































A Short History

The present organ is a development of the William Gray organ of 1812, and it was supplied with a long compass Great, a short compass Swell and possibly no Pedal.

In 1870 the successors to William Gray, Gray & Davison, enlarged the instrument with new Great and Swell windchests, and two Pedal stops. However the appearance of the fine Georgian case with the large ogee sweep was affected by the enlarged swell box, and a less than architecturally sympathetic console was also added.

The organ remains much as Gray & Davison left it. Although of a very pleasing tone the instrument is not effective enough in the nave and beyond.

The Problem and the Solution

The work carried out in the 1990s, though extensive, did not solve the problem the organ has in terms of volume and range. Situated in the south transept next to the tower crossing, the organ's sound tended to be trapped within the transept and is almost completely lost at the rear of the nave, even with "full organ".

The range of the organ also limited the music which can be played, due to the short range manuals.

In order to solve these issues and create an instrument for the 21st Century, the pipe organ is being rebuilt and extended to the specification shown overleaf.

The new organ will have an electric action, rather than the old mechanical action, and this will create more space for additional pipework and will allow the Swell box to be lowered.

The quality of the sound will be maintained, but volume increased. New full-compass keyboards will be provided and the console will be rebuilt as a detached mobile one with a data cable to allow the organ to be played from the nave. A new comprehensive piston system will be provided, along with a new blower and wind supply. The case will be restored, waxed, and moved forward slightly to further accommodate extra pipework.

Progress so far

The organ has been completely removed to the workshops of Peter Collins Organs in Leicestershire following its dismantling during February 2016. Work is underway to restore the pipework and case, and to make a new detached console. We expect the work to re-install the organ in St Mary's will take place over the late summer.

The whole project will cost in the region of **£150,000** and we still have about **£65,000** left to raise. With no grants available, the success of the project will depend on the generosity of donors and fundraising events.

We're very grateful to all who have contributed so far.

Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made to Bampton Community Church Council now and in the future.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

I understand the church currently will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

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The 1812 Gray & Davison Organ Restoration

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St Mary's Bampton ORGAN APPEAL



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