

The Fishmongers' Hall and Organs

Monday 2 April 2012

This meeting has been organised by George Freeman and John Belling



www.fishhall.org.uk

The **FISHMONGERS' Company** is one of the ancient guilds of the City of London and the history goes back 700 years. The hall by London Bridge was burnt down in the Great Fire and has been rebuilt twice since then with extensive work after bomb damage of the war. The company still influences the fish and shellfish trade monitoring fish at Billingsgate Market. It has various educational establishments, some promoting cooking in schools.

The Company runs the Doggett's Coat and Badge wager each year for "six Watermen in their first year of Freedom". The first race from London Bridge to Chelsea was in 1715.

After **lunch** our guide will be **Ian Shaw**, the official organist at St Mary Abchurch and St Clements, Eastcheap and visiting organist at St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge. He will take us into these churches which were rebuilt after the 1666 Great Fire by Wren and have pipes and cases from that date.

St Magnus the Martyr has been much altered over the years with a major work in 1924. It has very fine woodwork. The peal of 12 bells was installed in 2009 (Whitechapel Foundry).

St Clement, Eastcheap, organ is 17th century by Renatus Harris.

St Mary, Abchurch, has a unique painted dome of 1708 and a Grinling Gibbons reredos. The organ case is 1717 and the works were installed by Noel Mander in 1954. Here we will be able to go into the organ to see how it is constructed. Those who wish to can play this historic organ (any one with keyboard skills is welcome – do not be shy).

www.london-city-churches.org.uk

(We have been to the Watermens and Lightermens' Hall, Whitechapel Foundry and to Manders organs)

MEET at the Fishmongers' Hall for refreshments. The entrance to the Hall is ON London Bridge and not at ground level.

LUNCH we suggest the Green Man, a Wetherspoons pub at 1 Poultry

10:30 – 11:00	Assemble in the Hall for refreshments
11:00 – 13:00	Talk and tour of the Hall
13:00 – 13:15	Walk to the pub
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Tour of the churches and their organs

TRAVEL

The nearest stations are Bank, Cannon Street, London Bridge and Monument.

LATE ARRIVALS. Phone George or John to find out where we are.

CONTACTS

Before the meeting: John Belling john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com 07986 379935

On the morning only - George Freeman 07941 916 944 or John's mobile.

COSTS

£19 each with a maximum of 20. This includes a small donation to each church. Refreshments at cost.



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