

# THE ORGANS OF ST. MARY'S, LANGLEY MARISH



A brief historical survey

by

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The earliest record of an organ in Langley is of a two manual organ that was worked on c.1840 by Ayton. It was reputed to contain some early 18th.Century pipework from the Christopher Schrider organ in Westminster Abbey - this would suggest a date around 1828 - 31, when the Westminster organ was altered and some original Schrider work discarded.

This organ was moved to the church of St. James the Great, Kilkhampton, Cornwall, in the 1860's. It is still there, having been rebuilt and enlarged. by Lewis in the late 1880's and Roger Yates in 1958.

The original specification is uncertain, but may well have been as follows.

**Ayton ? [c. 1840]**

2 manuals [ + later pedal ] : 14 - 15 speaking stops

mechanical action

Compass uncertain, probably :

Great GG - d<sup>3</sup> 56 notes

Swell fiddle G - d 44 notes

Pedal GG - ? [*possibly added by Ayton c. 1840 ?*]

<b>Great</b>		<b>Swell</b>	
Open Diapason	8	Open Diapason	8
Stopped Diapason	8	Stopped Diapason	8
Principal	4	Principal	4
Nason Flute	4	Fifteenth	2
Fifteenth	2	Trumpet	8
Mixture [ Sesquialtera ? ]	III	Bassoon / Oboe	8
Mixture [ Fourniture ? ]	IV		
Trumpet [divided Treble & Bass]	8	<b>Pedal</b>	
		Pedal pipes	16

In 1869 an 18-stop three manual and pedal instrument by Walker was installed in the North-East corner of the North aisle. Its predecessor had been a remarkably fine and large instrument to grace a relatively small parish church, and the new Walker certainly maintained this standard.

However, due to a long period of shameful neglect, by the 1960's it had been allowed to deteriorate until, eventually, it became unplayable.

### **Walker** [1869]

2 manuals and pedal : 18 speaking stops

mechanical [“tracker”] action

hand - pumped until electric blower added [? c.1930 ]

Compass: Manuals: C - g<sup>3</sup> 56 notes ;

Pedal CC - e<sup>1</sup> 29 notes

[*Pedalboard: concave parallel*]

#### **Great**

Double Diapason	16
Open Diapason	8
Stopped Diapason	8
Principal	4
Flute	4
Fifteenth	2

[+ 2 spare slides]

*Swell to Great*

#### **Swell**

Open Diapason	8
Lieblich Gedact	8
Vox Angelica	8
Gemshorn	4
Fifteenth	2
Cornopean	8
Hautboy	8

#### **Pedal**

Bourdon	16
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*Great to Pedal*

*Swell to Pedal*

*Choir to Pedal*

#### **Choir**

Viola di Gamba	8
Dulciana	8
Flauto Traverso	4
Clarinet	8

*Swell to Choir*

In the early 1960's , rather than attempt to restore the Walker organ, the Willis firm were engaged to replace it with a totally inadequate 1-manual, 6-stop instrument, re-using some pipe-work from its predecessor.

The pipes (in an ugly case-less display) were placed at the west end of the North aisle in the old minstrel's gallery (where, in earlier times, the musicians accompanying the service would have played and the “charity children” sung).

This organ used electro-pneumatic action, thus enabling a detached (tab-stop) console to be sited to the North of the Choirstalls.

**Willis** [c.1964 ?]

1 manual and pedal : 6 stops : Electro-pneumatic action  
pipes in open display in gallery at W end of N aisle  
detached console on S side of choir, facing N  
Compass: Manual : C - g<sup>3</sup> 56 notes

<b>Manual</b>		<b>Pedal</b>	
Open Diapason	8	Bourdon	16
Chimney Flute	8		
Principal	4	<i>Great to Pedal</i>	
Rohr Flute	4		
Fifteenth	2		

Thanks to a generous bequest, this instrument was replaced in 2001 by a new organ of 27 speaking stops by Daniel & Co. of Clevedon.

It is also sited in the gallery but has fine (though incomplete) casework modified from the redundant organ in St. Margaret's Uxbridge.

The detached console is again placed near the Choir.

All of the windchests, reservoirs and action are new, as is much of the pipework, but it utilises some material from the Vowles Organ of the Pendennis Church in Bristol, and also incorporates one historic rank, [*a 4' Flute*] inherited through several previous instruments.

**Daniel [2000 - 1]**

2 manuals and pedal : 27 speaking stops : 1,320 pipes

Electro-pneumatic action :

casework in gallery at W end of N aisle

detached console on S side of choir, facing N

Compass: Manuals : C - a<sup>3</sup> 58 notes

Pedal : CC - f<sup>1</sup> 30 notes

**Great**

Open Diapason	8
Stopped Diapason	8
Dulciana	8
Principal	4
Harmonic Flute *	4
Twelfth	2 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>
Fifteenth	2
Mixture (19, 22)	II
Trumpet [A]	8

**Swell**

Violin Diapason	8
Lieblich Gedact	8
Echo Gamba	8
Voix Celeste (t.c.)	8
Gemshorn	4
Fifteenth	2
Mixture (22, 26, 29)	III
Contra Oboe	16
Trumpet	8
<i>Tremulant</i>	

**Pedal**

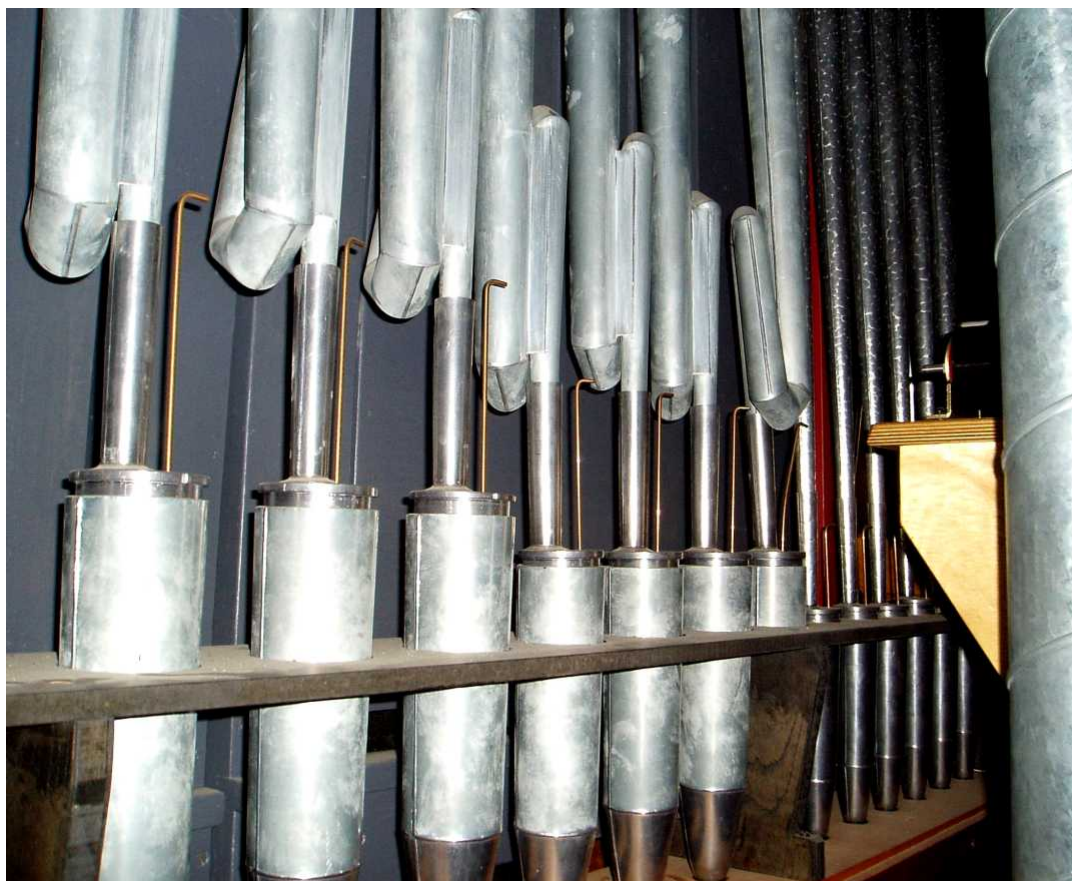
Acoustic Bass [B]	32
Bourdon [B]	16
Open Wood	16
Bass flute [B]	8
Principal [C]	8
Fifteenth [C]	4
Trombone [A]	16
Trumpet [A]	8
Clarion [A]	4

**Couplers & Accessories**

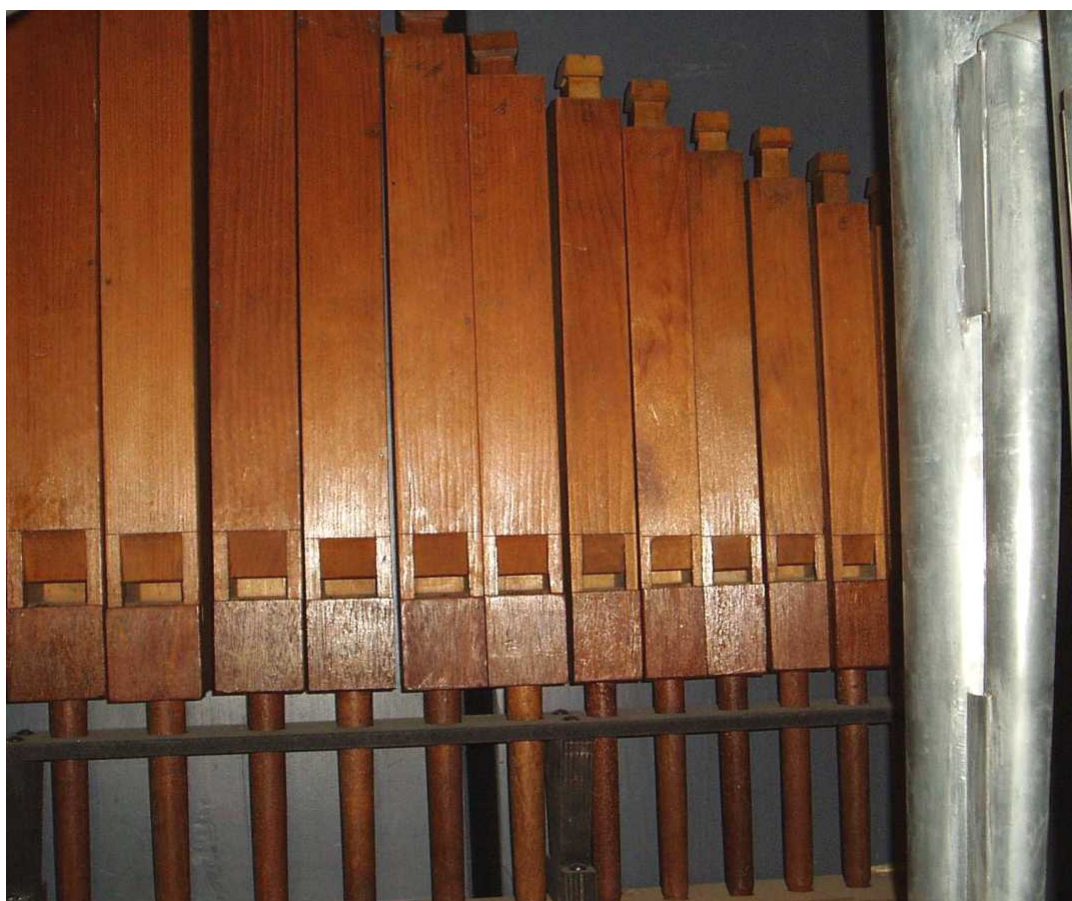
<i>Swell to Great</i>
<i>Great to Pedal</i>
<i>Swell to Pedal</i>
<i>Swell Octave</i>
<i>Swell Sub-octave</i>
<i>Swell Unison off</i>
<i>Solo Trumpet on Swell</i> [A]

[ \* Although this stop is labelled "Harmonic Flute 4", which the organ builders originally intended, it is, in fact a rank of very old Chimney Flute pipes, made of spotted metal with soldered caps and external chimneys, and tuned by means of very large "ears" ]

PICTURES OF THE INTERIOR OF THE ORGAN



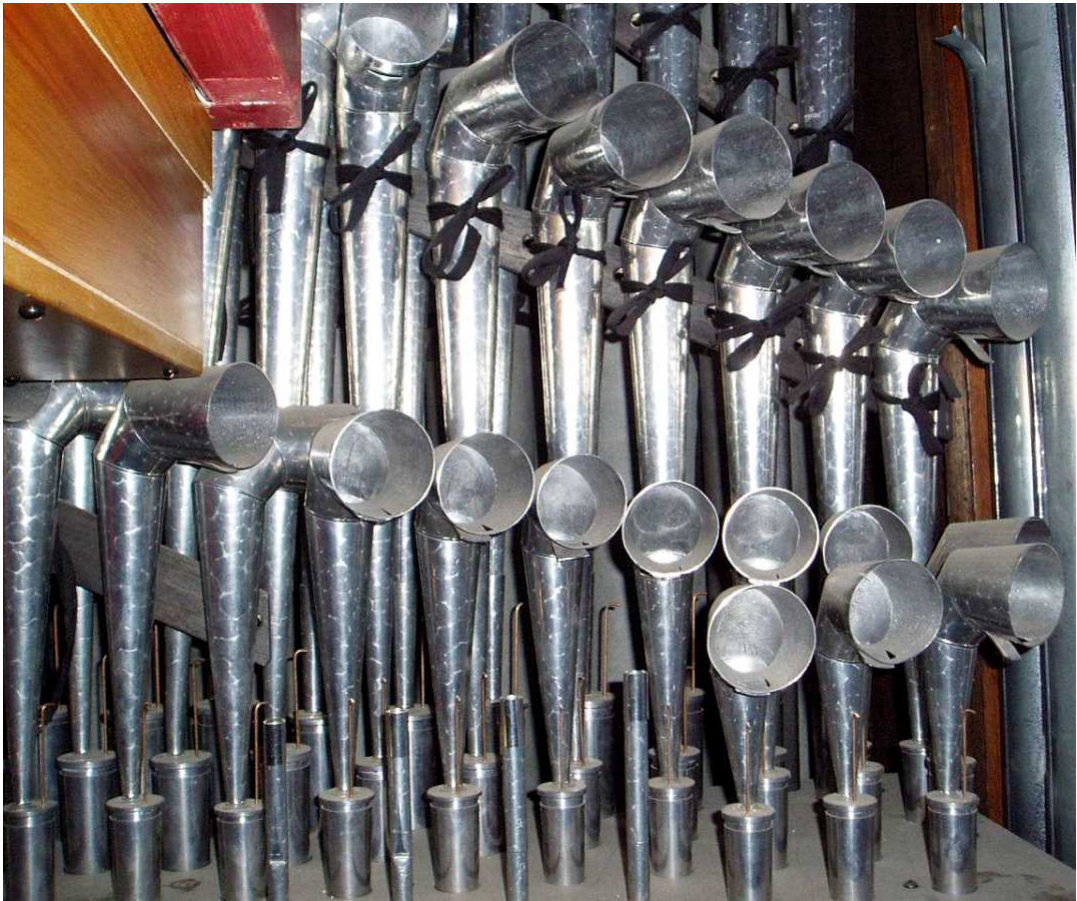
'Boots' of Pedal Trombone 16'



Stopped Wooden pipes of Pedal Flute 8'



Great organ : Soundboard and pipework



Great organ : Trumpet



The Console of the 2001 Daniel Organ  
[looking North towards Choir]