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The Old Cartwright School
The Street, Ash, Kent CT3 2AA
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www.fhbrowneandsons.co.uk

Post-Conservation Report for organ works at St Mary the Virgin Church, Ipsden.

[Based on CofE ChurchCare guidance notes]

26th August 2019

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Company Registration No. 04324032
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Registered Office: The Old Cartwright School, The Street, Ash, Kent CT3 2AA

THE INSTITUTE OF IBO BRITISH ORGAN BUILDING

Gary Magill Esq

e-mail: garymagill@btinternet.com

cc: Ken McCrea Esq: ken.mccrea@btinternet.com

26. August 2019.

Dear Mr Magill,

Re: Completion of Organ works at St Mary the Virgin Church, Ipsden.

Thank you for contracting F H Browne and Sons to undertake restoration works on the organ at St Mary's Church, and for facilitating the works during the course of the project.

We are delighted that the organ is now restored to its former glory, ready to support the needs of the church for the next generation.

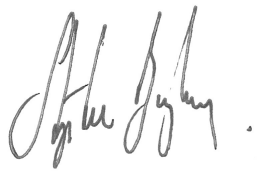
The report which follows details the work undertaken, in line with the guidance of the Church of England's ChurchCare guidance notes (CCB_Post-conservation-treatment-reports).

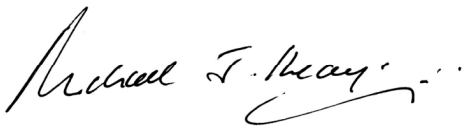
Note that this report is written from the perspective of the organ builder, and may need to be supplemented by the Parish in respect of, for example, the Organ Advisor report supporting the original Faculty application, architect details and building condition reports, and Quinquennial report recommendations.

We trust you find the enclosed report acceptable, to facilitate the certificate of completion for the works, and to access approved project grants.

Do let us know if any further information is required.

Kind regards,





Stephen Bayley **Michael Keays.**

Managing Director. Director.

F H Browne & Sons (Organ Builders) Ltd.

Basic Information.

Requirement	Information
Church details	St Mary the Virgin, Ipsden. OX10 6AE County: Oxfordshire Diocese: Oxford
Description of the organ and location within the building	2 manuals & pedals, Mechanical action Location: Organ: West gallery; Console: Integral Case(s): Single case, stencilled display pipes, towers bass & treble ends Full specification below.
Original builder (and date), and subsequent major work	Albert E Pease (1893) Rebuilds: Foster-Waite (1992)
Name and address of conservator	F H Browne & Sons (Organ Builders) Ltd, The Old Cartwright School, 82-86 The Street, Ash, CANTERBURY, Kent. CT3 2AA. 01304 813146. info@fhbrowneandsons.co.uk
Dates when the work was started and finished	Start of work on site: 4/2/19 Workshop work from 14/2/19 to 28/6/19 Completion of work on site: 17/7/19
Reference to the conservation report prepared to support the faculty and grant applications	Inspection Report & Quotation for works on the organ at St Mary's Church Ipsden, dated 1/11/16. Author: F H Browne & Sons (Organ Builders) Ltd, with additions consolidated 18/11/16, and e-mail of 5/3/19 for in-works additions. Organ Advisor Report: None

Detailed description of work carried out.

STRUCTURAL WORKS

The organ was dismantled in line with the advised schedule down to the building frame, with bellows and both soundboards being removed to the workshop for full restoration. The largest pedal pipes remained in the organ, and were dealt with as required *in situ*. The key, stop and coupler actions were removed, and the pedalboard returned to the workshop for full restoration.

The casework was retained on the building frame intact. Pipework, including damaged pipework and ranks of pipes requiring revoicing and other corrective work, were returned to the workshop.

Rebuilding the organ commenced with the reinstallation of restored bellows and soundboards, pedalboard and actions, which were adjusted for optimal operation. The casework was treated at this point (see below) and the pipework reinstalled, tuned and regulated.

METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS

Pipework

Pipes were individually cleaned, damaged metal pipes repaired and rounded out in the body. Wood pipes were checked for splits and repaired. Stoppers were checked, re-fitted and greased where appropriate. Reed pipes were taken to pieces for individual cleaning of tongues and shallots; broken wedges replaced and tuning wires re-set on re-assembly.

The missing ear from one of the case pipes was replaced.

Tuning slides and tuning wires were replaced as required, the latter with phosphor bronze wire, to replaced corroded steel wires.

Soundboards

With pipework removed, rackboards were removed, and upperboards lifted, to enable closer inspection of the soundboard table and pallets.

With all pipework and rackboards removed, the soundboards were disconnected from the key and stop action, removed from the organ to the workshop, and dismantled. Workshop restoration consisted of the removal of pallets, which were then cleaned-up and refitted with best quality felt and sheepskin, and new leather hinge tails. The soundboard Tables were inspected and any splits pegged, screwed and repaired. Note channels were made sound by flooding with a solution of hot glue. The Table was cleaned and trued-up, and re-scored as required, the Grid cleaned and trued, and pallets refitted. Upperboards and slides were cleaned-up, trued and refitted to allow for free movement within a close fit.

Pallets to be refitted to Soundboard with new guide pins, springs and pull-down linkages. Faceboards to be refitted. Rackboards, rack pillars, top hats and stays were inspected and repaired or improved as required.

The soundboards were returned and refitted within the organ frame, reconnected to the action, winded and tested for optimal operation.

Chests & case actions

All pedal and off-note chests and ventils were opened-up, motors removed, cleaned of old leather and glue, re-leathered with finest quality split skin, reassembled and tested for optimal operation.

Case action rails were removed from the case; all motors were removed from the rail, cleaned of old leather and glue, re-leathered with finest quality split skin, reassembled and tested for optimal operation.

Organ chamber

The interior of the organ was generally cleaned, all dust and dirt being carefully removed with a vacuum cleaner and soft brushes.

Swell box

Loose shutters were refitted, hard felt replaced, mechanical linkages lubricated, and any loose pivot points to be plugged and re-drilled for the suitable sized pin. The mechanical linkage from console to swell box was checked, adjusted and lubricated.

Bellows and winding

All bellows, together with associated feeders, were removed from the organ to our workshop, thoroughly cleaned of old leather and glue, fitted with best quality new sheepskin, returned and reinstalled into the organ.

Wind trunking and conveyancing were tested and leaks to be repaired.

Wind control mechanisms were overhauled as required.

No action was taken on the blower, which appears to be functioning well.

Actions

All mechanical actions (trackers, stickers, squares, roller-boards etc) were checked, with buttons and felts renewed as required, including complete replacement of the key action aluminium trackers and squares, introduced during the 1992 rebuild: These were replaced with quality solid wood equivalents supplied by Baumgartner Orgelbau.

Stop action runs were checked and reinforced where sagging, adjusted and lubricated on reassembly.

Console & Pedalboard

Manual keys were taken to pieces for cleaning and replacement of worn or moth infested felts, and bat pins regulated on re-assembly. Key and coupler action were adjusted for optimal performance. The keys were cleaned and polished. Key and stop bushing felts were renewed.

The Pedalboard was dismantled and all worn pedals pieced and re-faced. The Pedalboard Frame was re-felted, and springs lubricated and adjusted. The pedals were re-bushed and lubricated on reassembly.

TREATMENT OF ORGAN CASE AND CASE PIPEWORK

Case

The organ case was in good condition, although rather 'tired': The entire case was polished with Fiddes wax polish.

Case pipework

The case pipework was cleaned and dusted-down with a soft dampened cloth.
The case pipework was left untouched, so as to preserve the delicate decorative scheme.

RECONSTRUCTION AND ADDITION OF NEW ELEMENTS

The organ was reconstructed in its original form, with no additions or modifications.

In addition to the complete replacement of aluminium key action trackers and squares, some trackers were replaced with new, of similar style and material, where the originals had broken.

The restoration of the pedal ventils and the bellows feeders were additional work agreed after the commencement of contracted work; these were not included in the original scope of works as the requirement was only clear once the organ was dismantled.

NEW DISCOVERIES

None.

FUTHER WORK REQUIRED

None.

Further notes.

CONDITION OF THE BUILDING

The building is in good condition, in the area of the organ chamber. The unslightly hardboard over the organ was removed whilst the organ was dismantled, and the ceiling made good.

CARE & MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The organ should continue to be maintained ideally between 14ºC and 18ºC, with a relative humidity of between 50% and 65%. Conditions at the inspection on 10/10/16 were 13.1ºC, 63% RH, which is close to the ideal range for the instrument.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

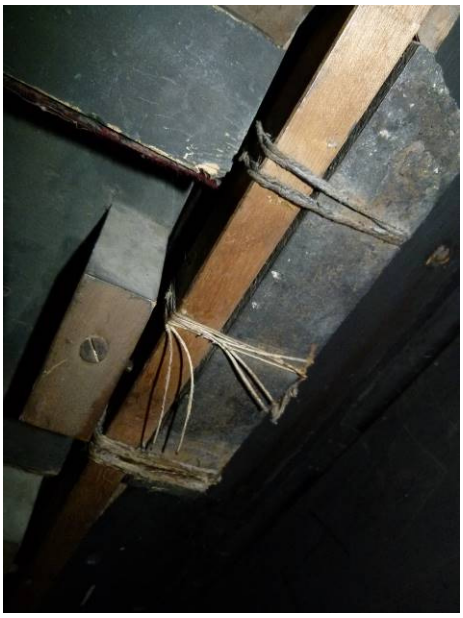
None.

Photographs supporting report.

The following photos are included on the CD provided to the church to print (as required) through chemical laboratory processing on photographic paper.

The copyright owner of all photographs is F H Browne & Sons (Organ Builders) Ltd.

PRE-RESTORATION



Ipsden, St Mary - 1.1 - Temporary staying for Bourdons [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 1.2 - Flexing aluminium trackers & squares [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 1.3 - Flexing aluminium trackers & squares [MK]

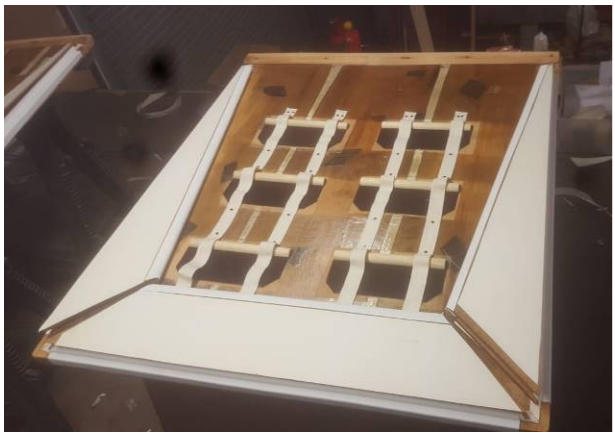
Ipsden, St Mary - 1.4 - Temporary pedal action repair [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 1.5 - Great pipework - High level of dirt & dust [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 1.6 - Missing ear from case pipe [MK]

DURING RESTORATION

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.1 - Bellows ribs [CH]



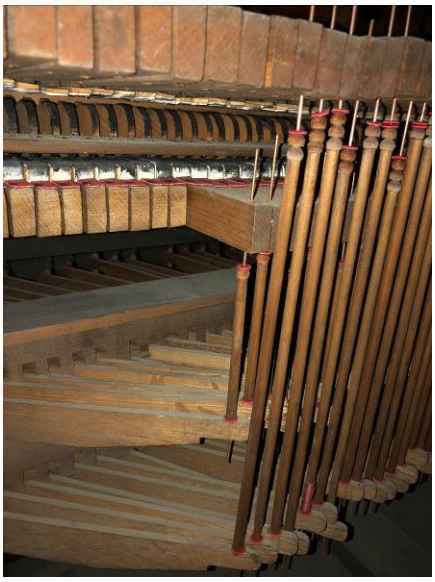
Ipsden, St Mary - 2.2 - Bellows restoration [CH]

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.3 - Restored bellows [CH]

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.4 - Pedal ventil [CH]

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.5 - Restored pedalboard [CH]

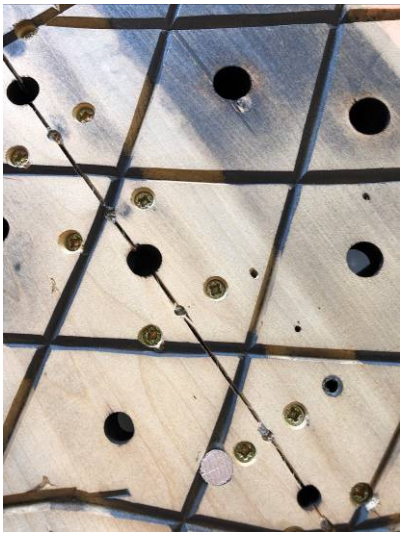
Ipsden, St Mary - 2.6 - Restored pedalboard - pull-downs [CH]



Ipsden, St Mary - 2.7 - Coupler backfalls [CH]

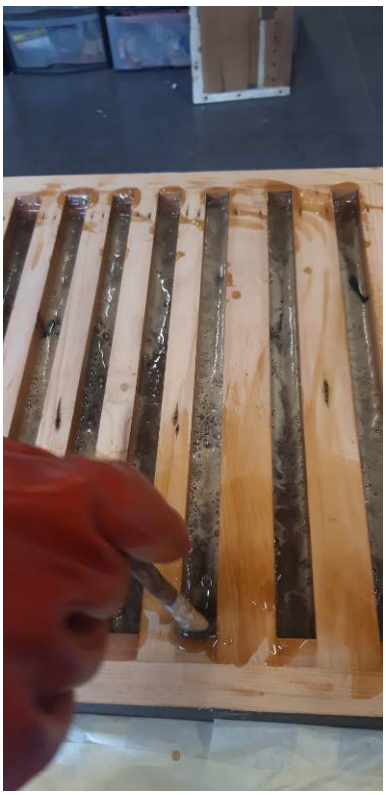
Ipsden, St Mary - 2.8 - Stickers & aluminium squares [CH]

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.9 - Soundboards, prepared [CH]



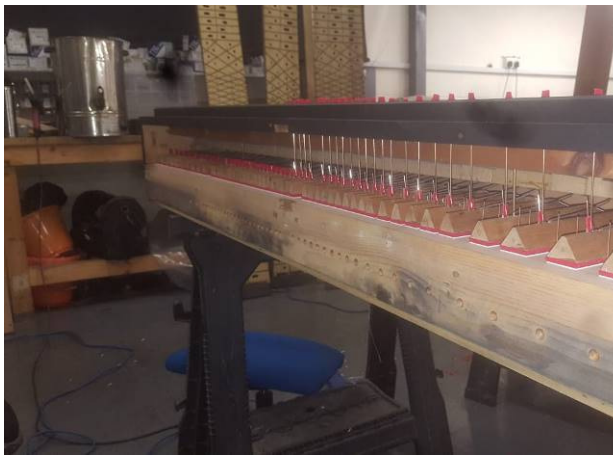
Ipsden, St Mary - 2.10 - Soundboard table, screwed and pegged [CH]

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.11 - Hot glue soundboard flooding [CH]



Ipsden, St Mary - 2.12 - Hot glue soundboard flooding [CH]

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.13 - Soundboard pallets [CH]



Ipsden, St Mary - 2.14 - Soundboard pallets [CH]

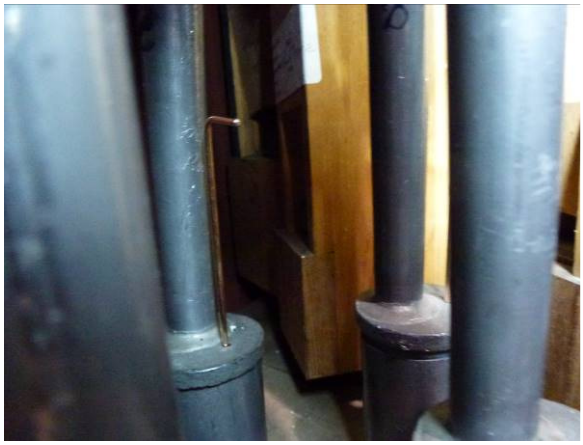
Ipsden, St Mary - 2.15 - Soundboard grid [CH]

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.16 - Soundboard reassembly [CH]

Ipsden, St Mary - 2.17 - Truing soundboard table [CH]

POST-RESTORATION

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.1 - Swell division pipework [MK]



Ipsden, St Mary - 3.2 - Swell Oboe tuning wire [MK]

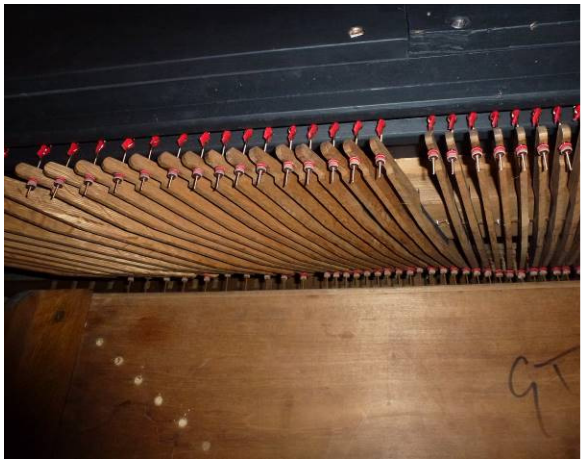
Ipsden, St Mary - 3.3 - Reinforced stop action [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.4 - Re-leathered bellows [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.5 - Pedal action [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.6 - Pedal action [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.7 - Pedal action [MK]



Ipsden, St Mary - 3.8 - Backfall [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.9 - Key action [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.10 - Key action - Wood stickers & squares [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.11 - Key action - Wood stickers & squares [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.12 - Key action - Wood stickers & squares [MK]

Ipsden, St Mary - 3.13 - Organ from nave [MK]

Organ specification.

The specification of the organ is as follows:

Division	Stop	Pitch	Composition (Mix)	Breaks (Mix)	Ten. C?	Notes
Great	Open Diapason	8'				
	Viol d'Amour	8'			Yes	Uses Stop Diapason Bass
	Stop Diapason Bass	8'				Bottom octave only
	Clarabella	8'			Yes	
	Principal	4'				
Swell	Violin Diapason	8'				
	Lieblich Gedact	8'				Shared bass with Violin Diapason
	Flauto Traverso	4'				
	Piccolo	2'				
	Oboe	8'				
Pedal	Bourdon	16'				

Couplers	a	b	c	d
Great to Pedal			Y	
Swell to Great			Y	
Swell to Pedal			Y	

a - Piston rail; b - Pedal sweep; c - Stop jamb; d - Tab rail

F H BROWNE & SONS LTD

26th AUGUST 2019

Background information.

F H Browne & Sons, organ builders: A short history.

F H Browne was established in Deal, Kent, in 1871, by Frederick Henry Browne, an apprentice of William Hobday, a Canterbury organ builder. The business expanded rapidly in the UK, and as far afield as Egypt and Canada. Several of Browne's sons joined the business, which also included the manufacture of pianos, and a music shop selling sheet music, pianos and other instruments. The firm relocated to Canterbury in 1906, under the directorship of William, Frederick Browne's eldest son. Various members of the Browne family assisted the running of the company after the death of William less than a year after the move to Canterbury; it was Alfred Willey, an apprentice from before the First World War, who kept the company running right through until the end of the Second World War.

The company was then re-formed as F H Browne & Sons (Organ Builders) Ltd, with Alfred Willey (as Managing Director) and Harry Fagg steadily expanding the company until 1982 when they both died. A new partnership of Roger Greensted (an apprentice since 1963), Reginald Cobb (another employee) and Gordon Chapman (a local organist) was formed, presiding over the move to the Old Cartwright School in Ash (near Canterbury) in 1983, which is the current location of the company office and workshops.

Stephen Bayley, our current Managing Director, became an apprentice of F H Browne in 1994. In order to broaden his experience, Stephen joined N P Mander (Organ Builders) in 1998, working on a number of prestigious projects (including the Royal Albert Hall organ). In 2010, Stephen returned to F H Browne and in 2013 became Managing Director. The company is now run by Stephen Bayley, Yvette Bayley and Michael Keays.

Stephen grew-up in Stourmouth, near to F H Browne's current premises, and so it is fitting that F H Browne are now building a new workshop in Stourmouth, with a planned move in 2019.

Michael Keays joined the company in 2015 after a career as a professional project manager, delivering high profile and high value projects for clients including the BBC and ITV. Michael is also a local organist.

With over 600 organs in their care, F H Browne's clients are spread across the UK, and as far afield as the Falkland Islands. F H Browne continues to restore and rebuild organs, and is also building custom-designed new organs and consoles.

Recent restorations and rebuilds (details of which can be found on our website, www.fhbrowneandsons.co.uk) include St Nicholas Canvey Island, All Saints East Sheen, St Stephen Canterbury, St Peter & St Paul Aylesford, St Mary & St Giles Stony Stratford, St Leonard's Hythe, Holy Trinity Folkestone, St Nicholas Chiswick, St Elisabeth Reddish, St Peter & St Paul River, St John Chrysostom Peckham, St Margaret Hothfield, All Saints Waldron, St Mary Selling, Our Lady of Sorrows Bognor Regis and St Thomas the Martyr Winchelsea, together with work currently in hand, including Battersea Arts Centre, St Giles the Abbot Farnborough, and Walmer Baptist Church. The company has also built some 3-rank mechanical Continuo organs, and recently completed a new 15-stop two manual and pedals tracker organ for St John Mongeham: All have received high acclaim. The company's skills base extends from all aspects of organ building to casework design and manufacture, and expertise in traditional and modern key and stop control.