

# The Restoration of the 1933 Compton Pipe Organ at St. Peter's Parish Church Cradley

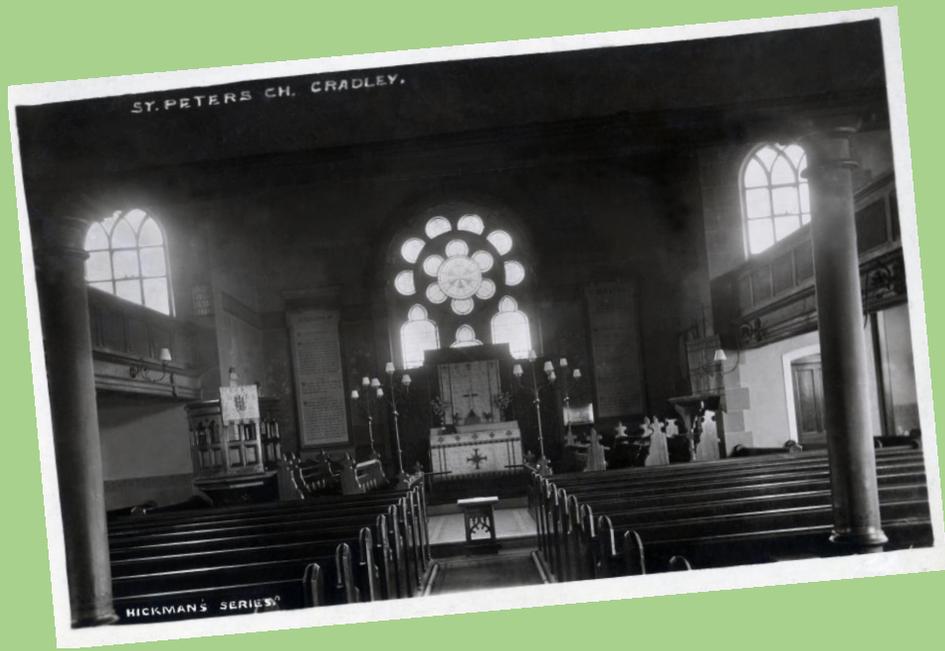




The Compton organ replaced an instrument by Gray & Davison dating from 1875.

This organ was placed in the gallery at the back of the church. It was paid for by Mrs Wood Aston in memory of her husband. She also gave the ring of eight bells in the tower.





In 1933 the Gray & Davison organ was sold for £100 to the John Compton Organ Company when the sanctuary was extended. The current organ was installed in a new purpose built chamber above the Choir Vestry.





The new Compton Organ cost £1,350.00 and was opened on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1933. It is an extension organ and only has six ranks of pipes.

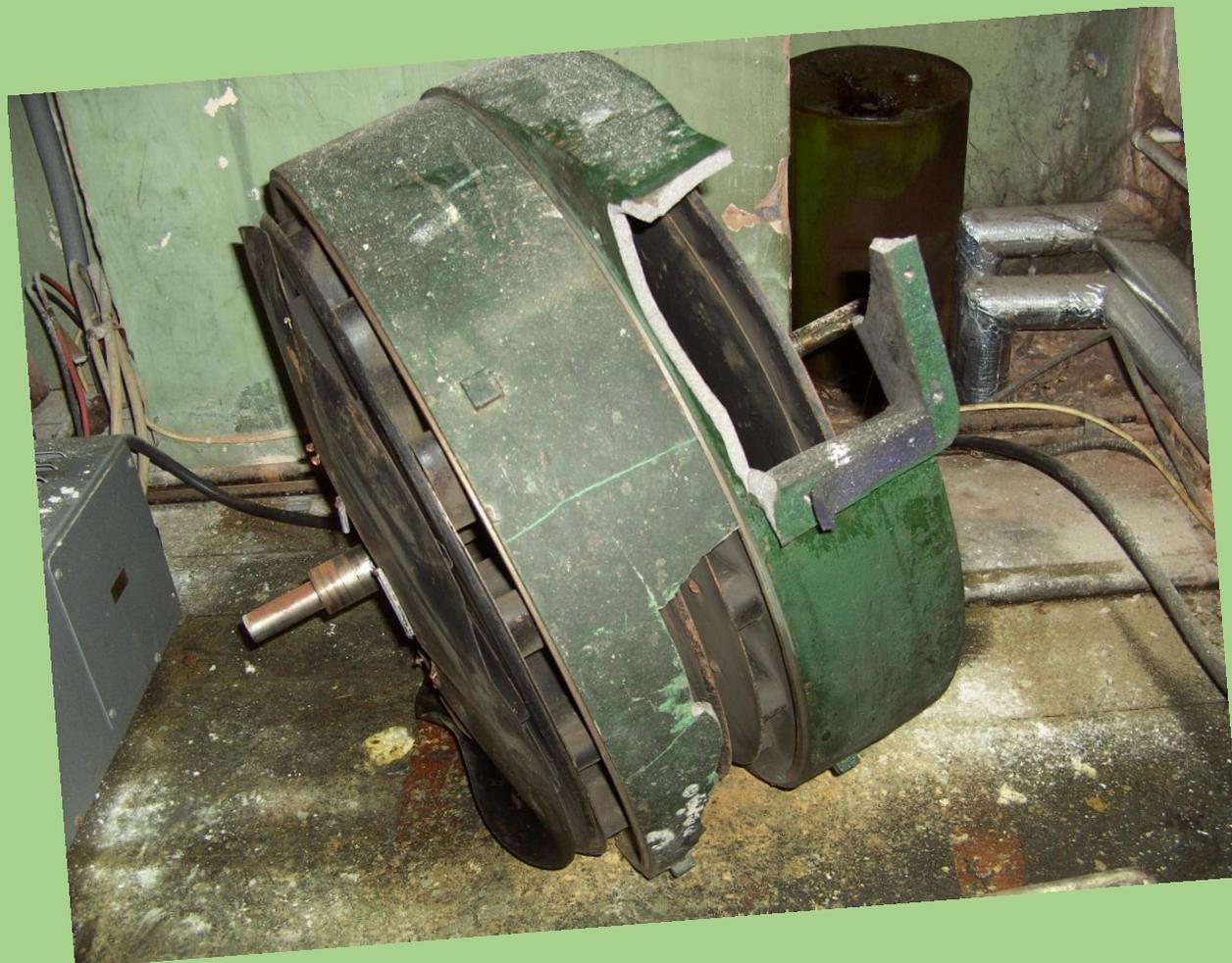


The organist at the time was Frank Stevens. He was appointed in 1895 and retired in 1961 after 66 years service.



After a fundraising appeal in 1979 the organ was cleaned by Hawkins & Son, Organ Builders of Lichfield.

They also removed the Viol rank of pipes and replaced them with a Gemshorn. If we can find a complete rank of Compton Viol pipes we would like to use them to replace the Gemshorn and take the organ back to its original specification in the future.



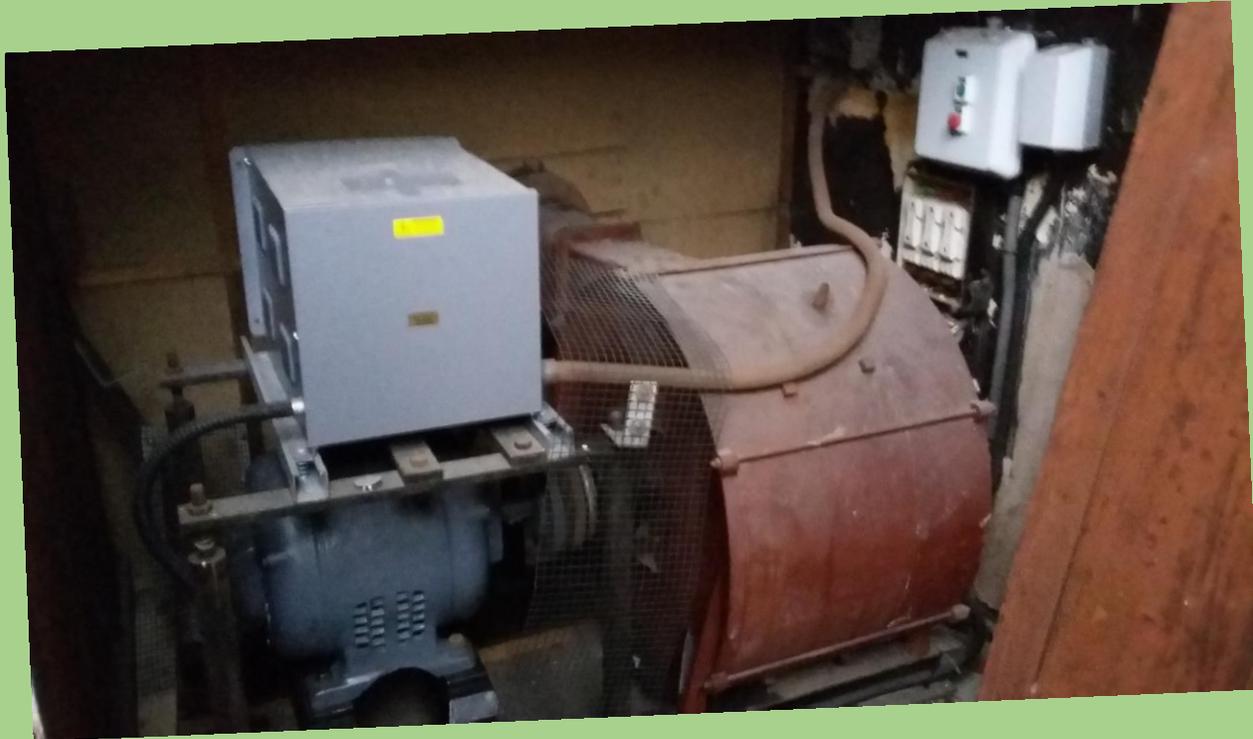
In 2011, after 78 years of service the old blower failed, and the organ became silent.



In October 2014 the neighbouring church of St. Luke in Cradley Heath held its final service. The building was closed due to structural problems.



Inside was a Compton Organ, originally destined for a cinema in the north of England and was installed in St. Luke's in October 1949. It replaced a new instrument being built for the church which got destroyed in an air raid in Compton's London factory in 1940.



The blower from St. Luke's was suitable for use at St. Peter's. Permission was obtained to retrieve it for use at Cradley and thereby get the organ working again.

Thanks to the Church Warden, a number of visits were made to retrieve the blower.



During October 2016 with the help of volunteers, with strong muscles, the blower was dismantled ready for it's move to Cradley.



The motor was removed from its frame and thanks to our local sculptor, the blower and framework were pushed down the aisle to the west door. It was placed on a pallet ready for it's journey.



Two days before demolition crews moved in, the blower was transported to Cradley with the help of volunteers.



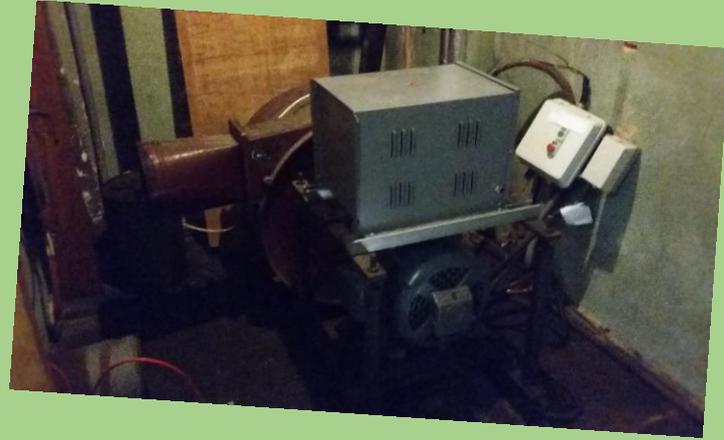
With the blower safely at Cradley, our next task was to lift it up into the organ loft through a very small trap door.





Thanks to two gentlemen from a local lifting company, the blower was lifted safely into the organ loft and put back together.





After our electrician wired up the blower to the mains, organ builder, Peter Spencer, was appointed to service the organ, connect the blower to the pipe work and tune the organ.



Thanks to many very generous donations, a grant from the On Organ Fund, over 200 volunteer hours and the support of many people, the organ was useable for our 2017 Harvest Festival.



After a few months use, a rumbling noise could be heard from the blower. Investigations found that the bearings needed replacement.

Watkins & Watson Ltd (the same firm who built the blower in 1949) replaced both bearings and changed the coupling between the motor and the blower.



The organ builder,  
Peter Spencer visited and  
built a sound proof  
cabinet around the  
blower and motor.

Now it runs silently and  
smoothly.



The only remaining work on the organ is to regulate and tune the twelve diaphone pipes in the pedal section.

We are most grateful to volunteers from the Cinema Organ Society who are kindly helping us with getting this done in the next couple of months.



**THE CINEMA ORGAN SOCIETY**

Promoting the cinema organ as entertainment for over 60 years

## THANK YOU

to the following people who have given practical support to the project.....

James Brookes, Tim Newey, Roger Whitehouse, John Dentith, Luke Perry, Karen Chaplin, Richard Jeffcoat, Simon Franks, Roger Brookes, Paul Millward, Rev. Katryn Leclezio, Rev. Sarah Brush, Doreen and John Clifton, Peter Spencer, Olivier Kalunda, Damon Willetts, Cameron Lloyd, John Plant, David & Neil.

## THANK YOU

to everyone who has donated money, especially our generous benefactor, given their time and skills for today's celebration and for your support!

Now the organ project is complete,  
our next project is.....

# Restoring the clock from St. Luke's, Cradley Heath





When we knew St. Luke's was going to be lost, we enquired about saving the clock for use at St. Peter's.



When the tower was built in 1875 a space was left for a clock to be added. Due to lack of funds this has never been done.

# Photographs of the clock at St. Luke's.



Behind the clock was a 7cwt bell  
cast by  
C & G Mears of London in 1846.

It is believed that this bell was  
saved and is now at  
Worcester Cathedral.





Thanks to the help of Luke Perry and the demolition contractors, the clock was removed in November 2016 and transported to St Peter's.

Unfortunately, when the clock was removed, part of the cast iron dial broke away. All the parts are together with the dial and advice has been sought to confirm that repair is possible.





We would like to restore and repair the clock dial from St. Luke's and place it on the tower at St. Peter's.

The dial would be repainted, gilded with gold leaf and the glass replaced.



# There are three parts to our project

1. The restoration and installation of the clock and dial  
£8,000.
2. The installation of chimes on the bells  
£7,000.
3. Installation of tower floodlighting  
£5,000.



# How can you help

1. Make a donation of any amount to the Clock Fund.
2. Give us “Just a minute” by sponsoring a minute on the clock for a minimum donation of £10 (you can give more if you like) and tell us in 100 words why that minute is significant to you. We hope to record these in some way for future generations.
3. If you pay tax you can Gift Aid your donation which allows us to claim an extra 25p in every pound that you donate. Please ask for a Gift Aid form.

# Help us to restore this clock for the people of Cradley!

## TIMELY MOVE TO GIVE CHURCH SALVAGED CLOCK



Rev Katryn Leclezio, right, with Christine Adshead, Paul Millward and Simon Davies with the clock set for St Peter's Church in Cradley

A CHURCH is set to be given a new lease of life, thanks to a donation from a neighbouring place of worship.

Renovations at St Peter's Church in Church Road, Cradley, have been made possible thanks to St Luke's in Reddal Hill, which is being demolished.

The tower clock has been salvaged, as well as the organ blower and fan, items St Peter's has been without since they broke in 2011.

Rev Katryn Leclezio has welcomed the move but said replacing the 250kg organ blower will not be an easy - or cheap - process.

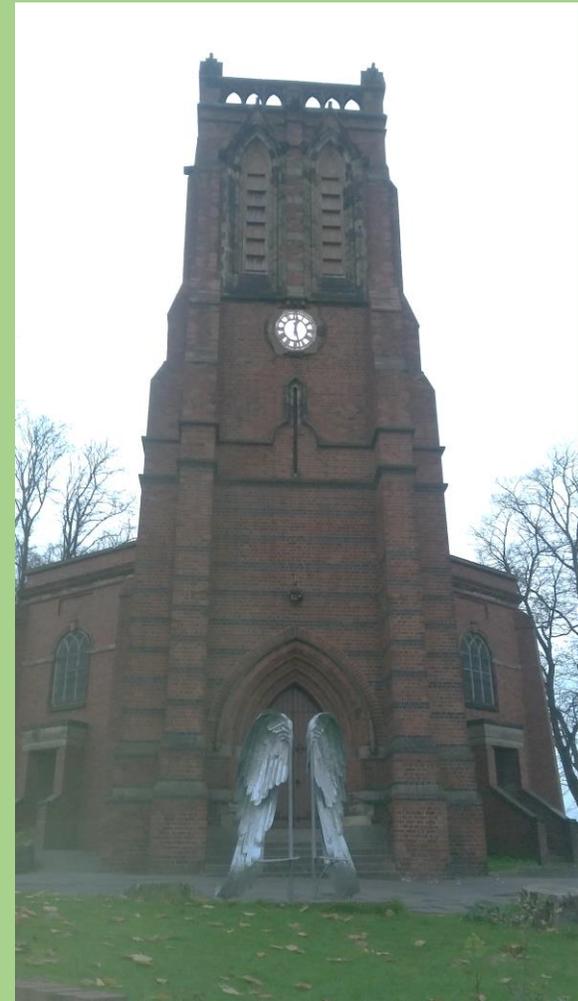
It will need to be lifted about 24ft and pulled through a hatch into the loft of the church, while work will also have to be done on the electrics.

The clock needs some repair work to its glass. The church hopes it can be linked

with the current ring of eight bells so that it chimes at the correct times and can be illuminated at night.

To cover the cost of the work, the church has launched a Crowdfunding campaign. "We are appealing to the many people who live locally to help us raise the money to restore this piece of our heritage," said Rev Leclezio.

The church also needs at least £7,000 to refurbish the 1933 Compton Pipe Organ.



## Thank You!