

St Mary's Horsham Organ Appeal

2000 Pipes - 160 years of Community Music



The Problems

Our Father Henry Willis organ was installed in 1865. The 2000 pipes are now 160 years old, very dirty, and some of the large ones are collapsing under their own weight, and no longer 'speak' properly.

On the floor beneath the pipes is a large 8' x 8' leather and wood 'reservoir' bellows. That too dates from 1865, and the leatherwork is now at the very end of its life. Removing the pipework for cleaning and repair gives us the chance to undertake this vital work on the organ's otherwise inaccessible 'lungs'.

The mechanisms which connect the organ stops and keys to the pipes contain many moving parts. They have been repaired and replaced over the last 160 years - the last significant repair and cleaning work taking place in 1992, generously funded by a current member of the church family. But there are still many moving parts remaining which date back to 1909, and these are increasingly subject to failure. Now is the time to replace these worn high-maintenance pneumatic motors with low-maintenance electro-magnets.



The restored console was a major feature of the work completed in 1992. No changes needed here!

The Target

All the necessary work is labour-intensive, and has to be done by expert craftspeople. Our Organ Maintenance firm, Daly Organs, have given us an estimate of just over £100,000 for the work. With the prospect of VAT relief on repairs to historic buildings being abolished, it is likely that the bill will rise to £120,000. The St Mary's Church Committee has agreed a target of

£150,000

How can we help?

There is already a little over £10,000 in the Organ Fund; professional musicians have been performing in our lunchtime concerts every month for the last two years, without a fee, and we have built up a regular audience of 50-60 people. These folk (most of them from outside the church family) have donated, and continue to donate generously.

We have received a pledge from a member of the congregation of a further £10,000 and initial approaches to a Trust which supports church choirs and organs have produced an offer of another £10,000.

Of course, we hope that, if you value the heritage that previous generations have left us at St Mary's, if the magnificent sounds Father Henry Willis created for us 160 years ago have been part of a family event, or you've attended or sung in one of the many concerts given here by local choral societies, if you've been moved at annual Remembrance commemorations, or enjoyed singing favourite Christmas carols or Easter hymns at St Mary's, you too may wish to make a donation.

And just as importantly, if you have your own ideas for fund-raising, have contacts in the Horsham business community, know of grant-giving bodies who might support the project, or want any further information about how to donate, please contact our Organ Fund Raising Lead:

Emily Foster

organappeal@horshamstmarys.org.uk

The QR Code will take you to the Organ Fund donation page, which you'll find on the St Mary's website.



Or (if you're viewing this online)
[Click HERE to donate to the Organ Fund](#)

