

# B. C. SHEPHERD & SONS

Proprietor: John.Shepherd  
Incorporating A.E.& F.A.Still & Church Organs Ltd.

## Pipe Organ Builders

Established 1927

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New organs (tracker or electric), Rebuilds, Restorations (tracker, pneumatic, electric),  
Overhauls, Tonal modifications, Tunings.

**IBO** BUSINESS MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ORGAN BUILDING

(Accredited for Tuning & Maintenance, Cleaning & Overhaul, Rebuilding)

### The organ at St. Mary's Parish Church, Wimbledon.

The organ was originally built in the newly rebuilt church by J. W. Walker in 1843. It was a small three manual instrument with 20 speaking stops, sited in an upper west gallery.

In 1876 the organ was rebuilt by A. Hunter & Son incorporating some of the Walker pipes. The specification of this organ is not known (unlike the Walker original).

In 1925 A. Hunter & Son of Clapham built a virtually new larger organ, but incorporated a few of the original Walker pipes and most of the 1876 Hunter pipes. The 1925 case by Hunter uses the 1843 Walker case for the upper middle section. The organ was and still is housed in the upper west gallery, but had the detached console immediately below the upper gallery in the main gallery. The action was tubular pneumatic.

There were six prepared for stops which were added by Hunter between 1926 and 1937, these were: Choir Orchestral Oboe, Swell Contra Fagotto and Clarion, Pedal Lieblich Bourdon, Trombone and Tromba.

The organ is a good example of a late romantic instrument, but is not helped by the poor acoustics of the building.

During the post World War II period, a new electric blower was installed and the wind system was modified. The Great Trumpet was made available on the Choir. This work was done by Rushworth & Dreaper of Liverpool in whose care the organ was at that time. An organ humidifier was also installed during that period.

In 1985 B. C. Shepherd & Sons took over the maintenance of the organ, at the suggestion of the late Herbert Norman (formerly of Hill, Norman & Beard Ltd.). Shortly after this we re-leathered all of the ribbed piston motors in the console (104 in total).

During the 1990s the organ's action and bellows were deteriorating and the leather was perishing and tearing. The very cramped layout of the mechanisms meant that, sadly there was little that could be done to correct faults as they occurred. The pneumatic tubes were not glued in, (as was common with Hunter organs), and constantly fell out in inaccessible places. Whilst some idealists would like to have seen the pneumatic actions retained and restored, this was unrealistic, as it would have been a nightmare to have done this work, and a very expensive option. Fortunately the organ advisors accepted that the logical plan of action would be to electrify the primary actions, and thereby remove the densely packed pneumatic machines and relays, (many of which were on the floor under the bellows), and make for easier future maintenance.

The church decided to have the organ rebuilt, and awarded us the contract for this work.

During 2007-8 we have rebuilt the organ. The actions have been electrified externally, but all the internal pneumatics have been retained and releathered and restored. This applies to the soundboards and off note and bass chests. The pneumatic drawstop actions have also been retained and overhauled, but with electric primaries fitted.

The console has been modified and electrified and moved to the north gallery. The manual keyboards and pedalboard have been completely restored. Solenoids have been fitted to the stop knobs. Additional thumb pistons have been fitted, and general pistons have been added. New toe pistons have been fitted to replace the wooden composition pedals. A solid state capture system has been fitted to operate the divisional and general pistons. A solid state switching system has been fitted to control the notes, coupling and derivations. There is a digital link between the console and the organ itself.

The organ has been cleaned throughout, including all of the pipes.

The wind system has received attention. All of the original bellows have been releathered (apart from two which we had releathered a few years ago). Two new flexible leather wind trunks have been made. All wind trunks have been made wind tight.

The Swell and Choir shutters have been fitted with electric shutter opening motors (when the console was below the organ, they had been controlled mechanically).

Electric lighting has been fitted in the organ. A new door has been fitted to the back of the organ (where previously there had been just a small access flap).

Tonally the organ has not been altered, although the original wind pressures have been restored, where they had been lowered.

All wooden pipes have been repaired and glued where split. The speech and regulation of all the pipework has been checked and adjusted where necessary.

The organ contains 2217 speaking pipes.

## St. Mary's Parish Church, Wimbledon

Organ by A. Hunter & Son of Clapham 1925.

Incorporating part of the case and a few pipes from the Walker organ of 1843, which was rebuilt by Alfred Hunter in 1876. Several prepared for stops were added by Hunter between 1926 and 1937.

Great Trumpet made playable on Choir by Rushworth & Dreaper.

Rebuilt with electro-pneumatic action by B. C. Shepherd & Sons of Edgware, Middlesex, 2007-8,  
console moved to north gallery.

GREAT	SWELL	CHOIR (enclosed)
Double Open Diap. 16	Double Diapason 16 *	Open Diapason 8
Open Diapason I 8	Open Diapason 8	Rohr Flöte 8
Open Diapason II 8	Stop'd Diapason 8	Dulciana 8
Wald Flöte 8	Echo Gamba 8	Principal 4
Principal 4	Voix Celestes (AA) 8	Flauto Traverso(harmonic) 4
Harmonic Flute 4	Principal 4	Piccolo (harmonic) 2
Twelfth 2.2/3	Fifteenth 2	Clarinet 8
Fifteenth 2	Mixture (17,19,22) 3 Rks	Orchestral Oboe 8
Mixture (17,19,22) 3 Rks	Contra Fagotto 16	Tremulant
Trumpet 8	Horn 8	Trumpet (Great) 8
Swell to Great	Oboe 8	Choir Octave
Choir to Great	Clarion 4	Choir Sub Oct.
	Tremulant	Choir Unison Off
	Swell Octave	Swell to Choir
	Swell Sub Oct.	
	Swell Unison Off	
		* open metal from middle G# up
PEDAL		
Sub BASS(Acoustic Ext. Bour)32	12 general thumb pistons	Compass of Manuals 61notes
Open Wood 16	6 thumb pistons to Swell	Compass of Pedals 32 notes
Violone 16	6 thumb pistons to Great	
Bourdon 16	6 thumb pistons to Choir	Organ in West gallery
Lieblich Bourdon (Swell) 16	Reversible thumb pistons for	Detached drawstop console
Octave (Ext. Open Wood) 8	Sw to Gt, Ch to Gt, Sw to Ch,	
Bass Flute (Ext. Bourdon) 8	Sw to Ped, Gt to Ped, Ch to Ped.	
Trombone 16	Set piston Cancel piston	
Tromba (Ext. Trombone) 8	6 toe pistons to Swell	
Swell to Pedal	6 toe pistons to Pedal	
Great to Pedal	Reversible Gt to Ped toe piston	
Choir to Pedal		
Gt & Ped Combs coupled.		
Generals to Toe pistons	Balanced Swell pedal	
	Balanced Choir pedal	

Electro-pneumatic action. Sonic Services solid state coupling and Piston capture system.

8 channels to divisionals. 99 channels to Generals. Discus Blower and Humidifier

Wind Pressures: Great flues 3½". Trumpet 8". Swell flues and Oboe 4". Reeds 7".  
Choir 3½". Pedal flues 3½". Trombone 8".

Swell & Great Mixture compositions: Bottom C to Middle C 17,19,22. Middle C# to Top C 10,12,15.