# 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)

#### **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 Diap	ason 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 Spurden 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	22/3ft

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)
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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

#### Accessories

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

3 toe pistons to Swell

Thumb and toe reversibles to Great to Pedal

Electric primary action fitted to old pneumatic secondary action.

This organ seems not to have been totally satisfactory. It was reported that the tone was dull and flutey, with poor response from the action, which was rather noisy. By 1969 the church had decided to address the problems. The contract was awarded to Bishop and Son, under the direction of Maurice Merrell and the work was undertaken during 1970. Forty-six pipes of the Great Organ Open Diapason were replaced. The Bourdon was changed for a Three rank Mixture and changes were made to the Choir Organ of a type then in favour. This included using the Swell Organ Nazard as a Larigot. The Great Organ Viola provided pipes on the Pedal Organ at 8 ft and 4 ft. The Choir Organ Clarinet was moved to the Swell organ as a double reed. The key action and its relays were replaced, though the stop mechanism remained as there was insufficient money to replace the noisy engines.

The stop list was then:

#### **Great Organ** (58 notes)

Fifteenth 2 ft
Mixture III ranks

Tromba 8 ft (ex Trumpet re-voiced and placed on separate chest

behind the Swell Box)

#### **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 (ex Choir with new bottom octave)

Trumpet 8 ft Oboe 8 ft

Clarion 4 ft

Octave Suboctave

Tremulant

#### **Choir Organ** (58 notes) Unenclosed

Nazard 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 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

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	2¾ ft
Fifteenth	2 ft		
Mixture IV ranks			

## Swell Organ (58 notes)

Tromba

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

# Choir Organ (58 notes) Unenclosed

8 ft

Gedeckt	8 ft	Nazard	22/3 ft
Gemshorn	4 ft	Octavin	2 ft
Flute	4 ft	Tierce	1⅓ 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)

## **Couplers**

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

**Choir Suboctave** 

#### Accessories

6 pistons to Great 6 pistons to Swell

6 pistons to Choir

6 General Pistons in Swell and Great bass key slips

6 toe pistons to Pedal 6 duplicated toe pistons to Swell

Reversible pistons: Great to Pedal, Swell to Pedal, Choir to Pedal, Swell to Great, Swell to Choir, Choir to Great.

Great and Pedal combination pistons coupled; General pistons on Swell toe pistons; reversible toe pistons to Great to Pedal and Swell to Great; General Cancel. Thirty channels, programmable, on Great, Swell, Choir, Pedal and General pistons; Balanced Pedal to Swell.

The console has keys of 61 notes, but the manual compass remains at 58 notes, the top three notes being silent. The Pedal is 30 notes.

Pitch A = 440 Hz; temperament: equal.