

THE ORGAN AT ST CHAD'S SHREWSBURY

A full specification of the rebuilt instrument (2011) is listed here:

Pedal (compass CCC-g 32 notes)

Resultant Bass 32 (N&B former Nicholson Quint 2011)
Open Diapason 16 (N&B wood)
Violone 16 (N&B; Great Double)
Bourdon 16 (N&B)
Principal 8 (N&B; from Open Diapason 16)
Bass Flute 8 (N&B; from Bourdon 16)
Fifteenth 4 (N&B and H&H)
Trombone 16 (N&B)
Swell to Pedal
Swell Octave to Pedal
Great to Pedal
Choir to Pedal
Great to Pedal Pistons

Great (compass CC-a 58 notes)

Double Open Diapason 16 (N&B)
Large Open Diapason 8 (N&B)
Small Open Diapason 8 (N&B)
Hohl Flute 8 (N&B)
Principal 4 (N&B)
Harmonic Flute 4 (N&B)
Twelfth 2 2/3 (Nicholson; remade from Dolce)
Fifteenth 2 (N&B)
Mixture III (15-19-22) (N&B, remade, Nicholson and remodelled by H&H 1990)
Tromba 8 (N&B)
Swell to Great
Choir to Great

Swell (compass as Gt)

Bourdon 16 (N&B)
Open Diapason 8 (N&B)
Stopped Diapason 8 (N&B)
Echo Gamba 8 (N&B)
Voix Celeste 8 (TC) (N&B)
Principal 4 (N&B)
Wald Flute 4 (N&B)
Flageolet 2 (H&H 2011)
Mixture III (15-19-22) (N&B) (remodelled H&H 2011)
Contra Fagotto 16 (N&B)
Cornopean 8 (N&B)
Oboe 8 (N&B)

Clarion 4 (N&B)
Tremulant
Octave
Sub Octave
Unison Off

Choir (enclosed) (compass as Gt)
Violoncello 8 (N&B)
Violoncello Celestes 8 (former Swell Viol d' Orchestre 2011)
Lieblich Gedact 8 (N&B)
Lieblich Flute 4 (N&B)
Nazard 2 2/3 (Nicholson)
Piccolo 2 (N&B)
Tierce 1.3/5 (Nicholson Gemshorn remade H&H 1985)
Clarinet 8 (N&B)
Tuba 8 (unenclosed) (H&H 2011)
Tremulant
Octave
Sub Octave
Unison Off
Swell to Choir
Great to Choir

Electric Blower

Accessories

6 adjustable thumb pistons each to Great, Swell and Choir;
6 adjustable toe pistons to Great and Pedal;
reversible thumb pistons Sw-Ped, Gt-Ped, Ch-Ped, Sw-Gt, Ped Trombone;
reversible toe pistons Sw-Gt, Gt-Ped,
6 General Pistons affecting the whole organ
Stepper + and – system

HISTORY

The organ was built by the Norwich firm of Norman and Beard in 1904 and dedicated early in 1905. The instrument still has the immaculate finish of an opulent Edwardian organ, and has changed little tonally. A rebuild took place by Nicholson and Company of Worcester in 1963 when the tubular-pneumatic action was replaced by an electro-pneumatic system and adjustable pistons were fitted. Nicholson's replaced a Great Dolce for a Twelfth and remodelled the Great Mixture; they replaced the Choir Orchestra Oboe with a 4' Gemshorn and added a Nazard. At some stage before that a Swell Vox Humana had been replaced by a Viol d'Orchestre. Nicholson's also added a Pedal Quint (Bourdon extension) together with a Pedal 4' Flute in 1963.

Since the early 1980s the instrument has been in the care of the Durham firm of Harrison and Harrison who made some modifications to it in 1985. The Pedal 8' wooden stop was replaced by a metal stop and the Nicholson 4' Flute was replaced by a Fifteenth. The Nicholson Choir Gemshorn was remade into a Tierce. Harrison and Harrison remodelled the Great Mixture in 1990. By 2011 there was a clear need for a major restoration which was undertaken at a cost of £300,000 by Harrison and Harrison. Again some tonal changes were made. The Swell Mixture was remodelled and the Viol d'Orchestre was transferred to the Choir organ and tuned as a celeste to the Violoncello. This enabled space to be found to add a much needed 2' stop to the swell organ. The Pedal Quint was reused as a 32' Resultant Bass and a new Tuba stop was added to the Choir organ. The instrument is now undoubtedly one of the many treasures of the church, but is also one of the finest and most user-friendly instruments for miles around.