**Memorial Concert for**

**John Scott (1956-2015)**

July 16th 2016 at 7pm

Wakefield Cathedral

John Scott, the world famous organist and choir director, died tragically early last August at the age of 59. There have been services in his memory at St Thomas Church, New York, St Paul's Cathedral and St John's College, Cambridge. But his friends and family think it fitting that a tribute should be held in Wakefield Cathedral where he was Head Chorister and Organ Scholar and where he learned and contributed so much.

John was booked, two years ago, to play on 16 July 2016 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Wakefield & District Organists Association (the world's oldest such organisation). It would have been a gala occasion in the completely refurbished cathedral and we hope this tribute will be a fitting memorial.

The programme will have three strands. A special choir has been formed with singers from around the country to perform some of John's choral music, including *Behold, O God, our defender* (ccomposed for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Service at St Paul’s Cathedral, June 2002), and the first UK concert performance of *Missa Dies Resurrectionis* (commissioned by St Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York & first performed there on Easter Day, 24 April 2011).This is a most attractive work, based on well-known Easter melodies, and is not yet published. John's widow, Lily, has given special permission for it to be performed in this memorial concert in his home town.

There will also be a chance to hear two pieces written in John's memory: Andrew Carter's *Lacrimae* for organ and Jonathan Bielby's *May choirs of angels receive him* for unaccompanied choir with organ cadenza.

The third strand, most appropriately, will be organ music. For two reasons. John played all of the repertory so well and it has been difficult to choose which composers to represent. But also, this concert is being promoted by Wakefield & District Organists Association as the final event of its 125th anniversary season. John and his father were both members of the Association. It will be a great pleasure to hear the cathedral organ once again with Thomas Moore at the five manual console.

Do please support this memorial concert which salutes one of Wakefield's famous sons, celebrate all that our Organists Association has achieved, and enjoy our newly restored cathedral! Admission is free and there will be a retiring collection for the Cathedral Music Department. There will be no interval and refreshments will be served afterwards.

If you would like further information please contact me.

Jonathan Bielby

Organist Emeritus, Wakefield Cathedral