

Dedham Parish Church - Organ Replacement Project.

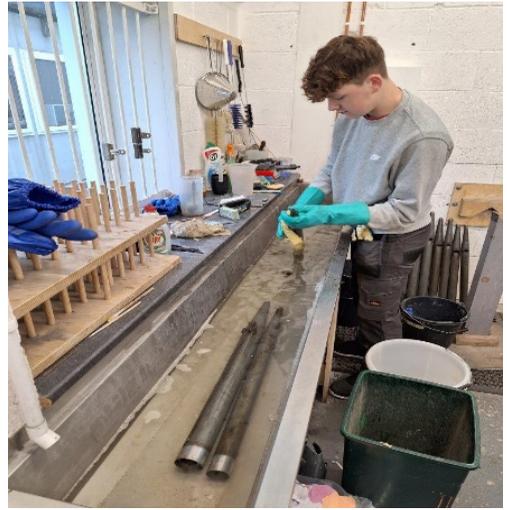
It is some time since the last update on the progress of the Organ Replacement Project and there is a lot of good news to report. As a result of some very generous individual donations and a number of grants from both local and national organisations, the amount raised is now just in excess of £260,000 so we are well on our way to reaching the amount set by the PCC, £300,000, to fund the project.

The organ that Nicholson & Co Ltd. will be installing in St Mary's was removed from the Harvest Church in Glasgow in January 2023 and moved to Nicholson's storage facility in Kidderminster. Just recently they have advised us that, due to space in their workshop in Malvern, they could start cleaning some of the metal pipes. They have retrieved most of the Great and Swell pipes from storage and work has commenced on cleaning them. The early



life of the organ was in a concert hall, rather than a church, and as a result there is some nicotine staining on the pipes, but it is coming off nicely, albeit only after two washes. The attached photographs show this work underway.

People are understandably asking "When will the new organ be installed?"



and again there is good news here. Nicholson will be scheduling both the removal of the current organ and the installation of the new organ for between the end of September 2024 and Easter 2025, which is slightly earlier than originally anticipated and will not disrupt the 2025 wedding season in St Mary's.

The only unknown at present is whether the existing organ gallery floor is strong enough to take the weight of the new organ, or whether it will need reinforcement. Nicholson's are currently working on producing a technical specification and drawings showing the exact proposed loading points & weights of the new organ which will then be assessed by a structural engineer.

Finally the Colchester Chamber Choir are holding a concert, called "Music Divine" in St Mary's in aid of the Organ Fund. The date for your diaries is Sunday 9th July at 6 pm. Tickets are £15 per person and can be bought from www.colchesterchamberchoir.org or on the door on the night.

*David Druitt
On behalf of the Organ Replacement
Committee*