



HLF OH-12-12352
St Mary & St Giles Stony Stratford
Willis Pipe Organ Restoration and Reach-out project

Quarterly evaluation report for Q4 Jan-Mar 2015

Project overview

Date/ Project element	Jan- Mar 2015	Apr- Jun 2015	Jul- Sep 2015	Oct- Dec 2015	Jan- Mar 2016	Apr- Jun 2016	Jul- Sep 2016
1. Restore organ & trial							
2. Research & record organ history							
3. Produce learning resources incl DCD							
4. Train volunteer guides							
5. Community Music Programme + organ							
6. Education Programme							
PLUS Fundraising for non-heritage items							

Below we report against each of the active strands of the project and against the project budget. We are currently on time and on budget and achieving the plan in all areas.

Element 1. Restore organ

A highlight of this quarter was a coach trip on 20 January 2015 to Browne’s to see the restoration work in progress. This gave us the opportunity to see that the bellows had been completely restored and the soundboards for the different sections of the organ were also restored and the organ builders had started on the ‘under actions’ for the soundboards. They were also building the new soundboards for the missing pipes which were being made by a specialist pipe maker.

<http://www.musicforallsmg.org/a-trip-to-the-organ-builders-workshop/>

During January and February the arches in the church were painted. In the middle of March the organ builders brought the bellows and soundboards back to the church and started alterations to the building frame to accommodate the additional soundboards and pipes, both the swell and choir boxes were enlarged.

<http://www.musicforallsmg.org/organ-restoration-progress/>

Element 2. Research & record organ history

The discovery of the Parish minutes and newsletters from 1968 onwards in the filing cabinet in the church office revealed a treasure trove of information about music at the church from 1968 until 1997. Two researchers painstakingly read through all the minutes and weekly newsletters and transcribed all the relevant passages about musical activities at SMSG, some of them involving the organ, some of them in the wider community (such as annual carol singing around town), all of which revealed the social changes and attitudes towards music in the parish over time. It also revealed a fundraising campaign in the 1980s which resulted in Henry Willis IV moving the console to its present position. Two visits to the archives in Edinburgh in February and March resulted in further details about use and maintenance work to the organ before the 1960s.

Element 3. Produce learning resources including DVD

Filming took place on the visit to Browne's in January and the history section is now almost complete. Other sections await the return of the organ and completion on site.

A plan for learning resources to be developed for use in the church and online was agreed in February.

Project management issues this quarter

Publicity Regular use is now made of the HLF-funded publicity boards round the church. The PCC gave permission for Music for All to develop and run a separate website for at least the next two years; this can now be developed and launched in Q5 in time to promote the Festival.

Volunteer recruitment One new volunteer was recruited in this quarter and a few are starting to become a bit more involved. We still need to check that the Register is complete and accurate, but also address at future meetings the issues of: Overload; Volunteer briefing and mentoring; Identifying and bringing on 'sub team' leaders and deputies; Volunteer recruitment from within the wider community.

Project management The Project Team met once this quarter in February.

Risk register There are currently three key risks on the register which need long term mitigation, all to do with the volunteering issues outlined above.

Quarterly accounts Spending is on track and VAT claims continue to be made and paid promptly.

Lessons learnt The key lesson learnt this quarter are:

- The performers who presented TT@TT in January and March have booked already for a slot next year, so we may find this a good way to build a varied annual programme.
- Encouraging people who have enjoyed an event to bring a friend with them next time does work, but it is slow progress!
- If we have a surplus of helpers at a concert we should encourage some to become audience and enjoy the concert without worrying about what time to pour the tea etc. this is a great bonus. We want all our helpers to have time off and to enjoy an event without "working"!

Report on additional project: Fundraising for non-heritage items

Fundraising this quarter brought in a total of £2180.

Events Programme (without organ) this quarter

Strand 1: SMSG Programme: In this quarter we recorded five events: three Musical Bites, a Lenten devotion and three monthly TT@TT (Third Thursday at Twelve Thirty).

Strand 2: SMSG Welcomes ...: We welcomed two groups this quarter: both groups have been to us before and made donation to non-heritage item funds.

Strand 3: Heritage Weekend Willis Pipe Organ Festival 2015The Festival Organising Group (FOG) met in February and finalised the programme for the Festival. We have recruited help with copywriting and proofreading, researching leaflet venues and using Event Brite, but more help is still required.

Strand 5: Outreach SMSG Church Handbell Ringers went to The WI meeting in Whittlebury to be their evening's entertainment on Thursday, 8th January. We rang for 40 minutes and encouraged some ladies to have a go at ringing with us. Our Bell plates were in use again to augment the singing on Saturday, 28th March when the Fegans Court Music Group gave a private concert in our Parish Hall to their friends and families. This was the culmination of 5 weekly rehearsals of songs from around the UK in their community room.

On Sunday, 8th March, the last day of Fairtrade Fortnight, SMSG Church Band and Handbell Ringers gave a concert asking for donations of Fairtrade food for MK Foodbank and cash donations for Traidcraft. Comments included, "We were visiting Stony Stratford for the first time and saw the poster outside and thought we'd come in as we love live music. We really enjoyed the concert and would come again." "I run a handbell group and I am amazed at the tunes your ringers can play. This is the first time we have come here, but we were attracted to the concert because it was for Fair Trade and The Food Bank."

Events - case studies

Visit to Browne's

The coach trip to FH Browne & sons on 20th January enabled 29 people from Milton Keynes to see the organ restoration work in progress in their workshop. For most of the group it was their first time in an organ builder's workshop and their interest was palpable. A highlight for many was the pipe voicing workshop where the voicing machine was explained and pipes were blown. The construction and polishing of a new soundboard was also observed, under actions undergoing restoration were explained and the slider mechanism which brings into play a whole stop of pipes was demonstrated on the large soundboards. Earlier in the day the DVD film crew had filmed at the workshop, combining this trip with the filming gave a great opportunity to show the interest in the organ on film as well as capturing some of technical explanations and restoration work in progress. Feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive (see <http://www.musicforallsmg.org/a-trip-to-the-organ-builders-workshop/>)

Strand 2: SMSG welcomes other groups

MK Music Coop is the organisation that was created after local authority funding was withdrawn from the MK Music Service. Last year we were delighted to host the MK Music Co-operative's launch concert at SMSG church and were very pleased when they donated a substantial part of what they raised to the organ fund. They clearly like the acoustic of our lovely church as they booked their first anniversary concert for 21 March 2015, which turned out to be another wonderful evening of

music making by some of the Music co-operative teachers and a few of their pupils. These concerts are primarily a way of giving the teachers an opportunity to perform as all their other concerts are pupil concerts, however they invited some of their higher grade pupils to provide some of the music too.

Strand 5: Outreach

James Jarvis and Helen Rouse, violoncello and piano, came to perform for the first time at our Third Thursday @ Twelve Thirty concert. Of 53 audience at least 10 had not been to TT@TT before. The school children (cello and piano learners) came to listen. As they got outside the church, they were buzzing with excitement! The Shostakovich made a big impression on them, but they thoroughly enjoyed the whole concert and talked a lot about how the music made them feel and shared each other's favourites. One child said, "I am not sure that the lady playing the piano was playing all the right notes in that piece (Shostakovich)!" Then ensued a discussion on tonality and why it sounded like it did. The selection of music was not what the children would normally hear and it was such a treat for them to have that opportunity. Not only did they hear the music, but they also saw it being played and by two people who clearly love playing and who conveyed such a great sense of humour, joy and wonder.

Events - data

Events results	Jan - Mar 2015	Total in HLF project
Events raising £ for organ fund	8	27
Other events under Music for all @ SMSG	3	25
Total Music for all @ SMSG events	11	52
Performers involved	116	1159
(of which were school age - since October 2014)	21	140
Audience attendance	336	4261
(of which were school age)	40	287
Helper attendance at events	46	162
Total people engaged	498	5582
Footfall (info for businesses): monthly average	160	285
New email mailing list addresses	8	69
Net funds raised for non-heritage organ items £	2180	19264
Net funds raised for other groups £	232	1978
Volunteers recruited in addition to pre-existing 40	1	61

The quarter in pictures



January

James Jarvis and Helen Rouse play cello and piano duets at the Third Thursday at Twelve Thirty concert in January. The young school pupils from St Mary and St Giles Junior school were mesmerised.



February

Kirsty Morris Selley, a local piano and vocal teacher, brought her pupils to perform in an informal concert in the church in early February. Musicians of a wide age range and ability enjoyed the opportunity to play in public.



March

Painted arches in the organ chamber surrounding the returning organ action - here the extended building frame in the north chamber supports the Great and Choir soundboards.