

## ST THOMAS' CHURCH ORGAN TRANSPLANT – Update, June 2017

### Background

Our existing organ is not a church organ; it is a drawing room instrument. As such, it has never been powerful enough to fill the church with sound. It is a good example of an organ of its type but it now needs a lot of restoration work, and we have decided that this is the time to replace it. The PCC (Parochial Church council) has visited other churches, and considered other options such as a digital church organ, but we have been unimpressed by what we have seen and heard. The Diocese has requested that we keep the existing organ intact and sell it on. This has now happened. This summer our organ will be relocated to a small 12<sup>th</sup> century church, which is part of the School of Music attached to the University of Tours, in France.

In March we found our replacement organ in the redundant church of Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, Bedfordshire. In April, Alistair Curtis, organ builder, and John Francis (my husband) went up there for 4 days and dismantled it. It arrived in Groombridge on a flat-bed truck and trailer, and it's now stored in two garages. Our Faculty application, which is the equivalent of Listed Building Consent, includes the building of a mezzanine floor in the choir vestry, so that the organ pipes can stand on it, and we will have a larger vestry below. The Diocese is supportive, but it is a slow and very detailed process.

### Sponsor an Organ Pipe – Saturday 1 July 10 -12 noon

As fund-raising now begins in earnest we encourage you to sponsor one or more organ pipes. We have 980 pipes planned for our re-build, and suggested prices range from £5,000 for an eight foot pipe to £5 for a pipe a few inches long. On the day, John will give 15-minute talks about the rebuild at 10 am and 11 am.

Colin, our treasurer, will be in church to receive your donations. Please see the reverse of this note for details of other ways to give. We will be keeping a list of donors, but we will honour any requests for anonymity. The list will not show amounts and will hang in the new choir vestry.

A new organ might cost £250k. By re-building an old one we are saving cost and also saving an instrument made by Hele & Company in 1896 from the scrap heap.

Total Costs	£ 83,600
Legacy from Fr Henley	£ 20,000
Total Funds raised	£ 32,250 inc Gift Aid
<b>Funds to be raised</b>	<b>£ 31,350</b>

Some of us will be praying in church that day at 8 am and 12 noon. We will be praying for the world, for individuals, for the life of our community and church, and for our church organ project. Together, with your generosity and with God's blessing, we can achieve this. I hope you will wish to be a part of this Gift and Prayer Day.

Thank you. Sharon

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## Sponsor an Organ Pipe!

Open Diapasons	7-8 feet	£5,000 each
Open Diapasons	5-6 feet	£1,000
Pedal Bourdon (wood)	7-8 feet	£500
Pedal Bourdon (wood)	5-6 feet	£250
Harmonic Flute	2 – 4 feet	£100
Gedackt	Up to 8 feet	£50
Gemshorn	Up to 4 feet	£10
Fifteenth	Up to 2 feet	£5

That leaves at least 75% of the organ to be negotiated for!

You can bring your sponsorship gift to the church on 1 July, or drop a cheque in to Colin Moore, 12 Oaklands Road, Groombridge TN3 9SB. Tel: 01892 864752

Or pay online to:

**St Thomas Groombridge PCC**

at Santander, Customer Service Centre, Bootle, Merseyside L30 4GB

Sort code: **09-01-54**

Account number **75821084**

## Gift Aid Declaration

I want to Gift Aid any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to St Thomas' Church, Groombridge.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

## My details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2017

*Please notify us if you: want to cancel this declaration; if you change your name or home address; or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.*