

WIMBORNE MINSTER ORGAN



1664-1764

After the end of the Commonwealth, when the new organ was installed, Wimborne was one of only a few churches throughout England that had a music tradition re-established quickly after the Restoration.

The new organ was built by Robert Hayward of Bath and placed in an ornate case on the screen which was then across the chancel (*The picture opposite shows the elaborate case overlooking the Chancel as the organ mainly supported the choir.*) Brice Seede completed work on the organ in 1764 when he added a new case to the West front of the organ which was much less elaborate than the Hayward case.



Organ Angels

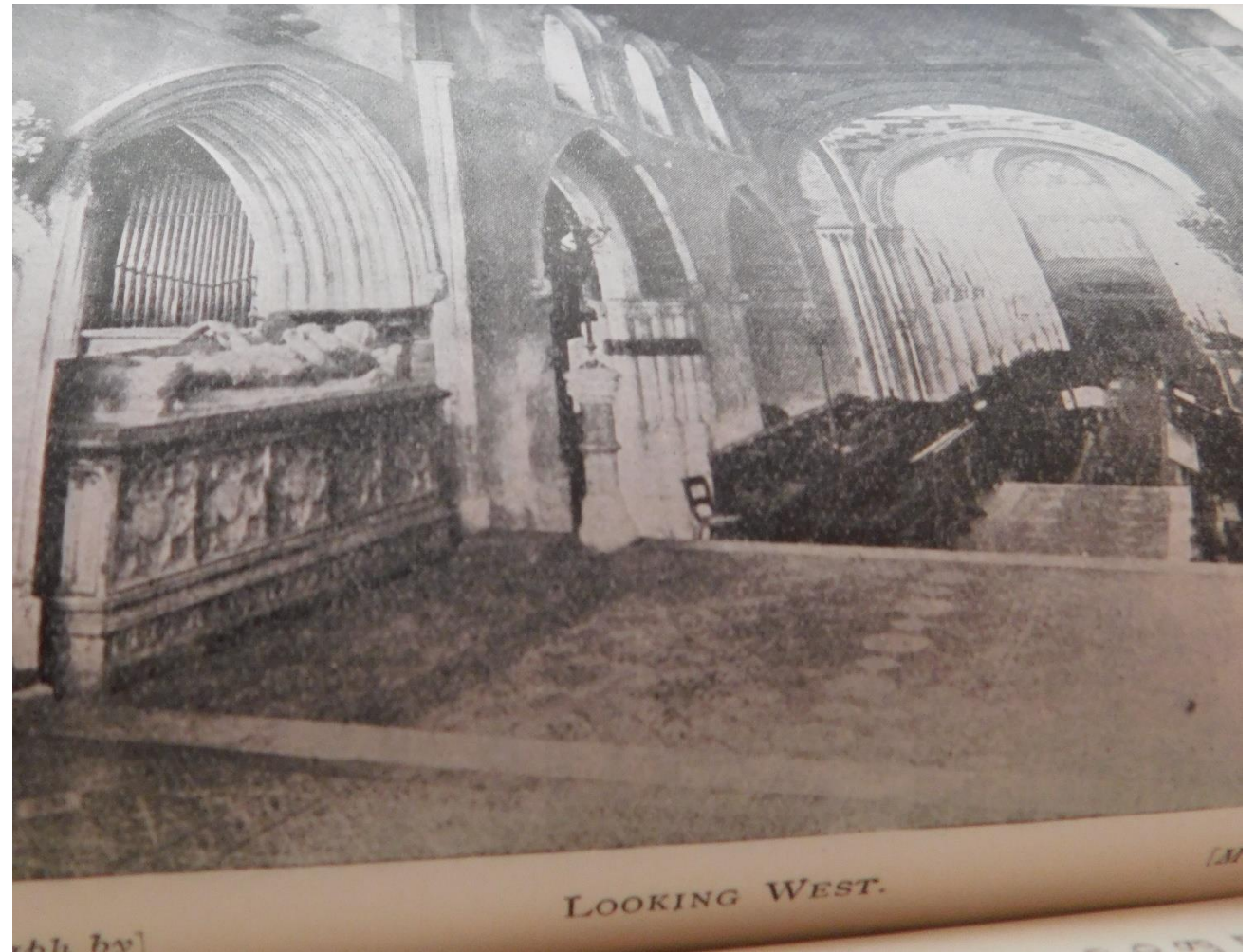
These angels sitting atop the Astronomical Clock in the Baptistry, were originally on top of the organ when it was on the Chancel screen



Victorian Restoration

Joseph Robson did further work in 1844 before in 1856 the screen was taken down and the organ placed against the south wall by Mr F Blount, the successor to the post of organist. There was a passageway through the pipes into the Choir Vestry.

Though it is difficult to date the picture opposite it shows a few pipes visible from the Sanctuary through the arch over the Margaret Beaufort tomb. It is probably pre-1899 when the organ was enlarged by J W Walker and pipes were placed in the south arch overlooking the Chancel (see next slide)



1899 Rebuild

Opposite is a view, again looking West and shows pipes raised up and forward over the Chancel.

At this time the console was on the south side under the pipes which you can see in the picture.

The organ remained in this position for the next 65 years. At some point it became unplayable and a scheme to rebuild the organ and move it away from the south wall was drawn up.



1965

By 1965 moves were afoot to rebuild the organ (which was currently out of use) and try to make the sound project more into the Nave for congregational singing.

As a result the instrument was moved forward from the south wall and a passage was created allowing access into Trinity Chapel. (The current vestries were not built until 1970s.)

Casework was designed but it was thought that these would impede the sound and so a functional design was created – something of the fashion of the times – and the specification was modified with the Choir section being re-made into a Positive section along baroque lines – again a child of its time.



1965

Much deliberation took place about this rebuild scheme and ultimately it went to a consistory court for a final decision.

The result was the instrument that has served the Minster for the last 55 years with its iconic set of *en chamade* Orchestral Trumpets – a desire to make the Minster organ unique in its own way.

The positive section was bright and could be coupled to the Great to provide a better support for a full church. However the organ lacked gravitas and with the positive being placed right behind the choir it was too loud for accompaniment purposes.



2021

In November, Mander Organs erected most of the new organ frame which is constructed from Tulip wood.

The old winding system, which was experimental in 1965 was completely replaced and new windchests and reservoirs installed.

New chests were provided for the Great, Choir, Great reeds and Choir reeds on higher pressure.



2022

A new platform was constructed over the passageway to provide extra space for pedal stops and the 32ft pedal pipes which now form part of the back of the case facing into Trinity Chapel.



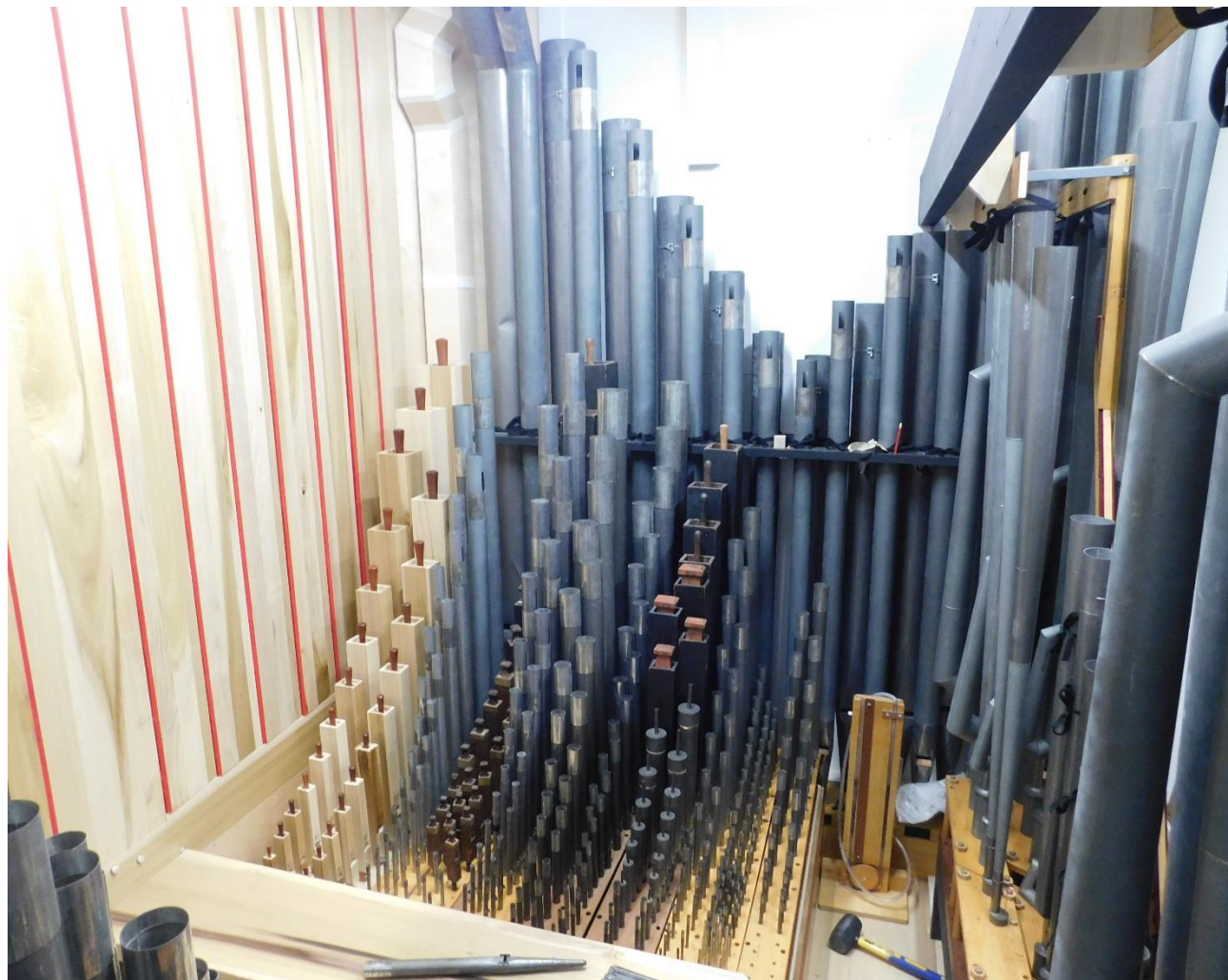
2022

The new Swell box was erected in a more forward position than previously and the picture shows the view from the Nave through to the new rear shutters and pedal pipes beyond



2022

Pipes installed in the Swell Box.

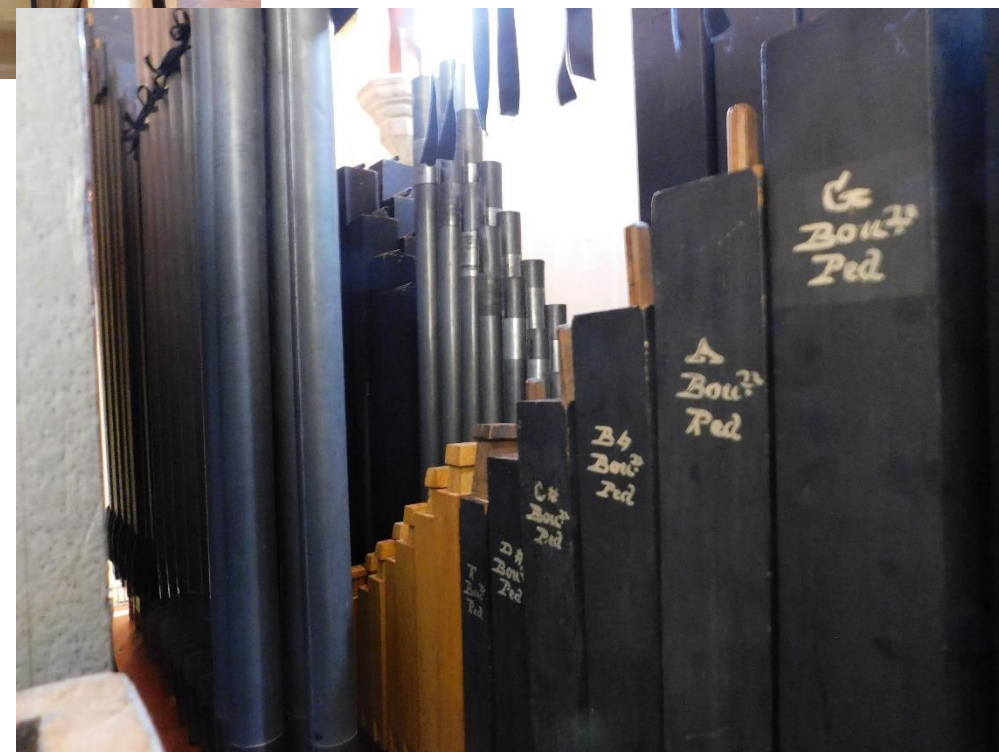
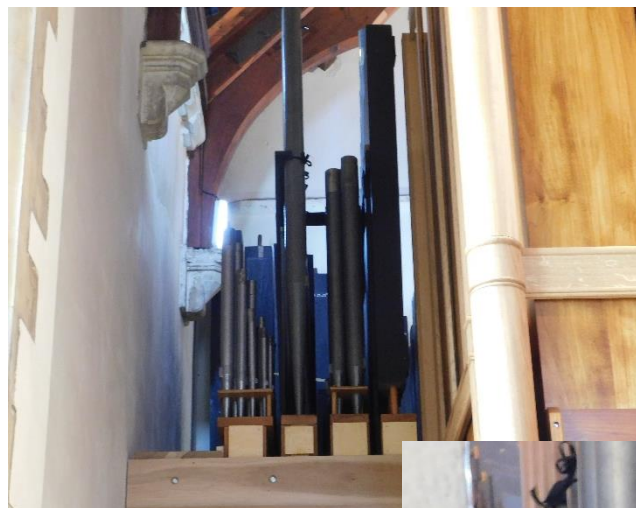


2022

These pictures show the new platform erected over the passageway.

Top: shows the view from Trinity Chapel

Bottom: shows the pipes looking from the Nave side.



2022

Looking west with the Great pipes
installed and the case erected



2022

Choir section with most pipes
installed



2022

Orchestral Trumpets being installed
in the West Case.



2022

West Case, complete with
Orchestral Trumpets installed



2022

Inside the organ showing four of the orchestral trumpet pipes in a vertical position behind the front pipes of the West Case.



2022

Chancel Case with pipes (Violin
Diapason) installed.

The four small sections either side of
the main column are non-speaking
pipes



2022

West Case and Chancel Case together as seen from near the pulpit. The organ contains pipes from 1664 through to the present day, including new tuba, violin diapason and dulciana stops on the choir together with the 32' on the pedal.



New Specification

Pedal Organ

Sub Bass	32ft
Violone	16ft
Principal	16ft
Bourdon	16ft
Salicional	16ft
Octave	8ft
Bass Flute	8ft
Salicet	8ft
Fifteenth	4ft
Octave Flute	4ft
Mixture	IV
Trombone	16ft
Posaune	8ft
Clarion	4ft

Great organ

Bourdon	16ft
Open Diapason I	8ft
Open Diapason II	8ft
Rohr Flute	8ft
Viole de Gambe	8ft
Principal	4ft
Harmonic Flute	4ft
Twelfth	2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ft
Fifteenth	2ft
Sesquialtera	II
Mixture	IV
Trumpet	8ft
Clarion	4ft

New Specification

Swell Organ

Double Diapason	16ft
Open Diapason	8ft
Stopped Diapason	8ft
Viola	8ft
Vox Angelica (TC)	8ft
Principal	4ft
Flute	4ft
Twelfth	2⅔ft
Fifteenth	2ft
Mixture	III
Double Trumpet	16ft
Cornopean	8ft
Hautbois	8ft
Clarion	4ft

Choir Organ

Dulciana	8ft
Gedackt	8ft
Violin Diapason	8ft
Principal	4ft
Chimney Flute	4ft
Quint	2⅔ft
Block Flute	2ft
Tierce	1⅓ft
Larigot	1⅓ft
Sifflute	1ft
Cymbal	III
Crumhorn	8ft
Tuba	8ft
Orchestral Trumpet	8ft

We are most grateful to the following major donors who have helped in achieving completion of this project.

The Friends of Wimborne Minster
The Governors of Wimborne Minster
Wimborne Minster Church Estate
The Michael James Music Trust
The Phillimore Trust
The Erskine Muton Trust Fund
The Talbot Trust

The All Churches Trust
The Sabina Sutherland Trust
The Pitt-Rivers Trust
The Minster Bellringers

Grateful thanks are also due to Chris Slocock for donations from his Minster Walk, together with a number of substantial donations from individual members of the parish.

Wimborne Minster Music Foundation

The aim is to establish a Music Foundation to develop music in the Minster, communicate the musical heritage to the congregation and the community, and foster links with local schools.

We aim to:

- develop the sizes and abilities of the Minster choirs
- involve younger people (young adults, teenagers, and junior choirs)
- offer choral and organ scholarships
- establish regular programmes of choral concerts and organ recitals
- offer a range of other musical performances

In order to encourage choristers and organ players, our ambition is to:

- imitate the Salisbury Diocese 'Pipe Up' scheme, which sought to attract children to learn the organ, inviting them to churches to hear organ music and to try playing
- offer singing lessons to young choristers to encourage their continuing development
- set up workshops and education programmes on choral and organ music, including some individual opportunities
- provide improved rehearsal facilities for the choirs
- retain and motivate more of the young people in the choirs, possibly as a separate group, and support and encourage them
- establish a younger-age 'feeder' group

Schools

Local schools will be an important element in the development of music in the Minster:

- greater outreach into schools will provide their pupils with outstanding opportunities for musical education
- pupils will benefit from interest and involvement in music of this calibre
- schools can provide alternative performance venues