

Bride Parish Church



Gt: 8,8,8,4,2, Ped: 16.

This is another 1-manual instrument by H W Hewitt, and has, as often with this builder, an interesting past as can be seen from the wide spacings of its display pipes. (The pipe stays were intended for a much larger set of pipes, presumably from another organ.)

The pitch-pine case is very similar to that of Hewitt's Croit-e-Caley Methodist Church organ. As originally installed in the 1880s,

there was no pedal stop, and all the manual pipework (excepting the Diapason) was in a swell-box with totally inadequate shutters. This made the organ unbalanced, and the lack of access made it impossible to tune with any degree of accuracy.

Thanks to the generosity of a former resident of the village (a Mr. Kewin) the instrument was cleaned, treated for woodworm and provided with a new

blower, wind system, pedalboard, 16' pedal stop (on a new tubular pneumatic action) and a new Fifteenth 2' on the manuals, with replaced the original 4' Flute. This set of Flute pipes was transposed to 8' pitch and displaced the original Hewitt Clarabella (which had a coarser tone.) The swell-box was replaced by a sound reflector (which also protects the organ's interior from plaster falls from the ceiling) and the pipework was repaired and re-regulated. (The work was carried out by Peter Jones.)

Above the pedalboard are 3 short pedals. The brass one is the Great-to-Pedals coupler and the other 2 wooden ones are interesting examples of 'single acting' composition pedals (one puts a fixed selection of stops out, whilst the other draws them in again, without disturbing any other stops which may be drawn at the same time.)

The action to the manuals is mechanical, and the resulting instrument is so much improved as to attract professional recitalists from the UK to take part in the yearly organ recital and church festival, which takes place on the first weekend in August. Despite its small size, the Bride Parish Church organ fits the building, both visually and musically, with great success.

