

# The Chapel Organ

In this corner of the Chapel stood a pipe organ. It was built in 1893 by John Bryceson and probably placed in the newly completed Chapel in 1897. Here is a brief description from the National Pipe Organ Register:

*Two manuals and Pedals*

*14 speaking stops*

*Action: Mechanical*

*Dimensions:*

*Width: 10' 6" + 1' 5" (blowing handle)*

*Depth: 8' 7" + 2' 4" (pedal board)*

*Height: (approx) 16' 7"*

*700 pipes, tin and wood*

The original winding mechanism was by hand but an electrical pump was installed at a later date. It was used for all services attended by staff and patients at Graylingwell. It stood unused for nearly twenty years after the hospital closed in 2001. In 2019 the Chichester Community Development Trust decided to try and find a new home for the organ, rather than put it out for scrap or spare parts. Through social media the team advertised far and wide. Lo and behold! A response came from a small village in northern France. In September 2019 a team of three dedicated church members travelled from Jugon-les-Lacs and began the intricate process of dismantling the organ, labelling and carefully storing

each pipe and piece, ready to be restored and rebuilt back in their home town. It took two days with the team working until late at night. The project was led by Yann Drezet together with Bernard Lebail and Jean-Luc Lelionnais. Over the next 18 months Yann kept the CCDT informed of their progress. The photos you see here show the organ in situ in the Chapel together with work in progress and then the final, splendid finished project. The organ was blessed by Monsignor Denis Moutel, Bishop of Saint Briec and Tréguier and the inaugural concert took place on July 18<sup>th</sup> 2021.

It's hard to imagine the work involved in this intricate project but thanks to the dedication of those three men from Jugon, plus a team of enthusiastic and talented helpers, the organ now proudly stands in the church of Notre Dame et Saint-Etienne. The organ has found a permanent home and will continue to be used for many years to come. Yann Drezet stays in touch with the CCDT and hopes that one day they will receive a visit from their "English twin" so they can demonstrate the beautiful sound the organ makes. This wish will now be fulfilled in April 2024 when Coral Botteley and John Frost, chapel volunteers, will be visiting Jugon les Lacs to see and hear the organ in its new home.

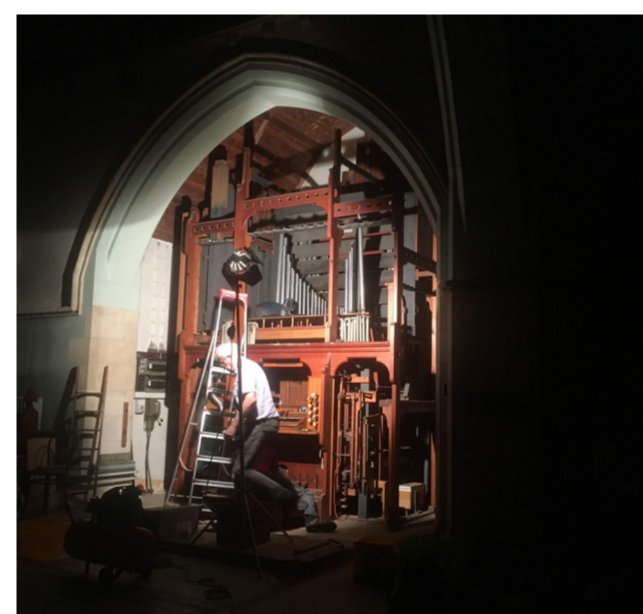
## February 2024



Original organ in situ



Dismantling begins



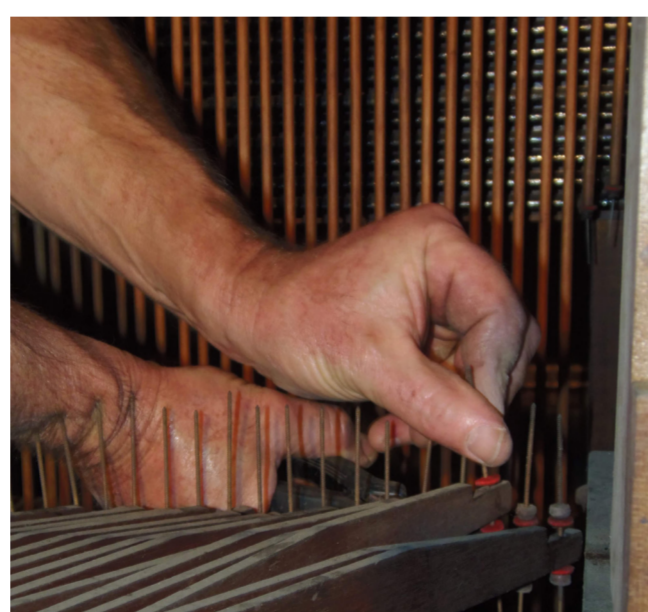
Working into the night



Tin pipes in situ



Mid disassembly



Delicate work



Yann, Bernard, Jean-Luc and Coral



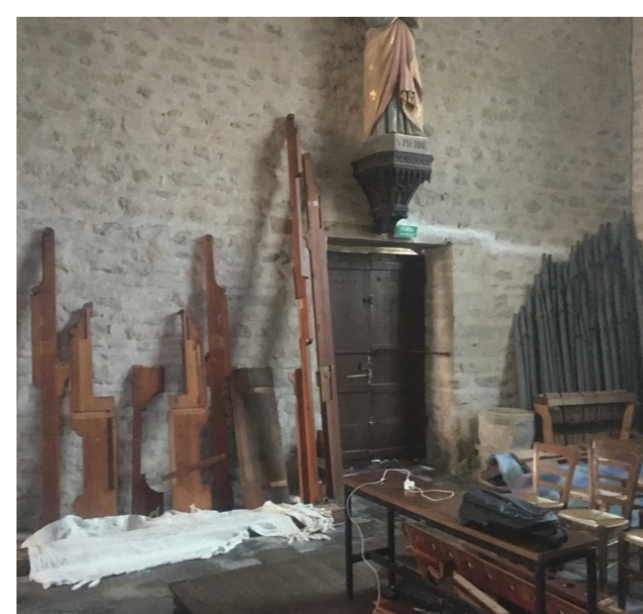
Keyboard lid



Cleared space



Electric blower (Circa 1930's)



Jugon-les-Lacs, reconstruction commences



Inauguration and blessing 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021