



The Organs of St Mary's Church Standon

The Church Guide records that the church is built of uncut flints, originally arranged in a chessboard pattern, but altered when the church was restored in 1864 and re-arranged without any pattern. The tower did not then join the church; a square plot of grass bounded by two walls being between the church and the tower, until this was filled in and used as an organ chamber for an organ installed in 1865. The older organ and the singers' gallery above the west door were then cleared away.

There is some evidence that this organ may have been built by Holdich. We would like to know if any parts of the west gallery organ were used in the 1865 instrument.

About 1900 the organ was rebuilt by Bedwell of Cambridge. Most of the pipework, the original G-compass Great soundboard and the painted softwood case were re-used.

The stoplist of the Bedwell organ (see copy of Bedwell's own leaflet supplied by Eric Pask) was:

Swell compass CCto G (56 notes)

* Open Diapason	8	metal & wood
Rohr Gedact	8	metal
Gamba	8	metal grooved bottom octave
Gemshorn	4	metal
Wald Flute	4	wood
Fifteenth	2	metal
Oboe	8	metal

Great compass CCto G (56 notes)

Open Diapason	8	metal & wood
Dulciana	8	metal grooved bottom octave
* Clarabella	8	wood
Principal	4	metal
* Flute	4	wood
Spare slide		

Swell to Great
Swell Octave to Great

Pedal compass CCto F (30 notes)

* Bourdon 16

Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal

Accessories

lever pedal; 2 combination pedals Great, 2 Swell

* denotes old stops revoiced or partly new

windpressure 3"
pitch C 530 Standard

An electric blower was installed in 1948 and a new pedalboard fitted in 1969. Beyond this and general tuning and maintenance no further work was done on the organ until it was rebuilt by Saxon Aldred.

In 1998 the church architect reported that the floor beneath the organ was rotting. This provided the incentive for a massive and hugely successful fund-raising effort throughout the village. By good fortune the new Klais organ at Haileybury College Chapel made the old organ available in whole or in part. Many churches benefitted from pipes and chests, and Standon in particular with several ranks and the 3-manual console.

The 'new' organ retains all of the old pipework, though some has moved from one department to another. The swell has gained a 4-rank mixture, a 16' octave for the oboe and a new trumpet unit. The great has gained a 15th, 2 mixtures and 2 reeds, the pedal now has a metal unit at 16, 8, 4 & II and a 16' reed. There was no money for a 'straight' choir so all of the stops are 'borrowed'. Saxon Aldred's clever switching allows several ranks to appear at different pitches on choir and pedal and he has made full use of a fairly small number of bottom octave pipes.

Saxon has 'retired' from organ building and The Village Workshop has taken over the tuning and maintenance. Their first tasks have been to renovate the great and pedal reeds chests and to resolve the long-term problem with the swell shutter engine. The organ is in fine voice!

III Swell

Open Diapason	8	
Rohr Flute	8	
Echo Gamba	8	
Celestes	8	- old great Dulciana ?
Gemshorn	4	
Fifteenth	2	
Plein Jeu 19.22.26.29 IV		- ex Haileybury recast?

Bassoon	16	A where does the bottom octave come from?
Trumpet	8	B - ex Haileybury ?
Oboe	8	A
Clarion	4	B

tremulant
octave
suboctave
unison off

II Great

Bourdon	16	C (bottom 12 from E)
Open Diapason	8	
Stopped Diapason	8	(bottom 12 from C) ? old Clarabella
Principal	4	
Flute Couverte	4	? old flute 4'
Fifteenth	2	- ex Haileybury ?
Cornet 12.17	II	- ex Haileybury ?
Fourniture 19.22.26.29IV		- ex Haileybury ?
Posaune	8	- ex Haileybury
Clarion	4	- ex Haileybury

swell to great
choir to great
bass on great
tremulant - doesn't

I Choir

Geigen	8	D some of these pipes are stamped swell gemshorn
Suabe Flute	8	C is some of this the former swell 4' flute + bottom 12 of Clarab
Geigen Principal	4	D
Flute Ouverte	4	C
Nazard	2.2/3	C
Flageolet	2	C
Double Trumpet	16	A + B
Oboe	8	A
Trompette	8	gt 4
Clarion	4	gt 8

swell to choir

Pedal

Open Metal	16	D - ex great Double Open from Haileybury
Bourdon	16	E
Principal	8	D
Flute	8	E - where does the top octave come from?
Fifteenth	4	D
Octave Flute	4	C

Mixture 19.22 II D
Ophicleide 16 - ex great 16' reed from Haileybury
Trumpet 8 gt
Clarion 4 B

swell to pedal

great to pedal

choir to pedal

great & pedal pistons

generals on swell toe pistons

Notes for parish & visitors

Do you have any further information about the organs of Standon, photographs, pen & ink sketches etc?

Do you have any drawings of the side galleries or the singers/organ gallery at the west end?

I am hoping to write a booklet about the organs and any information you have would be most helpful.

If you can help please phone or write or catch me on a Sunday morning,

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