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Cash — at concerts there will be a clearly marked collection plate on the table by the door

Card — by using the machine by the door

QR Code — please scan the code below on your phone camera to go straight to the Organ Fund's 'Give a Little' page. You can set up a one off or regular donation. If the signal is poor, take one of the donation cards on the table and go outside, where the signal is better

Bank transfer —

Please use 'Organ Restoration Fund' as the reference.
Bosbury Parochial Church Council
Sort code — 53-61-47 Account number — 07702116



PEDAL CCC - F 30 notes

Grand Open Diapason	16
Bourdon	16
Principal	8
Trombone [wooden pipes]	16

II. GREAT CC - A 58 notes

Double Open Diapason	16
Open Diapason	8
Stopped Diapason & Clarabella	8
Dulciana	8
Gamba	8
Gemshorn	4
Flute Harmonique	4
Twelfth	2½
Fifteenth	2
Sesquialtera	III
Trumpet	8

Six couplers	
Nine combination pedals	
Trigger swell pedal	
Tremulant to Swell by foot pedal only	

I. CHOIR CC - A 58 notes unenclosed

Open Diapason	8 *
Suabellute	8
Gamba	8 *
Wald Flute	4 †
Clarionet & Bassoon	8

* Dummy stopknob only, no pipes
† Added 1994 on Harmonic Flute dummy stopknob

III. SWELL CC - A 58 notes

Double Diapason	16
Violin Open Diapason	8
Lieblich Gedact	8
Violin con Sourdine	8
Voix Céleste	8
Principal	4
Piccolo Harmonique	2
Mixture	III ‡
Trumpet	8
Oboe	8
Clarion	4

‡ Only two ranks ever installed

BOSBURY CHURCH ORGAN

Description — History — Restoration proposals

The organ in Holy Trinity church, Bosbury is a remarkable instrument. With three keyboards (manuals) — organs in most country parish churches have only one or two — it still retains all its original pipework. There are over 1700 pipes. The instrument is one of only six three- or four-manual organs in the whole of Herefordshire (the others are Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye, Leominster, Hereford Cathedral and Belmont Abbey) and is the only one situated in a rural, as opposed to urban, location.

The organ was installed in 1871 by the short-lived organ building firm of Speechly & Ingram. Much of the cost was met by a wealthy local benefactor and this may be why the instrument is so elaborate: it could have been a 'show item' displaying its builder's expertise. Some improvements were made in 1897, an electric blower was added in 1948 and one stop was added in 1994, but with these exceptions the instrument remains essentially in its 1871 state.

When the instrument was first installed, its builder and sponsor could scarcely have imagined that it would still be fulfilling its original function, without anything other than occasional routine maintenance, over 150 years later.

Even today, the Bosbury organ can still produce a magnificent sound. But all is not quite as it appears. We have reached the stage where it is necessary to contemplate significant and expensive work in order that this historic instrument can continue to function.

Why is restoration necessary at all?

Anyone hearing the Bosbury organ might wonder why it is necessary to spend a significant sum on an instrument that still sounds so good.

The answer is that the Bosbury organ is, as regards longevity, running on empty. A pipe organ is substantially comprised of perishable materials (wood and leather) and after 150 years most of these materials are now on their last legs. The instrument may sound good on a given day, but there is an increasing probability that some irretrievable malfunction may occur unless action is taken.

Wind supply and reservoirs

We have recently raised sufficient funds to replace the old, unsatisfactory 1948 electric blower with a brand-new unit supplying an adequate amount of wind at the correct pressure. This has considerably improved the organ's overall sound and tuning.

The next task is to refurbish the wind reservoirs. These are large wood-and-leather structures which distribute wind to the pipes. The leather is the nineteenth-century original, is somewhat brittle, not entirely airtight, has been patched numerous times and is, in the words of a local expert, "in danger of catastrophic failure".

If the wind supply fails, the organ is rendered useless. Renewing the entire leatherwork is now a matter of urgency. This is the objective of the next phase of fundraising. It is intended that the original hand-blowing equipment, still in working order, will be refurbished at the same time.

Wooden infrastructure The organ pipes are mounted on elaborate platforms ('soundboards') containing wooden sliders and channels for the wind to reach the pipes. 150 years of use has worn this mechanism to the point at which wind leaks out and the pipes do not always sound satisfactorily.

The soundboards must be removed and rendered leakproof. The keyboards and pipe selection mechanism (the 'stop controls') are also made of wood and are similarly worn: these also need refurbishing.

Key extensions ('trackers'). These consist of long metal rods which connect the keyboards to the windchests. There are two problems here. Firstly, due to wear, there is a lot of slack in the system, so keyboard action is imprecise. Secondly, many rods are corroded — indeed some have already broken and have had to be 'botched' to enable them to work.

Fatigue Some metal pipes, due to inadequate support, have suffered from metal fatigue and have bent over. Again, 'botching' has kept them going, but these pipes need removing and reconstructing. The rest of the pipes need cleaning to remove decades'-worth of accumulated dust from their insides.

Community value The organ is much-loved by its parishioners and is well-known in the local area as an instrument of considerable historic significance. It holds an 'Historic Organ Certificate' which is the equivalent of a Listed Building. For it to fall silent would be a tragedy. The PCC is determined that any restoration scheme will preserve the instrument's historical value.

Restoration costs

Full restoration will entail serious money. We have recently raised over £19,000 with the aid of generous donations from individuals and a grant from the Cadbury Trust. This has enabled us to purchase a new, satisfactory electric blower and also address some long-standing minor problems. As a result, the instrument now sounds much better and repairing the wind reservoirs will safeguard this improvement.

The estimated cost of this work is £37,000. This will cover complete refurbishment of the reservoir woodwork, leatherwork and ancillary equipment. In order not to incur unnecessary expenditure by duplicating effort, this sum is intended also to cover repairs to the Pedal mechanism which can only be done at a time that the reservoir woodwork is removed. Beyond this, further work will be tackled on a staged basis as funds permit.

We would be very grateful if you could contribute towards the costs of this restoration and ensure the survival of this historic instrument, with its unique voice, for the foreseeable future.

Donation details and organ specification can be found overleaf.