

Organ Restoration Appeal Report

Our Organ Restoration Appeal was launched in June 2010 and we are all filled with excitement and gratitude at its successful completion within the five years we set ourselves.

St Andrew's PCC accepted the reality that the organ was in a very poor state of health, which demanded a major solution. A consultant, Ian Bell, was appointed to advise us and a committee was formed to consider the possibility of the work being started. A report on the state of the instrument was commissioned and a number of organ builders were asked to tender for the work involved. The PCC took the bold decision to invite David Wells, organ builder of Liverpool, to carry out the work at a cost of £250,000 and the necessary approvals were obtained from the Diocese of London.

The Appeal Committee proved to be the most hard working, innovative and enthusiastic group that I have ever had the privilege of working with and our gratitude to them is beyond measure. Members of St Andrew's, past and present, church groups, local organisations and schools are among those who have given generously in response to our appeal.

Some fifty fund raising activities have been organised over the five years of the appeal and the support they have been given gives us further reason for rejoicing. Those supporting the appeal have come from every age group in the Church and locality and the fellowship generated over the five years of fundraising has been a tremendous source of joy. Many of our supporters took advantage of Gift Aiding and users of internet shopping enlisted Easyfundraising to add to our funds.

The re-designed layout of the interior of the organ, the use of modern technology in the instrument, and the installation of a new draw stop console, together with the complete restoration of components, have given us an instrument that sounds forth as we have not heard before.

The small chancel section was never part of the restoration plan and this remains unconnected until we are able to make this compatible with the latest technology in the console.

The Restoration project was started to the glory of God to continue our worship into the future and to play our part in passing on part of our heritage in good order for those who follow us in this place.

David Holliday
Chairman of Appeal Committee
April 2016