

### **The organ at St. Mary's Parish Church, Wimbledon.**

The organ was originally built in the newly rebuilt church by J. W. Walker in 1843. It was a small three manual instrument with 20 speaking stops, sited in an upper west gallery.

In 1876 the organ was rebuilt by A. Hunter & Son incorporating some of the Walker pipes. The specification of this organ is not known (unlike the Walker original).

In 1925 A. Hunter & Son of Clapham built a virtually new larger organ, but incorporated a few of the original Walker pipes and most of the 1876 Hunter pipes. The 1925 case by Hunter uses the 1843 Walker case for the upper middle section. The organ was and still is housed in the upper west gallery, but had the detached console immediately below the upper gallery in the main gallery. The action was tubular pneumatic.

There were six prepared for stops which were added by Hunter between 1926 and 1937, these were: Choir Orchestral Oboe, Swell Contra Fagotto and Clarion, Pedal Lieblich Bourdon, Trombone and Tromba.

The organ is a good example of a late romantic instrument, but is not helped by the poor acoustics of the building.

During the post World War II period, a new electric blower was installed and the wind system was modified. The Great Trumpet was made available on the Choir. This work was done by Rushworth & Dreaper of Liverpool in whose care the organ was at that time. An organ humidifier was also installed during that period.

In 1985 B. C. Shepherd & Sons took over the maintenance of the organ, at the suggestion of the late Herbert Norman (formerly of Hill, Norman & Beard Ltd.). Shortly after this we re-leathered all of the ribbed piston motors in the console (104 in total).

During the 1990s the organ's action and bellows were deteriorating and the leather was perishing and tearing. The very cramped layout of the mechanisms meant that, sadly there was little that could be done to correct faults as they occurred. The pneumatic tubes were not glued in, (as was common with Hunter organs), and constantly fell out in inaccessible places. Whilst some idealists would like to have seen the pneumatic actions retained and restored, this was unrealistic, as it would have been a nightmare to have done this work, and a very expensive option. Fortunately the organ advisors accepted that the logical plan of action would be to electrify the primary actions, and thereby remove the densely packed pneumatic machines and relays, (many of which were on the floor under the bellows), and make for easier future maintenance.

The church decided to have the organ rebuilt, and awarded us the contract for this work.

During 2007-8 we have rebuilt the organ. The actions have been electrified externally, but all the internal pneumatics have been retained and re-leathered and restored. This applies to the soundboards and off note and bass chests. The pneumatic draw-stop actions have also been retained and overhauled, but with electric primary motors fitted.

The console has been modified and electrified and moved to the north gallery. The manual keyboards and pedal-board have been completely restored. Solenoids have been fitted to the stop knobs. Additional thumb pistons have been fitted, and general pistons have been added. New toe pistons have fitted to replace the wooden composition pedals. A solid state capture system has been fitted to operate the divisional and general pistons. A solid state switching system has been fitted to control the notes, coupling and derivations. There is a digital link between the console and the organ itself.

The organ has been cleaned throughout, including all of the pipes.

The wind system has received attention. All of the original bellows have been re-leathered (apart from two which we had re-leathered a few years ago). Two new flexible leather wind trunks have been made. All wind trunks have been made wind tight.

The Swell and Choir shutters have been fitted with electric shutter opening motors (when the console was below the organ, they had been controlled mechanically).

Electric lighting has been fitted in the organ. A new door has been fitted to the back of the organ (where previously there had been just a small access flap).

Tonally the organ has not been altered, although the original wind pressures have been restored, where they had been lowered.

All wooden pipes have been repaired and glued where split. The speech and regulation of all the pipework has been checked and adjusted where necessary.

## The Organ of St.Mary's Wimbledon



(details based on the National Pipe Organ Register: [www.npor.org.uk](http://www.npor.org.uk))

### **Builders**

**1843**                      **J. Walker**

**1876**                      **Hunter & Son**

**1925**                      **Hunter & Son**

new organ, tubular-pneumatic action, incorporating pipework and the central part of the case from the former organ; console below case on west gallery

**1926**                      **Hunter & Son**

Orchestral Oboe added

**1937**                      **Hunter & Son**

**2009**                      **B C Shepherd and Sons**

new electro-pneumatic action, substantial re-leathering; re-siting of console on north gallery; addition of 32' Resultant Bass (derived from Bourdon pipes)

### **Present Specification**

#### **Casework**

**Undated**; Position: **West Gallery** Type: **Architectural**

#### **Console**

Pedalboard **radiating concave**

#### **Couplers**

Swell to Pedal

Swell to Great

Swell to Choir

Swell octave

Swell suboctave

Swell unison off  
Choir to Great  
Choir to Pedal  
Choir octave  
Choir suboctave  
Great to Pedal

### Departmental Stop list

<b>Pedal</b>	<b>32 notes</b>		
1	Resultant Bass	32	(from no.4)
2	Open Wood	16	
3	Violone	16	
4	Bourdon	16	
5	Lieblich Bourdon	16	(from no.30)
6	Octave	8	(from no.2)
7	Bass Flute	8	(from no.4)
8	Trombone	16	
9	Tromba	8	(from no.8)

<b>Choir</b>	<b>61 notes Enclosed</b>		
10	Open Diapason	8	
11	Rohr Flute	8	
12	Dulciana	8	
13	Principal	4	
14	Flauto Traverso	4	
15	Piccolo	2	
16	Orchestral Oboe	8	
17	Clarinet	8	
18	Trumpet	8	(Great)
19	Tremulant		

<b>Great</b>	<b>61 notes</b>		
20	Double Open Diap.	16	(from no.22)
21	Open Diapason I	8	
22	Open Diapason II	8	
23	Wald Flute	8	
24	Principal	4	

25	Harmonic Flute	4	
26	Twelfth	2 2/3	
27	Fifteenth	2	
28	Mixture	III	17.19.22, middle c# 10.12.15
29	Trumpet	8	

### **Swell**

#### **61 notes Enclosed**

30	Double Diapason	16	
31	Open Diapason	8	
32	Stopped Diapason	8	
33	Echo Gamba	8	
34	Voix Celeste	8	
35	Principal	4	
36	Fifteenth	2	
37	Mixture	III	17.19.22, middle c#10.12.15
38	Contra Fagotto	16	
39	Horn	8	
40	Oboe	8	
41	Clarion	4	
42	Tremulant		

### **Wind pressures**

Gt flues 3 1/2", reed 8"; Sw flues & Oboe 4"; Ch 3 1/2", Ch. reeds 7",  
Pedal reeds 8"

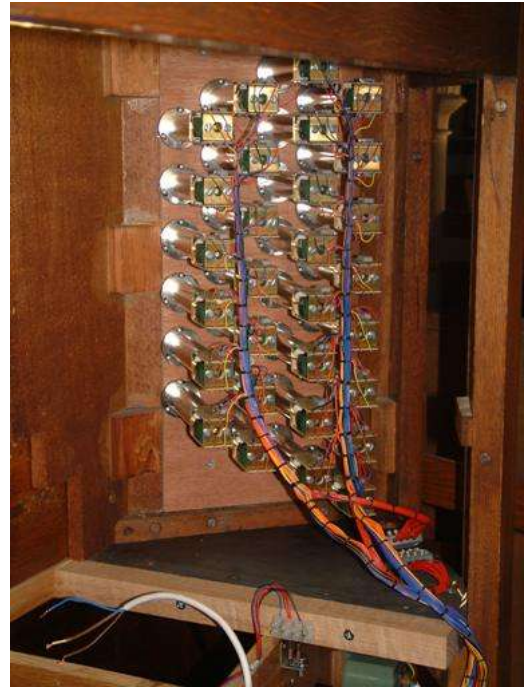
### **Accessories**

balanced expression pedals to Choir and Swell; 6 pistons to Great, 6 Swell, 6 Choir, 12  
generals, 12 combination pedals; Great and Pedal combinations coupled; Generals on  
Pedal Pistons; 8 adjustable channels to departmentals; 99 adjustable channels to  
generals; reversible pistons: G-P, S-G, C-G, S-P, C-P, S-C; reversible pedals: G-P, S-P

Pictures from the organ restoration project 2007 - 2008



Old tubular pneumatic action



...replaced with new electro-pneumatic action



