

“The Christ Church organ is one of the finest in Bath; it’s perfect for the liturgical and musical needs of the church. Repairs being necessary through plaster damage, this is a golden opportunity to replace time-expired electrical components and to improve the sound of the organ so as to release its full potential. I, for one, will be very excited to hear the result.”

Paul Hale  
MA(Oxon), FRCO, ARCM, HonFRSCM, HonFGCM, FRSA  
Organ Consultant and Concert Organist.  
Southwell Cathedral Organist Emeritus  
Lambeth “Thomas Cranmer Award” 2017

### *Sponsor a job, stop or pipe!*

Any donation that you’re able to make, of whatever size, will help us with the project, but you may like to sponsor a specific task, either individually or as a group:

- Replacing the bellows: £12,000
- Replacing the blower and moving it indoors: £8,500
- Overhaul of the soundboards: £4,500
- Replacement of the console electronics: £4,000
- Replacement of the drawstop mechanism: £4,000
- Adopt a stop:
  - Great Tierce: £5,000
  - Great Mixture: £4,500
  - Gt Open Diapason: £4,000
  - Nazard: £1,000
  - Flageolet: £1,000
  - Oboe: £600
- Preserve a pipe: £50

Please do remember that if you are a UK tax payer your gift is worth another 25p in the pound to the Appeal as long as you make a Gift Aid declaration.

### **A brief history of Christ Church organ**

The first organ at Christ Church was built by John Avery of London shortly after the church was consecrated in 1798.

It was a much smaller instrument than the current organ, and was located in the west gallery. Some of that pipework survives in the current instrument.

In the intervening two centuries the organ has been much restored and expanded by various different organ builders (John Clark, W.G. Vowels, Sweetland and Griffen & Stroud among them) and moved to its current position in the north gallery (1886) with a detached console on the floor of the south side of the chancel (1987).

By 1996 the organ had become all but unusable, and the most recent significant rebuild was completed in 2003 by The Deane organ builders of Taunton. This included work on the electrics, a new console and a significant amount of new pipework. This rebuild was very successful and has served the church extremely well for the last 15 years.

The work we are now planning includes repair of recent damage from a fall of plaster from the wall above the organ, replacement of the blower and bellows which are now very elderly, and the some tonal adjustments not addressed in the previous rebuild.

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*A liberal & inclusive church,  
seeking God through beauty in our  
worship, honesty in our faith &  
doubt, & service in our community*

## *Organ Appeal*



*Christ Church*

## What is the appeal about?

Music is a fundamentally important part of the life of Christ Church. We maintain a high standard of liturgical music in worship, led by a very capable, successful and active choir of around 25 singers, and we host concerts for both visiting and local groups. We would like to use the organ much more for concert work, but its recent poor condition has meant this hasn't been possible.

In early 2017 a large, heavy section of plaster fell from the wall above the organ, denting a large number of pipes, filling the organ chamber with plaster dust, and damaging some of the electrical components, making a lot of the instrument unusable.



Some of the damaged pipes inside the organ

For some time we had been considering a programme of work to replace and update some worn out parts of the organ. Rather than see the unexpected damage as a setback, we decided to take it as an opportunity to undertake both the repair and renovation work at the same time.

The Christ Church organ has a venerable history dating back over 200 years. We want to pass on an instrument to make sure the church's proud musical tradition can continue to inspire future generations.

## What work are we planning?

There will be many smaller jobs undertaken as part of the refurbishment, but the major tasks are:

- Replacing the worn out wind reservoirs or "bellows". These contain a lot of leather work, which is probably now 100 years old and the largest is still from the days when organs were blown by hand.
- Moving the "blower". The machine which blows the air in to the organ is currently located outside the building, thus blowing cold, damp air through the organ, and it is reaching the end of its life. It will be replaced with a new blower, placed inside, contained in a silencer cabinet.
- Replacement of the electronics in the organ console. These are of an old design and are becoming unreliable.
- Repair of the pipework damaged in the plaster fall.
- Replacement of the electronics damaged by the plaster fall.
- Removal of a large amount of pipework for cleaning
- Overhaul of the great "soundboard" i.e. the mechanism on to which the pipes are placed.
- Work to improve the tonal balance of the instrument.
- New 'doors' in front of the choir organ to reduce its volume, better balancing it with the rest of the instrument.
- Modernisation of the 'playing aids' at the console to assist the organist in managing the instrument.

The work will be undertaken by Nicholson & Co. of Malvern, one of the UK's leading organ builders.

## How much money is needed?

The total cost of the proposed work is **£106,500**

**£40,000** will be paid by the church insurers.

The trustees of Christ Church have agreed to provide a further **£20,000** of funding.

This leaves **£46,500** to raise.

The aim is to reach this target by the end of 2018.

## How can you help?

We're proposing to raise the £46,500 in three ways:

1 - applying to trusts and charities for funding

We have a number of charitable organisations to which we will be applying for funds. If you know of charities or trusts who might be able to help, please let us know.

2 - fund raising activity by the church congregation

We will be holding fund raising activities throughout the year. Please support these! And if you have ideas about new fund raising activities, please let us know how we can help you make these happen.

3 - direct appeal to individuals

We will be asking members of the congregation and other interested individuals to make donations to support the appeal with direct donations.

Donors giving over £1000 may choose to have their name, or the name of someone they would like to commemorate, included on a donors' plaque fixed to the organ when the work is complete if they wish.

## Christ Church, Bath

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