

St Edmund's Organ

One of the treasures of the church is the organ. The organ was the gift of Mr. H. I. Bowring of Allerton Hall and his sister, Mrs Wright, in memory of their parents. It was built by James J Binns in 1909 and was dedicated by the Bishop of Knaresborough in 1910.

This was a considerable gift and one which current congregations and concert goers continue to enjoy.



James Jepson Binns (1855-1928), pictured above, was one of the most successful and prolific of the numerous Yorkshire organ builders working at the turn of the 20th century. Binns established his Bramley Organ Works in 1880.

His work is characterised by sturdy – almost heavy – design and workmanship, and the solid construction of the organs earned them the nickname ‘battleship Binns’.

The firm installed the Albert Hall organ and organs in many other places including some of the Oxford and Cambridge colleges.



Photo courtesy of Leeds Photographic Society

The opening recital of the St Edmund's organ was by **E. H. Lemare** on January 28th 1910 and merited the following eulogy in the Parish magazine of the time. "We would remind our readers that he is one of the greatest organists in the world." The March edition of the magazine reported: "The music was magnificent, the only distracting feature connected with it, if such it can be called, being the bewilderment, it caused as to how such music, so unlike the usual strains produced from an organ, could be called forth. At times it seemed as though a full orchestra was performing; while at times one felt that no full orchestra even could summon into being such sounds."

The writer also reveals that the event was held "during an exceeding heavy snowstorm, reaching its climax during the recital" and that there was "hardly an empty seat in the church."

The Organ was so magnificent and 'up-to-date' that it attracted the attention of **John Groves** in 1912 when the post of Organist became vacant. The Parish magazine reported "Mr. John Groves comes to us with the best possible references from Dr. (later Sir) Edward Bairstow then Organist of Leeds Parish Church, later of York Minster).

When the organ was first installed it was in the main body of the church in the north transept but after the chancel was built it was moved to its current location and enlarged by Binns, Fitton & Haley in 1935. It was restored by John T Jackson & Son in 1987.

The organ is said to be easy to play. It has an excellent range of tone and a good combination of stops. This, combined with the acoustics in the church, makes it a desirable instrument and so it has been played at many occasions in the life of St Edmund's. It has also been used in concerts featuring famous organists.

Francis Jackson, the organist at York Minster, came and played a recital for a celebration at St Edmunds in 1999 in the Yorkshire composer's festival.

Carlo Curley, an American Classical organist visited St Edmunds in June 2001 as part of the centenary celebrations. He played with our then organist, Susan Auty, in an excellent concert. One of the highlights was Carlo Curley's "Whistle-Stop Tour of the Organ", an introduction to the range and inner workings of this complex King of Instruments.

We have recently updated the organ. This work was to renew the Great Organ, choir and Swell underaction and to shorten the pipes to improve the sound projection quality. The works were carried out by Principal Pipe Organs of York.

St Edmund's Church Organ Spec:

Built by James J Binns in 1909: Moved to present location & enlarged by Binns, Fitton & Haley in 1935
Restored by John T Jackson & Son in 1987.

Console

Console type: integral, 3 manuals.

Stop type: drawstop.

Pedalboard: concave radiating.

Hinged wooden shutters; Angled jambs.

Couplers

Swell to Pedal

Swell to Great

Swell to Choir

Swell octave

Swell suboctave

Choir to Great

Choir to Pedal

Choir octave

Choir suboctave

Great to Pedal

Department and Stop list

Pedal	Key action EP	Stop action EP	Compass-low C	Compass-high f1	Keys 30
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1	Harmonic Bass				32
2	Open Wood				16
3	Sub Bass				16
4	Octave Wood				8
5	Violoncello				8
6	Flute Bass				8
7	Fifteenth				4
8	Trombone				16
9	Tromba				8

Choir	Key action EP	Stop action EP	Compass-low C	Compass-high c4	Keys 61 Enclosed
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10	Lieblich Gedact				8
11	Dulciana				8
12	Gamba				8
13	Flauto Traverso				4
14	Flautino				2
15	Clarinet				8
16	Orchestral Oboe				8
17	Tremulant				
18	Tuba				8 unenclosed

Great	Key action EP Stop action EP Compass-low C Compass-high c4 Keys 61	
19	Bourdon	16
20	Major Open Diapason	8
21	Minor Open Diapason	8
22	Hohl Flute	8
23	Salicional	8
24	Octave Diapason	4
25	Harmonic Flute	4
26	Fifteenth	2
27	Mixture	III
28	Trumpet	8

Swell	Key action EP Stop action EP Compass-low C Compass-high c4 Keys 61 Enclosed	
29	Open Diapason	8
30	Rohr Flute	8
31	Viole d'Orchestre	8
32	Voix Celestes	8
33	Aeoline	8
34	Principal	4
35	Mixture	III
36	Contra Fagotto	16
37	Horn	8
38	Oboe	8
39	Vox Humana	8
40	Tremulant	

Accessories

5 adjustable thumb pistons each to Great and Pedal, to Swell and to Choir;
 5 adjustable toe pistons to Great and Pedal; 5 to Swell
 thumb pistons sw-gt, sw-pd, gt-pd, sw-ch;
 toe pistons sw-gt, gt-pd;
 general cancel piston
 balanced pedals to Swell and Choir

St Edmund's Church, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 1JN

www.stedmundsroundhay.org.uk

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