

Organ restoration 2014-2015

*Eighteen months of painstaking work by
F H Browne & Sons Ltd have produced a great result.*



making and sharing
MUSIC FOR ALL
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LOTTERY FUNDED

“The restoration has given the instrument back its vigour, its life. It is very exciting to play and the new stops complete the tonal palette beautifully. It's absolutely first class.”

Jonathan Kingston, '2016 Willis Pipe Organ Festival Director

Cast iron
bellows
weight
showing
Willis
maker's
mark



Leather, timber and moving parts

The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded us a grant because our fine 'Father' Willis organ was in great need of restoration and we have a clear programme of reach-out activities to extend learning about the organ and use and enjoyment of it.

Leathers on the reservoirs had become split, brittle and black with age; they have all been replaced so they no longer leak air.

Split timber in the soundboards has been repaired or renewed.

Many of the moving parts in the organ such as the electric chest magnets have had to be repaired or replaced.

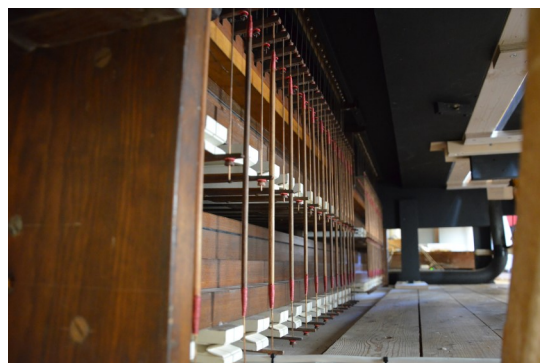
Leathers, felts, pull-downs and pistons also had to be replaced or cleaned and repaired.



Lovely new leather for the next 30-40 years



Renovated timber soundboards



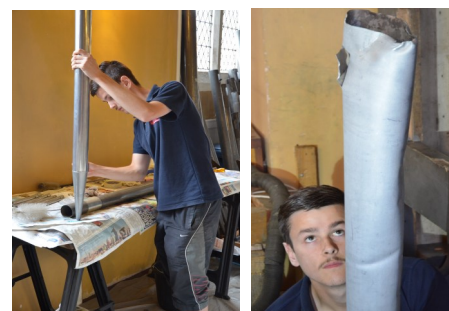
Moving parts checked and repaired or replaced

Pipes and finishing touches

All 1,731 existing pipes were cleaned and repaired by hand – a long and painstaking job.

256 new pipes were added to fulfil Henry Willis III's specification for the organ. The new large 'Waldhorn' pipes give more depth of tone and the organ also now has the stops to create the sound of a French cornet.

Finally, the gold paintwork and solid oak casework were added to present the restored organ to perfection in the gallery of the church.



Pipe repair and cleaning took hundreds of hours



Pipes being tuned with sliders to concert pitch

Available for wider community use

The organ has been re-tuned to concert pitch so that it is easier to sing with and can be played with other instruments.

This enhances church services and opens up many new opportunities for listening, learning and performance.



Carol service, Christmas Eve 2015