

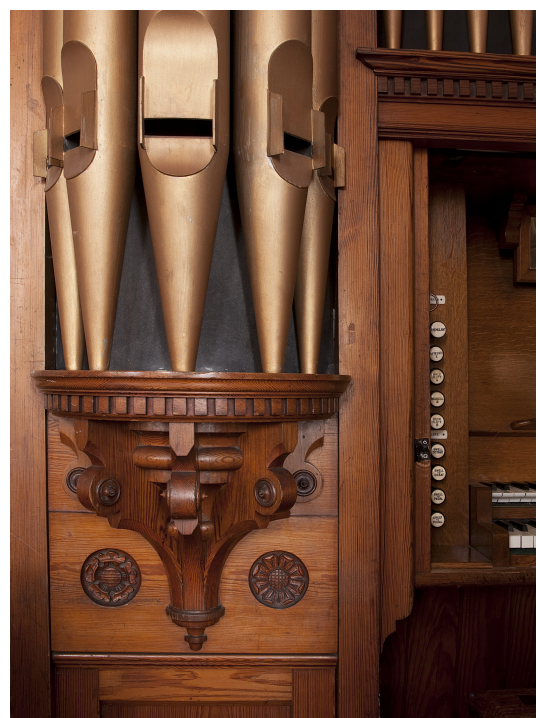
# St.Luke's Church, Baldwin



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

St. Luke's must have one of the most perfect settings of any church on the Island. It was originally built as a combination of both a place of worship and a school and its first pipe organ, a Morgan, of, presumably, the early 1900s, came from the music room of Kentraugh - a large house in the south of the Island. In his book *Baldwin, My Valley*, Thomas Cowell recalls, as a boy, riding up the valley on the cart that was transporting the organ from Kentraugh to St Luke's.

By the 1970s dampness and woodworm had rendered the instrument unplayable. Its metal components were rusty red, the leather was peeling from the bellows and some of the larger pipes were falling apart due to woodworm infestation. At this time





the church still had no electricity supply.

In 1979 Yorkshire organ-builders Wood of Huddersfield were employed to renovate the instrument, and they retained its casework and some of the pipework, but burned most of the Morgan instrument in a bonfire behind the church, replacing it with an organ of similar size and vintage by the Yorkshire firm of Conacher. Dampness in the building had led to failure in the bellows' leather and Woods made some basic repairs and installed an electric blower (a supply being available by that time.)

More work was carried out by the now-defunct firm of Rushworth and Dreaper, before the instrument passed into the care

of Peter Jones.

Despite its unorthodox past, and the fact that it badly needs an overhaul, the instrument is a very respectable little church organ, by a good maker, with mechanical action to the manuals and electric action (fitted by Woods) to the pedals.

Thought to have come originally from the Methodist New Connection Church in Newsome, Huddersfield (which opened in 1910) it has a charming, sweet tone, and the pitchpine case front shows some interesting features, such as the pierced metal bands around the pipe towers, typical of Conacher organs of this period.

