

# Something old, something new

The first in a series where Paul Hale writes about recent organ works

Welcome to the first appearance of this column, whose subtitle might be 'News from the organbuilders'. In it I shall look at recent work carried out in the UK, and work by British builders throughout the world. Needless to say, for the column to be fully representative of all that is going on, I need regularly to be sent information (e-mailed to PaulHale@diaphone.clara.net is best); so – organbuilders, please keep it coming!

In this issue we look at three nicely contrasting two-manual organs by Harrison & Harrison, Mander Organs and Robin Jennings.



Copenhagen's colourful Harrison & Harrison

In a beautiful position near Copenhagen's harbour the noted British architect Sir Arthur Blomfield built, for the Anglican Chaplaincy, St Alban's Church. Consecrated, complete with a new J W Walker & Sons (JWW) organ, in 1887 in the presence of Royalty, the church has flourished ever since. As with so many flourishing churches, the organ was rebuilt several times within its first hundred years of existence, in the process losing much of its vintage JWW character. The time arrived to start again.

Consultant Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite and Harrison & Harrison have designed and built a new organ in the spirit of Walker, which incorporates some existing casework and seven original ranks. The new spotted metal front pipes have imaginatively been decorated to an H&H design by Howell and Bellian.

## PEDAL ORGAN

1 †	Bourdon (wood)	16
2 †	Principal	8
3	Flute	8
4	Fifteenth	4
5	Bassoon	16

*I Great to Pedal II Swell to Pedal*

## GREAT ORGAN

6	Open Diapason	8
7 †	Stopped Diapason (wood)	8
8	Principal	4
9	Chimney Flute	4
10	Fifteenth	2
11	Mixture	IV
12	Sesquialtera	II
13	Trumpet	8

*III Swell to Great*

## SWELL ORGAN

14	Viola	8
15 †	Gedackt (wood)	8
16	Céleste (tenor c)	8
17 †	Gemshorn	4
18 †	Flageolet	2
19 †	Mixture	III
20	Cornopean	8
21	Oboe	8

*IV Tremulant*

Combination coupler: Great and Pedal pistons

† Pipework from the old organ

The manual and pedal key actions are mechanical; the drawstop and combination actions are electric.

An organ of similar size and 'Englishness', though of subtly different tonal design, has been constructed by Mander Organs for the West Parish Meeting House, Barnstable, Cape Cod, USA. This historic church, dating from 1717 and remodelled in 1852 has in recent years been restored to its former glory, though it had not had an organ until now. The new Mander organ, which has suspended action, two large single rise reservoirs and the clever device of slightly enhanced wind pressure for the bass of the *Open Diapason* when it is drawn as a Pedal stop, has been cunningly worked around the many wooden roof trusses in the gallery, as the photograph shows.

## GREAT ORGAN

1	Open Diapason	8
2	Chimney Flute	8
3	Dulciana (tenor c)	8
4	Principal	4
5	Twelfth	2 2/3
6	Fifteenth	2
7	Mixture IV	1 1/3
8	Trumpet	8
9	Cromorne	8

*I Tremulant II Swell to Great*

## SWELL ORGAN

10	Salicional	8
11	Stopped Diapason	8
12	Celeste (tenor c)	8
13	Principal	4
14	Open Flute	4
15	Nazard	2 2/3
16	Block Flute	2
17	Tierce	1 3/5
18	Hautbois	8

*III Tremulant*

## PEDAL ORGAN

19	Bourdon	16
20	Principal (Great)	8
21	Fifteenth	4
22	Trombone	16
23	Trumpet (Great)	8

*IV Great to Pedal V Swell to Pedal*

Electric Drawstop Action; Tuning: Kellner

The organ at St Mary's Streatley, by Robin Jennings, is a quite different proposition. It is of two manuals and Pedals, certainly, but of an unusual and refreshing design. Here is the stop list:

## GREAT ORGAN

1	Open Diapason	8
2	Stopped Diapason	8
3	Principal	4
4	Fifteenth	2
5	Sesquialtera II	2 2/3

## CHOIR ORGAN

6	Gemshorn	8
7	Chimney Flute	8
8	Voix Celeste	8
9	Flute	4
10	Flageolet	2

## PEDAL ORGAN

11	Bourdon	16
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*I Great to Pedal II Choir to Pedal*

As can be seen from its position, the organ has the slenderest of cases and is against the Chancel wall in the manner of the tiny 'Scudamore' organs of the nineteenth century. Such instruments typically had one manual, no pedal stops and only one to three stops. Clearly the design of this beautiful little instrument, waisted in a gracefully mediæval fashion, is of the cleverest.

Next time I hope to look at some slightly larger instruments, and warmly encourage organ builders to keep me informed by e-mail (PaulHale@diaphone.clara.net).



*Elegant Mander at Cape Cod*



*Graceful Robin Jennings at Streatley*