

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CHURCHES INSPIRE

CHURCH ORGANS TRAIL

The county boasts quite a number of historic organs and fine 20th century examples. There are two good websites which would be worth investigating Northampton and District Organist Association www.northamptonorganists.org.uk and the Nene Valley Churches Project nvcop@gmx.com

Listed and illustrated below are some of the finer instruments you will find here.

CASTLE ASHBY, ST MARYS



The John Nicholson organ of 1872. The case by F H Sutton with carvings by Rattee and Kett, tuned by Sir A F Gore Ouseley.

CRICK, ST MARGARETS



The Chapel Royal, St James' Palace organ by Thomas Elliot of Tottenham Court Road London made in 1819 and transferred to Crick in 1841.

FINEDON, ST MARYS



The Windsor Castle organ made in 1704 by Father Smith and transferred to Finedon in 1717. Recently restored.

FOTHERINGHAY, ST MARYS AND ALL SAINTS



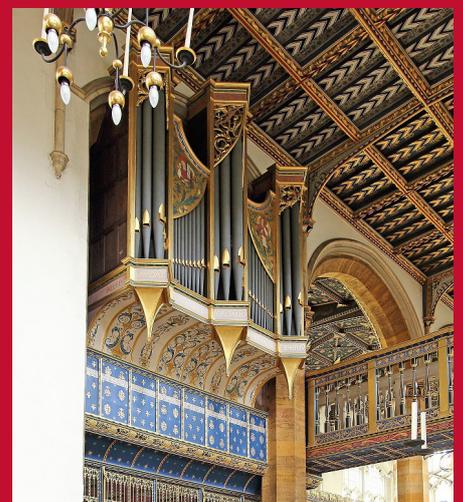
A Vincent H M Woodstock organ made in 2000.

OUNDLE SCHOOL CHAPEL



A late 20th century organ made by Frobenius of Senner Copenhagen in 1984.

WELLINGBOROUGH, ST MARYS



The organ is contemporary with the building of the church. A splendid instrument made in 1914 by William Hill.

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STANFORD ON AVON, ST NICHOLAS



The organ was made by Robert Dallam for Magdalen College in Oxford in the 16th century and transferred to Stanford in 1649/50. It is the oldest organ in the county.

THURNING, ST JAMES



The Miller organ of 1904 which stands high above the entrance to the chancel was re-fitted by Bower and Co in 2011.

NORTHAMPTON, ALL SAINTS



This instrument was installed in 1981/2 by J. W. Walker & Sons Ltd., who also installed the organ in the Memorial Chapel and a Chancel Organ, now replaced by a re-housed Hill & Son and Norman & Beard instrument of 1939.

NORTHAMPTON, ST MATTHEWS



St Matthew's is home to arguably the finest parish church organ in the country. The fine four manual organ was built in 1895 by the firm J W Walker and Sons and is now of great historical importance.

In 2005/6 the organ underwent a major restoration project costing in excess of a quarter of a million pounds.

The organ is one of the church's many artefacts donated by the Phipps family. Various members of the family gave generously, including the original benefactor's widow, Mary, who provided the Organ. Contemporary accounts referred to the instrument as one of the twelve best to be built in the country around that time. Today, the St Matthew's organ is one of only a few Walker instruments of the period to remain in their original form and may be favourably compared with such instruments as those in Bristol Cathedral and St Mary's, Portsea, Portsmouth.

No significant changes were made to the instrument between its completion in 1895 and 1971. At that date the actions and console were replaced. No other changes were made, which is a cause for great satisfaction as the structure and pipework survive in their entirety.

In 1978 the church installed a forced-air heating system and the organ was fitted with a humidifier shortly afterwards. In 1980 a new blowing plant was installed, replacing the previous equipment dating from the 1920s and in 1982 tuning slides were fitted to the pipework to protect it from damage. In 1990 the Solo Organ actions, reservoirs and tremulant were fully overhauled and re-leathered.

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HIGHAM FERRERS, ST MARYS



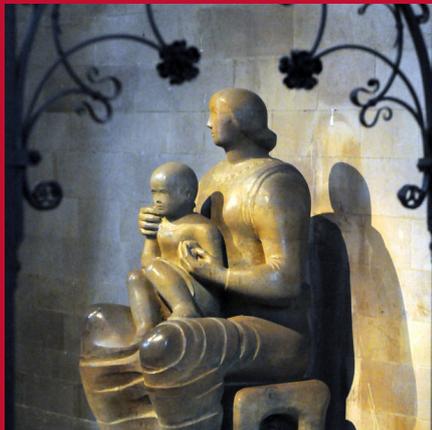
Hybrid instrument by Peter Collindsof Melton Mowbray installed in 2009 with an inaugural concert by Carlo Curley.

RAUNDS, ST PETERS



The three-manual organ was built in 1893 by Peter Conacher and restored by Nicholsons in 2006.

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STAINED GLASS TRAIL

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