



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

Quarterly evaluation report for Q8 Jan- Mar 2016

Project overview

Date/ Project element	Jan- Mar 2016	Apr- Jun 2016	Jul- Sep 2016	Oct- Dec 2016	Jan- Mar 2017
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/Visits Programme					
PLUS Fundraising for non-heritage items					

Below we report against each of the active strands of the project on the amended schedule reported last quarter (approved timescale extensions shown in blue).

Element 1. Restore organ

Testing plan feedback: has worked well; 8 organists have visited and been very positive; all issues and tuning have been dealt with to date, no outstanding issues. Blower room issue has been investigated and agreed no action needed; ditto no action needed on organ stool.

“Thank you for letting me play. It is a wonderful instrument, so responsive and typically Willis. Brilliant Restoration. There really is little wrong.” (Paul Daggett)

“Thanks for letting me play the organ today; I'm very impressed with the overall restoration. It looks and sounds great.” (Jonathan Harris)

"The restoration has been a total success, it has given the instrument back its vigour, its life, it is certainly wonderful to play, very exciting to play, and the addition of the prepared for stops completes the tonal palette beautifully so it's absolutely first class." (Jonathan Kingston)

The Browne's organ restoration contract has been signed off.

BIOS registration possibility: under investigation with help from John Page on technical questions.

Element 2. Research & record organ history

A small amount of research was carried out in the archives in Edinburgh on two separate visits during this period - one to the Library where microfilm of newspaper reports from 1962 were viewed and copied and one to gather a bit more data from the Kirk Session records.

Element 3. Produce learning resources including DVD

The DVD was signed off with thanks to the team, who in turn commented: "John and I have really enjoyed working together again and we have learned a lot. We now have a window into a whole new world of, motors, magnets, solenoids, pistons, pallets, wind chests, soundboards and of course, waldhorns." It will be shown to Fr Ross and then put into use from 23 April volunteers' meeting and 30 April inaugural organ concert.

Five banners were signed off with thanks to the design team.

Publicity

We are building good emailing lists and media lists and starting regular press releases (Joe Laredo) and monthly mailings using Mailchimp (Jane Wolfson pro tem).

Project management

Project management The Project Team met twice this quarter, in January and March.

Risk register A number of risks were reviewed at our January meeting Amber risks in hand and diminishing. The additional fundraising risk is being managed, as are risks relating to volunteering,

Quarterly account The project budget for restoration was exceeded by £11.5K, due to additional expenses, for some of which the VAT can be recovered. This will be covered during the life of the project by additional fundraising and reductions in some other budget areas. HLF advise that 'unders and overs' are acceptable provided that we do not ask for extra funds and can demonstrate that we have delivered the project outcomes that we proposed when we bid.

Fundraising this quarter: £1,456 was raised this quarter from non-organ events.

Lessons learnt Key lessons learnt this quarter are:

- This is still the hardest quarter to get performers and audience, because of the cold and short daylight hours.
- Our tariff system has worked well and we are fully booked for this season (though more organ usage is always welcome).
- New people are still coming in as performers and volunteer helpers.
- Personal invitations still work the best in recruiting new volunteers and volunteers for events.
- Wearing of badges has become 'part of what we do' and it is clear at events that this helps audience members seek out 'someone who knows'

Events Programme (without organ) this quarter

This quarter is traditionally quiet as the building is cold, and this year we have also been focussing on finalising HLF resources and plans for the Inaugural Concerts from April.

Strand 1: SMSG Programme

We ran seven events in Strand 1: Three Saturday morning musical bites; three 'Third Thursday at Twelve Thirty' drop in concerts, and Fair Trade/Food bank concert.

Strand 5: Community Outreach

One of the Musical Bites was repeated at the local senior citizens' sheltered housing complex.

Fegans Music Group came to the Parish Hall to put on a musical concert for themselves, family and friends. Rental for the Hall and outreach to wider community in use of building and bringing in their friends and relatives. 14 performers, 40 audience, of whom 5 were children. £100 was raised for The Autistic Society in a retiring collection.

Schools/visits/learners programme

Good progress is being made with more schools coming in (see events table and case study below). Local Year 9 students have a requirement to study an organ in their curriculum! Positive feedback from groups so far. It seems clear that we will meet our HLF target by March 2017. New helpers will be needed to maintain this - people with appropriate skills (including organists) who are DBS checked. First step will be to involve them as observers. A short role description we can use will be helpful.

Organ lessons have started again, with one pupil being taught from February.

Events and Visits programmes - data for HLF report

Events results	Jan - Mar 2016	Total in HLF project
Total Music for all @ SMSG events	7	113
Performers involved	45	2331
(of which were school age - since October 2014)	2	343
Audience attendance	335	6413
(of which were school age)	44	549
Helper attendance at events	36	433
Total people engaged	416	9177
Footfall (info for Stony businesses): monthly ave	139	307
New email mailing list addresses	6	133
Total net funds raised for non-heritage work	£1,456	££47,862
Net funds raised for church restoration/other gps £	£0	£3,170
Volunteers recruited in addition to pre-existing 38	0	44
Social media: @SMSG_Organ: Twitter followers/Tweets sent to date		2157 following, 368 tweets, 487 followers
School Visits this quarter	6	11
School pupils and teachers involved	87	253

Event Comments

We have started a log of qualitative comments collected by our 'good-bye' on the door as people leave. Here is a typical sample from the Musical Bite coffee morning in March:

“You have all done so well - there are many who could do with seeing how you’ve organised things here.”

“Beautiful music.”

“I so enjoyed the coffee morning with organ music, and meeting up with so many people I knew and a nice lady I made friends with. It is such a friendly church, so welcoming.”

Case studies

This period has kept the interest of the public and enabled us to plan well for the future. It has been a time of looking carefully at what we have done well and refining it, finalising bookings for a varied programme and preparing for the organ to be played for public performances.

Schools Visit 1 February 2016

10-11.30am 12 xY2 children walked from the school with a teacher and a TA. The organ had a cipher on the low F Waldhorn which was playing as they arrived! Dave played 'Somewhere over the rainbow' on the piano while they got their breath back, which they enjoyed, but the song was unfamiliar to them. They were divided in to two groups of 6 and they rotated around 4 stations:

- **Organ** - seeing, hearing (Jacob playing, Kieran talking!) going inside the organ and looking at the stops, blowing a pipe (small ones donated by Browne's)
- **Piano** - seeing inside, touching strings, playing notes, using pedals, talk and playing by Dave.
- **Belleplates** - quick talk about them and demonstration of how to play. Then group play 'Twinkle, Twinkle' (could sing along while playing) and National Anthem (unknown to children). Lesley.
- **Tower Bells** - climb to the ringing chamber - see the ropes, hear a bell rung. Kieran.

Finished the morning with all children going up to watch Jacob play Widor's Toccata (which cured the cipher!), a massed ring and sing of National Anthem all children (and all adults), question time and Dave playing Doh, Ray, Me & Yellow Submarine on piano (neither of which the children knew).

Feedback - Teacher said she had never seen so many jaws drop with the wonder of the experience. Really enjoyed it, thought it was really good. Very appreciative of the chance for all the rest of the Year 2s to try out Belleplates in the afternoon at school, as they couldn't bring them all to church. I took 6 sessions of 8 children 1.15 - 2.45pm.

Fair Trade Fortnight SMSG Band & Handbells Concert for the Food Bank 06 March 2016

This concert featured local guitar trio, Fadin' Shoes, their first appearance here. Two new players in the Band brought 3 new audience and because it was Mothering Sunday it brought a few Mums to watch their family perform! We raised £77.08 and a big basket of food for MK Food Bank.

TT@TT 19 February 2016

While the organ has been out of commission, Jacob Collins has been using his considerable musical talent to entertain. He played the piano, violin and viola for this concert and brought along 4 friends to play also. He had met these young people through school, MK music service and St Matthew's Church, Northampton, and brought them together for this concert. Their enthusiasm, skill and love of a great variety of music shone through and wowed the audience! Donations raised were £120.10 for the continuing upkeep of the organ - a TT@TT record.

The quarter in pictures

Musical Bite Names and Places

'Human jukebox' Dave King provided a fun morning of 'guess the name and place' at the first Musical Bite Coffee morning of the year in the warm Parish hall. About 75 people of all ages came to enjoy the variety of cakes, tea, coffee and squash while Dave played music from around the world.

January



Dave the 'human jukebox'

Third Thursday at Twelve Thirty with Jacob and friends

Jacob Collins and 5 of his musical friends played violin, saxophone, piano, guitar and sang for an audience of 60 people (including 10 children) at the monthly lunchtime concert.

February



Saxophone, Violin and Guitar

Musical Bite with Organ!

John Neal played the Willis organ on a trial run for it in public - he accompanied refreshments with some quieter organ playing (not pulling out the loudest stops). 50 people including 4 children came for refreshments and the music.

March



Smiles, friends and organ music
