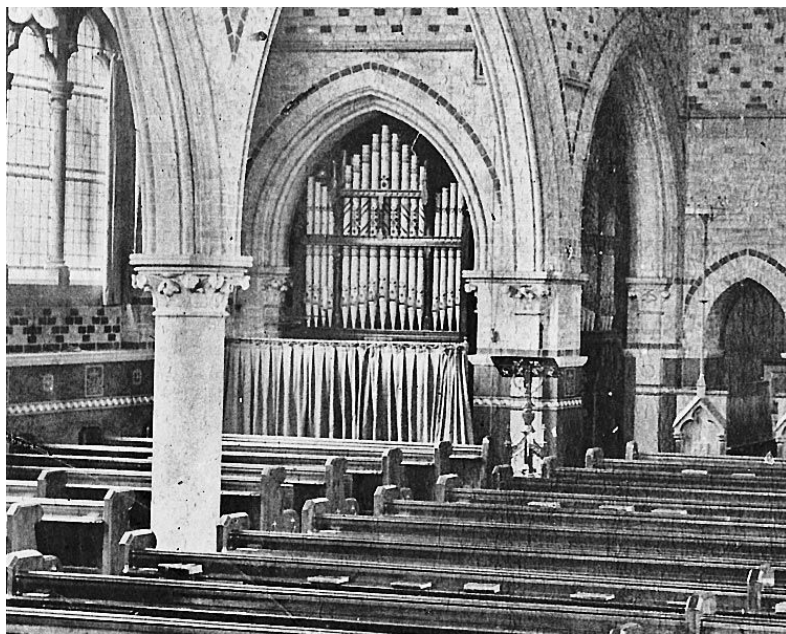


A History of Church Organs installed in the United Reformed Church, Caterham, Surrey 1875-2019

by Barry and June Williams

Caterham United Reformed Church, formerly Caterham Congregational Church, was built in 1874–5 and dedicated on 6 April 1875. Designed by John Sulman, the church is Italianate in style, executed in red brick with an impressive clock tower.

The church was equipped with a new organ by Henry Jones (1822–90) of 136, Fulham Road, Kensington. This stood in the south corner of the church where a double door now opens into the concourse. The instrument cost £250 and was a gift from Mrs Maria Soper, the wife of William Garland Soper, one of the church's major benefactors.



The original church organ which remained in use from 1875 to 1944.

The organ had fifteen stops. Former organist and church historian Norman Taylor reported that the organ was 'quite inadequate for the building – there was no chorus, the reeds were rough and the Bourdon was dreadful.' He recalled that the flutes had some charm and that the Gamba 'had a pleasant singing quality that somehow carried down the building when accompanying a quiet verse'. (*The Organ*, Spring 1991. Reproduced by kind permission of the Taylor family).

The stop list was as follows:

Great Organ (56 notes)

Open Diapason	8 ft	Harmonic Flute	4 ft
Clarabella	8 ft	Piccolo	2 ft
Keraulophon	8 ft		

Swell Organ (56 notes)

Double Diapason	16 ft (tenor C)	Fifteenth	2 ft
Gamba	8 ft	Cornopean	8 ft
Principal	4 ft		

Choir Organ (56 notes)

Gedact	8 ft	Flute	4 ft
Dulciana	8 ft	Clarinet	8 ft (tenor C)

Pedal Organ (29 notes)

Pedal Pipes	16 ft (actually a Bourdon)
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Couplers

Swell to Pedal	Swell to Great
Great to Pedal	Swell to Choir
Choir to Pedal	

Two combination pedals.

Straight and flat pedal board.

Mechanical action throughout.

The blowing mechanism was operated by a hydraulic (water) pump.

This original organ served the church until the 24 March 1944 when a cluster of German incendiary bombs fell on the church, burning out the interior of the sanctuary and destroying the organ. Worship continued in the church hall.



The destruction of the original organ caused by incendiary bombs, March 1944.

In 1946 the congregation purchased a redundant organ from Grove Chapel, a Congregational Church in The Avenue, Stratford, Essex. The organ had been built in 1907. The original stop list, while the organ was still at Stratford, was as follows:

Great Organ (*58 notes*)

Bourdon	16 ft	Principal	4 ft
Open Diapason	8 ft	Harmonic Flute	4 ft
Viola	8 ft	Fifteenth	2 ft
Hohl Flute	8 ft	Trumpet	8 ft

Swell Organ (58 notes)

Bourdon	16 ft	Voix Celeste	8 ft (tenor C)
Geigen	8 ft	Principal	4 ft
Stopped Diapason	8 ft	Fifteenth	2 ft
Salicional	8 ft		
Mixture III ranks			
Oboe	8 ft	Vox Humana	8 ft
Trumpet	8 ft	Clarion	4 ft
Octave		Suboctave	
Tremulant			

Choir Organ (56 notes) *Unenclosed*

Gedeckt	8 ft	Flauto Traverso	4 ft
Dulciana	8 ft	Clarinet	8 ft
Gamba	8 ft		

Pedal Organ (30 notes)

Open Diapason	16 ft	(open wood)	
Bourdon Major	16 ft	Bass Flute	8 ft
Bourdon	16 ft	(from Great)	

Couplers

Great to Pedal	Swell to Great
Swell to Pedal	Swell to Choir
Choir to Pedal	Choir to Great

Pneumatic action throughout.

This organ was also built by Henry Jones. Part of it was set up in the gallery of the church hall – the Choir Organ and the Great Organ, (enclosed in the Swell box), with one of the Bourdons.

In 1951 the congregation moved back into the church building, now refurbished, with a new West gallery on which the organ was placed. The console was situated at the front, in its present position. The work was undertaken by Spurdun Rutt. Alterations were made on its installation in the church and the stop list became as follows:

Great Organ (58 notes)

Open Diapason	8 ft	Principal	4 ft
Viola	8 ft	Harmonic Flute	4 ft
Hohl Flute	8 ft	Twelfth	2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ft
Fifteenth	2 ft		
Tromba	8 ft	(ex Trumpet re-voiced and placed on separate chest)	

Swell Organ (58 notes)

Bourdon	16 ft	Voix Celeste	8 ft (tenor C)
Geigen	8 ft	Principal	4 ft
Stopped Diapason	8 ft	Nazard	2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ft
Salicional	8 ft	Fifteenth	2 ft
Mixture III ranks			
Oboe	8 ft	Clarion	4 ft
Trumpet	8 ft		
Octave		Suboctave	
Tremulant			

Choir Organ (58 notes) *Unenclosed*

Gedeckt	8 ft	Flauto Traverso	4 ft
Dulciana	8 ft	Clarinet	8 ft
Gamba	8 ft	Tromba	8 ft
Octave		Suboctave	

Pedal Organ (30 notes)

Acoustic bass	32 ft		
Bourdon Major	16 ft		
Open Diapason	16 ft	(open wood)	
Bourdon	16 ft	(from Great)	
Octave	8 ft	(extended from Open Diapason)	
Bass Flute	8 ft		

Couplers

Great to Pedal	Swell to Great
Swell to Pedal	Swell to Choir
Choir to Pedal	Choir to Great

Clarion	4 ft	
Octave		Suboctave
Tremulant		

Choir Organ (58 notes) *Unenclosed*

Gedeckt	8 ft	Octavin	2 ft
Gemshorn	4 ft	Larigot	1½ ft
Nazard	2⅔ ft	Tromba	8 ft (from Great)
Octave		Suboctave	

Pedal Organ (30 notes)

Open Diapason	16 ft	(open wood)	
Bourdon Major	16 ft	Bourdon	16 ft
Octave	8 ft	(ex Viola)	
Bass Flute	8 ft	(extension of Bourdon)	
Fifteenth	4 ft	(extended from Octave)	
Trombone	16 ft	(extended from Tromba)	

Couplers

Great to Pedal	Choir to Great
Swell to Pedal	Swell Octave
Choir to Pedal	Swell Unison Off
Swell to Great	Choir Octave
Swell to Choir	Choir Suboctave

Accessories

5 pistons to Great	4 toe pistons to Pedal
5 pistons to Swell	3 toe pistons to Swell
3 pistons to Choir	

The opening recital was given by Peter Stevenson of Portsmouth Cathedral on 13 February 1971. In 1986 several members of the Organ Club, with assistance from Maurice Merrell, changed some of the pipes for ranks acquired from Park Chapel in Halifax. Some think that the instrument in Park Chapel was built by Hill, though later studies suggest that the pipes may have been made by Booth. The stop list then became as follows:

Great Organ (58 notes)

Open Diapason	8 ft (Hill from tenor C)		
Dulciana	8 ft	Harmonic Flute	4 ft
Hohl Flute	8 ft	Twelfth	2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ft (Hill)
Principal	4 ft (Hill)	Fifteenth	2 ft (Hill)
Mixture IV ranks (Hill)		Tromba	8 ft

Swell Organ (58 notes)

Geigen Diapason	8 ft	Voix Celeste	8 ft (tenor C)
Stopped Diapason	8 ft	Principal	4 ft
Salicional	8 ft	Fifteenth	2 ft
Mixture III ranks			
Double Clarinet	16 ft	Oboe	8 ft
Trumpet	8 ft	Clarion	4 ft
Tremulant			

Choir Organ (58 notes) *Unenclosed*

Gedeckt	8 ft	Suabe Flute	4 ft (Hill)
Gemshorn	4 ft	Octavin	2 ft
Larigot	1 $\frac{1}{3}$ ft (subsequently changed for a Tierce by an organist of the church)		
Tromba	8 ft (from Great)		

Pedal Organ (30 notes)

Open Diapason	16 ft	Bourdon	16 ft
Bourdon Major	16 ft	Octave	8 ft
Bass Flute	8 ft		
Fifteenth	4 ft	(extended from Octave)	
Trombone	16 ft	(extended from Tromba)	

Couplers

Great to Pedal	Choir to Great
Swell to Pedal	Swell Octave
Choir to Pedal	Swell Unison Off
Swell to Great	Choir Octave
Swell to Choir	Choir Suboctave

Accessories

5 pistons to Great

3 pistons to Choir

5 pistons to Swell

4 toe pistons to Pedal

3 toe pistons to Swell

Reversible thumb pistons Great to Pedal, Choir to Great. Reversible toe piston Great to Pedal.

The instrument was cleaned and overhauled in 2005 by F. H. Browne & Sons Ltd under the direction of Roger Greensted. A solid state transmission system was fitted with additional pistons. The Tromba rank was moved from its previous location behind the Swell box to the side of the organ.



The present stop list is as follows:

Great Organ (58 notes)

Open Diapason	8 ft	Principal	4 ft
Dulciana	8 ft	Harmonic Flute	4 ft
Hohl Flute	8 ft	Twelfth	2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ft
Fifteenth	2 ft		
Mixture IV ranks			
Tromba	8 ft		

Swell Organ (58 notes)

Geigen Diapason	8 ft	Voix Celeste	8 ft (tenor C)
Stopped Diapason	8 ft	Principal	4 ft
Salicional	8 ft	Fifteenth	2 ft
Mixture III ranks			
Double Clarinet	16 ft	Oboe	8 ft
Trumpet	8 ft	Clarion	4 ft
Tremulant			

Choir Organ (58 notes) *Unenclosed*

Gedeckt	8 ft	Nazard	2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ft
Gemshorn	4 ft	Octavin	2 ft
Flute	4 ft	Tierce	1 $\frac{3}{5}$ ft
Tromba	8 ft	(from Great)	

Pedal Organ (30 notes)

Open Diapason	16 ft	(open wood)
Bourdon Major	16 ft	
Bourdon	16 ft	
Octave	8 ft	
Bass Flute	8 ft	(extension of Bourdon Major)
Fifteenth	4 ft	(extended of Octave)
Trombone	16 ft	(extended from Tromba)
Tromba	8 ft	(from Great)

