

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHAPEL at St Monica's Retirement Village

Specification of the 1895 Henry Willis & Sons Organ

J. W. Walker 1974 & 1997; Percy Daniel 1976

Partial restoration by A. Cawston 2007

Restored by Harrison & Harrison 1926, 1960 & 2025

PEDAL ORGAN

1. Open Diapason	16
2. Bourdon	16
3. Octave (from 1)	8
4. Bass Flute (from 2)	8
† 5. Contra Posaune	16

Choir to Pedals

Great to Pedals

Swell to Pedals

CHOIR ORGAN

6. Hohl Flöte	8
7. Dulciana	8
8. Gamba	8
9. Concert Flute	4
10. Piccolo	2
† 11. Corno di Basseto	8

Swell to Choir

GREAT ORGAN

12. Double Diapason	16
13. Open Diapason	8
14. Claribel Flute	8
15. Principal	4
* 16. Twelfth	3
17. Fifteenth	2
* 18. Posaune	8

Choir to Great

Swell to Great

SWELL ORGAN

19. Lieblich Bourdon	16
20. Open Diapason	8
21. Lieblich Gedact	8
22. Salicional	8
23. Vox Angelica (tenor c)	8
24. Gemshorn	4
25. Flageolet	2
† 26. Cornopean	8
+† 27. Hautboy	8
† 28. Clarion	4

Tremulant

+ J. W. Walker 1997

* Harrison & Harrison 2025

† Revoiced 2025

Combination Coupler

Great and Pedal Combinations Coupled

Accessories

3 adjustable composition pedals to Pedal Organ

3 adjustable pistons the Choir Organ

3 adjustable pistons to the Great Organ

3 adjustable pistons to the Swell Organ

Reversible composition pedal to Great to

Pedals

3 reversible thumb pistons

1 balanced swell pedal

The organ was built in 1895 by Henry Willis & Sons for installation in the drawing room of Barley Wood, Wrington, home of the St Monica Trust's founders, Henry and Monica Wills.

Henry Willis & Sons Ltd. is one of the oldest and most famous of organ builders. Henry Willis, who founded the company in 1845, was born in Spitalfields, London. He was the first of five children, all boys, and from an early age, he learned to play the piano and the organ.

Young Willis was attracted to the organ mainly through its music but was also fascinated by its structure and mechanisms. He served an apprenticeship with the organ builder John Gray, and through his contacts he gained appointments to a number of playing positions. His skill and genius led him to produce innovative designs for playing aids, and in his early twenties he established what was to become a dynastic and successful organ building business. Thereafter, a stream of organs issued from the Willis works, ranging from small parish church organs right up to the two largest pipe organs in the UK, in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral and the Royal Albert Hall, London.

An early apprentice at Willis & Sons was the 12 year-old Thomas Harrison. He went on to establish his own firm of organ builders, Harrison & Harrison, first in Rochdale and then in Durham.

When St Monica's was founded in the 1920s, Henry & Monica Wills decided to relocate the Willis organ from Barley Wood to St Augustine's chapel, and this task was entrusted to Harrison & Harrison, by then firmly established in Durham.

In 2023, after nearly 100 years of faithful service to the residents of St. Monica's it became clear that the complex pneumatics of the organ were becoming unreliable and that the time had come for a complete refurbishment. Under the guidance of the renowned organ consultant William McVicker, Harrison & Harrison were again called upon to undertake the work.

In the Spring of 2024 the instrument was entirely dismantled and taken to the Durham workshops where skilled craftsmen worked meticulously to restore each component. Parts that could not be removed were refurbished on-site here at Cote Lane. All the restored parts were then brought together for the instrument to be rebuilt *in situ*, and then, in early 2025, the final but all-important revoicing process was completed.

The St Monica Trust views it as a great privilege to be the custodians of this wonderful Willis organ. Furthermore, we are delighted to have been able to ensure the organ's preservation for future generations. It was thrilling to experience the glorious new sound during the service on Easter Day 2025.