



Finding an organist when you need one is not always a simple matter. This advice is intended for churches who do not have a permanent organist and those who live in places where few or no organists live. It will also be of interest to people who are interested in developing skills to play the organ in church.

Musicians, often pianists, who come to playing the organ through other musical interests are often called 'reluctant' organists, and many resources for them can be found under this name. In addition to the various online resources listed below it is well worth finding out if your diocese has an organists training programme.

If there is one it is very likely that it will be run by your local association of the Royals School of Church Music (<http://www.rscm.com/ukIreland/areas/index.php#>)

or your local branch of the Incorporated Association of Organists (<http://www.iao.org.uk/map/index.asp>).

Even if there is not a local training scheme advertised it is worth asking for support, your expression of interest may be the inspiration that is needed.

Various books are available giving and introduction to the organ, and recent examples include:

Daniel Moulton & Esther Jones (eds.) *The complete church organist* Volumes 1 and 2 (RSCM). This series is specially intended for church musicians, and includes samples of service music.

Anne Marsden Thomas *The organists hymnbook* includes hymn tunes graded by level of difficulty

David Sanger *Play the organ* Volumes 1 and 2 (Novello)

The above are in print and available from online booksellers. Other organ tutors are listed at <http://www.rscmshop.com/index.php/organ-music/organ-tutors.html>

If you want to develop your skills further, details of organ teachers can be found at http://www.rco.org.uk/education/find_teacher.php and additional names will be found by contacting your local organists association <http://www.iao.org.uk/map/index.asp>

