

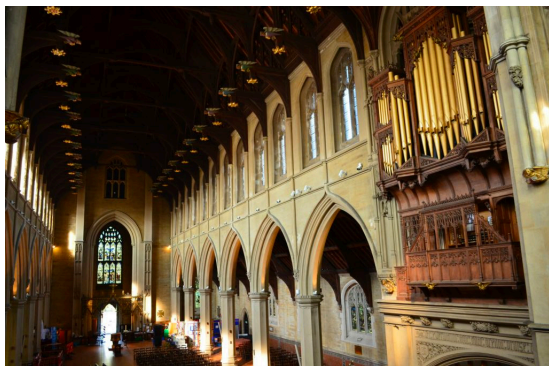
St Mary's Church, Portsea

Thursday 7th February 2019

7.30pm

Organ Recital by David Price

in aid of The Organ Project
www.theorganproject.org



The Organ of St Mary's

"...A unique survival, certainly of very considerable national importance, and a treasure that will increasingly be prized as time goes by."

"...Tonally, I regard this organ as the finest achievement of 19th century British organ building.. this organ at Portsea is without question exciting."

J.W. Walker and Sons began their association with the parish of Portsea in 1879, when they loaned a one manual organ for installation in the temporary iron church, "for a reasonable time gratuitously" on the understanding that they would be given the order for "the building of the new & permanent instrument"

Discussions with Dr. (later Sir) George Martin, organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, began in 1888. It was the intention that the new organ, for one of the largest parish churches in the country, should have four manuals, making it truly of cathedral proportions and of a class that was normally exclusive to the very richest town churches.

A two manual portion of the instrument was available for use at the consecration of the new church on 10th October 1889. Stops were added to complete the scheme in its present three manual form and the organ itself was dedicated on 31st October 1892, with an opening recital by Dr. George Martin in November. It is unclear to what extent mechanical preparation was made for the proposed Solo Organ, but historic photographs show that the space for the redundant fourth row of keys was used by successive organists as a makeshift bookshelf.

The organ cost £2,573 in total. Blomfield's beautiful case, made by Thompson of Peterborough, was added in 1901 as a memorial to men lost in the Boer War, at a further cost of £1,000. Additional expenditure on blowing equipment, including a gas engine in the cellar of the church, brought the total cost to nearly £4,000. The appearance of the organ was as we see it today, standing on the north side of the broad chancel in its lofty purpose-built chamber.

Every 50 years or so, a pipe organ requires costly renovation and repair. A simple cleaning and overhaul was undertaken in 1939, and thus the instrument continued into the post-war period in its original state, again with no immediate prospect of full renovation, while Portsmouth and Southampton got back on their feet after the damage caused by war-time raids.

It was not until the 1960s that long-awaited renovation work could take place. At that time a Portsmouth parish could no longer consider replacement or restoration on quite the scale envisaged by the Victorians. If there had been unlimited funds, they would almost certainly have been spent on 'improvements' to the pipework that we would now find entirely regrettable. It is only a small mercy that no changes were made to the original 1892 stop list.

In 1981, cleaning of the organ was undertaken by a local company; George Martin and Co.

The organ as it stands today is an instrument of 2,622 pipes, still of fundamentally Victorian structure and character, rebuilt with new key and stop action and console in 1965. Its general condition is as would be expected with any mechanical instrument that has been worked daily, without any significant maintenance for over 52 years. There are individual failings and over the next two years these will become more frequent and ultimately acute.

The Organ Project has been established to interpret, restore, enhance and celebrate the heritage associated with 125 years of music making in St Mary's Church, Portsea. This important heritage is in a critical condition with only limited time remaining before its sound will be lost forever.

All donations will be gratefully received.

Please do follow our project progress at: www.theorganproject.org.

Organ Specification

Great Organ

1.	Double Open Diapason	16
2.	Open Diapason No.1	8
3.	Open Diapason No.2	8
4.	Open Diapason No.3	8
5.	Wald Flute	8
6.	Principal	4
7.	Harmonic Flute	4
8.	Twelfth	2 ² / ₃
9.	Fifteenth	2
10.	Mixture 15.19.22	III
11.	Clarion Mixture 22.26.29	III
12.	Double Trumpet	16
13.	Trumpet	8

*I Swell to Great II Choir to Great
III Great and Pedal Combinations Coupled*

Pedal Organ

14.	Sub Bass	32
15.	Open Wood	16
16.	Violone	16
17.	Bourdon	16
18.	Trombone	16

*I Choir to Pedal II Great to Pedal
III Swell to Pedal IV Pedal Octave*

Swell Organ

19.	Double Diapason	16
20.	Open Diapason	8
21.	Stopped Diapason	8
22.	Vox Angelica	8
23.	Dulciana	8
24.	Echo Gamba	8
25.	Principal	4
26.	Flute	4
27.	Mixture 15.19.22.26	IV
28.	Mixture 22.26.29	III
29.	Contra Fagotto	16
30.	Horn	8
31.	Oboe	8

*I Swell Octave II Swell Sub Octave
III Swell Unison Off IV Tremulant*

Choir Organ

32.	Violin Diapason	8
33.	Lieblich Gedeckt	8
34.	Dulciana	8
35.	Dulciana Principal	4
36.	Lieblich Flute	4
37.	Harmonic Piccolo	2
38.	Clarinet	8

I Swell to Choir

Programme

Mohrentanz

Tielman Susato
(c.1500-1564)

Messe pour les Couvents

François Couperin
(1668-1733)

Improvisation sur le Te Deum

Charles Arnould Tournemire
(1870-1939)

Gabriel's Oboe

Ennio Morricone
(1928-)

Carillon de Westminster
Op.54, No.6

Louis Vierne
(1870-1937)

Recitalist

David Price is Organist and Master of the Choristers at Portsmouth Cathedral. Before he came to Portsmouth he was Assistant Organist of Ely Cathedral having previously held Organ Scholarships at Rochester Cathedral and Croydon Parish Church.

Since David has been at Portsmouth the profile of the Cathedral's music has been raised to new heights through twenty international tours, numerous recordings and regular work for the BBC. He has been pleased to lead vocal training sessions for other choirs and has recently worked in this capacity for the Diocese of Berlin and with the choir of Pembroke College, Oxford.

In addition to his duties at the Cathedral, David serves on the Council of the Royal School of Church Music. He has recently served two terms on the Association of English Cathedral's Music & Liturgy Committee.

In his tenth year in post, Portsmouth University conferred David Price with an Honorary Doctorate of Music in recognition of the significant contribution he has made to the development of music at the Cathedral and for his contribution to the cultural life of the city. In the same year he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of St Cecilia. Recent recital venues for David include Westminster Abbey, Chambery Cathedral and Alpe d'Huez in the French Alps and Trinity Church, Copenhagen in Denmark as well as Duisberg and Berlin. His St John Passion for Good Friday was published by Encore Publications in a series of the gospel passions alongside those by John Scott, Philip Moore and Richard Lloyd. In 2013 he was elected to an Honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians and presented with this at a ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral. He is married to Kitty; they live in an historic house in Portsmouth and delight in restoring an old farmhouse in the French Alps.