

Specification

The Swell and Pedal sections are unchanged since manufacture.

CHOIR		PEDAL	
Tromba	8	Octave Diapason	8
Clarinet	8	Bass Flute	8
Flautina	2	Bourdon	16
Flauto Traverso	4	Open Diapason	16
Lieblich Gedact	8	Harmonic Bass	32
Dulciana	8		
Tremulant			

GREAT		COUPLERS	
Tromba	8	Swell to Choir	
Mixture	19-22-26	Choir to Great	
Fifteenth	2	Swell to Great	
Principal	4	Swell to Pedal	
Flute Harmonic	4	Great to Pedal	
Hohl Flute	8	Choir to Pedal	
Small Open Diapason	8	Choir Octave	
Large Open Diapason	8	Choir Sub Octave	
Bourdon	16	Swell to Great Sub Octave	
		Swell to Great Octave	
		Swell Sub Octave	
		Swell Octave	

SWELL		ACCESSORIES	
Tremulant		4 adjustable thumb pistons to each of Choir, Great and Swell	
Oboe	8	4 adjustable toe pistons to Great and to Swell	
Cornopean	8	Reversible thumb pistons for Great to Pedal and Swell to Great	
Dulciana Mixture (2 ranks)		Reversible toe piston for Great to Pedal	
Salicet	4		
Vox Angelica	8		
Viol d'Orchestre	8		
Rohr Flute	8		
Geigen Diapason	8		

Music

Music has a fine and long tradition at St Oswald's Church. Andrew Seivewright (1926-2010), former Master of the Music at Carlisle Cathedral was organist and choirmaster here from 1994. A recording of Organs of the Lake District is available on the church bookstall, and includes several tracks recorded at Grasmere in August 2016 by the Director of Music, Ian Hare.



ST OSWALD'S CHURCH GRASMERE THE ORGAN



A BRIEF HISTORY

The Pitch Pipe



There is no evidence of an organ or other musical instrument in Grasmere Church before 1872, however, the purchase for 7s 6d of a new pitch pipe, to be used by the clerk who led the singing, appears in the accounts of 1829. The pitch pipe is on display in a cabinet at the east end of the Langdale aisle, next to the organ.

The Old Organ

In 1872, a two manual Wilkinson organ was installed. This was an instrument of good quality with 10 stops on the Great and 6 on the Swell. In 1923 it was rehoused in Lancaster Baptist Church, a move involving a reduction in size of the Great. In 2000, the Wilkinson was moved once again, this time to All Saints Church at Boltongate, south of Wigton. The organ still plays well.



The New Organ



In March, 1923, Mr J Taylor of Helmside, Grasmere, placed an order with J J Binns of Leeds for a new organ for Grasmere Church. His donation was in memory of second daughter, Nellie Taylor, V.A.D., who was attached to the 10th Motor Ambulance Convoy, British Red Cross. She died in France on June 27th, 1918. Nellie, who had been a fine musician, was interred at Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Trepont.

The organ was three manual with patent tubular pneumatic action. Technically and artistically, it was of a high standard: "The soundboards, tables, bearers, etc., are of straight-grained mahogany.....The keys are of the best double-bleached ivory and the sharps of ebony... .. The solo and softer registers have a rich and delicate quality" (*Westmorland Gazette, October 6th, 1923*). The case, of Austrian oak, was constructed by Grasmere craftsmen, Messers. T Wilson and Sons and the entire installed at the east end of the Langdale aisle, necessitating the removal of the vestry to the west end where it had been a hundred years previously.



Alterations

In 1964, renovations were carried out by J W Walker & Sons of Ruislip. The Great received most attention. The original Trumpet was replaced by a Tromba (right), the Flautina moved to the Choir, the Medium Open Diapason softened to a Small Open Diapason and a new Fifteenth and Mixture were installed. The Choir's original Gamba was removed to make way for the Flautina. In 1994 Victor Saville overhauled the organ section by section and in 2004, a new humidifier and bellows for the Tromba were fitted. At the same time, a two-stage ladder was installed within the organ case to improve access.