



The Organists' Benevolent League

supporting organists or their dependants in times of need

President: Dr Martin Neary LVO

Secretary: Gordan St John Clarke

History

For nearly one hundred years the **ORGANISTS' BENEVOLENT LEAGUE** has been carrying on the work of its founder *Sir Frederick Bridge* helping organists or their dependants through difficult times.

Bridge was Organist of Westminster Abbey when, in 1909, he put forward the idea of a body to help organists "who had fallen on hard times". The first committee chaired by Bridge, included Sir George Martin, Sir Walter Parratt, Sir Walter Alcock, Tertius Noble and Sir Richard Terry. The current President, Dr *Martin Neary*, chairs a committee of church musicians from all over the country, who consider each application for assistance.

The first Secretary of the League was *Thomas Shindler*, Registrar of the Royal College of Organists, and the League is grateful to the College for the many ways in which it helps to spread the word about its work.

Although historical links are cherished, it should be stressed that the League is totally unconnected with any other organisation or denomination.

In the words of *Sir Ernest Bullock* (President 1927-1944)

"We are unsectarian, undenominational, and I was going to say Irreligious!... I mean to say our organisation extends to Anglican, Free Church, Roman Catholic and Cinema."

You can help the League in one of two ways-

either by alerting the committee to those who may need the League's help and by informing those such as clergy and churchwardens of the work of the OBL,

Or by making a contribution to the funds.

Grants

The League has funds which enable it to help organists, or their dependants, *either* by a single grant for a specific purpose *or* by modest quarterly payments

Recently the League has helped towards private nursing home charges, the repairs to a small car for an elderly lady organist living in the country with no public transport, and towards the cost of replacing an ancient boiler.

Applicants are asked to complete a simple form which must be endorsed by two persons of standing who have known the applicant for a reasonable length of time.

Gifts and donations

The League relies on your generosity to further this valuable work.

You can help the League by making a donation, by arranging a concert or recital in aid of the League's funds, or by remembering the OBL when drawing up your will.

Remember that the OBL is able to reclaim 28p for every £1 you give, if a Gift Aid Declaration is completed, forms available on request.

Donations and all enquiries for application forms and publicity material should be addressed to:

The Secretary
The Organists' Benevolent League
10, Stratford Place
London W1C 1BA

The Organists Benevolent League is registered as a charity (No.225326) under the Charities Act 1960