

DERBY & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION
VISIT TO ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DERBY, 21 APRIL 2010

THE ORGAN

1875

As built by Henry Willis in 1875 the organ had the following stops:

Great		Swell	
Open Diapason	8	Open Diapason	8
Viola da Gamba	8	Lieblich Gedact	8
Dulciana	8	Salicional	8
Claribel Flute	8	Vox Angelica	8
Principal	4	Gemshorn	4
Flûte Harmonique	4	Piccolo	2
Fifteenth	2	Cornopean	8
Trumpet	8	Oboe	8
Clarionet	8		
		3 unison couplers	
Pedale		3 composition pedals to Great	
Open Diapason	16	Action: mechanical throughout	

The high proportion of 8' stops, including four reeds, will be noted, as will the absence of any 16' tone other than the pedal Open Diapason.

In 1896 two pedal stops were added, Bourdon 16 and Quint $10^{2/3}$, still on mechanical action.

1914

In 1913 John H Adkins of Derby submitted an estimate for cleaning and overhaul together with various additions and "improvements". His proposals were implemented in their entirety:

- Choir Organ (enclosed) added on pneumatic action, consisting of Viola 8, Hohl Flute 8, Dulciana 8, Lieblich Flute 4, Clarionet 8. The Viola and Clarionet were Willis stops transferred from the Great.
- Balanced Swell pedal fitted
- 2 composition pedals to Swell added
- Pedal action made pneumatic
- Lieblich Bourdon 16 fitted on Great in place of Viola, bass octave derived from pedal Bourdon
- Great Open Diapason leathered
- New 3-manual console with 45° jambs fitted

It appears that, though not specified in the estimate, Adkins also substituted his own pattern of split pallets on both Great and Swell, and "knocked up" the treble pipes of the Fifteenth, eliminating the characteristic Willis crescendo and reducing the overall brilliance of the chorus.

In 1958 a wooden Twelfth was fitted on the remaining vacant slide of the Great.

1975

Much of Adkins' work was eliminated in the course of a major scheme implemented by the Johnson Organ Company of Derby in 1975. The main alterations were:

- Choir Organ removed
- New 2-manual console with 45° jambs fitted
- New Twelfth $2^{2/3}$ and Quartane (19-22) supplied on original Viola and Clarionet slides of Great
- New Acuta (26-29) supplied on Swell in place of Oboe; Sext (12-17) TC added on pneumatic action (12th from Choir Lieblich Flute, 17th new).
- Pedal action electrified, Quint removed. Additional stops supplied:
 - Bass Flute 8 (extension of Bourdon)
 - Principal 8, Fifteenth 4 and Mixture (19-22) (54-note unit, second-hand pipes)
 - Trombone 16, Trumpet 8 (42-note unit, new pipes)
 - Shawm 4 (Willis Clarionet pipes)

In 1984 a small-scaled metal rank was substituted for the Willis pedal Open Diapason.

About 1995, following water damage, Henry Groves & Son (successors to the Johnson Organ Co) refurbished the Pedal Organ, fitting new magnets to the 1975 chests and replacing the earlier chests with others from second-hand stock. The Bourdon/Bass Flute pipes were also replaced.

2010

The 2009/10 scheme undertaken by Edmund R Stow of Derby has involved, probably for the first time in its life, the complete dismantling of the organ. Remaining original leatherwork has been renewed, and the opportunity taken to rationalise, and in some instances reverse, successive past alterations.

Tonally, all the newly made pipework introduced in 1975 has been retained, supplemented by further new ranks for the chorus mixtures and material fortunately available from the defunct Brindley & Foster/ Reeves organ in the neighbouring St Anne's church, most notably reintroducing manual 16' tone and a genuine pedal Open Diapason. The 1975 Sext (accommodated on a new pneumatic chest hung from the roof of the swellbox, effectively preventing tuning and maintenance access to much of the bass pipework) has been dispensed with; its function is now fulfilled on the Great by a 2-rank Sesquialtera incorporating the 1975 Twelfth and the tierce rank of the Sext.

The introduction in 1914 of 45° stop jambs with staggered columns, in place of the original parallel jambs and single stop columns, had entailed various internal additions, alterations and compromises. Further changes made in 1975 involved the sawing through of one of Willis' famous wooden conveyances and the substitution of standard plastic drawstops, the pedal electric stops having less than half the draw of the mechanical remainder; more alterations would have been needed to accommodate the 2010 disposition. Taking everything into account, it was decided to revert to a simple console on the lines of the original, insofar as could be determined from surviving evidence, though necessarily with a second column of stops on the right-hand side on account of the greatly enlarged pedal division. The 2010 console retains the 1975 keyboards but is otherwise largely new; the rosewood drawstops and bushings have been kindly made (to a Willis pattern) and donated by Dr David T Wells.

An enlarged conveyance, generally on the pattern of Willis' original, has been made to replace the one sawn off in 1975 and also to supply the lowest six C-side pipes of the Lieblich Bourdon.

On the pedal organ solid-state switching has been introduced in place of the 1975 relay system.

The casework has been restored by Andrew Storer. A team of volunteers spent a fortnight removing tarnish from the 64 display pipes (all of them originally speaking) and polishing them.

The organ now has the following stops. The original Willis nomenclature has been restored where it had been changed, and Willis-like names adopted as far as possible for the non-original stops (it has not been possible to find any precedent in Willis' work for a 4' pedal reed of clarinet type).

Great

Lieblich Bourdon	16	2010 B&F and similar, ex St Anne's and Cromford Methodist
Open Diapason	8	Willis (Adkins leather removed)
Dulciana	8	Willis
Claribel Flute	8	Willis
Principal	4	Willis
Flûte Harmonique	4	Willis
Fifteenth	2	Willis
Sesquialtera	II	12-17 (on clamp; 1975 Twelfth and Tierce rank of Sext)
Mixture	III	19-22-26 (2 ranks 1975, 3rd rank new)
Trumpet	8	Willis

Swell

Open Diapason	8	Willis
Lieblich Gedact	8	Willis
Salicional	8	Willis
Vox Angelica	8	Willis
Gemshorn	4	Willis
Flageolet	2	1973 Reeves Larigot ex St Anne's
Furniture	III	22-26-29 (2 ranks 1975, 3rd rank new)
Cornocean	8	Willis

Pedal

Open Diapason	16	B&F c1900, ex St Anne's
Bourdon	16	1995, part B&F 1890 ex-Osmaston
Octave	8	Large-scaled rank ex St Anne's and Denby Bottles Methodist
Flute Bass	8	extension of Bourdon
Super Octave	4	extension of Octave
Trombone	16	1975
Trumpet	8	extension of Trombone
Shawm	4	1975, from Willis Clarionet

3 unison couplers

3 composition pedals to Great, 2 to Swell, 2 to Pedal

Action: mechanical to manuals, electric to pedal.

ERS

PROGRAMME FOR THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE REBUILT ORGAN

For the demonstration of the organ I have chosen to play a selection of short chorale preludes from three periods which will show the versatility of this instrument in the playing of music of different periods. These pieces will feature a variety of different solo and other combinations of stops and can only be a mere taster of the wide variety of sounds available. The possibilities are even wider now with the recent additions to the Great Organ of 16ft tone and the Sesquialtera which can be used in a solo combination as well as part of the chorus.

The notes below as well as reference to the specification printed elsewhere, it is hoped, will be of help in this programme.

Chorale Preludes by J. G. Walther

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier

Manual; Gt. Flute Harmonique

Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich

Manual; Gt. Flutes 8ft, 4ft, 15th & Sesquialtera + Swell full to Mixture

Pedal; Bourdon, Octave, Super Oct, Trumpet & Shawm

Ach Gott und herr

Rh. Sw. Lieblich Gedact

Lh. Gt. Lieblich Bourdon + Dulciana (octave higher)

Ped. Coupled to Gt.(tune in canon)

Lobe den Herren

Manual; Gt Full to Mixture

Pedal; Bourdon, Octave, Super Oct. Trombone + Gt. to Ped.

From 20 Preludes and Postludes by S. Karg-Elert op.78

O Gott, du frommer Gott

RH. solo Gt. Flutes in various combinations

Lh. Sw. Lieblich Gedact + Salicional

Ped. Bourdon + Flute Bass

Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend

1875 Willis full organ chorus beginning on Gt 8ft + 4ft Diapasons coupled to Swell

Pedal Open Diapason 16ft coupled. (the only pedal stop available in 1875)

From 'Le Tombeau de Titelouze' by M. Dupré

A solis ortus cardine

Rh. Sw. Cornopean

Lh. Gt. Claribel Flute

Ped. Bourdon coupled to Gt.

Creator alme siderum

Rh. Sw. Open Diapason

Lh. Gt. Lieblich Bourdon + Claribel Flute

Audi benigne Conditor

Rh. Gt. Claribel Flute & Flute Harmonique

Lh. Sw. Lieblich Gedact & Flageolet

Pedal; Trumpet 8ft

Te lucis ante terminum

Rh. Gt. Claribel Fl. + Fl. Harmonique + Sesquialtera

Lh. Sw Open Diapason

Ped. Bourdon + Flute Bass

From 20 Preludes and Postludes by S. Karg-Elert op.78

Machs mit mir, Gott

Manual. Gt. Dulciana Sw. Vox Angelica

Ped. Shawm 4ft

Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her

Uses full Organ