

St. Andrew's Church, Church Street, Stogursey. TA5 1RG



This is a remarkable organ to find in a country church, albeit a magnificent building of Norman origins. It stands on the North side of the church at an elevated level from the nave, and the church's acoustics are excellent.

It was originally the work of a local, Taunton-based firm, Burnell, and as far as it is known, remains the only extant instrument by the company. It has, of course, changed considerably in the intervening years. The exact date of construction is unknown, but Walkers were called in during the 1860s, and added some pipes of their own. For almost a century, nothing was done until the late 1960s, when Roger Yates began a reconstruction. Following his death in 1972, there was an hiatus until William Drake was invited to continue.

The organ as it stands is really a Drake instrument. Though he used many existing pipes, the mechanical action was new, as was some of the pipework. The action is impeccable, and in a concession to modernity, there is a piston stop-control system for fingers and feet. The front, with its enormous, stenciled diapason pipes, is quite arresting. This organ has attracted eminent recitalists over the years, among them Peter Hurford, Margaret Phillips, and David Briggs. The specification reflects Drake's bias in organ design; ideal for early English music and the Baroque repertoire. Where possible, he uses pipework from period organs to match the sounds he wants: note the Holdich pipes. The lack of any "string" sound slightly affects the performance of some later music. Nevertheless, David Briggs was heard to play a transcription of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" to great effect!

A detailed specification is given below, with mention of the origins of individual ranks of pipes. One bizarre detail: when the trumpet was added to the pedal in 1983, it replaced the 8' Bourdon stop-knob, and the control for that stop is now a button under the console, near the player's right knee. This was apparently at Willam Drake's behest, so that the perfect mirror symmetry of the stops was not spoilt by the addition of an extra stop on one side! Organ-builders can be eccentric!

This is one of the finest parish church organs in the South-West, and all players are guaranteed an enjoyable experience.

Pedal 30 notes

1 Open Diapason	16	Yates/Drake
2 Bourdon	16	Walker
3 Principal	8	Yates/Drake
4 Bourdon	8	Burnell
5 Fifteenth	4	Walker (revoiced)
6 Trumpet	8	Drake (added 1983)

Great 56 notes

7 Open Diapason	8	Burnell
8 Waldflöte	8	Holdich
9 Dulciana	8	Walker
10 Principal	4	Burnell
11 Flute	4	pre-Burnell
12 Twelfth	2 ² / ₃	Burnell
13 Fifteenth	2	Burnell
14 Tierce	1 ³ / ₅	Yates/Drake
15 Mixture	1V	Yates/Drake

Swell 56 notes

16 Open Diapason	8	Burnell
17 Stopped Diapason	8	Burnell
18 Principal	4	Burnell
19 Fifteenth	2	Yates/Drake
20 Mixture	111/1V	Yates Drake
21 Hautboy	16	Walker
22 Trumpet	8	Walker
23 Cremona	4	Burnell/Walker (the remains of a Burnell 8'reed)
24 Tremulant		

Couplers

Great to Pedal Swell to Pedal Swell to Great

If you wish to play this organ, please contact Chris Moorsom, by email carm@moorsom.co.uk

A donation from players towards the cost of maintaining this instrument, and towards the costs of the church, would be much appreciated. There is a box for donations by the West door.