

Samuel Renn Organ



St. George's Church

The Organ

Introduction

In 2010, the original organ, which was built by Nicholson and Lord and erected in 1881 (and had been overhauled in 1957 and again in 1977) had deteriorated and a decision was taken to replace it.

In 2011, St. George's was fortunate to be offered a Samuel Renn organ from the redundant St. John the Baptist Church in Bollington, Cheshire.

This organ has now been renovated and restored by T.W. Fearn of Devon. A Dedication Service was held on Sunday 15th June 2014 conducted by the Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt. Revd. Martyn Snow and the instrument is now available for concerts.

The Specification

This is a two manual organ built in 1836 by Samuel Renn but then enlarged in 1909 by Nicholson and Lord.

Only six Renn organs remain with the original casework and pipework intact. There are fine examples in St. Philip's, Salford, St. Mary and All Saints, Great Budworth and now at St. George's, Nailsworth.

The present specification is:

Great

- *Open diapason
- *Stop diapason treble (Tenor-C)
- *Stop diapason bass
- *Flute
- *Principal
- *Fifteenth
- *Sesquialtra bass
- *Cornet treble (12,15,17, from mid-C)
- *Trumpet

Swell

- *Teneroon
- *Open diapason (Tenor C)
- *Stop diapason
- *Dulciana (Tenor C)
- *Principal
- *Fifteenth
- *Hautboy
- Horn
- Viol d' Amour
- Voix celestas

Pedal

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| *Open diapason | Swell to Great |
| Bourdon | Swell to Pedal |
| | Great to Pedal |

**Denotes Renn pipework*

Samuel Renn. 1786 - 1845

He was born at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire where his parents were employed and as a teenager was apprenticed to his uncle, James Davis, an organ builder in London, where he eventually became the foreman.

Renn developed a mechanised system for building organs using standardised dimensions, thereby reducing costs but continuing to produce artistic designs. His organs have been praised by critics for their musical properties and the best surviving example is in St. Philip's church in Salford.

On Davis's retirement, Renn went into partnership with James Boston and they traded as Renn and Boston in Stockport from 1822 to 1825 and then in Manchester until his death in 1845.

By 1835, Boston had left the firm and James Kirtland, the nephew of Renn's wife, was taken on as an apprentice.

Following Renn's death, Kirtland carried on the firm with Frederick Jardine until 1866 when he retired. Jardine continued the business under the name of Jardine and Company and thus it remains today.

Acknowledgements

The money for the organ was raised through a bequest from Mr. Dennis Williams who was for some years, choirmaster and organist at St. George's. There was also a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund together with smaller grants and donations.

Wikipedia.