

St Faith's, Burwood

THE ORGAN STORY



from The Strathalbyn street Methodist Church, East Kew
Dedicated June 1955

to Saint Faith's Church, Burwood
Dedicated June 1978

[20 June 1978, retyped with slight emendations November 2017]

PLAQUES ON THE ORGAN

DEDICATED TO THE PRAISE OF GOD
on 23rd April 1978

This Organ perpetuates the gift to the STRATHALBYN STREET
METHODIST CHURCH of the ANNIE WILSON MEMORIAL ORGAN to which
the Bishop family added the Celeste stop. It also commemorates the
faithful witness of all who worshipped in that Church
until 1976 when the congregation combined with FINLAY McQUEEN
PRESBYTERIAN Congregation to form the EAST KEW UNITING CHURCH.

TO THE PRAISE OF GOD
THE ANNIE WILSON MEMORIAL ORGAN
Presented by
ARTHUR JOHN WILSON
IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF HIS WIFE
Dedicated on 19th June 1955

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
GERTRUDE BISHOP
The Celeste Stop has been
added to this organ
April 1968

In loving memory of
CATHERINE EMMA KNIGHT
20.11.14 - 31.1.77
the console of this organ
given by her husband Herb.
and son Robin and family
June 25th 1978

The Tierce rank of pipes
on this organ given by
MARJORIE BÉCHERVAISE
in memory of her father
ALEX FULLFORD BÉCHERVAISE
27.1.1895 - 9.12.69
June 25th 1978

PLAQUE IN THE NARTHEX OF ST FAITH'S

THE GENEROSITY OF THE PEOPLE
OF THIS CHURCH ENABLED THE
PURCHASE OF THE PIPE ORGAN
FROM THE STRATHALBYN STREET
METHODIST CHURCH EAST KEW
AND ITS REBUILDING HERE

Dedicated by
The Most Reverend R. W. Dann
Archbishop of Melbourne
June 25th 1978

The pipe organ now in St Faith's has been enlarged from an instrument originally built for the Strathalbyn Street Methodist Church, East Kew.

That church was built in 1952, and a member of the congregation who had opposed its being built gave the organ, at a cost of £3000, as a lasting tribute to his wife, then recently deceased. The donor, Mr Jack Wilson, himself died a few weeks later, never hearing or seeing the fruits of his gift.

That instrument, dedicated in June 1955, was built by George Fincham and Sons. It had two manuals and pedals, and was extended from 5 ranks, namely, diapason, dulciana, flute, salicional and oboe. It was completely enclosed within a swell box behind a vertical grille of heavy timber, It had no display pipes.

In 1968 Mr Fred Bishop had a celeste stop added in memory of his wife, Gertrude.

The Strathalbyn Street congregation joined with the East Kew Presbyterian Church in 1976 and sold both church and organ to the Masonic Lodge on the understanding that the organ would remain as part of the building. However, within a short time it was sold to Christ Church, Ormond. Christ Church already had the first Fincham organ built in Melbourne, and hoped to combine the two instruments. This plan could not be carried out, and so in May 1977 the organ was again up for sale, still dismantled. It was then—at an emergency meeting on the morning of Saturday 14 May—that the vestry of St Faith's decided to buy it.

The considerable task of rebuilding the organ was entrusted to John Parker, an organ builder of Burwood. The vestry decided to add a II-rank mixture, and a further rank, the tierce, was given by Miss Marjorie Béchervaise, a parishioner, in memory of her father. In all the organ now has nominally 24 speaking stops (7 ranks extended + mixture), totalling approximately 570 pipes.

The foresight of the original architect of St Faith's was again demonstrated, since he had provided for an organ chamber behind the altar.

The work of rebuilding the organ was completed only because of the contributions of all parishioners. The dismantled instrument was transported from Ormond by parishioners, and some men of the parish worked with Mr Parker on the carpentry in the organ chamber.

The cost of the organ was met in various ways. Although the final cost is not certain, the purchase price was \$4,500 and the mixture and the cost of rebuilding together amounted to \$5,587. There had been an organ fund for many years, and in 1976 and 1977 this was augmented in various ways, notably through the work of the Women's Guild. At the time of purchase this fund stood at \$4,100. A further \$6,000 was given by parishioners. Some donations were given as memorial gifts, and these are recorded in the memorial book to be found in the cabinet near the pulpit. This not only has the cost of the organ and rebuilding, but also included some money in hand for the continuing cost of maintenance.

This brief history would not be complete without a tribute to the then vicar of St Faith's, Revd D G Cobbett, through whose inspiration and guidance the contribution of all those connected with this project has been combined and brought to fruition.

SPECIFICATIONS

Builders: George Fincham & Sons, 1955
John Parker, 1978

2 manuals and pedals
Electropneumatic action

Great manual

CC - 61 notes

1		Open Diapason	8'	CC, 85 pipes
2	[1]	Principal	4'	
3	[1]	Fifteenth	2'	
4		Dulciana (Tenor. C)	8'	C, 61 pipes (59 confirmed)
5		[blank stop key]		
Enclosed:				
6	[10]	Contra Salicional [Tenor C]	16'	
7	[12]	Rohr Flute	8'	
8	[12]	Stopped Flute	4'	
9		Mixture II ranks [1978]		CC 98 pipes
Swell-Great				

Swell manual (enclosed)

CC - 61 notes

10		Salicional	8'	CC, 73 pipes
11		Voix Celeste [1968]	8'	C, 49 pipes
12		Rohr Flute	8'	CCC, 97 pipes (93 confirmed)
13	[10]	Salicet	4'	
14	[12]	Nazard	2 ² / ₃ '	
15	[12]	Piccolo	2'	
16		Tierce [1978]	1 ³ / ₅	G, 34 pipes
17	[9]	Cymbal II ranks [1978]		
18	[19]	Contra Oboe [Tenor C]	16'	
19		Oboe	8'	CC, 73 pipes
20	[19]	Oboe Clarion	4'	

Pedal

CCC - 30 notes

21	[12]	Bourdon	16'	CCC-GG unenclosed
22	[1]	Principal	8'	
23	[12]	Bass Flute	8'	
24	[1]	Fifteenth	4'	
25	[12]	Octave Quint	5 ¹ / ₃ '	
Great-Pedal				
Swell-Pedal				

Accessories

3 thumb pistons to Great

3 thumb pistons to Swell

1 toe piston to full organ

All pistons adjustable

Reversible rocker tablets on key cheeks:

 Swell-Great

 Great to Pedal

 Swell-Pedal

 Tremulant

Balanced expression pedal to Swell

Wind pressures:

 Great: 3¹/₄"

 Swell: 3¹/₄"

 Unenclosed Bourdon: 3¹/₄"

Note:

Whenever pipes are assumed but not confirmed, they are at the extreme upper end of the rank.