

The Lapworth Organ Project

Update: 10th Feb 2025

2024 was a difficult year for the Lapworth Organ Project, with most of the year spent stuck in the long and difficult process to secure a Faculty, which is the equivalent to the Planning Permission that the project needs.

But 2025 has got off to a great start with the Faculty finally awarded, an excellent visit from the contractor (Bishops), some good fundraising events and some most generous donations. Now we are launching our *Adopt a Pipe* scheme to step up the fundraising. It is possible to adopt a pipe, starting £25 for a small pipe, through to £250 for a pipe on the 16 ft stops. A pipe can be adopted to celebrate a particular event like a birth, a Christening or a marriage. Or it might be a birthday present, or it might be about remembering someone who has died. On adopting a pipe, you will receive a certificate and can place a message in our special commemorative book. Forms for *Adopt a Pipe* are available in church or on the home page of the St Mary's website.

The project is to rebuild the organ based around a new and much bigger sound board, positioned further forward so that the sound can project better into the church. The internal design will be simplified, but overall there will be more pipes and the organ will be more suitable for a greater range of music. The organ will be more suitable for recitals. Above all we will get a better sound quality and volume because of the forward positioning.

The appearance of the organ will be mainly unchanged, although the central front panel will be raised by 7 inches (to clear all but the tallest people) and brought forward by 21 inches. It is this that allows the main sound board to come forward. The two side panels and the console will look as they do now. The picture is a photoshop mock up of what it will look like after the rebuild.



The contractor, Bishops, have re-confirmed the price, so the total project cost is unchanged at £225k + VAT. Up to 85% of the VAT should be reclaimable through the government's List Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Through people's great generosity we have already raised £185k, but we still need £40k plus perhaps £7k for VAT. It is clear that we have made huge progress, but still have a way to go. Do please consider adopting a pipe, or even a set of pipes. And look out for our fundraiser events. Our target is to complete the project by Christmas 2025.