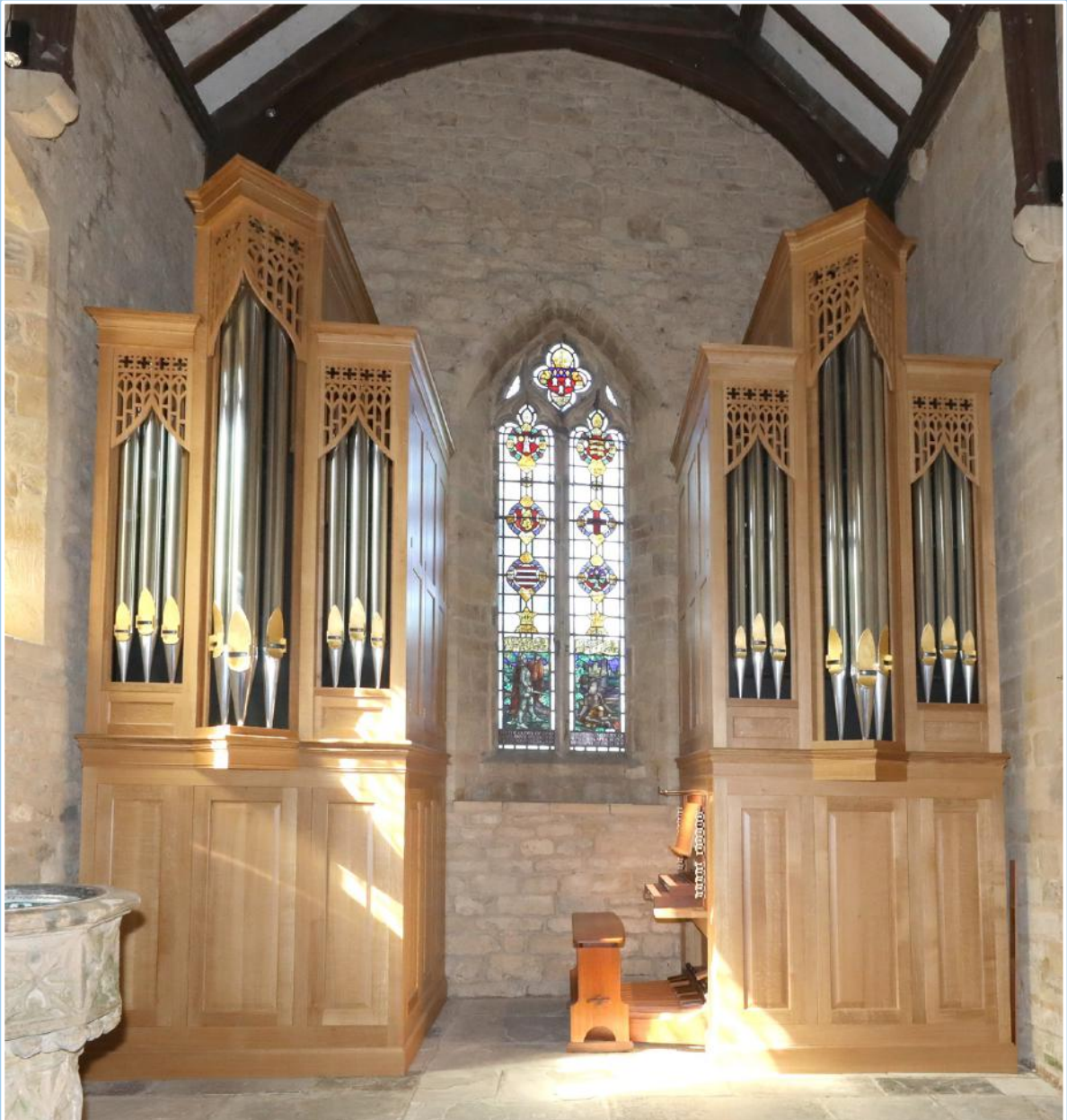


St Martin's Church, Barcheston

THE ORGAN



by

Geoffrey Holroyde & Paul Hale

CHAPTER ONE

WARWICK

Geoffrey Holroyde

In 1973, Longstaff & Jones (Telford-based organ-builders and maintainers) advertised in the organ press that they would like to build a new, small pipe organ. Geoffrey Holroyde had yearned for some time for a small house organ for regular practice. Longstaff & Jones were soon engaged to build for him a very small house pipe organ, using direct electric action.

The successful design consisted of four ranks of pipes (and a quiet digital pedal Bourdon 16) servicing a two manual and pedal organ, with no couplers, thereby avoiding too much ‘borrowing’ with its attendant missing notes. The carefully chosen second-hand pipes were:

A	Wooden stopped Gedackt	8ft extended to 4ft	68 pipes
B	Open metal (stopped from TC)	8ft	56 pipes
C	Smaller scale open metal	4ft extended to 2ft	68 pipes
D	Oboe (for the Pedal Organ)	8ft	30 pipes

Specification:

Lower manual	B8ft	A8ft	C4ft	A4ft	C2ft		
Upper manual	C8ft (bottom octave from B)		A8ft	C4ft	A4ft		
Pedal	Digital 16ft	D8ft	B8ft	A8ft	B4ft	A4ft	C2ft

The opening recital in Geoffrey’s house at 5 Cape Road was given by the youthful Edward Higginbottom, who before Cambridge had played for Geoffrey’s flourishing choir at St Mary’s Collegiate Church, Warwick.

In 1979, Geoffrey and his by then large family, including his recently widowed mother, moved to a spacious Victorian four story house at 38 Coten End, still in Warwick. The capacious basement, with its stone floor, containing no soft furnishings, proved the ideal new home for the organ (plus two grand pianos and a harpsichord). The extra space called for an enlargement of what had proved to be a very successful small pipe organ. Geoff Jones, who had built the original organ, worked out a design to fit the compact space, devoting many weeks to making the chests, doing the wiring, voicing pipes old and new, building the wind system and the console, and ensuring the instrument looked handsome in the room.

The rebuilt and enlarged organ (still unenclosed) now boasted eight ranks of pipes and three soft digital stops on the pedal organ (not to be used alone, but there to

add a little colour and depth). High quality new manual keyboards from P&S Organ Supplies provided a key action which, with its 'top-resistance' touch, felt like mechanical action. Once more, there were no couplers.

Eight ranks of pipes, plus three electronic stops, developed into 32 stops:

A	Large scale open metal	8ft (bottom octave from C)
B	Medium scale open metal	4ft
C	Large scale stopped flute (metal; wood bass)	16 / 8 / 4ft
D	Small scale stopped flute (wood)	8 / 4 / 2ft
E	Small scale open metal	2ft
F	Tapered metal	2 / 2 ² / ₃ ft
G	Mixture 3 ranks (open metal), 15.19.22	2ft
H	Medium scale reed (Oboe revoiced)	8ft

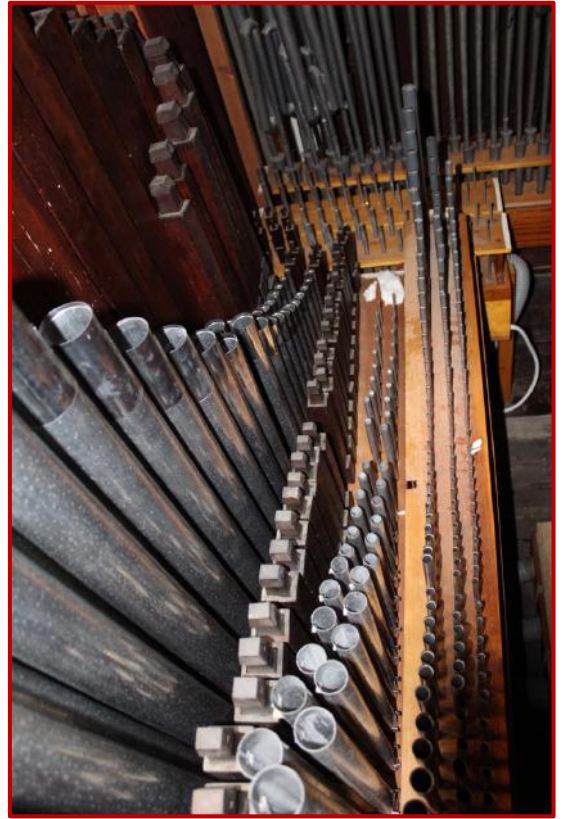
Three digital stops on the Pedal Organ:

I	Dulciana	16ft	30 notes: a very quiet 'purr'.
J	Principal	8ft	30 notes: never used alone, but to strengthen A and C.
K	Reed	16ft	30 notes: to add a little 'growl' to the pipe pedal chorus.

Specification

Rank			Rank		
	Lower Manual - Great (56 notes)				
C	Bourdon	16ft	F	Twelfth	2 ² / ₃
A	Open Diapason	8	C	Piccolo	2
D	Gedackt	8	H	Small Reed	8
B	Principal	4			
C	Flute	4		Pedal Organ (30 notes)	
F	Twelfth	2 ² / ₃	C	Bourdon	16
E	Fifteenth	2	I	Dulciana	16
F	Nineteenth	1 ¹ / ₃	J	Principal	8
E	Octavin	1	C	Bass Flute	8
G	Mixture	III rks	D	Gedackt	8
H	Small Reed (ten.C)	16	B	Octave Principal	4
H	Small Reed	8	D	Flute	4
			F	Fifteenth	2
	Upper Manual - Positive (56 notes)				
B	Principal (ten.C)	8	G	Mixture	III rks
C	Stopped Flute	8	K	Contra Oboe	16
D	Gedackt	8	H	Oboe	8
E	Octave	4	H	Octave Oboe	4
D	Flute	4			
				Direct electric action	
				Discus blower	

Notice that clever design has ensured that the chorus on each department is basically 'straight' and thus does not suffer from the usual 'missing note' weakness of extension organs.



*Photographs of the organ as installed in
Geoffrey Holroyde's Music Room.*



CHAPTER TWO

BARCHESTON

Paul Hale

Following discussions beginning late in 2013 the organ was donated by Geoffrey Holroyde to St. Martin's parish church, Barcheston (near Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire), to be used as the basis of a new organ designed greatly to enhance the music and liturgy at St Martin's, a church previously served by a large but indifferent reed organ. Geoffrey's organ was removed from Warwick on 3rd April 2018, having given great pleasure to many visitors and to Geoffrey, for 35 years.



A position either side of the west window at St Martin's was chosen and Kenneth Tickell was invited to design the cases, as he had designed many highly acclaimed organs for his own firm to build, in churches such as St Andrew's, Headington (Oxford) and Manchester and Worcester cathedrals. Tragically, Kenneth Tickell died suddenly, shortly after sending the designs, so the Barcheston double case remains his final piece of work, and a worthy memorial. The pipe-shades were left vestigial by Ken Tickell, so one of his senior craftsmen, Jeffrey Hubbard (now with his own organ-building company) worked up designs, in addition to drawing console details for the casework manufacturer.

These fine double cases were made by Penny's Mill (of Great Bedwyn, Wiltshire), a company responsible for several of the U.K.'s most distinguished modern organ cases, including several cathedrals.



The organ was designed, built and installed by Henry Groves & Son (Jonathan Wallace) of Nottingham, during 2018/19. The consultant was Paul Hale, who also drew up the stop-list. The transmission and electrical systems are by Renatus (Bideford). New pipework, repairs and revoicing were carried out by David Hall at F. Booth & Son (Leeds). The project was masterminded by the Churchwarden, David Hodges, with valuable input from the church organist, David Gardner.

The south case contains the Great and Pedal; the north case contains the Swell, with the console built-in at ground-level, the player facing north. There is a small electric blower in both cases and the wind regulators are built in to the direct-electric soundboards. The console uses the manual keyboards from Geoffrey Holroyde's house organ but otherwise is new. The specification (of thirty speaking stops) is derived from twelve ranks of pipes, using the extension system to provide a colourful tonal scheme despite the limited space available. The bottom octaves of ranks I & J are produced digitally, owing to lack of space for large pipes.

Specification

Rank		Rank	
	Great Organ (56 notes)		Pedal Organ (30 notes)
J	Lieblich Bourdon 16ft	B	Bourdon 16
A	Open Diapason 8	J	Lieblich Bourdon 16
B	Stopped Diapason 8	A	Principal 8
J	Lieblich Gedeckt 8	B	Bass Flute 8
A	Principal 4	A	Fifteenth 4
B	Nason Flute 4	B	Stopped Flute 4
C	Fifteenth 2	L	Double Trumpet 16
D/E	Sesquialtera 12.17 (ten.C) II rks	L	Trumpet 8
F/G/H	Mixture 22.26.29 III rks	L	Clarion 4
L	Trumpet 8		Swell to Pedal
	Tremulant		Great to Pedal
	Swell to Great		
	Swell Organ (56 notes, enclosed)		Great & Pedal Combs Coupled
I	Geigen Diapason 8		Generals on Swell Toe Pistons
J	Lieblich Gedeckt 8		6 thumb pistons to Great (99 levels)
K	Salicional 8		6 thumb pistons to Swell (99 levels)
I	Geigen Principal 4		6 general thumb pistons (99 levels)
J	Lieblich Flute 4		Sw to Gt reversible thumb piston
J	Nazard $2\frac{2}{3}$		Gt to Ped reversible thumb piston
I	Fifteenth 2		Cancel and Set thumb pistons
J	Piccolo 2		6 toe pistons to Pedal (99 levels)
K	Mixture 15.19.22 III rks		6 toe pistons to Swell (99 levels)
L	Double Trumpet 16		Gt to Ped reversible toe piston
L	Trumpet 8		Balanced swell pedal
	Tremulant		Direct electric action
	Octave		MIDI
			'Discus' blowers

The ranks are as follows:

- A Former Great Principal, revoiced, with new front pipes down to 8ft C.
- B Former wooden Stopped Flute, with a Groves stock 16ft bass.
- C Former Great Fifteenth, revoiced.
- D/E D - former Nazard; E (Tierce, wide-scale) - from Groves stock.
- F/G/H A three-rank Mixture, from Groves stock; 37 notes, repeating.

- I Groves stock with a digital 8ft bass octave.
- J Former metal Gedackt, wooden 8ft bass; 16ft bass octave is digital.
- K Salicional, running up into a derived 3-rank Mixture; Groves stock.
- L Trumpet, Groves stock (Rushworth & Dreaper pipes revoiced).



The console



This photograph shows the choir, under the direction of Nigel Howells, after the service of Dedication.

The organ was completed by Easter 2019 and first heard in a demonstration recital by Paul Hale on Saturday 4th May, the Opening Recital being given by Prof. Dr. Edward Higginbottom, who had opened the original organ back in 1973. It was Dedicated by the Bishop of Warwick at a Choral Evensong on Sunday 19th May.



Jonathan Wallace regulating Great pipework



Geoffrey Holroyde listening to the organ

Paul Hale at the console



*Booklet prepared by Paul Hale, with help from Geoffrey Holroyde.
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