

The Nicholson Organ in St. Clement's Church, Sandwich, Kent.



The organ was built by Nicholsons of Malvern and the inaugural recital was given by Dr Peter Hurford in June 1995. It is a versatile instrument enabling music from all periods of the organ repertoire to be convincingly interpreted as well as providing effective accompaniment to the liturgy. The organ has 1,430 pipes and is played from two manuals with pedals and with largely mechanical action.

The instrument is located in the South Aisle and housed in a fine case of mainly English oak and was designed by Anthony Hall. The majority of the pipework was not new but taken from the previous 1950 three manual instrument built by A E Davies and Sons of Northampton housed at the West end of the North and South Aisles.

In 2023 the instrument was overhauled and cleaned by Anthony Hall's own company Clevedon Organs Ltd. A mechanical swell octave coupler was added together with a bell stop called a Zimbelstern. The piston system was expanded to six per department with six generals and a stepper was also added. The work was made possible with the support of the PCC and much appreciated financial assistance from: -

- Sandwich Tollbridge Fund.
- The Tory Family Foundation.
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation.
- Mrs Fiona Sunley.
- The Benefact Trust.
- Broadstairs Scaffolding Contractors.
- The ON Organ Fund.
- Anthony Hall.
- Various legacies.

Organ Specification:-

St Clement's Church, Sandwich, Kent.			
Nicholson and Co 1995 and Clevedon Organs 2023.			
Pedal	Feet	Pipes	Construction
1 Subbass	16	30	Wood, stopped
2 Diapason	8	30	Zinc and spotted metal, part in facade
3 Flute	8	30	Wood, stopped
4 Trombone	16	30	Zinc and spotted metal
Great			
5 Open Diapason	8	58	Zinc and spotted metal, part in facade
6 Stopped Diapason	8	58	Wood and metal trebles
7 Principal	4	58	Spotted metal
8 Nason Flute	4	58	Wood
9 Fifteenth	2	58	Spotted metal
10 Mixture 15.19.22.26	IV	232	Spotted metal
11 Trumpet	8	58	Spotted metal
Swell			
12 Diapason	8	58	Zinc and spotted metal
13 Gedeckt	8	58	Wood
14 Viola	8	46	Spotted metal from tenor c
15 Vox Angelica	8	46	Spotted metal from tenor c
16 Gemshorn	4	58	Spotted metal
17 Sesquialtera 12.17	II	116	Spotted metal
18 Plein Jeu 19.22.26.29	IV	232	Spotted metal
19 Double Horn	16	58	Zinc – plain metal
20 Oboe	8	58	Spotted metal
<i>Tremulant</i>			
		1,430	
Zimbelstern			
Couplers			
<i>Swell to Great</i>			
<i>Great to Pedal</i>			
<i>Swell to Pedal</i>			
<i>Swell Octave</i>			
Balanced Swell pedal			
6 thumb pistons to Great			
6 thumb pistons to Swell			
Reversible Swell to Great thumb piston			
Reversible Swell Octave thumb piston			
6 toe pistons duplicating Swell pistons			
6 General toe pistons			
Great to Pedal toe piston			
99 stage stepper system with 256 General and Divisional levels and up and down thumb pistons			
General Cancel piston			



Celebration Concert to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Nicholson Organ - 25th July 2015

From left to right : Revd Canon Mark Roberts, Andrew Moyes - Managing Director of Nicholsons, Dr David Flood - Organist and Master of the Choristers - Canterbury Cathedral, John Perkins – Director - Becker Ensemble, Julian Sampson – Director of Music - St Clement's Church.

The church supports an annual organ recital series giving the opportunity for established national and international recitalists to play this fine instrument.

In recent years these has been given by:

Malcolm Archer - St Paul's Cathedral (2006)

Peter Wright - Southwark Cathedral (2007)

Martin Baker - Westminster Cathedral (2008)

James O'Donnell - Westminster Abbey (2009)

Stephen Cleobury – King's College Cambridge (2010)

David Hill (2011)

Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral (2012)

James Lancelot - Durham Cathedral (2013)

Stephen Disley - Southwark Cathedral (2014)

David Flood (Canterbury Cathedral) and Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral) in concerts marking the 20th anniversary of the organ (2015)

Roger Sayer - Director of Music at The Temple Church, London (2016)

Daniel Cook - Westminster Abbey and Organist designate of Durham Cathedral (2017)

Adrian Bawtree – Second Assistant Organist at Canterbury Cathedral and acting Cathedral Organist Rochester Cathedral (2018)

Charles Maxtone - Smith, Organ Scholar at New College Oxford (2019)

Adrian Bawtree - Director of Music & Organist at Rochester Cathedral (2022)

In 2024 the completion of the organ works will be celebrated with the following events :-

Gala Re-Opening Recital given by Ian Tracey (Organist Liverpool Cathedral) - Saturday 11th May at 7.30pm followed by refreshments.

“The Organist Entertains” given by Robert Tapsfield with tea and cake – Sunday 16th June at 4pm.

Deal Festival Concert given by Paul Stubbings “Times and Seasons: Bach and the Organ” - Saturday 13th July at 11am.