

What is SCOTS?

SCOTS exists to find and encourage emerging organists as well as to assist those already in posts who wish to develop their skills. The focus is not so much on achieving technical brilliance as on developing the gifts, skills and understanding to contribute to a more satisfying experience of worship for the whole congregation.

Participants work at their own pace towards three successive certificates but with occasional meetings with an Adviser who is an experienced organist and church musician. They follow the SCOTS syllabus, which lists organ pieces and hymn/psalm tunes, chants and settings suitable for each stage.

The Adviser helps them assess what progress is being made and what matters need more concentrated attention. A participant attends one of the training days offered each year, which are in different parts of the country. Through the Local Organ Workshops, participants come to know others in similar situations and give support to each other.

An Adviser doesn't have the same role as a teacher. Some participants in SCOTS also have a regular organ teacher or take occasional lessons from one.

Anyone can join

It doesn't matter if you are just beginning, or an organist of long standing who feels they want to up their skills. SCOTS is welcoming and non-threatening. We don't do 'exams' (even if we pass through 'stages'). There is no pressure to get through; you work at your own pace – from a year or two to a lifetime. Information about joining SCOTS can be found in the box below.



Membership of SCOTS costs £25 per year.

A membership form and further details can be obtained from Ruth Irons, Membership Secretary (ruthirons@icloud.com)

www.scotsorgan.org/page12.html

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SCOTSchurchorganiststraining/>

The SCOTS Local Organ Workshops

We run several of these each year, spread widely across the country.

Members of SCOTS are encouraged to attend one of these each year. They are good for meeting others, hearing about their situations, and enjoying their support.

At each location, local organists are warmly welcomed to join in the workshops. Local Organ Workshops are generally on Saturdays from about 10am to about 3pm.

COUPAR ANGUS 10 February 2018

St Anne's Episcopal 2 manual Wadsworth 1892

Coupar Angus Abbey 2 manual Harrison 1887

featuring

Steven McIntyre · Tiffany Vong · Andrew Macintosh

The best use of your practice time: learning and perfecting repertoire

Hymn surgery

Keyboard skills for beginners

KIRKCALDY 28 April 2018

Old Kirk 2 manual Gern 1885

St Peter's Episcopal

2 manual Grant, Degens & Bradbeer 1967

featuring

Richard Michael · Douglas Galbraith · Matthew Beetschen

Jazzing things up—crossing the boundaries in worship

The role of the church musician

Widening your repertoire



**Come
and join
us!**

We would love to welcome you to one of our Local Organ Workshops this year. If you play the organ in a local church, at whatever level, there will be something for you.

£25 per workshop (£15 concession)

Please contact Ruth Irons (email ruthiron@sfo.org.uk) to register your interest and to receive detailed information about each day.



RCO



RSCM



SCOTS crosses denominational boundaries

SCOTS is an ecumenical scheme, geared to the needs of all denominations, founded in 1997. SCOTS is supported by the Scottish Federation of Organists, the Royal School of Church Music in Scotland, the Royal College of Organists and the Scottish churches, and sends reports and information to them each year.

The three SCOTS certificates are widely recognised as a good indication of an organist's skill.

SCOTS is run by a small steering committee consisting of members of the founding and supporting bodies and also representative of Advisers, current participants and SCOTS 'graduates'. It also draws on the expertise of other consultants.

Steering Committee Members: Andrew Macintosh (Administrator), Meg Carroll, Douglas Galbraith, Fiona Goodison, Ruth Irons (Membership Secretary), Doug McBay (Treasurer), Steven McIntyre.



**Programme
for 2018**



*If you play the piano—
but they expect you to pull out all the stops...*

*If you don't want just to play tunes—
you want people to SING...*

*If you feel lonely and unsupported
up there in the organ loft...*

...then SCOTS is for you!