

## St.MARGARET'S CHURCH ORGAN RESTORATION MANAGING COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

May 2005

As you know, at our last informal meeting at Michael Fraser-Allen's house, Michele Bates mentioned that she had received a letter from Michael Chapman, strongly suggesting that we should look into arranging an inspection of the Church Organ, for asbestos contamination, at the earliest opportunity. Since it also appears that some repair work to the organ has been overdue for some time, it was agreed that Alan Leach, Martin Jackson and I would discuss the matter and present a proposal at the next PCC meeting in November.

Some of you may recall that in 1999 John Winn undertook a detailed report on the state of the organ. He concluded that with no immediate repairs being apparently necessary and with twice yearly tuning and maintenance we should be able to get by for 10-15 years before any major repairs need to be considered. At the time he considered any grant for restoration would only cover about 80% of the total cost.

Since that time however the general state of the organ has deteriorated to such an extent that by late 2003, Michael Latham told me that he couldn't keep trying to correct the problems by just 'plastering over the cracks' and that we should seriously considered getting the organ properly restored (especially since the financial climate for getting restoration grants had improved considerably since 1999). He advised getting in touch with Martin Goetze and Dominic Gwynn, who he considered were the best organ restorers in the country for our historic organ and were one of those recommended in John Winn's 1999 report (Harrison & Harrison being the other restorer).

Having got in touch with Goetze and Gwynn, they visited our Church in November 2003 and undertook a thorough inspection of the Elliot Organ and agreed to produce a report of repair/restoration options for our consideration, free of charge.

In the meantime we have been continuing to limp on with different parts of the organ not working and Michael Latham has been fixing up what he could. But matters have now come to a head because we need to get some estimates for expected organ repairs for financial planning purposes, and also because we need to arrange an inspection for asbestos contamination. After applying some gentle pressure on Goetze & Gwynn, they have finally completed and issued their report for our consideration.