

## The Organ at All Saints Church, Hacheston



The present organ was installed in August 2015, replacing the former Hill Norman & Beard organ which was installed in 1901. After 114 years of faithful service, the latter needed extensive work including a new bellows and was also contaminated by asbestos which had been used to line the blower box. Following further damage caused by water ingress through the south aisle roof following the theft of lead from it, it was decided that the old organ was beyond economic repair.

Through the good offices of our organ tuner, Andrew Stevens, a suitable replacement organ was identified that Andrew had removed in 2014 from Wethersfield Congregational Church in Essex. The church had been bought by Mr Hamish Everritt to be turned into a home and, on hearing of Hacheston's plight, Hamish very kindly and generously donated the organ to All Saints Church. Andrew also agreed to dismantle and remove the old organ and install the new one for the cost of the insurance payment received for the water damage. Andrew also removed all

the useful and reusable parts from the old organ to help restore other organs while Hamish took a few things from it to use in the restoration work on his home. The remaining metal- and wood-work was removed by Andrew Stannard of Parham (formerly of Hacheston) to be reused and recycled as part of his restoration work of antique furniture and by-gones. Every part of the old organ was thus removed for reuse or recycling as appropriate.

Installation of the new organ began on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015 by Andrew Stevens and Andrew Ray, assisted by a team of willing volunteers who helped with duties such as repainting the metal pipes that formed part of the casing. It was especially appropriate that Andrew Ray helped in this work, as he had worked on the restoration and rebuilding of the organ in 1955. Andrew Ray kindly supplied us with the following notes on the history of the new organ.

The two-manual organ was built by J. M. & C. Corps (date not known). By May 1936 it was found to be in poor condition and needed cleaning and overhauling when Wethersfield Congregational Church contacted Cedric Arnold. The deteriorating condition of the organ was reported again in 1948 and 1952. Cedric Arnold provided detailed suggestions for rebuilding the organ with new keys, pedals, and action. Fifteen months later the Church gave permission for the work to go ahead and the organ was removed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1955

and taken to Cedric Arnold's Thaxted workshop where the work was carried out. The rebuilt organ returned to Wethersfield Congregational Church on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1956.

Andrew Ray commented that the organ contained pipes from a much earlier instrument which were retained. Cedric Arnold became part of Hill Norman & Beard and Andrew Stevens mentioned that



Andrew Ray was his mentor when he joined them.

The new organ installation was completed on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2015. With Graeme Hall, our resident organist, away on holiday, Malcolm MacNicol kindly stepped in to try it out under the watchful eyes and ears of the two Andrews. The organ was dedicated by Revd. Deirdre West at a

Benefice service on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The organist was Geoff Lavery and, being a Benefice service, the choir was present so the organ was used to accompany them in a range of hymns and anthems. For the recessional music, Geoff promised some 'fireworks' when he put the organ through its paces, which he did brilliantly by playing Karg-Elert's 'march triomphale' *Nun danket alle Gott Op.65*.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, an Inaugural Organ Recital was given by Michael Nicholas, Organist Emeritus, Norwich Cathedral. Michael displayed the range and versatility of the organ in a programme that ranged from C16 – C20 beginning with Thomas Morley's (1557 – c1603) *Alman* followed by pieces including Bach's (1685 – 1750) *Concerto in G*, Elgar's (1857 – 1934) *Chanson de Matin*, Louis Vierne's (1870 - 1931) *Scherzetto*, and ending with Eugene Gigout's (1884 – 1925) *Toccata in B minor*.



As a memorial to the faithful service rendered by the old organ, local craftsman Andrew Stannard made a beautiful table for the church using timber from the casing and with a top made from the Upper Boards which were attached to the Soundboard. The two brass plates from the organ that commemorated the donations made by the Moncrieff Trust to the restoration and further repair of the organ in 1980 and 1987 are attached to the front of the table.

As a footnote, removal of the old organ revealed graffiti scratched into the plaster behind the organ. The graffiti included the outline of a locomotive and the initials HH, HK, HT and TH. Could this have been done by youngsters employed to pump the bellows (electricity did not come to the church until 1952) who possibly got bored during the sermon. The loco is carefully done and recognisable as a 24-0 tender loco of a type that once worked on the Framlingham branch line. There is a known link between the local churches and men who worked on the line, often living in the gatekeepers' cottages. Could HT be Harry Taylor who lived at the Ford Gatehouse in Marlesford; could HH be the Mr. Hammond who is remembered by older members of the congregation as pumping the organ and chiming the bells at Hacheston?

### Specification of new organ

Builder J. M. & C. Corps. Rebuilt by Cedric Arnold 1955. Some changes made following installation at Hacheston church in 2015.

Compass	Manuals Pedals	CC to G, 56 notes CCC to C, 25 notes	Pitch	Wood or Metal	Pipes	Notes
<b>PEDAL ORGAN</b>						
	1. Bourdon.	16	W		25	
<b>GREAT ORGAN</b>						
	2. Open Diapason.	8	M		56	
	3. Stopped Bass.	8	W		12	
	4. Stopped Diapason.	8	W		44	
	5. Fifteenth.	2	M		44	
	6. Principal.	4	M		56	
<b>SWELL ORGAN</b>						
	7. Salicional.	8	M		56	
	8. Gemshorn.	4	M		56	
	9. Oboe.	8	M		56	
<b>CHOIR ORGAN</b>						
<b>COUPLERS</b>						
	10. Swell to Great.					
	11. Great to Pedal.					
<b>ACCESSORIES</b>	Swell Pedal Lever Pistons Compositions					

Wind Pressure 3"      Discus Blower 140      ¼ H.P.      230 volts A.C.      1947

Pitch

ACTION      Tracker.

#### NOTES

CA took on care of organ 1936 in poor condition. Recommended replacing or rebuilding up to 1955 when it was rebuilt with new keys, pedals, action and case. Reopened Feb 29<sup>th</sup> 1956. August 2014 organ dismantled and stored for a year. August 2015 organ re-erected in Hacheston Parish Church.

David Clough and Graeme Hall

August 2018