

Church Organ Review Sub-Committee Update June 2008

Members:

Martin Jackson
Alan Leach
Nigel Howard

A short meeting was arranged at 8pm on Wednesday 18th June 2008 to catch up on progress made since the year end report in March/April 2008.

Donations pledged and amounts received to date

HLF awarded up to £184,000 but this assumed that H&H would do the restoration and VAT not reclaimable.

With G&G selected and hopefully VAT reclaimable, the HLF award will reduce to :-

Total Project Cost assuming the Goetze & Gwynn option, a start date in July 2008 and with contingency and with VAT reclaimable.	£172,826
Heritage Lottery Fund Award reduced accordingly	£150,819
Total PCC Finance Committee reserved for this organ fund	£8,000
Council for the Care of Churches – pledged	£5,000
St. John's College, Oxford – given	£1,000
ON Organ Fund – given	£1,500
Ousely Trust – not known – estimated	£500e
Local fund raising activities – estimated	£1,500e
Local fund raising matched by Finance committee - estimated	£1,500e
Budget deficit of estimated funds	£1,542
Total project funds to be raised along with HLF award	£20,542
Total project amount	£172,826

Organ restoration funds held by Finance Committee on our behalf

The exact amount being held on behalf of the restoration fund is unclear at the moment. There are allocations from Mary Pedigree Fund, receipts from recent concerts (matched on a £1 to £1 basis), and other amounts as detailed in the latest set of PCC Finance Accounts, including a further pledge of £1,000.

The Finance committee have so far forwarded onto us an amount of £6,000 in order to open up our bank account.

Further transfers will need to take place in due course to cover expenses such as asbestos inspections, the setting up of notice boards, hire of interim organ etc. etc. The hire of interim organ should be able to be covered out of our 10% contingency.

The church has been inspected for asbestos and, as we suspected, some asbestos has been found in the organ blower box. This will be disposed of when the organ is dismantled for the restoration and a new one fitted in its place. We have allowed for the disposal of the organ box in our cost estimates.

Display cabinet in the church porch

At the last PCC meeting it was agreed that Colin Mynott would arrange for two further panels to be put up in the porch for displays, one for the organ fund restoration and the other for Friends of St.Margaret's. This work is likely to cost around £750-£800, and needs to be shared between FOSM's and the organ fund.

Nigel has prepared display material for the restoration project – this will be place in the porch when the display panels are ready. An HLF logo will also need to be ordered and erected in the porch. Alan will choose and order one or two suitable logo frames from HLF. These logo frames will be used at the fete, before finally being placed in the porch and the organ gallery.

Organ Pipe Purchase Scheme and Raffle

One or two parishioners in the church put forward the idea of setting up an organ pipe purchase scheme as an interesting way of raising additional funds for the project. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

With this in mind, Alan had already prepared a chart with all the organ pipes identified with individual squares. Starting with the fete and right up until the organ is returned back to the church, individual squares will be sold off at a fixed price of £2 a pipe, irrespective of its size. It was considered best if the organiser write in a reference number in each square, rather than allow each subscriber to write in their own names and addresses at the fete. For identification, a separate book would be prepared which would have line entries to identify each pipe sold with the name, the address and phone number of the donater.

Ten percent of all money collected for this scheme would be put aside for a prize from a raffle, along with any other donated prizes, such as bottles of wine etc.

The committee was very enthusiastic about this idea is very hopeful that this idea could produce a substantial amount for the project funds, provided we get it ready in time for the fete in July. Alan will press on with getting display boards and charts etc. ready for the fete. He will also order a suitable HLF logo for displaying at the fete, and eventually placing in the porch/organ loft/in church.

Loan of chamber organ from G&G

Martin Goetze did offer us the loan of another organ while ours was being restored. They have a friend and past customer for whom G&G restored a two manual and pedal chamber organ dating from about 1850. He is looking for a home for it while he is moving to Otley from London, with a gap almost exactly the length of our

project. He wondered whether we would like it assembled at Crick to tide us over with organ sounds till the restored organ is completed.

The organ is quite quiet, but he wondered what we would think of it as a temporary substitute for the big organ <http://www.goetzegwynn.co.uk/restored/cullen.shtml>. We could try it, and if it is too quiet, or too temperamental then we would have to contact G&G to ask them to move it back to Welbeck.

In the meantime Nigel had sounded out a friend (Jane Kennedy), who has recently been appointed as a new curate at Ashby Magna in Leicestershire, about the possibility of looking after this organ for the interim period, because that church has no musical instrument at all for their services, and might be very appreciative of the offer.

That being stated, the committee considered that our church should be taking up the loan of this instrument to see how effective it is for the coming months ahead. So therefore we will not be pursuing the alternative idea any further.

Disposal of old home electronic organ

At the recent PCC meeting it was decided that steps be taken to sound out opinion about possibly disposing of the old electronic home organ, donated to the church some while ago by a parishioner. The instrument has not been used for ten years or more (if at all), and is occupying valuable space in the church that we now will be needing for other instruments during this coming year.

Another idea put forward was whether this instrument could be offered to Ashby Magna, since they have no instrument at all, and one is better than none at all. Nigel would sound out Jane on this.

Hire of new electronic organ while main one is being restored

Alan has made tentative enquiries about the hiring of an electronic organ (Makin) to cover all or some of the period when our main organ is being restored. The total price including installation could be around £2,500 and hopefully most (if not all) of this cost could be covered by the organ fund, the remainder coming from PCC funds.

It was decided to wait and see how well the chamber organ being loaned by G&G satisfies our immediate requirements, before deciding when/if to arrange for the installation of the Makin organ – perhaps over Harvest and Christmas periods. In any case separate insurance may need to be arranged for this instrument.

A.O.B.

Other topics covered were furniture removal, tuning of the restored organ.

Nigel Howard

21st June 2008