

**Organ Specification following 2021-23
rebuild by Bishop & Son organ builders**

Swell (enclosed, 1906)	Bourdon	16	Rescaled 1906 Stop Diapason
	Open Diapason	8	
	Lieblich Gedackt	8	
	Viola da Gamba	8	
	Salicional	8	
	Vox Angelica	8	
	Principal	4	
	Suabe Flute	4	
	Fifteenth	2	
	Mixture	III 17 (to f# ²).19.22	
	Contra Fagotto	16	
	Oboe	8	
	Cornoepen	8	
	Clarion	4	
	Tremulant		
Octave			
Sub Octave			
Great	Double Open Diapason	16	New 1936, replacing 1906 OD I
	Open Diapason I	8	
	Open Diapason II	8	
	Open Diapason III	8	
	Claribel Flute	8	
	Octave	4	
	Wald Flöte	4	
	Twelfth	2½	
	Super Octave	2	
	Mixture	III 17 (to f# ²).19.22	
	Double Trumpet	16	
	Tromba	8 Renamed 1906 Trumpet	
	Clarion	4	
	Swell to Great		
	Choir to Great		
Great Reeds on Choir			

Choir (enclosed, 1936)	Open Diapason	8	Rescaled 1906 Viole d'Amour
	Stopped Diapason	8	Renamed 1906 Lieblich Flute
	Orchestral Flute	8	Transferred from Great, 1936
	Viole d'Orchestre	8	
	Dulciana	8	New 1936
	Voix Celestes	8	From Swell, 1936; tenor C
	Harmonic Flute	4	
	Salicet	2	New 1936, replacing 1906 Piccolo
	Clarionet	8	
	Orchestral Oboe	8	
Sub Octave			
Swell to Choir			
Tremulant			
Pedal (CC - f)	Open Diapason (Wood)	16	
	Bourdon	16	
	Lieblich Bourdon	16	From Swell Bourdon
	Violon	16	
	Octave Diapason	8	From Pedal Open Diapason
	Bass Flute	8	From Pedal Bourdon
	Violoncello	8	
	Trombone	16	
	Trumpet	8	From Trombone (1906 Tromba)
	Great to Pedal		
Swell to Pedal			
Choir to Pedal			
8 Thumb Pistons to Swell (duplicated on toe)			
8 Thumb Pistons to Great			
8 Thumb Pistons to Choir			
8 Toe Pistons to Pedal			
8 General Pistons			
Pedal Trombone Thumb Piston			
General Cancel Thumb Piston			
Great & Pedal Pistons Coupled by Drawstop			
Generals on Pedal Toe by Drawstop			
General Sequencer			
Wind pressures in inches:			
Great Flues 4, Great Reeds 8, Swell Flutes 4			
Swell Reeds and Oboe 7, Choir 4, Pedal Flutes 4, Pedal Reeds 9			

Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist

THE HUNTER ORGAN



Earlier organs. Information in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, about Windsor Parish Church state that in 1530, “the three wardens bought a pair of new organs, which cost £18 in addition to the old instrument”. This new organ was seemingly sold in 1583. An organ installed in 1633 was destroyed by Puritan soldiers in 1650. In 1789 King George III presented the church with a 3-manual, 17-stop organ from St George’s Chapel. When the old church was demolished in 1820, this organ was transferred to the west gallery of the new building; in 1845 it was transferred to St Mary’s, Haggerston. It was destroyed in a 2nd world war air raid. In 1844, Dr (later Sir) George Elvey, Organist of St George’s Chapel, who was additionally appointed to the Parish Church in 1849, loaned the church a chamber organ, now in the church of St Peter & St Paul, Little (Bardfield) Sailing, Essex. In 1845, Gray & Davison provided a 2-manual,

Acknowledgement: This leaflet is based on research by Ian Hillier.

18-stop organ. On installation of the current organ, this was moved to Langford Methodist Church, Biggleswade.

The Hunter organ. The contract for the new organ was awarded in 1905 to A Hunter & Son for an estimated cost of £1,455, of which 50% was funded by Mr A Carnegie. The contract provided for 12 of the stops to be installed later, when funds permitted. The full specification consisted of 3 manuals and pedals; Great 13 stops, Swell 16 stops, Choir 11 stops and Pedal 9 stops on a concave but not radiating pedal board. The action was tubular pneumatic. The case is in Austrian oak to match the chancel screen which had been made to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. To house the organ, part of the north gallery was removed.

Opening of the organ. The organ was dedicated at Matins on Easter Day, 15 April, 1906. Later in the day, Dr CH Lloyd, Precentor of Eton College, gave the opening recital. There followed an article in *The Times*, "Ecclesiastical Intelligence" praising the vicar and others for their foresight and efforts.

Completion of the organ. Between the arrival of Geoffrey Leeds as Organist in 1921, and 1926, the prepared-for stops were added in stages. According to 1926 paperwork, the balance of the contract price was paid and all 12 stops, including a Vox Humana, were installed. However, this stop is no longer there.

Influence of the organ. The reputation of this Hunter organ was considerable. Sir Sydney Nicholson (amongst other distinctions, Organist of Lower Chapel, Eton College, 1904-08) declared it "the ideal parish church organ". The firm was subsequently engaged to rebuild the 1891 Lewis instrument at Lower Chapel, Eton College in 1927, and to build the organ at All Saints' Church, Frances Road, Windsor in 1931.

1936 works. As marked on the left stop jamb, the organ was "Renovated & Revoiced by Rushworth & Dreaper, 1936". While respecting the Hunter original, changes were made to enhance the instrument's expressive range and tonal

projection, including: enclosing the Choir, replacing the original Great Open Diapason I by a more powerful stop, addition of Dulciana 8ft to the Choir, replacement of Choir Piccolo by Salicet. New pedal board and new organ blower were fitted. For further information, see "The Organ in Windsor Parish Church" by Clifford Armitage in *The Organ*, April 1949.

Recent years. Bishop & Son organ builders have tuned and maintained the instrument since 1979. Repairs in memory of Ron Davies were carried out in 1997. Following a £10,000 Parish fundraising appeal in 2008, the organ blower was fully overhauled by The Duplex Pipe Organ & Blower Company. A Certificate of Recognition was awarded by the British Institute of Organ Studies in 2012, specifying that the pipework and case by Alfred Hunter should be conserved in any future work on the organ.

Restoration. Following a £210,000 fundraising appeal by the Parish over the years 2010-2020, Bishop & Son organ builders undertook a complete rebuild of the organ 2021-2023. Tubular pneumatic transmission was replaced by electro-pneumatic. A solid-state piston capture system was installed. The specification was left unchanged from 1936, apart from the addition of Great Reeds on Choir and additional combination and general pistons. Grateful acknowledgement is given to the many contributors to the appeal, including:

Allchurches Trust (Benefact Trust)
Anonymous bequest
Ardeola Charitable Trust
Elton John Charitable Trust
Friends of Cathedral Music (Cathedral Music Trust)
Horace Moore Charitable Trust
ITN, ITV and ITV Meridian
Louis Baylis Trust
LVS Ascot
Montgomery Holloway Music Trust
NBC
Ormonde Charitable Trust

Parochial Church Council
Payne-Gallwey Charitable Trust
Royal Albert Institute Trustees
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Royal Free Singers
Shanly Foundation
Stephen Clark Charitable Trust
The Dean & Canons of Windsor
The Friends of Windsor Parish Church
The Hobson Charity Ltd
The Leonard Family
The Mayor and three Councillors of the RBWM
The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation
The Prince Philip Trust
The Privy Purse
The Windsor Boys' School Christmas Collections
Williams Church Music Trust
Windsor & Eton Choral Society
Windsor & Eton Rotary Club
Several anonymous charitable trusts
Many individual parishioners and friends
Proceeds of over thirty fundraising events, concerts and sales

Inauguration. An inaugural recital on the rebuilt organ was given on Sunday 1st October 2023 by the eminent organist and Windsorian Thomas Trotter as part of Windsor Festival 2023. The organ was rededicated on Sunday 26th November 2023 by the Rector, the Revd Canon Sally Lodge.

Organists of Windsor Parish Church

1789 William Rodgers	1829 Charlotte Rodgers
1849 Sir George Elvey	1861 Samuel Smith
1895 Gilbert Tozer	1897 Albert Mellor
1921 Geoffrey Leeds	1947 W Percy Higgs
1948 Anthony Caesar	1952 M James Gordon
1958 Robin Sheldon	1962 H Leslie Smith
1973 Brian Henry	1979 Ian Hillier
1988 Jonathan Hall	1990 Camilla Jarnot
1993 Stuart Corrie	1994 Julian Addison
1995 Peter Dart	2000 Brian Moles
2006 John Halsey	