

Arbory Parish Church



Man: 8,8,8,8,4,4,2 Ped: 16

This 1-manual, 9-stop mechanical action organ was supplied by H.W.Hewitt in 1885. A typical Hewitt, it provides a variety of tone colours in an instrument primarily suited to service accompaniment, though it also includes a Fifteenth stop for brighter effects. The casework's pipe display is remarkable, in that it features the smallest pipe in the centre of the single flat - something almost unique in organ case design, which usually looks to the case centre as a point of visual climax. In this instance, however, the visual effect, owing much to the decoration of the pipes, is pleasing - almost dramatic - creating a feeling of 'forced perspective.' The Viol da Gamba stop is also an oddity, having the tops of its pipes finished in flared cones, as can be clearly seen in views of the interior. Careful inspection reveals that Hewitt made this stop by altering a more conventional one, adding the bells and the necessarily long ears on each side of the pipe mouths, without which it would be untunable.

By the 1990s the instrument had reached a





state of failure, with rust, woodworm and dirt much in evidence. It was rebuilt by Peter Jones in 1996, when its swell-box was removed, a new console provided and all pipework revoiced. The keyboard was replaced by the the old Choir keyboard from the Keats organ, formerly in St.Mary's, Castletown (the 'Garrison Church') and the pedal mechanisms were completely replaced, at which time the pedal stop was completed to 30 notes, by adding the notes 13 - 30, the

pipework also coming from same stop of the Keats instrument.

The organ is unusual in having a Calcant stop (added in 1996.) This stop is, in fact, the ON/OFF switch to the blower (a simple slide arrangement, working on a conventional white switch behind the case panels.) This neatly overcomes the problem of an unsightly switch on the console.