

# The Organs of St Nicholas' Church

In 1880, an organ designed by Montagu Hepworth and built by Fincham of 150 Euston Road, London was installed in the church. The official organist was William Spencer, the father of the artist Stanley Spencer, followed from 1916 - 34 by Mr E Weaver. Montagu Hepworth was one of the organists when William Spencer was organist.

The organ was very large for a small country church and had three manuals (choir, great and swell) and a pedal board, with some 20 ranks of pipes. Consequently, the bellows had to be very large and it was not easy to persuade men to pump it, as it was very hard work. No gas or electricity was available to power the pump but by this time hydraulic engineering had become reliable and a water engine was installed. The organ was the first to be operated by water power. The engine was installed in a pit under the vestry floor and the water supply to give the power came from a tank in the stables at Hedsor House on the top of the hill. A crank handle at the organ stool opened a stop cock in order to start the supply of water. If the organist required full power, for instance for a voluntary at the end of a service, additional manual pumping of the bellows became necessary. However, if the organist's attention wandered or he played too loudly without available help, the organ would fail.



Some of the bank of organ pipes in the chancel showing the decoration.

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During the Second World War owing to a lack of fuel and someone to be responsible for stoking the boiler, a spell of hard frost caused the pipes of the water pump to freeze and subsequently burst, damaging the organ beyond repair. The organ was dismantled and sold to Mr A E Welby of Oxford for £75 in 1955. A two manual Estey Reed harmonium, which was supplied by Mr A E Welby for £110, was installed in 1955 and provided the music until 1959 when an electronic organ, a Martinette (Model "B" with pedals) made and supplied by Miller Organ Company Limited of Norwich, was given by Dr. Maurice Simpson in memory of his wife, Enid Margaret (Peggie) Simpson (née Lunnon) who died in 1956, and her brother Leslie Lunnon who died in 1921. At this time the Reverend Hickox was rector. The organ was consecrated by the Bishop of Buckingham, Bishop Hay, followed by a recital given by Mr. H. Gascoigne F.R.C.O., organist at Beaconsfield. Later the organist and well-known conductor, the late Richard Hickox CBE, the son of the Reverend Hickox, gave a recital.

As part of the Millennium Appeal, and after much discussion, it was decided to replace this organ with a pipe organ. This was thought appropriate in particular as there had been previously been a pipe organ in the church from the late 19th century and for most of the first part of the 20th century. A two manual organ which was built by Rushworth & Dreaper Ltd of Liverpool, in 1998, was installed in the church in 2000. It had been thought that the 17 heavily decorated Victorian organ pipes on the north side of the chancel and the 7 pipes on the east wall of the nave, which were all that remained of the previous pipe organ, were purely decorative as is quite often the case with pipes in such a position. The pipes are decorated in pink, red, blue and gold with geometric and floral design, some inscribed with the word "Alleluia". However, it was discovered that the rank of 17 pipes had been voiced and were therefore incorporated into the new organ. The oak console and pedal board were placed at the front of the north aisle; a pew was removed and the wooden screen which had been at the front of the aisle was moved back behind the organ console.

**SCROLL DOWN FOR ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS**  
**(Details of Fincham and Rushworth organs)**

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**Buckinghamshire Hedsor, St. Nicholas [K01228]**

Anglican Parish Church

Grid ref: SU9086

Survey date: 2012

**Builders**

**2000**      [Rushworth & Dreaper](#) Liverpool

New organ;

see [N08521](#) for earlier organ;

**Department and Stop list**

**Pedal**    Key action    Stop action    Compass-low C    Compass-high f1    Keys **30**

1 **Bourdon**    16    B

2 **Bass Flute**    8    B

3 **Choral Bass**    4    A

**Great**    Key action    Stop action    Compass-low C    Compass-high c4    Keys **61**

4 **Principal**    8    A

5 **Gedeckt**    8    B

6 **Octave**    4    A

7 **Stopped Flute**    4    B

8 **Twelfth**    2  
2/3    A

9 **Fifteenth**    2    A

10 **Mixture**    II    1 1/3    A

11 **Cornet**    8    Derived

**Swell**    Key action    Stop action    Compass-low C    Compass-high c4    Keys **61 Enclosed**

12 **Gedeckt**    8    B

13 **Salicional**    8    B and C

14 **Stopped Flute**    4    B

15 **Salicet**    4    C

16 **Gemshorn**    2    C

17 **Larigot**    1  
1/3    A

18 **Mixture**    II    1    C

**Details**

**Accessories**

3 thumb pistons to Great Organ, with second touch Pedal fixed settings;

3 thumb pistons to Swell Organ, fixed settings;

reversible thumb pistons to Gt to Ped and Sw to Ped

Solid State MultiSystem;  
Balanced Swell Pedal (electric);

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**Buckinghamshire Hedsor, St. Nicholas [N08521]**

Anglican Parish Church

Grid ref: SU9086

Survey date: 1959(c.)

Organ no longer present

**Builders**

**1880 J. Fincham** Euston Road, London

Designed by Montagu Hepworth;

see [C00808](#) for original 1880 specification from Andrew Freeman

**Department and Stop list**

	Key action	Tr	Stop action	Compass-low	C	Compass-high	f1	Keys
<b>Pedal</b>								<b>30</b>
1	<b>Open Bass</b>			16		(BBE says 8')		
2	<b>Bourdon</b>			16				
<b>Choir</b>							<b>g3</b>	<b>Keys 56 Enclosed</b>
3	<b>Stop'd Diapason</b>			8				
4	<b>Dulciana</b>			8				
5	<b>Salicional</b>			8				
6	<b>Flute Harmonic</b>			4				
7	<b>Clarinet</b>			8				
<b>Great</b>							<b>g3</b>	<b>Keys 56 Enclosed</b>
8	<b>Large Open Diapason</b>			8				
9	<b>Clarabella</b>			8				
10	<b>Viola</b>			8		lowest 10 from Clarabella		
11	<b>Principal</b>			4				
12	<b>Wald Flote</b>			4				
13	<b>Mixture</b>			III				
14	<b>Trumpet</b>			8				
<b>Swell</b>							<b>g3</b>	<b>Keys 56 Enclosed</b>
15	<b>Double Diapason</b>			16				
16	<b>Swell Horn Diapason</b>			8				
17	<b>Swell Lieblich Gedackt</b>			8				
18	<b>Gamba</b>			8		lowest 10 from Lieb Ged		
19	<b>Vox Angelica</b>			8				
20	<b>Voix Celeste</b>			8				
21	<b>Swell Principal</b>			4				
22	<b>Fifteenth</b>			2				
23	<b>Mixture</b>			II				
24	<b>Horn</b>			8				

25	<b>Swell Oboe</b>	8
26	<b>Swell Vox Humana</b>	8
27	<b>Clarion</b>	4
28	<b>Tremulant</b>	

### Console

Stop type **drawstop** Label font **Gothic** Pedalboard **concave radiating**

### Couplers

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

### Details

Blowing **Hand (had hydraulic blowing which froze in winter)**

### Accessories

2 composition pedals to Great  
 3 composition pedals to Swell  
 Hitch down pedals

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**Buckinghamshire Hedsor, St. Nicholas [C00808]**

Anglican Parish Church

Grid ref: SU9086

Survey date: 1917

Specification superseded

### Builders

**1880** [Henry Fincham](#) 150 Euston Road, London

Organ built "for Lord Boston" at Hedsor

Organ was at some time enlarged to [N08521](#)

### Department and Stop list

<b>Pedal</b>	Key action	Stop action	Compass-low C	Compass-high f1	Keys <b>30</b>
	1	<b>Bourdon</b>			
	2	<b>Trombone</b>			
<b>Swell</b>	Key action	Stop action	Compass-low C	Compass-high g3	Keys <b>56 Enclosed</b>
	3	<b>Double Diapason</b>		16	
	4	<b>Horn Diapason</b>			
	5	<b>Lieblich Gedact</b>			
	6	<b>Keraulophon</b>			
	7	<b>Dulciana</b>			

8	<b>Voix Celeste</b>		A#
9	<b>Principal</b>	4	
10	<b>Fifteenth</b>	2	
11	<b>Mixture</b>	II	
12	<b>Double Trumpet</b>	16	
13	<b>Oboe</b>		
14	<b>Vox Humana</b>		
15	<b>Horn</b>		
16	<b>Clarion</b>	4	
17	<b>Tremulant</b>		

**Great** Key action Stop action Compass-low C Compass-high g3 Keys 56

18	<b>Open Diapason</b>		
19	<b>Stopped Diapason</b>		Bass, 10 notes
20	<b>Clarabella</b>		A#
21	<b>Dulciana</b>		A#
22	<b>Flute Harmonique</b>	4	
23	<b>Piccolo</b>	2	
24	<b>Trumpet</b>		
25	<b>Orchestral Bassetto</b>		

### **Console**

#### **Couplers**

Swell to Pedal  
 Swell to Great  
 Swell octave to Great  
 Swell suboctave to Great  
 Great to Pedal

#### **Details**

Blowing **Hydraulic**

#### **Accessories**

"T" Pedal to Trumpet  
 5 combination pedals  
 Lever Swell Pedal

#### **Further information**

Taken from Andrew Freeman's notebooks