

# Statement of Needs

## General information

St Peter's has a traditional style of worship in the Anglo Catholic Tradition. Music is very important to the Sunday Services and Feast Days. There is a sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong each Sunday.

The church is blessed with an excellent choir and a maintained musical tradition dating back to its foundation in 1870. The robed choir of children and adults is an important part of the St Peter's community.

## The organ's role

The organ provides an important element in the style of worship at St Peter's supporting not only the congregation, but also having the versatility to support the choir singing settings and anthems for the Eucharist and Evensong.

Additionally, there is an active music programme of recitals and concerts at the church, very often directed towards fund raising for local needs. The organ plays its role in these events – either as a solo instrument or as accompaniment. The organ was used by local choirs Opus XVI and Streatham Choral Society for their concerts in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The organ is also used by a child and 5 adults for private weekly practice.

## What is needed?

The fine four manual William Hill & Son organ at St Peter's is recognised by the PCC and Congregation as an important part of Streatham's heritage and important to the musical life in the liturgy of the church and the church's outreach.

Over many years, St Peter's PCC and Congregation have been working to restore the instrument in stages to ensure that it will continue to be an asset in this part of South London. Significant progress has been made on this mission to ensure that we still have a magnificent instrument which is used to its fullest in the context of music at St Peter's.

It is as part of this mission, that the PCC wish to continue with a scheme of works, laid out in six stages, which continue the restoration work of the instrument.

The six stages concern the manual divisions: Great, Swell, Choir and Solo; the winding and reintroduction of pistons. Four stages are complete: Choir, Solo, Swell and winding works.

The works are following recommendations in the report of Ian Bell from 2006 (attached). See page 9 for priorities. Priorities 1 (blower) and 3 (manual key actions) have been dealt with. The relevant priority is stop action.

This faculty request is to gain permission to work as follows:

- Urgent works to the South Case occasioned by a collapse of supporting framework. This work does not strictly require a faculty, since it could be considered maintenance, but is included since all of the works will be dealt with together.
- Diapason Bass Chest: Cleaning, repair and overhaul of Diapason Bass chest and pipes including conversion from pneumatic action to electric action in-line with current 6 stage plan for organ renovation works.
- Great slider action: Drawstop electrification on Treble side (bass side already completed in previous works (Faculty refs: 2017-010812, 2014: #2728)), and conversion and overhaul of Great

slider action to electric from pneumatic. Again conversion of the action is in-line with the six stage scheme of works previously outlined.

### **The proposal**

It is proposed to carry-out the work as specified in the proposal and costing from The Duplex Pipe Organ Blower Company Ltd 04-11-2020 (see attachment)

There are adequate funds to cover all of these works in the Church's organ restoration fund.

Insurer's will be notified of the works and the need for the organ builder to erect a scaffolding.

### **Why?**

During the last 100 years of its 150 year life, this fine heritage instrument has had little major overhaul. Inevitably, works are now urgent to ensure preservation of this important instrument in playing form. Leather work and mechanical actions are worn. Pipework is dirty and in need of regulation and so is not sounding as it should for such a beautiful instrument.

The works done so far as part of this phase of restoration started in 2014, are already showing benefits in terms of reliability and quality of sound from the instrument.

This series of works will lead to the reintroduction of a piston system without which the player is severely limited in their range of expression. St Peter's has a supportive PCC and congregation who understand the importance of the organ, and the church's excellent choir, to St Peter's quality of worship.

### **Justification**

There are no foreseen harms to the significance outlined in the Statement of Significance.