

The Abbey Organs

Looking west down the Nave, the vista is closed by the main organ, framed in the magnificent Tower arch, built in the 1440s, and standing upon an elegant stone bridge which bears the date 1903. The bridge replaced the eighteenth century wooden gallery which formerly projected into the Nave. The organ was given by Miss Ann Farmer in 1793, a condition of the gift being that the Parish should appoint and pay an organist. The instrument cost £687.3.0 including cartage and beer for the carters. It was built by James Davis of Preston, although the case bears the name of Longman and Broderip who acted as agents. It has three manuals and a pedal board, and the survival of the major part of the original eighteenth century pipe-work makes it an instrument of considerable interest. Many smaller organs of the period survive, but the near-complete survival of a late eighteenth century organ of this size is unusual. Equally important is the mahogany casework, which shows the 'gothicising' of the usual classical form of organ case. The instrument underwent major restorations in the mid 1950s and 1970s, with the casework being completely cleaned in 2007.

Current Specification of the Main Organ:

Great (2 ¾ inches Wind Pressure)

Double Stopped Diapason	16	1793, old Swell Stopped Diapason
Open Diapason	8	part 1793
Dulciana	8	1953
Stopped Diapason	8	1793
Principal	4	1793
Block Flote	4	1953
Twelfth	2 2/3	1793
Fifteenth	2	1793
Seventeenth	1 3/5	1793, split from old Great Sesquialtera III
Mixture II (19-22)		1793, split from old Great Sesquialtera III
Sharp Mixture III (22-26-29)		1793
Trumpet	8	new
Clarion	4	new

Swell to Great

Swell (2 ¾ and 4 ½ Inches Wind Pressure)

Open Diapason	8	part 1793
Hohl Flute	8	1953
Salicional	8	1953, from Unda Maris
Voix Celeste (TC)	8	1953, from Unda Maris
Principal	4	part 1793, 1953 basses
Fifteenth*	2	1850
Cornet III (12-15-17)		part 1793
Mixture II (19-22)*		1953
Contra Hautboy*	16	1953
Trumpet*	8	1953
Basset Horn	8	part 1793
Clarion*	4	1793

*denotes 4 ½ inches pressure

Accessories:

Tremulant
Swell Octave
Swell suboctave
Swell unison off

Choir (2 2/3 inches wind pressure)

Viola da Gamba	8	1850
Chimney Flute	8	1793 Stopped Diapason
Principal	4	1793
Stopped Flute	4	1793
Flageolet	2	Victorian
Larigot	1 1/3	new
Cymbel III (29-33-36)		new
Trumpet	8	duplexed from Great
Clarion	4	duplexed from Great

Swell to Choir

Pedal		
Open wood bass	16	1870 Open Diapason
Contra Gamba	16	1890, new basses
Bourdon	16	bottom 18 notes from Great Double
Octave	8	part 1793
Gamba	8	1890 Great Gamba
Gedeckt	8	new
Fifteenth	4	1953
Mixture II (19-22)		new
Sackbut	32	new
Ophicleide	16	1890
Clarion	8	Borrowed from Great
Shawm	4	new

Swell to pedal

Great to Pedal

Choir to Pedal

Compass:

Great and Choir	CC to F3
Swell	CC to C3
Pedal	CCC to G

Accessories:

Six thumb pistons to Swell, Great, and Choir.

Six toe pistons to Great, Swell, and Pedal.

Reversible thumb and toe pistons, Great to Pedal and Swell to Great.

Reversible toe pistons to 16-foot and 32-foot pedal reeds.

Piston coupler-off stop.

General cancel.

Adjuster piston with lock, and switch to separate the pedal mixture.

The Abbey also possesses a Chamber Organ, which stands in the North Aisle. This too was built by James Davis of Preston, and dates from 1810. It was given to the Abbey by Mr Michael Buttolph, a former chorister.

Specification of the chamber organ:

Open Diapason	8*
Stopped Diapason	8* (bass and treble split for drawing in halves)
Principal	4*
Twelfth	2 2/3*
Fifteenth	2*
Mixture II	up to B
Sesquialtera II	from middle C

Two spare stop knobs

Compass:

GG (no GG#) to F3 (58 notes)

*denotes original J. Davis work)

Text by John E Barnes 1990, with acknowledgements to Mr Howard Thomas, 2006