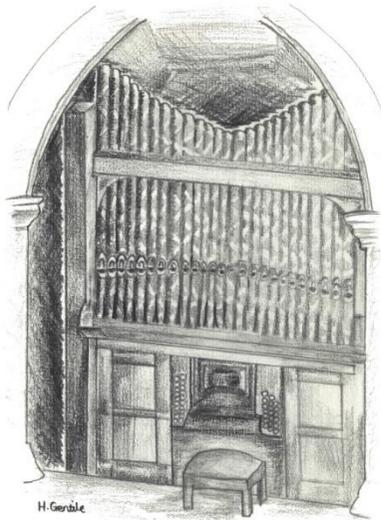


# The Organ



**A brief history and description  
and an outline of the work needed to restore it**

March 2017

St James Church, St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JS  
(Registered Charity 1130757)

## History of the Organ

The organ was built in 1861 by Messrs. William Hill and Son, one of the foremost organ building companies of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was originally sited at the west end of the nave, probably in a gallery where the large Perspex screen is today. It was moved to its present purpose-built location off the newly-extended chancel in around 1890.

It was enlarged by Messrs. Minns of Taunton in 1903, mainly by the addition of the Choir organ.

Following the First World War some of the monies donated to create a memorial to the fallen was used to refurbish the organ further. This was carried out by the local firm of Geo Osmond & Co in 1920.

In 1965, Osmonds carried out more renovations, and the organ was further renovated by Deane Organ Builders in 1997.

At present, the organ is out of use because the electric blower (dating from 1931) is unserviceable. Further details of the work needed to return the organ to use are on the back page of this leaflet.

## A brief description

The Organ has three manuals (from the top they are the Swell, Great and Choir) plus the pedals. In effect they make up four separate organs, with couplers so that they can be played in various combinations from one manual. The Swell and Pedal have electric action, but the Choir and Great have mechanical action; this mixture of actions makes the organ a little difficult to play.

The rank of stops to the left of the manuals are for the Swell, with the couplers between the manuals below them.

To the right of the manuals are the stops for the other organs. The right-hand set is for the pedals, while the left and middle sets are for the Great (above) and the Choir (below).

A full description can be found in the National Pipe Organ Register [www.npor.org.uk](http://www.npor.org.uk). But note that the latest changes have not been included, namely:

- Choir Wald Flute and Swell Clarinet swapped
- Hill Dulciana returned from Choir to Great, replacing one of the two Open Diapasons.
- Choir Dulciana replaced by Gemshorn.

There are thirty-one speaking stops in total:



Couplers  
between the  
manuals and  
the pedals

**Swell**

- (Tremulant)
- Cornoean 8
- Oboe 8
- Mixture II
- Fifteenth 2
- Wald Flute 4
- Principal 4
- Vox Angelica 8
- Viola 8
- Lieblich Gedackt 8
- Open Diapason 8
- Double Diapason 16

**Great**

- Trumpet 8
- Mixture III
- Fifteenth 2
- Twelfth 2 2/3
- Principal 4
- Suabe Flute 4
- Stopped Diapason 8
- Dulciana 8
- Open Diapason 8

**Choir**

- Clarinet 8
- Piccolo 2
- Nazard 2 2/3
- Gemshorn 4
- Flute 8

**Pedal**

- Octave Flute 4
- Octave 8
- Bass Flute 8
- Quint 10 2/3
- Bourdon 16
- Open Diapason 16



## Restoring the organ to use

To get the organ going again, we need to:

- Replace the 1931-vintage electric blower: it is life-expired and is producing sparks;
- Repair the oldest air reservoir: the leather bellows are perishing badly in places.

We have chosen to go with a firm which looks after other local organs. Other quotations were somewhat higher.

They also quoted to add electrical couplers to the Great Organ to allow it to be coupled to the Swell Organ. This would make the organ much easier to play than with the present mechanical couplers.

Including some contingency, we are looking at a total cost of around £8,000. Taunton Deane Borough Council has given us a grant of £500 towards the project. No grants are available from national charities.



### How you can help

If you would like to help restore this historic instrument, please complete this tear-off slip and drop it into the church office – or post it to the address on the front of the leaflet – or email your response to [info@stjamestaunton.co.uk](mailto:info@stjamestaunton.co.uk).

We will then contact you when sufficient has been pledged to enable the work to commence.

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I would like to pledge £ \_\_\_\_\_ towards bringing the organ at St James Church back into working order.

Name: -----

Address: -----

Telephone: -----

Email: -----

If you are a taxpayer and can gift-aid your donation, please tick here: