliant musicians. They had played a number of instruments in their short lifetimes, and came from musical families, with parents either teaching music or in the recording industry. My friend turned to me and said "you know what our problem is, Penny: we have the wrong parents."*

*For my part, I struggled with my scales, with my pieces, I am nervous about playing in public, and worry endlessly about playing any solos that I might have to play in orchestral or band music. Taking exams is a nightmare, with nerves creeping in, clamminess of hands, and inability to remember a simple tune when played on the piano for me to sing or clap the rhythm, which is part of any examination.*

*Why do I put myself through this, I ask? If I ever take another exam, it will be the last. May be even now, that point has been reached. Why not give the horn up? (orchestra and band also?) Because something inside me says, "hold on", "have faith in yourself", "know that you can succeed, know that commitment, practice, will power and determination all play their part." To give up now is not an option. In fact, I have made quite a bold decision, to play the Mozart Eb Quintet for Horn, violin and two violas at our next Unitarian Music Society Conference at the end of August. That is the goal, and I will do it, but I know that a really conscious effort to play what is an extremely difficult piece, even for professionals is a step too far! However, there must be no backing out. I have told all concerned, they all have their parts, and it is on the programme. //*





## UMS Conference 9 - 12 August 2024

The Conference Organising Group (COG), which consists of Elly Brookfield, Esther Hudson and myself, have met twice since the very enjoyable UMS conference in August. We have each taken on the various main jobs to be done.

We decided on the theme for 2024, to be 'Travel' - and have come up with this title - ***Around the World in 80 Minutes***. To give plenty of variety, we are hoping to include a number of people to lead the singing sessions, and we've made some progress on this front already (i.e. approaching certain 'victims' who might be persuaded to do the job!) and have had a very positive response so far.

Other areas which we are currently considering are the orchestra and the Sunday service, both of which are integral parts to our weekend.

We've also been thinking about the best way to publicise the conference, and we feel that the system may fall down within individual congregations. We use our website, and the GA advertise it, but there is no guarantee that the vast majority of people within each congregation get to know about it at all (or even know that UMS exists?)

Please could all of you who are part of a congregation make sure that everyone else there knows about UMS and the Conference? You don't have to be a musical genius to take part, after all. It is also worth mentioning it to people who are not Unitarians - several of us in recent years have brought along friends who are singers or players, and who have very much enjoyed the weekend. (It's also good publicity for the Unitarian movement!) Thank you for your support.

If any of you feel moved to lead a session, such as a talk, a film or a participatory activity which is vaguely in line with the 'Travel' theme, please let us know. Thank you again!

We are looking forward to seeing you all again next year and are hoping for an enjoyable, fun and possibly even educational weekend.

Jo Rogers  
[jocelynrogers139@gmail.com](mailto:jocelynrogers139@gmail.com)

I must confess that when we lost David Dawson in 2020, I feared that without his inspired and gifted leadership, UMS may not survive. *'Oliver's Journey Home'* was such a fitting tribute to him and became the focus for our 2022 Conference - but I was acutely aware that this year's conference would be a kind of test for *'A Song on the Ocean Wave'*. We were sailing new waters.

Please excuse the nautical puns (!) but it was 'all hands on deck' and the good ship UMS came sailing through in style!

Among so many enjoyable sessions, there were three highlights for me. Although our orchestra was small in number, they did a sterling job. Ben's instrumental composition 'Scottish Symphony', performed at the concert on Sunday night, really touched my Scottish soul! Veronica's Sea Shanty workshop was flagged up in our programme as having 'fascinating facts' and it certainly had. It was so well researched and delivered with lively charm. I also greatly enjoyed the HMS Pinafore video, provided by Nick. This production by Australian Opera was second to none - every word of every song was crystal clear.

I am delighted to tell you that I have been invited to repeat my 'Island Hopping' musical cruise at 3 more venues...at Glasgow Unitarians, Isle of Bute Rambling Club and my Writers' Group venue here in Rothesay. So HMS UMS Ferry is 'going on the road' as well as on the sea!

Now, we are looking forward to next year's theme - ***Around the World in 80 minutes'***. Congratulations to the Conference Organising Group (COG) for coming up with such an exciting theme. Unlike Phileas Fogg, we'll not need a hot air balloon....we'll be taking an 80 minute musical flight on the wings of song!



*Lyanne Mitchell*

*PS - I hope you will like the poster! It will come by separate email via Margaret*



I find it relaxing to leave Edinburgh and get into the beautiful green peaceful countryside in Derbyshire during the middle of the Edinburgh International Festival at the UMS Weekend.



This year I even managed a walk round the triangle before the first evening meal and to win a raffle and tombola in the Village Gala! I paced myself more than I have done before, so I missed the Opera, and the Madrigals which was a shame.

I was apprehensive about how it would work out without David Dawson as our Music Director. I knew that we would have to accept change. Also, I missed some of the usual attenders, so I was surprised at how much I enjoyed the event.

This really was due to everyone attending being friendly and giving of their best with their individual contributions. Thanks go to everyone who led sessions, especially with Marianna stepping in at the last moment. I was inspired by our young people; they are so talented and Ben's arrangements and the orchestra's contributions to the social and concert were excellent.

Although many of the sea songs and shanties were well known, I enjoyed singing the arrangements and in different languages and felt a bit nostalgic, tearful even, thinking about my misspent youth in Folk Clubs. "Fiddlers' Green" got me going as I remember the Aly Bain and Mike Whellans version in 1971. Where has the time gone?

Lyanne's session on Saturday on "*Ferry Hopping in the Western Isles*" was innovative, a bit of fun. I thought the social was one of the best.

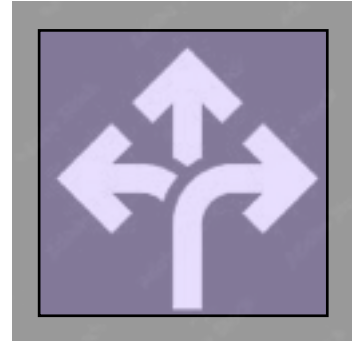
The session that really got me was "Fascinating Facts -The Sea Shanty" run by Veronica. I did know a bit about shanties before, but Veronica took us deeper into the subject along with the illustrations. The session was very moving thinking about the history, the lifestyles which were very hard, the reason for the songs and the songs themselves. Our Shantyman Peter Sampson excelled himself.

The Service with the reflective water songs on Sunday in the Chapel with Liz Rogers I thought was very relaxed, refreshing, and meditative. Just what we needed.

I realise we cannot do the larger choral works we did before, but I wonder depending on numbers if in the future we might be able to do a shorter choral piece, with other shorter songs so that we appeal to a wide variety of people.

*Margery MacKay*

# MUSICAL CROSSROADS at Cambridge



As some of you know, I took a while to decide about moving back to Cambridge, but finally I moved into a flat near to the city just before our UMS conference. For family reasons, the process has been even more complicated than one expects. For an 18-month period I had rented a place, occasionally attending the Cambridge church in-person or on zoom. During that time, I was not backward in suggesting musical projects, while remaining very aware of my own need to be needed! As things have turned out, currently I'm the regular pianist, with other musicians in the offing. In August, we restarted a monthly singing group which I had left behind in 2005!

So that's the basics. Additionally, we are appraising the role of music in a service. The matter arose when Andrew Brown (minister) announced in a service that he thought the mention of hymns put off potential church attenders - so should we still include them? Well! A profound silence filled the room! I was on zoom and was mentally jumping around.... There is a regular space in the Sunday service for the mic to be passed around for responses to Andrew's talk, and if he wanted to stir things up, then he succeeded! After the stunned silence, a keen and able singer spoke up, stating simply that many people wish to sing! A polite and careful member, I felt he was understating his point to get things started...

For my part, I scribbled a zoom chat where I set forward the need for people to 'give voice' as a contribution to any such gathering; there is a primal need to feel and hear our own voice as it forms a large part of our identity and self-respect. I also suggested that a number of hymns in *Sing your Faith* are actually songs, as their style does not use block harmony (which we largely associate with organ accompaniment). More linear accompaniments feel more contemporary and can be referred to as 'song'. However, the word 'hymn' means a song of praise, so strictly, if our singing is in praise of a being we feel to be beyond ourselves, it's still a hymn. But for goodness' sake, whatever it's called, we must sing! After a while, it was agreed that if we did not sing much in the service, we should have a separate music group. That kept me happy...

I need to explain a bit how we got to such a pass that hymns are now in question!

I was told that before lockdowns, there had been a 'normal' Sunday morning service, plus an evening circle which included a form of liturgy containing familiar Unitarian or similar readings and affirmations, also some live music, candles of joy and concern, and a time of meditation. Once on zoom, the two services had been combined to include the affirmations, an expanded meditation period, and a shorter address from the minister. Many attenders are into meditation, so that sits comfortably with enough people for this to continue. (Quip: we don't sit comfortably on the 100-year-old chairs, so new ones are ordered!)

Despite my involvement with *Uni-Sing!* I am not devoted to hymns, nor their context, and by this I suggest that the 'hymn sandwich' will not continue to serve us without great adaptation. We are rapidly becoming a society which dislikes organised religion. Personally, I feel more involved in community singing in a variety of genres.

Singing together can be a spiritually (and physically) nourishing experience without being explicitly spiritual. On the other hand, since that particular service several newcomers have said they like to sing in the service: for example, in their Buddhist group they just don't get to sing! And so, here we are, listening to each other's viewpoints, trying things out and - most importantly - daring to move forwards.

*Marianna Michell*



## *If you would you like some peaceful music and words..... then I have a suggestion.*

On Sunday our organist Sarah Lister played, "The Call", in the arrangement by Vaughan Williams and it was so wonderful and haunting that I couldn't get the tune out of my head. The words are by George Herbert (1593-1632) and said to relate to God, but I think equally the words apply to human beings, so I've copied the original words below. It appears in Hymns for Living No.44 but not with the Vaughan Williams tune!

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way, as gives us breath:  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:  
Such a Life, as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast, as mends in length:  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joyes in love.*



In July the band was asked to play at a wedding reception for Colin and Clare Marie Rhodes in Rousham House and Gardens. We had a limit of just fifteen players in case we had to rush for cover indoors! We did have some specks of rain, but the main problem was gusts of wind blowing the banners around.

The choice of music had to be appropriate and included, *All you need is love*, played just as the bride and groom walked in front of us to their reception, *Crazy thing called love* and, as we started to play *Bring me sunshine*, the sun actually came out. In a lovely touch the bride came and shook hands with every player.

The husband wrote to the band saying :-

*A quick note to say a HUGE thank you for adding to our special day on Saturday. It was truly magical and had the desired surprise impact for my wife who was thrilled to have Yarnton Band with us.*

*Peter Hewis*

Many attendees at the 2022 Summer Conference will recall me referencing a project called MindTravels. This is a project I've been developing with Rev. Mark Hutchinson since before the pandemic. Mark creates reflections, meditations and attentions (which are slightly darker and more emotionally fragile than reflections) and recites them while I improvise piano music behind. He makes a point of ending on a calming, reassuring note and I am pleased to be adding music that is both reflective of the mood of the words while also being calm, hopeful, airy and, at times, even fun.

## MindTravels: An Update



Attentions, Reflections & Meditations

The project started when Mark heard my CD *The Shape Of Things* and asked could he use it in his services. "Of course" was my reply and I was delighted to hear it was going well.

The pandemic temporarily ended in-person services but Mark used our downtime to start creating our reflections in earnest, accompanied by videos using visuals of us performing and stock library footage which we could source royalty-free from the internet. Forty or so of these on, we got the nerve to release our debut CD which had been enthusiastically recorded in Ireland in November 2019 and then mixed and mastered during the pandemic.

The album was launched and promoted with a tour of Unitarian chapels across the UK and Ireland in the weeks directly after UMS 2022 and we were delighted to include two well-received performances at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Many thanks to the congregations in York, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cork and Dublin who helped us out in getting that off the ground.

In January 2023, we retired our video series, instead opting to concentrate on a new podcast simply titled "MindTravels". Concentrating on the audio so that people can listen to the words in more places and more environments, we are now 20 episodes in and getting a great reaction. You can find us on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, TuneIn Radio and other podcast sites - look for us at your favourite site and if we're not there, let us know so that we can rectify that.

We are excited to announce two performances in November 2023

**Monday 13th November**

**King Edward Street Chapel, Macclesfield**

**Wednesday 15th November**

**Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead, London**

Both events at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (or £15 with a CD)

*Josh Johnston*

## UMS Secretary's Musings

I had a great time at the UMS 2023 Conference in August singing a variety of songs, sea shanties, madrigals and new songs in worship. It was good to be with fellow music lovers.

Yarm School Choral Society (of which I am a member) are rehearsing Brahms Requiem in German to sing in Stockton Parish Church on October 12th 2023.

In September I went to a sing-along of Carl Orff's Carima Burana, which we sang in Latin, at a local school. We rehearsed during the day and did a performance to a small audience at 3.30pm.

In December I am joining a come-and-sing of George Frideric Handel's Messiah at Yarm Parish Church. We will be rehearsing during the day and performing in the evening. Also, in December I will be singing with Yarm Choral Society and pupils of Yarm School in the Community Christmas Concert at the school. One evening and one afternoon concert.

Since the last Cantemus Newsletter in April I have continued to singalong with Uni-sing! on several occasions, hymns from Sing Your Faith and Hymns For Living, together with other songs. Themes have been: "The Sea" (led by Margaret Whitham and me); "Embracing the Unfamiliar"; "Homeward Bound"; "Inspiration"; "Mysterious"; "Charity"; and "Change/Climate Change".

At Stockton I have been hosting the Sunday services on Zoom, both when in chapel, on-line only or hybrid. I have also helped organise several services at Stockton, including the choice of hymns, music and readings for Charity "Butterfly Giving"; Bring and Share services on the themes of "Holidays" and "Community"; Membership; Flowers; and Harvest. I stood in for a minister (using his script and choice of hymns) who was sick and unable to take the service in June. I also led the worship on Zoom with the Glasgow congregation in September.

I attend the Age UK Teesside group meeting every Monday and once a month we have singing led by a lovely singer. Mostly well-known songs from the 40s onwards.

I also attended my grandson's school drama "Bugsy Malone" in June where he played the part of Bugsy, with lots of singing. He was great. Their next pantomime is "Beauty and the Beast" in December, to which I am looking forward.

All this on not only being Secretary and membership secretary of UMS, but Secretary and Conference Organiser for UWG (Unitarian Women's Group), and Church Secretary and celebrant at Stockton Unitarians. I did a Naming ceremony for my youngest grandson Erik in June and in July led a funeral service at Stockton Crematorium for a church member.

I continue to get requests for the UMS hymn CDs and since April I have sold six CDs and sent all hymns on the eight CDs electronically to a service leader. I also have some orders outstanding for CDS.

*Margaret Robinson*

# Hastings Unitarian Church Organ

Many of you will be familiar with the organ at Hastings Unitarian Church. Built around 1760 by John Snetzler, well respected Swiss organ builder who did most of his work in this country; restored and rebuilt in 2010 by Matthew Copley. This small chamber organ is one of the oldest instruments in this part of the country and thought to be the oldest “Unitarian” organ still in use.



I was organist at the church during the period of the organ’s restoration and played it regularly for services and concerts before and after restoration. After a few years as organist at another local church I have now returned, playing for some services and also keen to see the organ used for concerts and other occasions.

Recently two concerts have been given, each attracting enthusiastic audiences and including people who have never entered the building before and who have been pleasantly surprised by both the organ and its surroundings.

The first concert was a time to remember three people who were each very involved with the Hastings organ and who have sadly died in recent years.

**Arthur Ward** lived nearby and together with his wife, Ida, began to attend events in the building and then both becoming active members of the church. Arthur used to enjoy regularly playing the organ in private – which in itself is a help in maintaining an old instrument. Ida went on to become a long serving chair of the congregation. They both were great supporters of concerts given by me and others.

**Dr Brian Hick** was the main instigator of the restoration project. Although not an organist himself he had great knowledge of many aspects of organ building and repertoire. He was Editor Emeritus of *The Organ*, a long established and well respected journal for all matters related to organs in this country. He was also for a time editor of the Unitarian Christian Association *Herald*. Without Brian’s enthusiasm, contacts and practical ability to get things done I doubt that the Snetzler would be in workable condition today. It was a brave decision for a small congregation to commit a large sum of money to such a project but they “bit the bullet”, recognising the special nature of the instrument in their care and allowing this organ to serve the worshipping community and delight concert-goers over 260 years after it was first built. I was fortunate to be able to join my enthusiasm and knowledge with Brian’s and I’m glad to be back with our “baby” once again.

**Thomas (Tom) McLelland-Young** succeeded me as organist at Hastings, following a period where he would play for occasional services to allow me time off. A very accomplished organist, Tom was sadly restricted in more recent years by the loss of his legs in an accident. The surprising silver lining of this for Hastings Unitarians was that the Snetzler was the only organ locally towards which Tom could draw his wheelchair close enough to play due to the lack of a deep pedalboard. Tom delighted the congregation with his playing, often improvising on hymn tunes used in the service. He was also a prolific composer and was commissioned to write a piece for the re-opening concert. He titled the piece “Fanfare for the Snetzler”. I was pleased to play the piece again at this year’s concert and remarked that there was quite a surprised reaction when the piece was first played. Tom’s compositional style was not to everyone’s taste, often making much use of complex rhythms and jarring harmonics effects.

It was good to celebrate these three people who gave much of themselves through the life of the church and in particular with dedication to the organ here. A collection was made for the Hastings Foodbank, a cause which is sadly so necessary at present.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> concert was the first in a series of “OrganStops” which I am giving in various churches around the area. As well as giving people the chance to hear different organs, some underused, I am also aiming to highlight the work of Christian Aid, raising money but also awareness for the great work it continues to do after 75 years of existence. It has also been an opportunity to present the Unitarian church alongside other churches in the area in this common task – something that is not always possible.

If you would like to know more about the Hastings organ please do contact me [-spage999@btinternet.com](mailto:-spage999@btinternet.com)

I would also be interested to know of other church organs, particularly if they are old and underused!

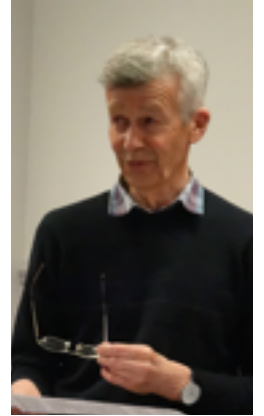


Stephen Page  
*Organist*  
*Hastings Unitarian Church*



# AUGUST 2023 UMS CONFERENCE GALLERY





*ED - Many Thanks to Sue Teagle who contributed this lovely collection of pictures ( sadly, as she was behind the camera, she is not pictured!)*

## ... And Finally ...

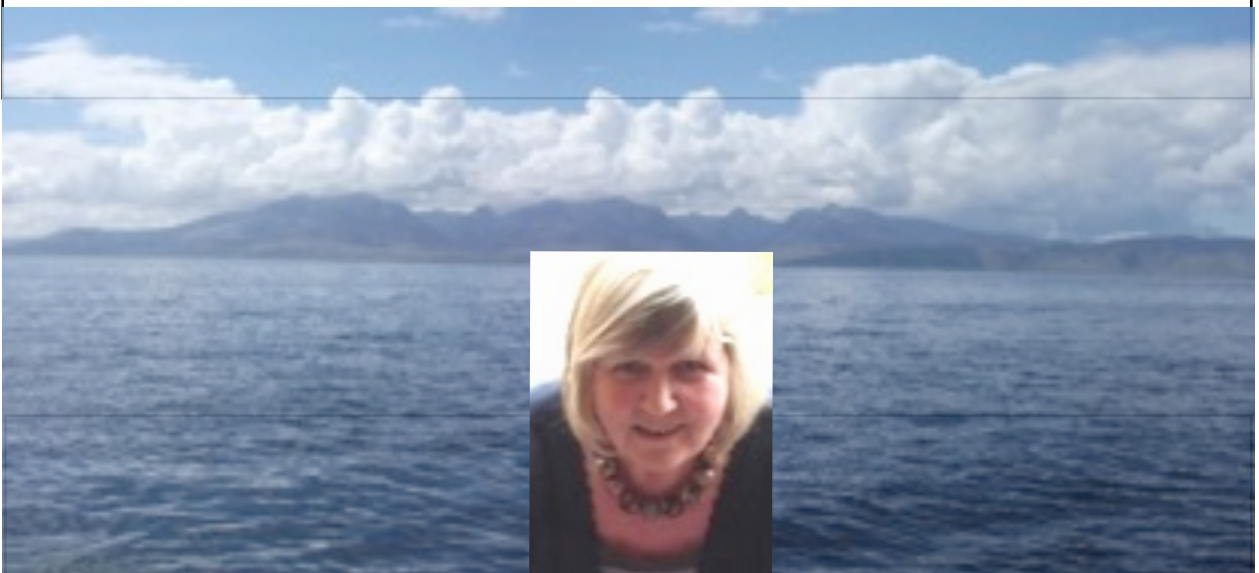
**A huge *thank you* to everyone who has contributed to this issue. Your participation is much appreciated.**

**I like to think that our *Cantemus* keeps has connected between Conferences. We have a new Chair with fresh ideas and our UMS Sub Organising Group's plans are well underway for next year's Summer Conference - 9th to 12th August 2024.**

**The next Issue of *Cantemus News* will come out in the Spring of 2024.**

Please send contributions for issue 8 of *Cantemus News* to -  
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**(Please note change of email)**

or post to 49 Mount Stuart Road, Rothesay,  
Isle of Bute, PA20 9EB



Best wishes, Lyanne  
*Cantemus News* - Editor / Designer