

The organ at St. Etheldreda's Church, Old Hatfield

The organ pipes visible at the west end of the church are part of an organ that was built in 1873 by Walker and was installed in the Brocket Chapel, much to the indignation of Wynn Ellis who owned the ancient mortuary rights. It was moved to the South Transept in 1901, but in 1923 it was damaged by the leaking roof, and had to be dismantled and stored until it could be reconstructed. J.W. Walker & Sons completed this in 1928, and installed electro-magnetic action; the cost was about £2,500. It was placed in a new gallery on either side of the ringing chamber at the West end, but the console had to be moved nearer the choir, and was put into the North sub—transept. A further overhaul cost £1,000 in 1948, but by 1980 over 300 of the 2000 pipes were silent, so another costly repair was needed if the long tradition of church organ music is to be continued.

The current organ is a 3 manual analogue (electric) instrument installed in December 1989 by Makin's, and is now nearing the end of its life. There are two speakers on the walls above the choir stalls in the nave. The three manuals are the Great (middle keyboard with 11 stops, including a 16' diapason), the Swell (upper keyboard with 14 stops including an 8' trumpet, oboe and 4' clarion) and the Choir (lower keyboard with 14 stops, including an 8' trumpet, clarinet and French horn). There is also a fan pedal board with 10 stops including a 32'.

Although the pipe work from the previous organ is still in place at the west end, this is not connected to the existing organ. As part of the restoration and re-design of the west end, these pipes will be removed and put into storage whilst we consider how best to serve the future musical needs of the church and the community.

Organ specification

Great	Swell	Choir	Pedal
Mix III	Oboe 8	Trumpet 8	Trmb. 16
Plein Jeu VI	Clarion 4	French Horn	Trumpet 8
Twelfth 2 2/3	Dbl trumpet 16	Cor Anglais 8	Flute 4
Fifteenth 2	Trumpet 8	Clarinet 8	Mix IV
Principal 4	Fifteenth 2	None 8/9	Bass Flute 8
Harmonic Flute 4	Mix V	Sifflote 1	Principal 8
Clarabella 8	Nason Flute 4	Larigot 1 1/3	Vln 16
Octave 4	Twelfth 2 2/3	Tierce 1 3/5	Bourdon 16
Open Diapason 8I	Voix Celeste	Flautino 2	Acc. Bass
Open Diapason 8II	Geigen Principal 4	Nazard 2 2/3	Open Wood
Dbl op diapason 16	Gamba 8	Flauto Traverse 4	Grt. to ped
Swell to Great	Salcional 8	Principal 4	Sw. to ped
Choir to Great	Geigen Diapason 8	Dulciana 9	Choir to ped
	Lieblich Gedacht 8	Hohe Flute 8	Grt+ped piston
		Swell to Choir	coupled

There are 6 piston settings for each manual and 4 channels.