

Santon Parish Church (St. Sanctain's)



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

The organ at Santon Church is another by H W Hewitt of Leicester, and as with all the Island's Hewitts, it was installed in the 1880s and made up, even at that time, from second-hand parts. It is excellently positioned in the west gallery, from where it speaks directly down the church, aided by the building's unusually clear acoustics.

During the 2010 rebuilding of the instrument by Peter Jones, it could be seen that Hewitt had made the pedal stop's larger pipes (possibly all of the pedal stop) specifically for the gallery position at St. Sanctain's, whilst parts of the rest of the organ had been intended for elsewhere.

This suggests that he had either a complete two-manual instrument to which he added pedals, or, more likely, that he had enough second-hand components to make up a two-manual organ, but not a suitable pedal stop.

Down the years the keyboards have been replaced (quite possibly, from their appearance, by Morgan) as have the pedals (though the pedal frame is original Hewitt.) In the latest overhaul, Peter Jones added the 2nd stop to a spare slide on the Swell,



modified the console and soundboards, and refinished the pipework. Hewitt's provision of a trigger swell-pedal (now something of a rarity) was retained.

The result is a very attractive organ, with a good range of stops, each with its own character. The simple, mechanical action to both pedals and manual keys should see the instrument (now, in parts, perhaps 150 years or more old) into its second century and beyond.

