

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

THE SHRINE CHURCH ORGAN



Prior to 1998 the Shrine Church had a small one manual pipe organ in a loft above the north side of the Guardians' stalls. For processions in the Shrine gardens, a single microphone was suspended above the ranks of pipes and the sound relayed to a set of speakers attached to the outside of the church and Stella Maris House. In the mid-90's it was decided to undertake a major refurbishment of the sound and musical facilities of the Shrine Church.



A new PA system was installed and a new electronic organ commissioned from Bradford Organs.

The organ was designed by Lucy & Peter Comerford, the brains behind Bradford Organs – an offshoot of the University of Bradford Physics Department, where much of the modern technology which has hugely improved electronic organs in the last 15 years was developed.

The Comerfords were intrigued by the problems of projecting speaker sound in the Shrine Church, with all its nooks and crannies and a major obstacle – the Holy House blocking the west end/nave projection. They chose to place the west end speaker stacks as far apart as they dared to try to get the sound both over and around the obstacle of the Holy House. The sound of the Great, Swell and Pedal organs is also relayed from speakers high in the lantern above the Guardians' stalls. The Choir organ speaks only from the lantern, with the exception of the Trompette en Chamade which speaks principally from the west end. The organ sounds loud in the organ loft (from the lantern speakers) and very loud if you stand at the west end. However, the sound is much tempered by the building and a lot of volume is inevitably lost by the time it reaches the nave.

Obviously the size of the congregation affects the volume and natural reverberation considerably.

GREAT		SWELL		CHOIR Steerhorn		PEDAL	
Bourdon	16 8	Geigen Diapason	8 8 8	Bourdon	8	Contra Bourdon	32
Open Diapason I	8 8 8	Lieblich Gedackt	8 4 4	Gemshorn	8	Principal	16
Open Diapason II	4 4 2	Voix Celestes	2 2/3/	Nason Flute	4	Bourdon	16
Stopped Diapason	2/3 2	Salicional	2 III	Nachthorn	4	Echo Bourdon	16
Dulciana	2 1	Gemshorn	16 8 8	Larigot	2	Octave	8
Octave	3/5	Chimney Flute	4	Sifflute	1 1/3	Bass Flute	8
Suabe Flute	III 8	Nazard		Sesquialtera	1	Choral Bass	4
Twelfth		Fifteenth		Dulzian	II	Mixture	II
Fifteenth		Cymbel		Crummhorn	16	Trombone	16
Recorder		Contrafagotto		Clarinet	8	Trumpet	8
Tierce		Cornocean		Trompette en chamade	8	Schalmei	4
Mixture		Scharf Oboe			8		
Trumpet		Clarion					

The organ has all the usual couplers (no octave or sub-octave) plus tremulants on Swell and Choir; 6 thumb pistons to each manual, 6 foot pistons to Swell and Pedal organs; the usual coupler thumb/foot pistons. There is a 12 channel piston setting system.

ECHO

Contra Viola	16 8 4
Viole d'Orchestre	10.12.1
Octave Viole	5 8 II I
Cornet de Violes III	8 8 4 2
Viole Celeste	16 8 8
Unda Maris	8
Stella Maris	
Cor de Nuit	
Rohr Flute	
Flauto Traverso	
Piccolo	
Cor Anglais	
French Horn	
Orchestral Oboe	
Vox Humana	
Tremulant	



During August 2004 the organ was enlarged with the addition of an Echo division, playable on the Great manual. This consists of 15 stops selected for their usefulness in enhancing the organ's range of quiet sounds. The Echo division is switchable so that the sound comes from the West End only, or the Lantern only, or both together. Also at this time the Great Diapsons were 'revoiced', the Pedal 32' added and the Swell reeds given more character.

Early in 2006 modifications were made to voicing of the Great Trumpet, the Pedal Trombone and the Choir Chimney Flute was replaced with a small open diapason – the Steerhorn. A powered sub-woofer was also added to strengthen the Pedal division and a Lexicon reverberation unit was incorporated.