

To join MCMS, obtain an enrolment form from John Bailey or Michael Boxall (details below) or download one from the MCMS web site - <http://www.methodistmusic.org> and return it, together with your remittance, to our Membership Officer:

Michael Boxall
51 Blakehall Road
Carshalton
SM5 3EZ
Tel: 020 8669 9744
Email: m.j.boxall@which.net

MCMS SECRETARY/DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

For any further information about MCMS, please contact

John Bailey,
23A, The Quadrant, Totley,
Sheffield, S17 4DB.
Phone/Fax; 0114 236 7196,
email: john.baileymcms@btinternet.com

Advice about organs in Methodist churches



Advice about organs in Methodist churches

**Are you having problems with your Church organ?
Not sure what to do with it - repair, replace, or . . .?
Need some impartial advice?**

If the answer to any of those questions is YES then we can help you!

The Methodist Organ Advisory service was set up in the 1970s as a much needed service for the church. Today the need is even greater given the costs of repairing/rebuilding/replacing pipe organs and the huge variety of "none pipe" organs which are available.

The Advisory Service works through a team of Advisors who between them cover the whole of British Methodism. Most Districts have their own Advisor, but some Advisors do cover more than one Methodist District.

Advisors are usually active organists so they are aware of the tensions which can occur when discussions about organs are raised in Church circles! In addition they have a good working knowledge of organs and access to more technical advice, should it be required. They are also aware of the particular competences of different organ builders and the differences between the many "none pipe" instruments now available.

Advisors normally give their services to churches free of charge but individual churches are required to meet travelling and other subsistence costs.

Churches needing advice on organs are encouraged to involve their advisor as early as possible in their deliberations. Whilst there may be a view within a church on the desired action to be taken, an outside, impartial advisor can often present an alternative solution which may be both technically more appropriate and cost effective.

An advisor will normally visit the church, discuss the situation with appropriate church officers and produce a report. Dependent upon the situation and the solution eventually agreed by the local Church Council, the Advisor may continue liaising with the church whilst the project progresses. (This is more likely where a pipe organ rebuild/refurbishment scheme is the preferred solution.)

The Organ Advisory Service receives financial support from the Connexional Property Committee. Other costs of providing the service are met by the Methodist Church Music Society. The Connexional Property Committee expect that local churches will take advice from their District Advisor before submitting schedules affecting organs.

With the growth of "none pipe" organs, electric pianos, keyboards and various instruments that "play themselves", an increasing number of enquiries about such instruments are being received. As far as possible the Organ Advisory Service tries to respond to all these requests too.

How to access the Organ Advisory Service.

Rather than publish a list of local advisors, which may be subject to change, initial contact should be made to the scheme co-ordinator:

Mr Philip Carter,
50, Bayham Road,
Bristol, BS4 2DR.

Phone/fax: 0117 977 9152.

Email: plcarter@btopenworld.com.

Please make contact at an early stage of your thinking. This will allow time for visits to be made and the best possible advice to be offered.

**Membership of the Methodist Church Music Society is open to all - individuals, families, churches, or associated groups.
Everyone is welcome.**