



The Falkland Society

Scottish Registered Charity SC01720

www.falklandsociety.org.uk

Christopher Bragg will speak on 'Historic organs of Fife, including Falkland Church, their purpose and their future'

7:00 p.m., Wednesday 15 May 2019
at the Craig Room, Falkland Parish Church, Falkland KY15 7BU

All welcome, retiring collection.

Chris Bragg was born in Stirling and is a former Organ Scholar of Dunblane Cathedral. He studied organ performance at the former RSAMD and at the Amsterdam Conservatory where he completed a Master's degree in 2005. His teachers included Michael Harris, Pieter van Dijk and Pier Damiano Peretti. In addition, he studied church music at the Utrecht Conservatory and clavichord with Menno van Delft. He has performed solo recitals in six European countries and in the USA.

Chris Bragg is Head of Programming at the University of St Andrews Music Centre, Artistic Director of St Andrews Organ Week, organist of St Salvador's Episcopal Church in Dundee and is active as a performer, teacher and translator. He is also a member of the advisory board, and a features and reviews writer, for the Rhinegold journal, *Choir and Organ*.

He has a passionate interest in the conservation of historic organs and has been fortunate enough to perform recitals on instruments ranging from the anonymous 1425 organ at Ostönnen in Germany (the oldest playable organ in the world), many 17th and 18th century organs in the Netherlands, and 19th and early 20th century organs throughout the UK and elsewhere.



Chris Bragg in front of the organ at St Salvador's Episcopal Church, Dundee (Wordsworth and Maskell, 1882)



The organ at Leven Parish Church (August Gern, 1884)

The Organ as a Social Mirror: In Scotland, the pipe organ has always held an uncertain position in the national psyche. Treated with the utmost suspicion by the Calvinist reformers, it would be the mid-19th century before organs were even permitted in the Established Church. Today, with the aggressive secularisation of society and (uniquely in Europe) no state protection for old organs in the UK, the fight to protect Scotland's stock of old organs from destruction is a constant challenge. But, beyond its everyday function, what is the inherent value of an organ? Chris Bragg argues for the organ as a vitally important social and historical mirror and highlights some of the remarkable survivals found in Fife.

Our 2018–19 series of lectures concludes with Bruce Manson's workshop 'Local History Carved in Stone' at The Stables on Wednesday 12 June. If you'd like to be kept in touch with this and other Falkland Society events, why not sign up to our mailing list using the form at www.falklandsociety.org.uk/contact.shtml.