



The Choir organ in the south transept.
(Photo by Hugh Brocklehurst)



Pipework of the Great and Swell organs as seen from the console.
(Photo by Tim Edmonds)

The photo of the Great and Swell organs on the front cover
was taken by B.B. Edmonds.

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The Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi Terriers and Totteridge



The Organ

Church and Organ at Terriers

Specification

Foundation of the church

The first church on this site was a small wooden building erected in 1912. The following year a wealthy retired clergyman, the Revd Frederick Francis Field, purchased a property in nearby Hazlemere and had plans to establish a proper church building in Terriers, but these were delayed by the Great War and then cut short by the death of Field in 1927. However, his widow Henrietta saw the project through, financing the church of St Francis of Assisi in memory of her husband. She did this in grand style, engaging Sir Giles Gilbert Scott as the architect, and the new church was dedicated and consecrated on 11 October 1930.

The first organ

As part of her gift Mrs Field included provision for an organ, and a small Compton instrument was purchased. This comprised three ranks extended over two manuals and pedals, totally enclosed in a swell box and surrounding case work. It was placed in the north transept, with the console at its east end. Whilst this was adequate for accompanying the small choir it was not up to the task of leading a growing congregation in such a large building so, when it began to wear out, proposals were made to replace it with something more appropriate.

Evolution of the present organ

Replacing the Compton with a complete instrument of suitable size was beyond the resources of the church and instead an evolutionary approach was adopted: a collaboration between organ builder Ken Breedon and church member, Hugh Brocklehurst. Starting in 1982 Ken worked part-time in the church to extend the organ in small stages, with Hugh and other members of the parish working under his guidance.

They retained the existing swell box, but replaced the Compton pipework and added a steel and timber frame to support a new Great organ section above the Swell. Next a new platform was built in the south transept to take the old console and large bass pipes were placed in the new Great organ to give a musical balance to the instrument.

At this stage Ken and Hugh came to the conclusion that a new console was required, and that to improve the tonal balance and versatility a Choir organ should be added. This work was approved in 1994. First the old console was replaced with a new drawstop unit, mixtures were added on both Swell and Great and a further rank of bass pipes was installed. The addition of the Choir organ in the south transept was delayed by problems with dampness in the church fabric, but the task was completed in 2003 when five ranks of pipes were ingeniously fitted into place. They are enclosed in casework made by Hugh's nephew, Richard Brocklehurst, that was based on that designed by Scott for the original organ.

<i>Great</i>		<i>Swell</i>	
Geigen Diapason	16'	Open Diapason	8'
Open Diapason	8'	Gedacht	8'
Gemshorn	8'	Salicional	8'
Chimney Flute	8'	Geigen Principal	4'
Principal	4'	Flute	4'
Hohl Flute	4'	Fifteenth	2'
Nasard	2 ^{2/3} '	Laringot	1 ^{1/3} '
Block Flute	2'	Octavin	1'
Fifteenth	2'	Mixture	3 ranks
Tierce	1 ^{3/5} '	Contra Oboe	16'
Mixture	2 ranks	Cornocean	8'
Cornocean (swell)	8'	Oboe	8'
Trumpet	8'	Clarion	4'
		Octave	
<i>Great Choir</i>		<i>Pedal</i>	
Stopped Diapason	8'	Open Wood	16'
Gamba	8'	Bourdon	16'
Nason Flute	4'	Violone	16'
Principal	4'	Principal	8'
		Bass Flute	8'
<i>Choir</i>		Fifteenth	4'
Stopped Diapason	8'	Trombone	16'
Gamba	8'	Oboe	16'
Dulcana	8'	Trumpet	8'
Principal	4'	Clarion	4'
Twelfth	2 ^{2/3} '		
Fifteenth	2'	<i>Choir Pedal</i>	
Tierce	1 ^{3/5} '	Leiblich Bourdon	16'
Clarinet	8'	Gedacht	8'

Couplers:

Swell to Pedal, Swell 4 to Pedal, Great to Pedal, Choir to Pedal
Swell to Great, Swell 4 to Great, Swell to Choir, Choir to Great.
Great off.

The Choir organ, Great Choir and Choir Pedal are independently blown and electrified, and may be played independent of the main organ.