

## The organ at St Bartholomew's, Brighton

The current organ was built in 1901 by J W Walker & Sons. Originally placed on a structure part way down the nave it was moved to the west-end gallery when it was constructed in 1906.

Tonally, the organ has always been considered a "noble" instrument, the acoustics of the building playing an important part in the grand effect. Although it lacked upperwork at the time of its original construction, not unusual in a smallish organ at the time, it did possess the luxury of two 16' open metal ranks, one each for the Great and Pedal. These pipes now form part of the casefronts.

There is a degree of definition and a quality of voicing that mark the instrument as a thoroughbred and an aristocrat! Its most unusual original feature was an incredible blowing system with flashing lights, heaving bellows and sets of carbon rods being raised and lowered into earthenware pots of distilled water. This was quite an old-fashioned device even in 1906 and yet two of these quaint pieces of apparatus (one for the Swell side and one for the Great side) continued to function until 1974 when a Discus fanblower was installed.

Over the years, very little work has been done to the organ other than routine maintenance and tuning, although it was cleaned in 1952. By 1977, considering the enormous use of the organ, it was nothing short of miraculous that the pneumatic action had remained so prompt, a tribute to the original builders. Problems associated with this type of action increased at an alarming rate and it was decided in 1977 to overhaul the instrument completely and a wonderfully prompt electro-pneumatic system was installed, with solid state coupling and switching. Various tonal alterations were made, including new Mixtures to the Great and Swell.

Further alterations were made in 1990 when the main bellows were taken out of commission and continental regulators installed. All in all, what had been a very fine organ became a superb one in all respects - ideal for its prime purpose of accompanying the services and immensely satisfying for the recitalist and the listener.

### The Organ Specification

Great Organ		Swell Organ	
1. Double Diapason	16	10. Bourdon	16
2. Open Diapason I	8	11. Open Diapason	8
3. Open Diapason II	8	12. Echo Gamba	8
4. Wald Flute	8	13. Stopped Diapason	8
5. Principal	4	14. Voix Celeste	8
6. Nazard	2 2/3	15. Principal	4
7. Fifteenth	2	16. Flageolet	2
8. Mixture (19.22.26)	III	17. Mixture (19.22.26)	III
9. Trumpet	8	18. Basset Horn	16
Swell to Great		19. Cornopean	8
Choir to Great		Tremulant	

Swell Octave to Great		Swell Octave	
Great/Pedal combs on		Swell sub-octave	
		Swell Unison off	
Pedal Organ		Choir Organ	
20. Open Wood	16	31. Lieblich Gedackt	8
21. Open Diapason	16	32. Dulciana	8
22. Sub Bass	16	33. Suabe Flute	4
23. Octave Wood (from 20)	8	34. Principal	2
24. Principal (from 21)	8	35. Quinta	1 1/3
25. Flute (from 22)	8	36. Vox Humana	8
26. Fifteenth (from 21)	4	37. Trumpet (from 9)	8
27. Quartane (19.22 )	II	Tremulant	
28. Trombone	16	Choir Octave	
29. Trumpet (from 9)	8	Swell to Choir	
30. Clarion (from 9)	4	Choir Unison Off	
Swell to Pedal			
Swell Octave to Pedal			
Great to Pedal			
Choir to Pedal			
Five thumb pistons to Swell (Duplicated on Pedals)			
Five thumb pistons to Great (Duplicated on Pedals)			
Four thumb pistons to Choir			
Thumb and toe reversible pistons Great to Pedal			
Thumb reversible piston Swell to Great			
Balanced Swell pedals to Swell Organ and Choir Organ			