



Post-Conservation Report for organ works at St Catherine's Church, Manston.

[Based on CofE ChurchCare guidance notes]

5th March 2021

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Mrs Barbara Redman,
c/o the Parish Office, St Catherine's Church,
2 Newington Road,
RAMSGATE,
Kent,
CT11 0QT

e-mail: kpt96@hotmail.com

5. March 2021.

Dear Mrs Redman,

Re: The Organ at St Catherine's Church, Manston

Thank you for contracting Mander Organ Builders to undertake restoration works on the organ at St Catherine's Church, and for facilitating the works during the course of the project.

We are delighted that the organ is now restored to its former glory, ready to support the needs of the church for the next generation.

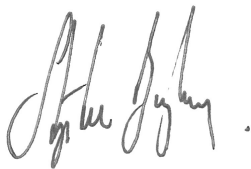
The report which follows details the work undertaken, in line with the guidance of the Church of England's ChurchCare guidance notes (CCB_Post-conservation-treatment-reports).

Note that this report is written from the perspective of the organ builder, and may need to be supplemented, if or as required, by the Parish in respect of, for example, the Organ Advisor report supporting the original Faculty application, architect details and building condition reports, and Quinquennial report recommendations.

We trust you find the enclosed report acceptable, to facilitate the certificate of completion for the works, and to access approved project grants.

Do let us know if any further information is required.

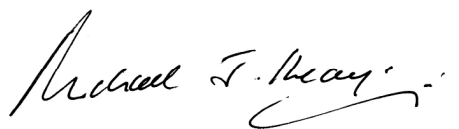
Kind regards,



Stephen Bayley

Managing Director.

Mander Organ Builders.



Michael Keays.

Director.



Basic Information.

Requirement	Information
Church details	St Catherine's Church, Preston Road, Manston, RAMSGATE. CT12 5BA County: Kent Diocese: Canterbury
Description of the organ and location within the building	2 manuals & pedals, pneumatic action Location: Organ: south east corner; Console: Integral Case(s): Single case, plain display pipes Full specification below.
Original builder (and date), and subsequent major work	F H Browne (1912) Rebuilds: (Partial). F H Browne, 1984
Name and address of conservator	Mander Organ Builders, The Wilderness, Church Lane, West Stourmouth, CANTERBURY, Kent. CT3 1HT. 01304 813146. info@mander-organs.com
Dates when the work was started and finished	Start of work on site: 4/1/21 Workshop work from 6/1/21 to 17/2/21 Completion of work on site: 18/2/21

Requirement	Information
Reference to the conservation report prepared to support the faculty and grant applications	Inspection Report & Quotation for works on the organ at St Catherine's Church, Manston, dated 26/7/2018. Author: F H Browne & Sons (Organ Builders) Ltd. Organ Advisor Report: None

Detailed description of work carried out.

STRUCTURAL WORKS

The organ was dismantled in line with the advised schedule, with bellows and both soundboards remaining in the organ for on-site work as required. The largest pedal pipes also remained in the organ, and were dealt with as required *in situ*. The key, stop and coupler actions were removed to the extent possible, and the pedalboard returned to the workshop for full restoration.

The casework was retained on the building frame intact. Pipework was stored securely in the agreed space inside the church, with the exception of damaged pipework, which was returned to the workshop for repair.

Rebuilding the organ commenced with the pedalboard and actions, which were adjusted for optimal operation. The casework was treated at this point (see below) and the pipework reinstalled, tuned and regulated.

METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS

Pipework

Pipes were individually cleaned, damaged metal pipes repaired and rounded out in the body. Wood pipes were checked for splits and repaired. Stoppers were checked, re-fitted and greased where appropriate.

Soundboards & Chests

With pipework removed, rackboards were removed, and upperboards lifted, to enable closer inspection of the soundboard table and pallets. Minor repairs were undertaken to the soundboard(s) *in situ*.

Pedal chests were inspected, and action purses replaced with new.

Organ chamber

The interior of the organ was generally cleaned, all dust and dirt being carefully removed with a vacuum cleaner and soft brushes.

Swell box

Loose shutters were refitted, hard felt replaced, mechanical linkages lubricated; there were no loose pivot points, so re-plugged and re-drilling were not required. The mechanical linkage from console to swell box was checked, adjusted and lubricated.

Bellows and winding

The bellows were in reasonable condition, only requiring checking and limited patching on site, with best quality sheepskin. Wind trunking and conveyancing were tested and leaks to be repaired.

Wind control mechanisms were overhauled as required.

No action was taken on the blower, which appears to be functioning well.

Actions

All pneumatic actions (purses, tubes etc) were checked and renewed to the extent possible where required: Many key and note purses had perished (causing stops to remain permanently on), and were all replaced with new. All coupler actions were removed for workshop repair and re-leathering, re-fitted and adjusted for optimal operation.

Key action buttons were replaced where worn, and all adjusted for even-ness of key touch.

The piston actions (a pre-set 'p' and 'f' to each manual) are formed of a complex set of pneumatic relays and actions, parts of which are inherently weak by design. Following extensive inspection and restoration of the component parts, it became clear that if these actions ever worked, they could not have been reliable, nor due to the weakness of the design could they have operated for long: They appear at best to have been experimental, and indeed we discovered that the winding to them had at some point been disabled with a cardboard insert, indicating that these had been troublesome for several years, if not decades. The success of the restoration of the piston action was therefore compromised by inherent design, and only carried out as far as possible; however, with only four stops on each manual, and all stops and notes now working, the necessity for manual registration is not a handicap.

Console & Pedalboard

Deconstruction of the console proved difficult on account of a combination of totally inaccessible parts and several rusted and damaged screws. Manual keys were taken to pieces as far as practicable without causing irreversible damage to original material, cleaned, re-felted as required, bat pins regulated on re-assembly, and backs of keys re-leathered to prevent key trackers dislocating from the keys, a consequence of a rather curious original design.

Key and coupler action were adjusted for optimal performance following full restoration. The keys were cleaned and polished.

Restoration of the key surfaces was not a part of the schedule, and thus damage to two of the keys remains.

The Pedalboard was dismantled in the workshop. The central section of the pedalboard was very badly worn: All pedals were planed, pieced and re-faced. The Pedalboard Frame was re-felted, and springs lubricated and adjusted. The pedals were re-bushed and lubricated on reassembly. Original dollies were retained, re-felted, and new wires fitted as the originals were weak and damaged.

TREATMENT OF ORGAN CASE AND CASE PIPEWORK

Case

The organ case was lightly cleaned and waxed.

Case pipework

The case pipework was cleaned and dusted-down with a soft dampened cloth.

The case pipework, which is unpainted, was left untouched.

RECONSTRUCTION AND ADDITION OF NEW ELEMENTS

The organ was reconstructed in its original form, with no additions or modifications.

All pneumatic motors operating key and stop actions were replaced with new, as many had perished. The membrane of the coupler action had perished, and was workshop repaired with best quality split skin.

No new elements were added to the organ.

NEW DISCOVERIES

This is an interesting instrument in F H Browne's history, dating from just seven years after F H Browne moved to Canterbury from Deal, following the liquidation of the company in 1905 (and subsequent re-forming as F H Browne & Sons). Whilst in Deal, it is known that everything was made in-house, and that all equipment was auctioned in 1905. We found that the St Catherine's organ provides historical evidence that, without the necessary equipment, significant portions of the organ were simply bought-in from suppliers at this point in the company's history, and assembled under the Browne name: In particular, the console (including coupler and piston actions) is entirely comprised of standard pieces of pneumatic equipment manufactured by Laukhuff of Germany (who are still major suppliers to the organ building trade to this day): The Manston organ is thus proof of the company attempting to find a means of re-establishing itself after a catastrophic episode in its history; the organ is a rare and unspoilt survivor from that period.

FURTHER WORK REQUIRED

No further work is required: The piston action is judged unrestorable on account of its design.

Further notes.

CONDITION OF THE BUILDING

The building appears to be in good condition, particularly in the area of the organ chamber. The church is cold and slightly damp, although this is as much a result of extensive lack of use of the building due to Covid-19 restrictions. The organ has survived reasonably well for over 100 years, with no major damage to soundboards, and thus even current conditions are not a cause of concern.

CARE & MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The organ should be maintained ideally between 14°C and 18°C, with a relative humidity of between 50% and 65%.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None.

Photographs supporting report.

The following photos are included on the CD provided to the church to print (as required) through chemical laboratory processing on photographic paper.

The copyright owner of all photographs is Mander Organ Builders, unless otherwise stated.

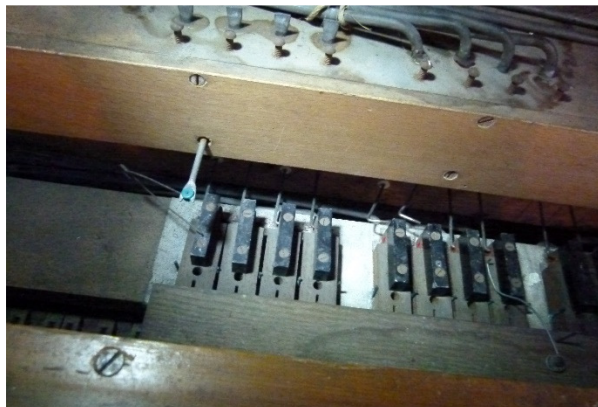
PRE-RESTORATION



General level of dust & dirt



Stop action: Many stop and key purses had perished



Part of the piston action



Perished leather on back of keys



Damage on pedalboard



Badly worn pedalboard

DURING RESTORATION



Damaged coupler action



Removing coupler action



Restoring coupler action - 1



Restoring coupler action – 2



Key & coupler action



Coupler clack valves & channels



Pipe cleaning & stoppers renewal



Planing-off the pedals



Re-pieced pedals



Re-felted pedalboard

POST-RESTORATION



Cleaned pipework



Restored stop action



Restored pedalwork actions



Re-felted pedal dollies



Pieced and restored pedalboard



Restored organ

Organ specification.

The specification of the organ is as follows:

Division	Stop	Pitch	Composition (Mix)	Breaks (Mix)	Ten. C?	Notes
Great	Open Diapason	8'				
	Claribel	8'				
	Dulciana	8'				
	Flute	4'				
Swell	Lieblich Gedackt	8'				
	Viola di Gamba	8'				
	Voix Celeste	8'			Yes	
	Gemshorn	4'				
Pedal	Bourdon	16'				
	Bass Flute	8'				From Bourdon

Couplers	<u>a</u>	<u>b</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>d</u>
Great to Pedal				Y
Swell to Pedal				Y
Swell to Great				Y
Swell Octave to Great				Y

a - Piston rail; b - Pedal sweep; c - Stop jamb; d - Tab rail

MANDER ORGAN BUILDERS

5th MARCH 2021

Background information.

Mander Organ Builders: A short history.

Mander Organ Builders traces its history back well over 150 years, to the combined expertise of two well-established organ builders, F H Browne & Sons and Mander Organs. The combined company was formed on 1st October 2020, when F H Browne bought the intellectual rights of Mander Organs. The firm, based in Stourmouth in East Kent, counts several former Mander staff amongst its employees. The company's investment in British organ building underpins its belief that we are able to offer the same high level of quality and service that has been the hallmark of the both previous firms for several years, with extensive critical acclaim in both the UK and overseas.

Mander Organ Builders continues to restore and rebuild organs, and well as building custom-designed new organs and consoles. The company's skills base extends from all aspects of organ building to casework design and manufacture, and expertise in traditional and modern key and stop control. With over 600 organs in their care, Mander Organ Builder's clients are spread across the UK, and as far afield as the Falkland Islands, Japan and the USA.

Current and recent restorations and rebuilds have received high acclaim; details can be found on the websites www.mander-organs.com and www.fhbrowneandsons.co.uk, and include the restoration of the Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens London, Royal Albert Hall London, St Ignatius Loyola New York, Urakami Cathedral Nagasaki Japan, St Stephen Canterbury, St Peter & St Paul Aylesford, St Mary & St Giles Stony Stratford, St Leonard Hythe, Holy Trinity Folkestone, St Nicholas Chiswick, Our Lady of Sorrows Bognor Regis and St Thomas the Martyr Winchelsea, Battersea Arts Centre, St Giles the Abbot Farnborough, Walmer Baptist Church and St Mellitus Tollington Park, new organs for St John Mongeham (15-stop two manual and pedals tracker organ) and St Edmund's School Canterbury, and continuo organs, together with work currently in hand, including St James Sussex Gardens, Paddington, and Wimborne Minster.

F H Browne was established as an organ and piano manufactory in Deal, Kent, in 1871, by Frederick Henry Browne, an apprentice of William Hobday (a Canterbury organ builder). Browne's eldest son, William, relocated the firm to Canterbury in 1906, where he was assisted by various other members of the Browne family. F H Browne continued under the leadership of Alfred Willey and Harry Fagg until 1982, when they both died. Roger Greensted (a former apprentice) became Managing Director, and with Reginald Cobb and Gordon Chapman moved the firm to Ash (near Canterbury) in 1983. Stephen Bayley (apprenticed to F H Browne before widening his experience at Mander Organs between 1998 and 2010) became Managing Director in 2013. Joined by Michael Keays (a local organist) in 2015, the company is now run by Stephen Bayley, Yvette Bayley, Michael Keays and, since 2020, John Mander (as Chairman).

In 2019, the company moved to purpose-built and well-equipped premises in Stourmouth.

Noel Mander established N P Mander in 1936, with a lineage dating back to the 18th century organ builder George Pike England; he was awarded the OBE in 1978 for services to organ building. John Mander managed the company from 1983 until 2018, a busy period which included several high profile projects in the UK and overseas, and the award of the "Queen's Award for Enterprise" in 2002.