

The Organs and Music of Wroughton Parish Church



A brief illustrated history
following the rebuilding of 2005/2006

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A brief illustrated history
following the rebuilding of 2005/2006

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The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist and St. Helen, Wroughton

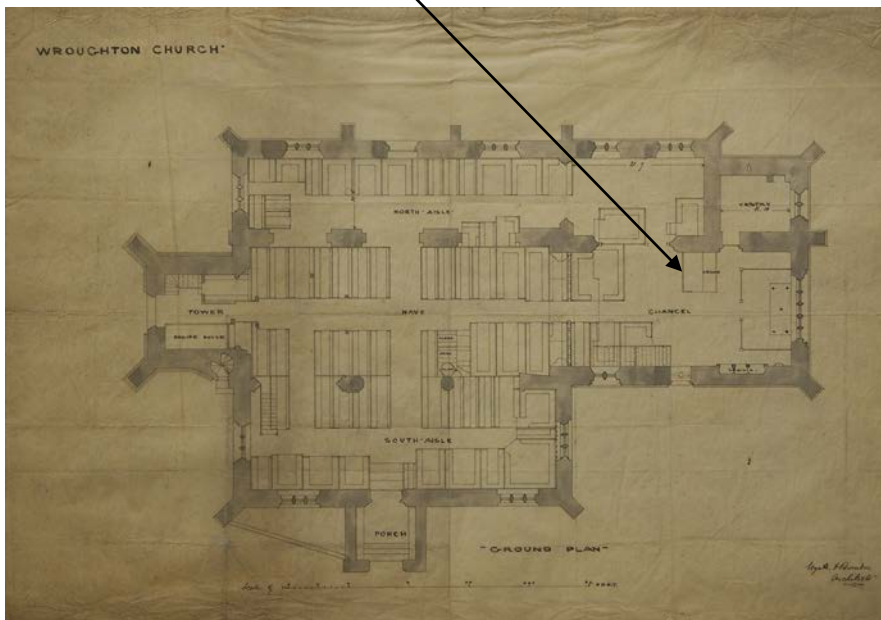


The earliest mention of a church on this site was in 956AD. This is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon charter which delineates the Manor of Ellendune and mentions the Rectory. The Manor of Ellendune was owned by King Edwy. The Victoria County History relates that by 1107 the Bishop of Winchester had assigned the income from the Church to the Precentor (of the cathedral) for making books. However around 1150 it was confirmed to the Precentor as an endowment for repairing organs as well as writing books.

The present church contains features from the 11th C and 12th C though it was heavily modified in the later middle ages and again in the 19th C. Some of the stone in the arch over the south porch doorway is Norman and so 1000 years old. Most of the present nave, chancel and tower are 14th C.

A major renovation took place in 1851, but we are fortunate to have a model of the church dated 1839 and a plan of the church as it was in 1846. This is the earliest mention of an organ.

Site of the earliest known organ



Previous Organs

Historical Background

From Elizabethan times it is likely that most small churches had little or no music during worship. From the end of the 17 C the church authorities wished to improve the quality of psalmody and this wish was eagerly taken up in some parishes where parishioners wanted to do more than just sit in silence at the point in the Prayer Book service where 'the psalm may be said or sung'. In larger churches this was not a problem and indeed in churches with organs it is well recorded that organists would also perform a 'Middle Voluntary' at this point before the psalm and some reports criticise them for showing off their keyboard skills in an immodest way! There were two obstacles to improving psalmody in small churches, firstly, a lack of suitable musical material and secondly, an area in which to perform it, since in most parish churches all available space was either owned or rented. The answer to the problem of performing space was solved by the (sometimes over-hasty) erection of galleries in the west ends of parish churches and from these the tradition of West Gallery Music was established. Although at first confined strictly to psalms (only the word of the Lord being permitted within the services), it was not long before metrical Psalms evolved into hymns.

In 1722 a faculty was granted for the construction of a two tier West Gallery to accommodate the children from the charity school. The upper tier was a musicians gallery and the 1839 model of the Church clearly shows a music stand in place. The west gallery musicians were usually singers, predominantly male, supported by instruments such as the parish could afford – commonly fiddles, flutes, clarinets and oboes. Brass instruments were rare because the high cost of these was often beyond that affordable to the

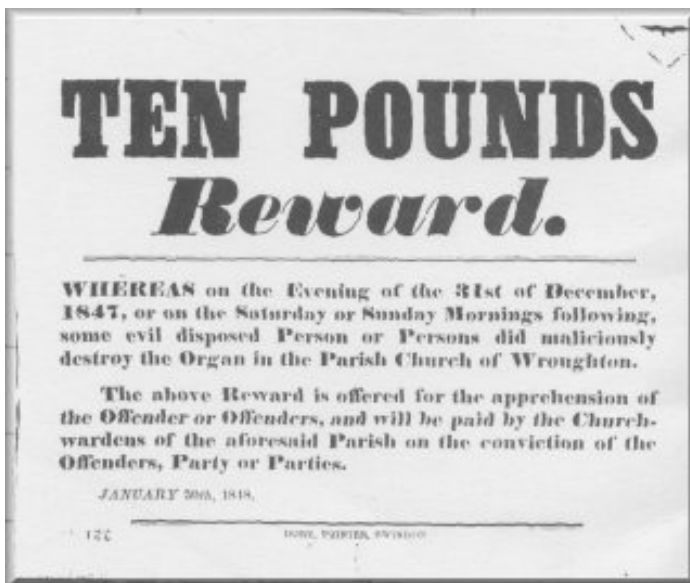
tradesmen and artisans who made up these village groups. They are often parodied in literature as ignorant and illiterate yokels, self-taught musicians with appalling behaviour and a total lack of reverence. Sometimes this may have been true, but generally they possessed immense enthusiasm and diligence.



This famous painting, *The Village Choir* by Thomas Webster (1800–1886) hangs in the Victoria and Albert Museum

During Victorian times the Church of England began to rebuild and ‘improve’ churches, to introduce robed choirs and organs, and to introduce simple forms of hymnody to which most of the congregation could then contribute. This was aided by the publication of *Hymns Ancient & Modern* in 1861.

At the end of 1847 the organ shown in the plan on p. 2 and the first known organ in the church, was vandalised and destroyed and rumours were rife that the displaced West Gallery musicians were responsible for this. A handbill was circulated carrying notice of a reward for apprehension of the offenders.



In 1851 a small instrument (one manual, without pedals) (possibly by the well-known builder John Smith of Bristol) was installed at a cost of £89 (£7000 by 2006 standards), probably a replacement for the vandalised instrument. This instrument, a gift of Mrs. Light the vicar's wife, was placed in the North Aisle at the site of a former North Door. There is a newspaper article in 1927 implying that this instrument, replaced in c. 1880, was later used in Winterbourne Bassett church.

The next organ installed around 1880 was a second-hand instrument of 2 manuals and pedals newly sited in the Chancel in

the same arch that houses the present instrument. The builder of this instrument is unknown, but around the time of World War I it was under the care of Gray & Davison, the large London firm who had a branch in Oxford. In 1914, for the sum of 35 Pounds and 2 Shillings (£2,244 in 2006 terms), Gray & Davison renewed part of the pedal mechanism and changed a Cornopean stop for a Gamba. It is not known what became of this organ, but pipes from it are unlikely to have been re-used in the present organ for the one organ was replaced by the other in the amazingly short time of only two weeks, indeed the PCC only resolved to apply for a faculty for a new organ in the month prior to the actual installation - no 21st C bureaucracy in those days !

The Haskins Organ of 1927



The organ was a gift to the church by the Webb family, regular worshippers for many years at the Parish Church, in memory of the late Mr Sainsbury Webb of Wroughton. It was built in 1927 at a cost of £1100 (£43,746 in 2006 terms) by the firm of J. G. Haskins & Co of Brigstocke Road, St. Paul's, in Bristol. There was actually no such person as J. G. Haskins for this was a pseudonym. Two brothers ran the firm - Arthur Edwin Keyes and William Anthony Keyes, the sons of Anthony Wyatt Keyes, himself also an organ builder in Bristol. The Keyes brothers worked for W. G. Vowles of Bristol a well-known

Bristol firm and builder of an organ for Bristol Cathedral in 1861. Arthur Edwin Keyes was the senior designer at Vowles. In 1905 the firm of Vowles went into decline perhaps in part because they lost the contract for the Bristol Cathedral organ which the Dean and Chapter planned to replace with a new instrument by J. W. Walker, the organ which is still in use today. As a result the firm needed to lay off men including William Anthony Keyes. Arthur Edwin decided to resign also and the Keyes brothers set up independently as organ builders and repairers taking on some of the other men laid off by Vowles. In addition to tuning and repair work, they built about one new organ a year, many in private houses as well as in chapels and churches. For reasons of business ethics they decided to use the pseudonym "Haskins". The firm continued until 1940 when their Bristol factory burnt down in a bombing air-raid. The Haskins company built around 20 new instruments between 1910 and 1930, mostly in Bristol, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. Another instrument with a very similar specification to that in Wroughton was also built for St. Paul's Anglican Church in Swindon, a church demolished in the 1960s. The quality and voicing of the strings and flutes in Wroughton are exceptional, far superior to Haskins' other work suggesting that the present instrument probably contains pipe work from elsewhere. The organ was dedicated on Thursday May 12th 1927 by Dr. R. T. Talbot (Archdeacon of Swindon) with Mr. John J. Gale (see p. 22) as organist. The pieces performed by Mr. Gale during the service, which was both a service of blessing and thanksgiving and also an organ recital, included *Fugue in D* by J. S. Bach, *Marche funèbre et chant séraphique* by Alexandre Guilmant, *Songs in the Night* by Walter Spinney, *April Showers* by Eugène Favet and *Grand Offertoire in D* by Edouard Batiste.

The *North Wilts Herald* announced the following week that "the organ is claimed to be the finest in the neighbourhood of Swindon".



The Haskins Organ in 2002

Specification prior to 2006

The organ has two manuals and pedals and originally had tubular pneumatic action throughout. The case, in Austrian oak, was designed by W. A. H. Masters, LICRBA, who probably lived in Wroughton as he was appointed as a Churchwarden in 1927.

Swell Organ

58 notes, C to a³ (enclosed, central balanced swell pedal replaced hitch-down in 1962)

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Double Diapason | 16ft |
| 2. Open Diapason | 8ft |
| 3. Violin Diapason | 8ft |
| 4. Lieblich Gedackt | 8ft |
| 5. Salicional | 8ft |
| 6. Vox Celeste | 8ft |
| 7. Gemshorn | 4ft |
| 8. Fifteenth | 2ft (added 1962, formerly Viol d'Orchestre 8ft) |
| 9. Oboe | 8ft |
| 10. Cornopean | 8ft |

Tremulant

Great Organ

58 notes, C to a³ (not enclosed)

Front display pipes speak, the side pipes are dummies

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 11. Open Diapason I | 8ft |
| 12. Open Diapason Medium | 8ft |
| 13. Clarabella | 8ft |
| 15. Principal | 4ft |
| 16. Harmonic Flute | 4ft |
| 17. Mixture | II-III (added 1962, formerly Gamba 8ft) |
| 18. Trumpet | 8ft |

Pedal Organ

30 notes, C to f¹ (not enclosed)

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 19. Open Diapason | 16ft |
| 20. Bourdon | 16ft |
| 21. Bass Flute | 8ft (extension of 20) |

Couplers

Swell to Great, Swell to Pedal, Swell Octave, Swell Suboctave, Great to Pedal, 3 Composition pedals each to the Great and Swell divisions

Blowing: Electric with Discus blower (added in 1949 at a cost of £128/10/0 (£3040 in 2006)) shortly after electricity arrived in the church)

Recent history

During the 1960's and 1970' the organ was maintained by Tony Scott of Lambourn. Anthony Leonard Winstone Scott (1911-????) was a composer of note, a pupil of Herbert Howells and Gerald Finzi, an Old Harrovian and sometime organist of Lambourn Parish Church in Berkshire. Scott spent most of WWII as a navigator in RAF Bomber Command before becoming apprenticed to the well-known organ building firm of Rushworth in Liverpool. Whilst in charge of the Wroughton Organ he made some tonal changes (see p. 8). These, together with treatment of the organ against insect attack and the replacement of the old hitch-down Swell Pedal with a central balanced pedal, cost £500 (£7150 today).

Since 1981 the organ has been under the regular care of Foster-Waite Organ Builders of Newbury who carried out a major stripping down and cleaning in 1987 at a cost of £5471 (£10300 today). Tony Foster-Waite, an apprentice to Henry Willis III in London in 1951, began as an independent builder in 1968 and is known in the organ trade for his expertise in voicing pipes.

During the 1980's and 1990's the organ suffered from the gas space heating in the church and in 2005 it was decided to strip down the instrument again for cleaning and repair. A flaw in the original design meant that some of the pedal pipes were inaccessible for maintenance and several had lain silent for over 12 years. It was also noted that when large congregations were present at major festivals the organ was almost inaudible towards the rear of the church. The pedal organ has been redesigned to give proper access and new ranks of pipes added to both pedal and great organs to give extra power for hymn singing. These changes necessitated that the action to the new work be converted to electric rather than construct a new tubular pneumatic action which would have been prohibitively expensive. In July 2005 the organ was dismantled by Foster-Waite.

Summary of tonal changes 2006

Swell

- 1) The Oboe 8ft (No. 9 above) was moved to the back of the case in place of the Double Diapason 16ft (No. 1 above) to become a Contra-Oboe 16ft with the addition of 12 extra pipes at the bottom.
- 2) The front soundboard formerly occupied by the oboe pipes was rebuilt to accommodate a Sesquialtera 12/17

As with the rest of the Swell organ, the above two stops are still operated by tubular-pneumatic action.

Great

- 1) A Fifteenth 2ft and Clarinet 8ft have been added on a separate chest behind the front display pipes. These are operated by electric action.

2) The Mixture 19/22 was found to be inconsistent in that the bottom octave was 15/19. This was rectified.

Pedal

- 1) The whole pedal division has been redesigned to give access for maintenance. All the stops are now operated by electric action. There being insufficient space on the left jamb, the pedal stop knobs are now on the right hand jamb.
- 2) The Bass Flute 8ft (No. 19 above, previously an extension of No. 20) was removed and replaced with a new Bass Flute 8ft extended to provide a Flute 4ft.
- 3) A new Principal 8ft has been added extended to provide a Principal 4ft.

Combination Pedals

Electric switches were added to the 3 Great combination pedals to allow the electrified Pedal stops and the Great Fifteenth to be included in the combinations.

Display Pipes

Members of the congregation helped to sand the display pipes (including the new Pedal Principal located in the Choir Vestry) which were roughened and pitted with age. These were then sprayed locally by Tony Ricketts of Wroughton using Renault Silver paint with the mouths of the pipes picked out in Ford Gold.

Specification from 2006

Swell Organ

58 notes, C to a³ (enclosed, balanced swell pedal)

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--|
| 1. Open Diapason | 8ft | |
| 2. Violin Diapason | 8ft | |
| 3. Lieblich Gedackt | 8ft | |
| 4. Salicional | 8ft | |
| 5. Vox Celeste | 8ft | |
| 6. Gemshorn | 4ft | |
| 7. Fifteenth | 2ft | (added 1962, formerly Viol d'Orchestre 8ft) |
| 8. Sesquialtera | 12/17 | (new 2006) |
| 9. Cornopean | 8ft | |
| 10. Contra-Oboe | 16ft | (formerly oboe 8ft) |

Tremulant

Tubular pneumatic action throughout

Great Organ

58 notes, C to a³ (not enclosed)

Front display pipes speak, the side pipes are dummies

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| 11. Open Diapason I | 8ft | |
| 12. Open Diapason Medium | 8ft | |
| 13. Clarabella | 8ft | |
| 14. Dulciana | 8ft | |
| 15. Principal | 4ft | |
| 16. Harmonic Flute | 4ft | |
| 17. Fifteenth | 2ft | (new 2006) |
| 18. Mixture | II-III (19/22) | (added 1962, formerly Gamba 8ft, revised 2006 to be 19/22 throughout) |
| 19. Clarinet | 8ft | (new 2006) |
| 20. Trumpet | 8ft | |

Tubular pneumatic action except 17 & 19 which are electric action.

Pedal Organ (30 notes, C to f¹ not enclosed)

| | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| 21. Open Diapason | 16ft | |
| 22. Bourdon | 16ft | |
| 23. Principal | 8ft | (new 2006) |
| 24. Bass Flute | 8ft | (new 2006) |
| 25. Principal | 4ft | (new 2006, extension of 23) |
| 26. Bass Flute | 4ft | (new 2006, extension of 24) |

Electric action throughout

There are 1408 speaking pipes.

Couplers

Swell to Great, Swell to Pedal, Swell Octave, Swell Suboctave
Great to Pedal.

3 composition pedals each to Swell and Great, the latter also
controlling the pedal stops.

Blowing

In 2006 the 1949 Discus blower was moved from the back of the organ and placed inside the pedal organ. Asbestos sound-proofing was removed and replaced. The motor was rewired and reconnected correctly for at some time it was wired to run the wrong way !

The original rotary handle for manual blowing is still functional.

The following pages contain photographs of the work in progress



(above) Pipes stacked in the North Aisle July 2005

(Below) The cupboard was bare August 2005





(above) Rubbing down the display pipes January 2006

(below) The new Pedal Flute in the workshop

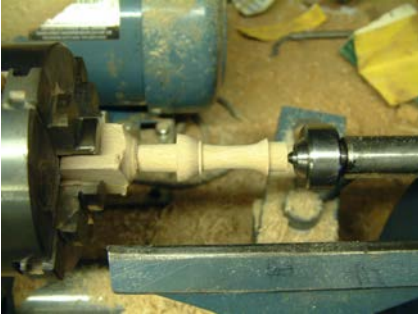




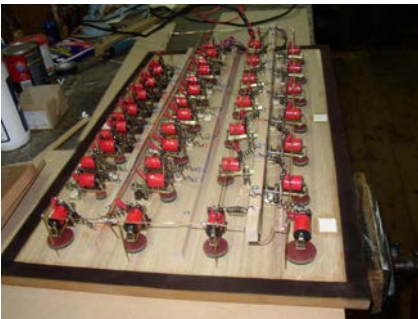
(above) The Blower and motor resided Jan 2006

(below) The old Swell 16ft Diapason before removal





**(left) A new stop knob on the lathe.
(right) Right hand jamb being rebuilt in the workshop.**



**(left) Some of the new electronics.
(right) Clarinet pipes in the workshop.**

**(right) Manuals, pedals and
stop knobs now in place June 2006**





(above) Inside the Great Organ before cleaning

**(below) the Great Organ after cleaning with
new Clarinet in place (top octave on its own electric chest)**





**(above) Rear Swell pipes replaced with slender conical
Contra-oboe pipes at the very back**

**(right) New Pedal Principal
display pipes in the Choir Vestry
April 2006**





(above) Swell Sesquialtera (the front two rows of pencil thin pipes) inserted June 2006. The conical pipes just behind these are the Cornopean.

**(below) Lunch break June 2006
(L to R) Paul Bowers, Eileen Foster-Waite, Tony Foster-Waite**





The Organ July 2006

Organists of Wroughton Church

The earliest mention of an organist in 1885 records that a Mr. W. H. Painter played the organ and through most of the 1880's and 1890's the organist's salary was £9–£10 (£650–720 today). In 1898 it was raised to £18 (£1350)

John J. Gale

John James Gale was born in 1872 in Swindon and was a very significant musician both for Wroughton Church and for Swindon town. He studied the organ at Gloucester Cathedral as a pupil of Sir Herbert Brewer (1853–1935) who served as organist there from 1897 to 1928. Gale passed his Associateship examination of the Royal College of Organists to become an ARCO in July 1910 when the examiners included Sir George Martin, organist of St. Paul's Cathedral and Sir Percy Buck, then Director of Music at Harrow School. Altogether 226 candidates took the exam but only 65 passed. At this time John Gale is described in the Royal College of Organists records as organist of "St. John's, Swindon" – presumably meaning St. John The Baptist, Wroughton as there was no other St. John's Church in Swindon at that time. However this is incorrect as he had by then moved on to St. Mark's Church.

The *Wroughton Church Monthly* for April 1906 said of John Gale that "It is with great regret that we report that our excellent organist is leaving us. For twelve and a half years he has come over regularly in all weathers, and with only a short practice has trained the choir to sing much better than most boys." This suggests that he began as organist at the end of 1893 and perhaps 'come over' suggests that he lived in Swindon rather than Wroughton. Although there was a small payment to him in 1894, he was probably only appointed regular organist around 1898. Several comments about him can be

found in the Appendix of Musical Notes. In Dec 1905 he gave an organ recital in the Oddfellows Hall (New Road, Swindon) with proceeds to the Tower and Bell Fund and at his last service in Wroughton on April 18th 1906 the Church Bells were inaugurated.

Gale was a professional musician, rather than an amateur, making a living from teaching music and from fees as a church organist. He described himself as a “Professor of pianoforte, organ, harmony & composition”, but it was very hard for musicians to make ends meet in the early 20th C and when the organistship of St. Mark’s Church in Swindon New Town became vacant at a better salary he moved on. As mentioned on p. 6, Gale returned to Wroughton to play at the service for the dedication of the Wroughton Haskins organ in 1927.

Around 1920 he was resident at 48 Victoria Road and by 1935 he was at 37 Victoria Road where he remained until at least 1948 when he was aged 76.

On 24th April 1945 Gale directed the choir of St. Mark’s Church (assisted by choristers from Wroughton, St. Luke’s and St. Saviour’s) in the first performance of Benjamin Britten’s now well-known *Festival Te Deum* commissioned for the centenary of St. Mark’s.

Official organists include

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| c.1885 | Mr. W. H. Painter |
| ????–1897 | Miss Turner (possibly daughter of Rev. Turner, Vicar) |
| 1897–c.1898 | Mr. Chilvers |
| c.1898–1906 | John James Gale (1872–after 1948) |
| 1952–1963 | Herbert Vanstone Castle (1908–1969) |
| ????–1988 | Jack Allsopp (–1988) |
| 1988–1992 | Connie Lane (organist) |
| 1988–1994 | Margaret Penfound (choir–trainer) |

1992–1994 David Parks (organist)
1994– John Henderson (b. 1945)

assisted in recent years by (alphabetical order)

MacDonald Coventry, Connie Lane, Margaret Penfound, Ruth Penfound and Charles Vince.

The organ bears this plaque to Herbert Castle



Organ Blowers

No organist can play without a source of wind and in Wroughton Church before 1949 this was provided by the muscles of the organ blowers. Records show that in the 1850's and 1860's the organ blower was paid 10/- per annum for this (about £30 a year today) which rose to 15/- at the turn of the century (about £50).

Perhaps the honour of this onerous task ran in families for during the 1870's and 1880's an R. Austin, A. Austin and a Samuel Austin were all paid for the task. In 1862/1863 a Mr. Webb was the blower, but there is no indication as to whether he was part of the Webb family who donated the 1927 Haskins organ.

The Choir

The first mention of a choir is in 1887 when the accounts show a sum for cleaning choir-boy's surplices.

In 1899, *Wroughton Church Monthly* reports “We are much indebted to the members of the Church Choir for their services, who have greatly improved in signing under the direction of our organist, Mr J J Gale.” and in 1900 the report of the Harvest Festival says “everyone enjoyed the harvest Hymns, and hearing the Hallelujah Chorus.”



The choir in 2004

Benefactors and Sponsors

The organ also bears a plaque noting that work was done in 1987 in memory of Olive Victoria Camburn (1917–1986).



2005/2006

Over 100 of the 258 new pipes in the recent rebuilding were sponsored by benefactors and dedicated in memory of themselves or to other people. It had been hoped to actually mark the individual pipes in some way, but this proved to be impractical.

There were also seven sponsors who preferred that their gift be anonymous. To all these, whose sponsorship in total came to £5,080, the Parochial Church Council and the church musicians are extremely grateful.

| <i>Name of Sponsor (alphabetical order)</i> | <i>Dedicattee of pipe(s)</i> |
|---|--|
| Teresa Aldridge | Cathryn and Nigel Goddard |
| Mr & Mrs Barker | Catherine & Michael Barker / In memory of Mark Anthony Barker / Debbie & Terry Petherick |
| Andrew & Pamela Batterham | Ken Hudson / Andrew and Pamela Batterham / Stella and Eric Batterham |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| D E Bonham | Di Bonham |
| Pat & Matthew Brown | Stephen Brown |
| Neil Butters | Neil Elizabeth & Edward Butters in memory of Sheila |
| Jane Catchpole | Jane and Lydia Catchpole |
| Gordon and Jean Clapton | Gordon and Jean Clapton |
| Leslie and Bernice Clark | Leslie Clark / Bernice Clark |
| M E Colton | Martin Colton |
| Edna Cripps | Ernest George Cripps |
| Sue Dallyn & Michael Johnson | Jack Gould |
| Susan Dan and friends and family | Jeanette Dan / Brian Harry |
| Joyce Davis | Joyce Davis |
| Jean Ford | Victoria Jane Ford |
| Marilyn Gough | Alex White |
| Tom and Barbara Hatcher | Tom and Barbara Hatcher |
| John and Janet Henderson | John and Janet Henderson / Jonathan and Hannah Robinson |
| Paddy Holding | Tony and Paddy Holding / Bethan Turner |
| June & Melvyn Jackson | Stan & Gwen Moody |
| Charles Johnson | Myra Jane Johnson (Nee Cripps) |
| Mr. & Mrs. Knighton | Christopher Knighton |
| Alan Lilley | Alan & June Lilley |
| S. A. Mantell | Sheila and David Mantell / Susan Griffiths |
| Mike Mason | Mike and Tracy Mason |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Robert Allan McMeeking | Pamela Margaret McMeeking (1942 - 1992) |
| Malcolm Morrison | None |
| N. R. Orman | Nick Orman / Joan Orman / Ruth Orman / Kate Orman |
| Mrs P Nelis | None |
| New Creation | New Creation |
| Barbara Pearce | Ernest & Dorothy Clay |
| M Penfound | David Penfound / Elizabeth Watts |
| Carol Pickett | Ken & Carol Pickett / Bob & Oliver Martin |
| Pat Robson | Pat and John Robson |
| Mrs Valerie Roy | Ian Roy |
| St Joseph's Catholic Church | St. Joseph's Catholic Church |
| Kathleen and Neil Slingsby | Deborah Slingsby / Connor and Keira Embling |
| Dee Vincent | Joyce Forrester |
| Tim and Claire Winter | Tim and Claire Winter / Edward and Louis Winter |
| Alan & Christine Wrixon | The Wrixon Family |
| Wroughton Carnival Committee 2005 | Wroughton Carnival Committee 2005 |
| Wroughton Church Choir | Miss C. Lane, Organist |

Musical Notes about Wroughton Parish Church

WRO = Wiltshire Records Office (Trowbridge) Reference

| Date | Description | Source |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 21 st Nov 1722 | Faculty granted to Mr Benet of Salthrop for the construction of the West Gallery to accommodate the children from the charity school. Upper tier is constructed as a musicians gallery. | WRO D/61/1A p 103 |
| c1850 | Plan of existing layout of church shows organ in north side of chancel facing east and immediately west of the vestry door. Organ case is shown approx 6ft x 2 ft in plan | Plans prior to 1851 renovation |
| 31 st Dec 1847 | Organ destroyed by malicious persons £10 offered for reward. | Handbill WRO 551/119 |
| 1851 | Faculty for church renovation makes no mention of any organ. | |
| 1851 | £89 paid for organ amongst expenditure for restoration of the church | WRO 551/47 |
| 6 th June 1852 | In the as-built drawing of the church, the organ is shown in the north aisle at site of north door and is apparently larger (approx 6ft x 4ft). Drawing signed by churchwardens to verify seating layout. | Plan No 1 |
| 1853 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid to Mr Haines for tuning the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1856 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid for blowing the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1857 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 5/- paid for blowing the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1858 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 15/- paid for blowing the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1859 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid for blowing the organ | WRO 551/35 |

| Date | Description | Source |
|------|--|------------|
| 1860 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid for blowing the organ Mr Allen was paid £4/4s for repairing the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1862 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid to Mr Webb (assumed for blowing the organ see 1863) | WRO 551/35 |
| 1863 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid to Mr Webb for blowing the organ Wm Pitt was paid £1 for repairing the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1864 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show £16/1/6d paid to Mr Ann for moving and repairing the organ. | WRO 551/35 |
| 1865 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show £1 paid to Bowker for blowing the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1866 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid for blowing the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1867 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid to a boy for blowing organ Mr Ann (see 1864) is paid £1 for unspecified services | WRO 551/35 |
| 1868 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid to a boy for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1869 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid to a boy for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1870 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid to a boy for blowing organ £3 paid for tuning organ for 2 years | WRO 551/35 |
| 1871 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show £1/10/- paid to for repairing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1876 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 10/- paid to Samuel Austin for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |

| Date | Description | Source |
|--------------------------|--|------------|
| 1877 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid to Samuel Austin for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1878 | Accounts missing | WRO 551/35 |
| 1880 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid to Samuel Austin for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1881 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid to R Austin for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1882 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid to A Austin for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1883 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid to A Austin for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1884 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid to A Austin for blowing organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1885 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid to A Austin for blowing organ Organists Salary £10 | WRO 551/35 |
| 1 st Oct 1885 | Receipt from Mr WH Painter for playing organ | |
| 1886 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ No Organists Salary shown | WRO 551/35 |
| 1887 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9 First mention of a choir (costs for washing choir-boys surplices) | WRO 551/35 |
| 1888 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 15/- paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9/12/- | WRO 551/35 |
| 1889 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 15/- paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9/12/- | WRO 551/35 |

| Date | Description | Source |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1890 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9/12/- | WRO 551/35 |
| 1891 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9 | WRO 551/35 |
| 1892 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9 | WRO 551/35 |
| 1893 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9 | WRO 551/35 |
| 1894 | Accounts missing | WRO 551/35 |
| 7 th Feb 1894 | Receipt from Mr Gale for playing organ for services in January 15/- | |
| 1894 | Receipt from John Jerrom for organ blowing 1 year 15/- | |
| 1895 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9 Vestry minutes record thanks to Miss Turner for playing the organ | WRO 551/35 |
| 1896 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £12/10/- £1/6/2d for choir festival. | WRO 551/35 |
| 1897 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 12/6 paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £9 | WRO 551/35 & 38 |

| Date | Description | Source |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| 1897 (cont) | Vestry minutes record thanks to Miss Turner for playing the organ and teaching the choir boys and approve appointment of Mr Chilvers as organist and choirmaster at a salary of £18 pa. £1 5s 8d for choir festival | WRO 551/35 & 38 |
| 1898 | Accounts presented at Easter vestry show 15/- paid for blowing organ Organists Salary £18/3/4. | WRO 551/35 |
| Aug 1899 | Wroughton Church Monthly mentions Mr JJ Gale as organist. | |
| Sept 1899 | Wroughton Church Monthly reports: "We are much indebted to the members of the Church Choir for their services, who have greatly improved in signing under the direction of our organist, Mr JJ Gale." | |
| 1900 | Receipt from Jesse Leighfield 15/- for blowing organ | |
| Nov 1900 | Wroughton Church Monthly reports of Harvest Festival: "Mr Gale played the organ especially well, and everyone enjoyed the harvest Hymns, and hearing the Hallelujah Chorus." | |
| Nov 1901 | Wroughton Church Monthly reports: On Wednesday 25 th September the Harvest Thanksgiving service was held at the Parish Church On the Sunday following , the thanksgiving services were continued and in the evening a departure was made, the organ being supplemented by an orchestral accompaniment, ably conducted by the organist Mr JJ Gale. | |
| 1902 | Receipt from Jesse Leighfield 15/- for blowing organ | |

| Date | Description | Source |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| Dec 1905 | <p>Wroughton Church Monthly reports:</p> <p>“Mr John J Gale, our well-known organist, has kindly offered to give a professional concert at the Oddfellows Hall, the first week in December. The proceeds will be given to the Tower and Bell Fund.”</p> | |
| April 1906 | <p>Wroughton Church Monthly reports:</p> <p>“It is with great regret that we report that our excellent organist is leaving us. For twelve and a half years [sic] he has come over regularly in all weathers, and with only a short practice has trained the choir to sing much better than most village boys.”</p> | |
| May 1906 | <p>Wroughton Church Monthly reported Mr Gales last service on 18th April when the Bells were inaugurated at a special service.</p> | |
| 17 Jul 1914 | <p>Account from Gray and Davison for:</p> <p>“To thoroughly cleaning organ and repairing pipes. Rebushing piecing & refelting pedals and fitting new and larger centres to composition and drawstop action. £18/15/-</p> <p>supplying and fitting a new tenor Gamba, reedy quality in place of existing Cornopean, with necessary alterations to upperboard and rackboard and re-engraving knob. £9/15/-</p> <p>repalletting Sw and Great Soundboards with new felt and leather. £5/12/-</p> <p>supplying 100 new springs £1/-“</p> <p>Total £35/2/-</p> | Original Invoice |
| April 1927 | <p>PCC resolve to apply for a faculty for a new organ.</p> | |

| Date | Description | Source |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 12 th May 1927 | New organ dedicated. Organ was purchased by PCC from money given in memory of the late Sainsbury Webb Esq. Specification given in service sheet | |
| 1949 | Installation of organ blower £128/10/- | Church Accounts |
| 1959 | Unspecified repairs carried out costing £73 of which insurers paid £65. | Church accounts and log book |
| 1962 | Treatment of wooden parts affected by wood boring insects, cleaning and overhaul of working parts. Replacement of existing swell pedal with central balanced swell pedal, some alterations to pipework to give better balance of tone. £500. | Church accounts and log book |
| 1963 | Unspecified repairs carried out costing £6/6/-. | Church accounts and log book |
| 1965 | Unspecified repairs carried out costing £19/19/- | Church accounts and log book |
| 1982 | Purchase of organ stool £253. | Church accounts and log book |
| 1983 | Repairs – “pipes replaced” £253. | Church accounts and log book |
| 1987 | Maintenance and tuning £563.17 | Church accounts and log book |
| 1987 | Major overhaul £5,471.10 | Church accounts and log book |

From the hymn: Fill this House, Lord God most glorious,

Fill our hearts, Lord God almighty,
with thanksgiving for this place:
for its heritage of worship,
songs and silence, sacred space;
for the gifts of choir and organ,
messengers alike of grace.

David Mowbray (b. 1938) © David Mowbray/Jubilate Hymns
Recommended Tune : *Westminster Abbey* Used by
permission.

Acknowledgments

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