



18.

The organ

Date: from 1859

A HISTORY OF ST ANDREW'S IN 100 OBJECTS

Of all the furnishings in a church the least moveable is the organ—or so you would have thought. In fact, our organ has moved in its entirety twice, and parts of it have moved three times, in its 152 year history. Before 1859 church music was led by a group of instrumentalists and singers in the west gallery (see picture) as depicted in Thomas Hardy's *Under the Greenwood Tree*. The organ—along with the robed parish choir—was an innovation of the modernisers. The first instrument—a single manual organ—was built by Bryceson & Son. In 1880 it was rebuilt by Millers of Cambridge, converted into a double organ with two manuals and moved to the east end of the north aisle. In 1897 it was rebuilt by William Hill & Son and moved to the newly constructed organ chamber with the console in the chancel (see picture to left). In 1939 it was rebuilt again by Norman & Beard with a separate electrical-action console installed in the nave/north aisle.

It is now 72 years since the last rebuild and renovation, and the organ once gain badly needs attention. At the same time, the PCC is currently looking into moving the organ back out into the north aisle—or, to be more radical (and considerably cheaper), to install an electronic instrument.

