

Technical Specification of the Organ installed at Lyndon

GREAT ORGAN

Open Diapason	8ft.
Gamba	8ft.*
Dulciana	8ft.*
Stopped Diapason	8ft.
Principal	4ft.
Wald Flute	4ft
Fifteenth	2ft.
Mixture	Three ranks

SWELL ORGAN

Bell Diapason	8ft.
Gedeckt	8ft.
Salicional	8ft.
Voix Celeste	8ft.
Gemshorn	4ft.
Fifteenth	2ft.
Nineteenth	1 1/3ft.
Cornopean	8ft.
Hautbois	8ft.

PEDAL ORGAN

Sub Bass	16ft.
Leiblich Bourdon	16ft
Bass Flute	8ft.
Quint	5 1/3ft.
Octave Flute	4ft.
Trompette	16ft.
Trompette	8ft.

ACCESSORIES

Great to Pedal)	
Swell to Pedal)	
Swell to Great)	Couplers
Great to Pedal)	
Pistons)	
Tremulant - Swell		
Four Pistons for each Department		
Balanced Swell Pedal		

The Pedal Organ consists of three basic ranks of pipes. A 54 note Lieblich Bourdon giving 16ft, 8ft, 5 1/3ft, and 4ft pitches, a Sub bass 16ft and the Trompette 16ft and 8ft. This consists of 30 notes taken from the former Great Trumpet and a bottom octave of wood pipes.

*Common base to both stops

There are separate bellows for each department and the pedal reed. The pressures range from 8 to 2 5/8 inches water gauge.

Funding to date: £2,750.50



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Lyndon **Methodist** Church



THE ORG



Organ Refurbishment at Lyndon

Background

Lyndon Methodist Church is 'home' to a thriving Christian community located in Solihull bordering on the Sheldon and South Yardley districts of Birmingham. The Church has 150 plus members and many more, from all faiths and none, associated through its youth organisations and community service activities.

For very many years there has been a strong musical tradition with singing groups, joint Boys and Girls Brigade band and congregational singing of well-known Methodist Hymns and modern Songs of Praise. Central to this tradition is the church organ which is played by our regular organist Barry Davis and others. After almost 37 years of use at Lyndon it is now essential to undertake some extensive refurbishment of the organ and this brochure identifies the requirements, both technical and financial.

History

The basis of the organ was the instrument in the former church of All Saints, Hockley, Birmingham where it was built in 1885 by a local organ builder of good repute, J C Banfield. Since its installation at Lyndon it has only undergone tuning and a few very minor repairs to keep it going. This is an indication of the quality of the work which went into the rebuilding and modernisation at the time and also to the quality of the components in the original instrument.

During the last year or two there have been audible noises of wind escaping from the sound boards. Even when the noises are inaudible to the congregation, the escape of air can easily be demonstrated at the console. The problem is caused by cracking in the two main wind-chests due to warm and dry ambient conditions. This situation will deteriorate until ultimately the organ will become unplayable.

Advice has been taken from the organ adviser to the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church who has advised us that 'In terms of value, the instrument is second only to the fabric of the building and that there is a responsibility to maintain it in good working order for future generations. A well maintained pipe organ will last indefinitely'. Also, the long history of the organ places an added obligation for it to be maintained. Quotations have been received from three organ builders and they have advised that the instrument is well worth preservation and that once the work is undertaken the organ would be good for several decades without major expenditure. The Church Council have therefore determined that the necessary funds be raised and the work undertaken.

Work to be Carried Out

To deal with the problems being experienced, over 1,100 pipes would be removed. With the pipes removed, the soundboards would be removed and thoroughly overhauled and given "the full works". This refurbishment would overcome the present problems being experienced. Meanwhile, the pipes would be individually cleaned and all wooden pipes would have their joints checked.

The bellows and regulators would be cleaned and any necessary repairs carried out. The console, including the pedal board, would be stripped down to their component parts and refurbished as necessary. On completion of the above works the instrument would be re-assemble, regulated, and fine tuned.

The Plan

Raising the money

We have procured three quotations for the refurbishment, and have taken advice in selecting an organ builder of suitable reputation as well as considering best value for money. The cost of refurbishment at £23,000. (c.f. the cost of a new organ of similar specification would cost several hundred thousand pounds).

The aim is that local fund-raising, contributions from local business, donations from members etc. will raise £10,000. It is anticipated that funds from the wider Methodist Church could amount to £3000. Grant Funding is hoped to raise £10,000.

Getting the work done

We aim to refresh and further confirm the quotation and to place the order with the Organ Builder once we have at least 50% of the funding in place. The plan is to get the work undertaken during the summer of either 2014 or 2015.

Developing the Players

There is little point in refurbishing the organ for the long term unless we encourage and facilitate the training of young people in the skills of the Organist.

There are a number of highly regarding places of learning for music in Solihull and Birmingham, and the wider West Midlands. It is intended to explore a partnership approach with some of these organisations, and with individual organ tutors, opportunities to assist with training by making the refurbished organ available for practice and rehearsal. In addition it is hoped to promote an interest in the subject by way of visits and 'hands-on' experience for local school children.

Priority Action

The key target before any work can be initiated is to have in place 50% of the anticipated cost. To this end a start has been made in raising funds within the membership. Exploration of external funding will commence shortly under the guidance of the Project Team.

Richard Stretton, Libby Stretton, Barry Davis, Roger Hancock, Julie Neale, Ian Hancock (Treasurer), Sue Steadman (Chair),

