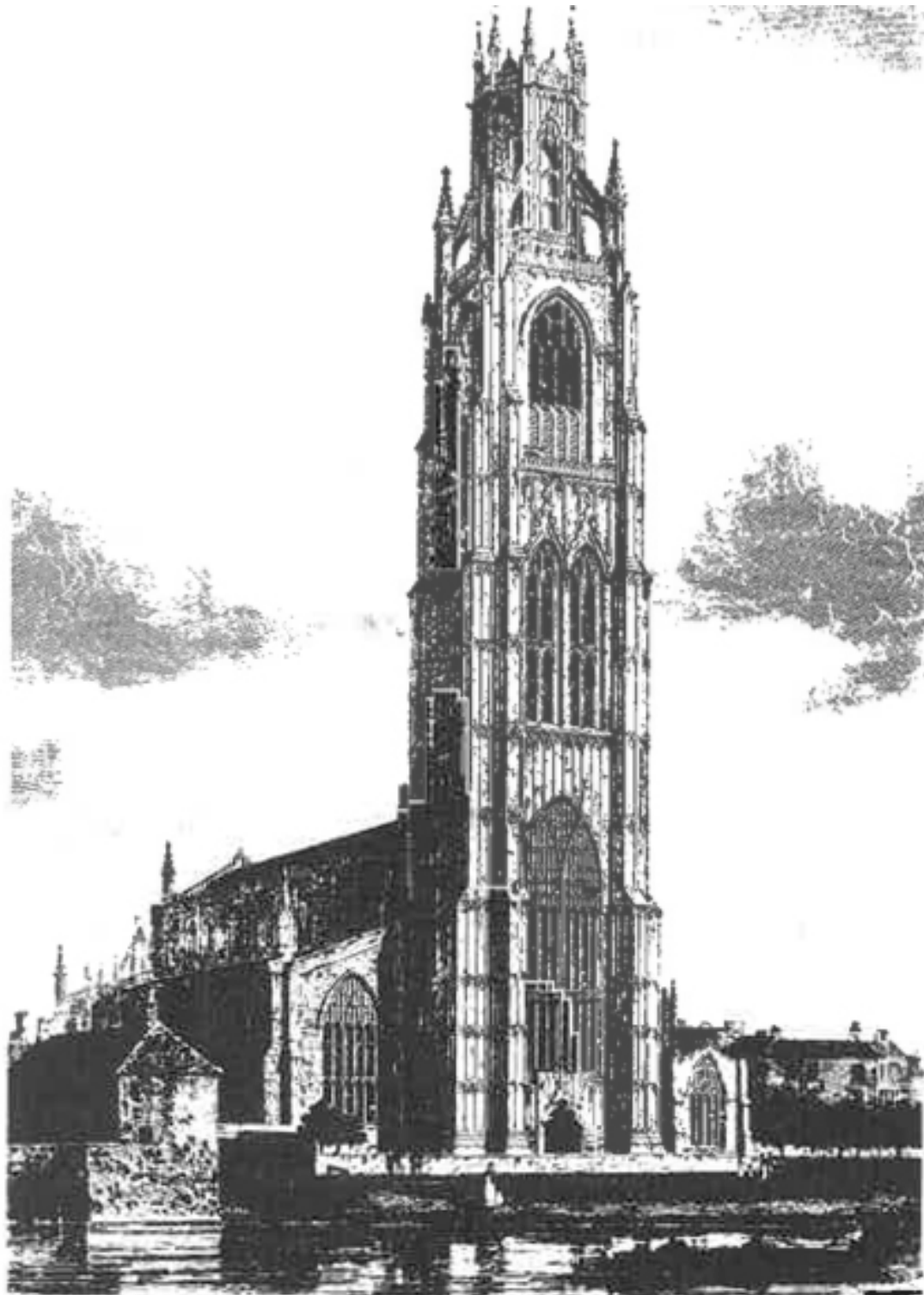


ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, BOSTON



HARRISON & HARRISON
1940

ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH BOSTON



Christian Smith built an organ for the church in 1717, it stood on a gallery at the entrance to the chancel. Some pipes of this period survive in the present instrument (see overleaf). The organ was rebuilt by Nicholls in 1853 when it was removed to its present position over the North side of the choir stalls being increased in size to 29 stops. Further additions were made by Brindley in 1871 and by Norman & Beard who rebuilt the organ with pneumatic action in 1908 leaving it with 41 stops.

The organ reached its present form in 1940 when Harrison & Harrison rebuilt and revoiced it with electro-pneumatic action stop 7, 8, 15, 22, 25 and 39 being new. It was overhauled in 1987 when the electrical system was renewed and the solid-state combination and coupler actions were installed.

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NOTES ON THE EARLY PIPEWORK

During 1987 the 40 front pipes were taken down, repaired and re-painted. The old pipes, made of soft organ metal, were in very poor condition; weak, deformed, and in some cases collapsing. They required extensive repairs, and several have been pieced out; two were past repair. They were interspersed with relatively modern zinc pipes which were badly corroded and have been replaced.

In the course of the work, the layers of old paintwork were stripped off, revealing numerous marks inscribed on the feet and bodies of the old pipes.

In their present layout, the pipes were numbered from the East (the right-hand side as one looks at the organ). Each also carries several different numbers denoting earlier positions.

The following pipes carry the inscription *Back*, and/or *East Front*: Nos. 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, 28, 29, 31, 32, 37, 39.

The following pipes carry the inscription *Front*, and/or *West Front*: Nos. 7, 8, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 30, 34.

No. 14 is inscribed *Silvester Obbins 1785*.

No. 23 is inscribed *Hunter [? Bunter] June 1786*.

No. 28 is inscribed *G. D. 1799*.

Nos. 1, 3, 5, 10, 16, 26, 36, 38 and 40 are new zinc pipes; also No. 35 (except the mouth).

All the old pipes were formerly speaking pipes, though all are silent now. It seems clear that these were the front pipes of the eighteenth-century organ, which was placed on the Chancel screen facing East and West. However, initials and dates are not necessarily those of organ builders or pipe-makers, Sylvester Obbins being a local carpenter who may have worked on the case.

Three speaking stops within the organ contain smaller pipes from the eighteenth century, much re-voiced, which are similar in style to the front pipes. These stops are the Great Double Diapason 16ft and Octave 4ft.; and the Swell Principal 4ft., which includes one pipe marked *Back Great*.



The picture on the front cover is an etching from a drawing by A. Pugin, first published in 1822 The photographs are by C.R.A. Davies

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PEDAL ORGAN

1. Open Wood	16
2. Diapason (from 17)	16
3. Dulciana (from 9)	16
4. Sub Bass	16
5. Octave Wood (from 1)	8
6. Flute	8
7. Ophicleide	16
8. Posaune	8

I Choir to Pedal
II Great to Pedal
III Swell to Pedal

CHOIR ORGAN

9. Contra Dulciana	16
10. Open Diapason	8
11. Lieblich Gedeckt	8
12. Viole d'Orchestre	8
13. Gemshorn	4
14. Piccolo	2
15. Orchestral Oboe	8
16. Clarinet	8

IV Tremulant
V Octave
VI Swell to Choir

GREAT ORGAN

17. Double Diapason	16
18. Open Diapason I	8
19. Open Diapason II	8
20. Open Diapason III	8
21. Stopped Diapason	8
22. Hohl Flute	8
23. Octave	4
24. Wald Flute	4
25. Octave Quint	2 ¹ / ₂
26. Super Octave	2
27. Mixture	III
28. Tromba	8
29. Octave Tromba	4

VII Reeds on Choir
VIII Choir to Great
IX Swell to Choir

SWELL ORGAN

30. Vioin Diapason	8
31. Lieblich Gedeckt	8
32. Echo Gamba	8
33. Voix Celestes (tenor c)	8
34. Principal	4
35. Lieblich Flute	4
36. Fifteenth	2
37. Mixture	III
38. Oboe	8
<i>X Tremulant</i>	
39. Double Trumpet	16
40. Trumpet	8
41. Clarion	4

XL Octave

ACCESSORIES

(Augmented in 2007)

Eight general pistons and general cancel.
Six foot pistons to the Pedal Organ
Five pistons to the Choir Organ
Six pistons to the Great Organ
Seven pistons to the Swell Organ
Reversible pistons IL III IX XI; 7
Reversible foot pistons IL III IX
Piston coupler: Great and Pedal combinations
64 piston memory levels
Balanced expression pedals to the Choir and
Swell Organs

The manual compass is 61 notes; the Pedal 30 notes

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