

Organs that will be present at the 'Unwanted Organs' Conference



1. The 'Eaton' Organ: This instrument was originally built around 1829 as part of an organ supplied by Timothy Russell to Lady St Mary, the parish church of Wareham in Dorset. When the early Anglo-Saxon minster nave was destroyed in 1841, it was apparently superseded and removed at some time to the Unitarian church. Here it was renovated and made to work in 1967 by Martin Renshaw and Tony Clayton. In 1979 the church closed and the organ moved to St Denys' church Eaton, Leics., where it is on loan to the church.

At A=418 Hz., this organ might contain the lowest-pitched original English organ pipes in existence ; it seems that its pipes were never 'cut down' on delivery in May 1829 for an inaugural musical festival. Light tuning slides can bring this pitch down easily to A=415, the pitch used in the concert this afternoon. There are five speaking stops: Stopped Diapason, Open Diapason, Principal, Twelfth and Fifteenth. Further details were published in *The Organ* for January 1986 (no. 255, vol. 65, p19). It was played by Timothy Roberts in the four Handel oratorios recorded by the Gabrieli Consort and Players for Deutsche Grammophon: [Saul 2004](#), [Theodora 2000](#), [Solomon 1999](#) and [Messiah 1997](#).

2. The Olive Organ: An organ originally from St James the Greater Huncote in Leicestershire that has turned out to be of very great interest, though its past history is uncertain. It may have been made for the Revd Thomas Olive, the designer of the late C18 organ cases at Canterbury and Rochester cathedrals; according to John Marsh he (Olive) was himself a cabinet maker. The case is certainly unusual, and inside there are three ranks of what appear to be C17 wooden pipework in the organ, which may have come from the Smith Choir organ of Rochester cathedral. We will hear these, played by Paul Nicholson.



**Interior of St James the Greater Huncote in 1898, the year of its completion.
The 'Olive' organ can be seen opposite the pulpit.**

3. The case only of an organ attributed to the GP England workshops, found in Saltney Methodist church near Chester, and probably originally made for St Peter Chester, late 1790s. This is exhibited to show (a) in what condition these organs are often found and (b) to show how a vital missing part – a whole cornice – can be reconstructed in the original manner by reference to the surviving one. The front pipes were (as so often) painted crudely with grey paint over original gold-leaf; they have been restored by Kevin Rutterford, though one has been left to show the condition in which they were found. The rest of the organ is under restoration in Martin Renshaw's Loire-Atlantique workshop France.