

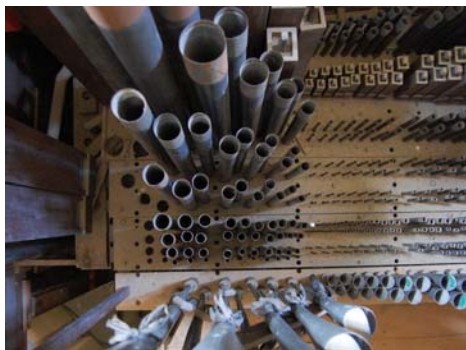
St Margaret, Crick, Northamptonshire

1819 organ by Thomas Elliot
2008-9 restoration by Martin Goetze and Dominic Gwynn

Progress Report 1, November 2008

Dismantling and storage

The organ was taken apart in stages: 1st – 3rd July, 10th July and 14th July. A photographic record was made throughout the process, and certain measurements were taken of the positioning of some of the components. Material stored in the sexton's hut in the churchyard was examined and also taken back to the workshop. This consisted of parts that were not used in the last restoration: four of the largest wooden pipes and a number of squashed reed resonators.



Great pipes before dismantling. Note empty holes for bottom notes and the Oboe type reed pipes.



Tower cap removal



A bird in a pipe mouth



Final stages of dismantling



Metal pipes in the sexton's hut

Soundboards

The Swell and Choir soundboards were restored by Robert Shaftoe, who has carried out the following work:

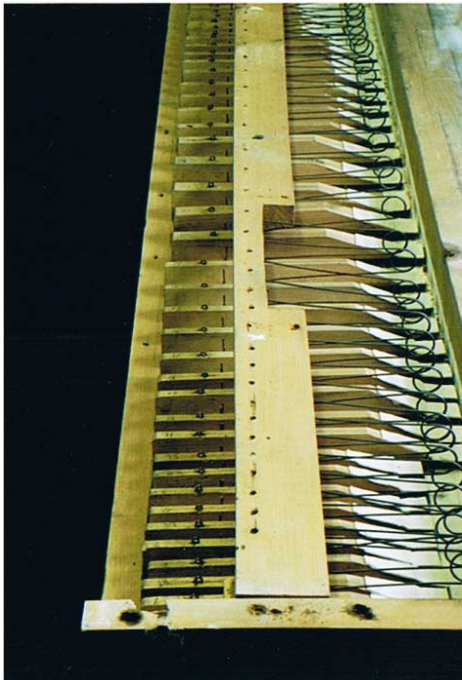
Both soundboards were checked for runnings prior to dismantling. All leather work was stripped, the original bedding was found to be in poor condition, and there were glue failures in the 1978 work. The Swell had been glued with a modern glue, possibly two part resin.

Swell soundboard has been fitted with a new brass strip as the original had been drilled oversize and had poor registration to the pallet centres. Some new timber was jointed onto the bottom board, the original having serious knots in the face edge, and worm. A table split was repaired. Some pallet spring holes were repositioned, the originals being somewhat erratic.

Swell and Choir grids and pallets were flattened and new leather glued on. Wind bars were patched. Bottom boards and faceboards were provided with new bedding. Sliders and upperboards were checked for flatness and clearance, and graphited while at church humidity.

New pieces of wood were let into the wind trunk screw positions in the bottom boards, the older ones having stripped.

Pallets were covered in a double layer of sheepskin, springs cleaned and reset. Some modification to the spring rails were made with new threaded brass fixings for the Choir. New phosphor bronze pull-downs were fitted with red cloth bushing.



Swell pallets before restoration, showing poor alignment of both pallets and pull-down eyes



Pallets after restoration

Wood pipes

The wood pipes were examined, sorted and measured. They were cleaned and checked for defects. Many caps had become slightly detached, and there were one or two splits. In both cases, the area of the pipe was steamed with a damp rag and iron; very hot water was brushed as far into the cracks as possible; glue was brushed into the opening before applying pressure with cramps, subsequently warming the joint with a heated air gun. Surplus glue was wiped off. Stoppers were taken out, cleaned with a stiff brush held over a vacuum cleaner, and then blown off with compressed air. Where the sheepskin gasketting had failed, a new piece was prepared and put on. Scale diagrammes were made so that missing pipe measurements could be extrapolated. New pipes were made to match the existing ones.



James gluing a new Stopt Diapason GG pipe



Martin extracting a stopper

Other work

The interior framework was put together so that the key bed and that part of the key action could be fitted and the whole measured and drawn. This is to record the existing dimensions and will enable a new drawing to be made for the Pedal action, and the positioning of new pipes.

Martin Goetze, 14 November 2008