

The Two Organs of Great St Mary's Church

Parish Organ (Chancel) : Kenneth Jones (1991)

Great Organ:

Dble Diapason 16' (R) 1-6: Subbass
 Open Diapason 8'
 Rohrflute 8'
 Octave 4'
 Spitzflute 4'
 Superoctave 2'
 Mixture II-III
 Cymbal II
 Trumpet 8'

Tremulant (also acts on Solo)

Pedal Organ:

Open Wood 16' (R)
 Subbass 16' (R)
 Principal 8' (R)
 Trombone 16' (R)

Accessories:

6 pistons to Great Organ
 6 pistons to Swell Organ
 6 pistons to Solo Organ
 6 toe pistons to Pedal Organ
 8 general pistons
 8 general toe pistons
 Wind Control

Swell Organ (enclosed):

Salicional 8' (R) 1-4: St. Diap.
 Voix Celestes 8' (R)
 Stop^r Diapason 8' (Bass R)
 Principal 4'
 Nason Flute 4'
 Fifteenth 2'
 Larigot 1¹/₃' (R)
 Sesquialtera II (R)
 Mixture III-IV (reduced to II)
 Dble Trumpet 16'
 Cornopean 8'
 Oboe 8' (R)

Tremulant

Reversible pistons for all couplers
 General Cancel piston
 Setter piston
 8 memory channels
 Tracker action throughout
 Electric stop action
 Balanced Swell Pedal to Swell Organ
 Compass 58/30

Solo Organ:

Dble Diapason 16' Gt
 Open Flute 8' (R)
 Wide Octave 4' (R)
 Nazard 2²/₃' (R)
 Doublette 2' (R)
 Wald Fl. 2' (R) 1-12: Doubl.
 Tierce 1³/₅' (R)
 Trumpet 8'

Couplers:

Swell to Great
 Solo to Great
 Great to Pedal
 Swell to Pedal
 Solo to Pedal
 Solo Octave to Pedal

University Organ (West Gallery) : Father Smith & others (1698-1995)

Great Organ:

Bourdon 16' (MANDER 1995)
 Open Diapason 8' (SMITH 1698)
 Stopped Diapason 8' (SMITH 1698)
 Gamba 8' (HILL 1870)
 Principal 4' (SMITH 1698)
 Nason Flute 4' (SMITH 1698)
 Twelfth 2²/₃' (SMITH 1698)
 Fifteenth 2' (SMITH 1698)
 Mixture III (SMITH 1698)
 Cornet IV (MANDER 1995)
 Trumpet 8' (HILL 1870)

Swell Organ (enclosed):

Open Diapason 8' (TURNER 1713)
 Stopped Diapason 8' (PARKER 1767)
 Principal 4' (TURNER 1713)
 Fifteenth 2' (MANDER 1995)
 Mixture III (HILL 1870)
 Double Trumpet 16' (AVERY 1806/HILL 1870)
 Cornopean 8' (MANDER 1995)
 Oboe 8' (HILL 1870)
 Clarion 4' (AVERY 1806)

Accessories:

5 Combination Pedals (mechanical)

Choir Organ:

Stopped Diapason 8' (SMITH 1698)
 Dulciana 8' (AVERY 1806)
 Principal 4' (SMITH 1698)
 Flute 4' (SMITH 1698)
 Fifteenth 2' (SMITH 1698)
 Cremona 8' (HILL, NORMAN & BEARD 1964)

Pedal Organ:

Open Diapason 16' (HILL 1870)
 Bourdon 16' (HILL 1870)
 Principal 8' (HILL 1870)
 Flute 8' (HILL 1870)
 Fifteenth 4' (MANDER 1995)
 Mixture II (MANDER 1995)
 Trombone 16' (HILL 1870)

Tremulant (acts on whole organ)

Couplers:

Swell to Great, Swell to Choir,
 Great to Pedal, Swell to Pedal,
 Choir to Pedal

Tracker action throughout

Mechanical stop action
 Ratchet Swell Pedal to Swell Organ
 Compass 56/30

Why does Great St Mary's have two organs?

Great St Mary's, besides being the principal church in the parish of St Mary-the-Great with St Michael the Archangel, has been associated with, and used by the University of Cambridge since the latter's foundation. The Organ in the West Gallery was built in 1698 by 'Father' Bernard Smith, and probably contains more Smith pipework than any other instrument in the British Isles. It was paid for, and is still maintained by the University. In the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries, the Parish was allowed to use the University Organ for its regular worship. However, by the 1850s, the University Organ had grown very unreliable, and the University was unwilling to commit the funds to have it repaired. The parishioners grew so exasperated that, in 1869, they had their own organ built in the Chancel by Miller of Cambridge. The Miller organ served the Parish until the 1980s when its own dilapidation necessitated replacement by a new Parish Organ. This instrument, built by Kenneth Jones in 1991, in a handsome new case, incorporates some old pipework (denominated (R) above) alongside the new. The University Organ was most recently rebuilt by John Mander in 1995, and preserves the character of the historically-sensitive enlargement by Hill in 1870. Today, both organs are on fine form and are often used antiphonally or together for services or concerts.