

## 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 Local Organ Workshops offered each year, which are in different parts of the country. Through the 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.

## 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. Information about this year's workshops is presented to the right.

**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.uk/page12.html](http://www.scotsorgan.org.uk/page12.html)

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

# Our programme for 2019

Our workshops are open to all, whether you are playing regularly in church or not, and whatever your experience may be. Workshops cover a range of topics, but in every case we are there to offer support and advice to all who find themselves leading music in worship. Our venues cover a range of traditions and denominations, but at every workshop we welcome everybody!

To **book your place**, or to sign up to receive **further information about future workshops** as soon as it is available, please contact Ruth Irons, Membership Secretary: [ruthirons@icloud.com](mailto:ruthirons@icloud.com)

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## CARLISLE 30 March 2019

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Cathedral 4 manual Walker 1962

St Aidan 2 manual Harrison 1902/ David Looseley 1976

St Cuthbert 3 manual N&B 1904/ Compton 1933

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*featuring*

*Tom Bell · Drew Cantrill-Fenwick · Andrew Macintosh*

SCOTS crosses the border (just) to visit Carlisle, in conjunction with the RCO in the north of England.

Choosing and playing hymns

Improvisation for the terrified

Pedalling: *First steps* and *Hone your technique*

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## KILMARNOCK 1 June 2019

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St Joseph RC 2 manual Harrison & Harrison 1903

Holy Trinity SEC 2 manual Hill 1876/ HNB 1939

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## ABERDEEN 28 September 2019

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King's College 3 manual Aubertin 2004

St Machar 3 manual Willis 1891/ Rushworth 1928



**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 [ruthirons@icloud.com](mailto:ruthirons@icloud.com)) 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, Ruth Irons (Membership Secretary), Doug McBay (Treasurer), Steven McIntyre.



## **Programme for 2019**



*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!**