Dr Maximillian Elliott

Conacher & Brown of Huddersfield installed an organ at St Olave’s Church in 1856. Located on one side of a west gallery and costing £160, the instrument comprised two manuals and twelve speaking stops (with an Oboe 8’ prepared for later inclusion on the Swell). Thomas Simpson Camidge played the organ during its official dedication on Wednesday 10 December 1856.

**Great**
- Open Diapason 8
- Stop Diapason Bass 8
- Stop Diapason Treble 8
- Dulciana 8
- Principal 4
- Sexquialtra III †

**Swell**
- Double Diapason 16
- Ten C to g³ Open Diapason 8
- Stop Diapason 8
- Horn 8
- Oboe 8 *

**Pedal**
- Bourdon 16

**Couplers**
- Swell Octave, Swell to Great, Great to Pedal

* prepared for
† original proposal only contained Twelfth and Fifteenth ranks, but a third rank was added to the specification at some point before installation

The instrument was enlarged by Conacher & Brown in 1858, but sold for £125 in October 1881 and transferred to St Matthew’s Church, West Town, Dewsbury.
P. Conacher & Co. of Huddersfield installed a new organ at St Olave’s Church in 1881 at a
cost of just over £400. Located in a purpose-built chamber on the north side of the chancel,
the instrument comprised two manuals and nineteen speaking stops. Oliver Toes (Organist
of St Olave’s Church, 1879-1901) played the organ during its official reopening services on
Tuesday 1 November 1881 and Joe Whitwam gave a recital on the same day.

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<th>Great</th>
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<th>Swell</th>
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<td>Lieblich Gedact</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Open Diapason</td>
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<td>C to a³</td>
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<td>Rohr Flûte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Diapason</td>
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<td>C to a³</td>
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<td>Gamba</td>
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<td>Salicional</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Dulciana</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Voix Celeste</td>
<td>8 TC</td>
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<td>Hohl Flûte</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gemshorn</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Principal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Oboe</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Flauto Traverso</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cornopean</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Twelfth</td>
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<td>Fifteenth</td>
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<th>Pedal</th>
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<td>Open Diapason</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>CC to f¹</td>
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<td>Bourdon</td>
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<td>Violoncello</td>
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**Couplers**
- Swell to Great, Great to Pedal, Swell to Pedal

**Accessories**
- Four composition pedals for Great.
- Two composition pedals for Swell.

**Case**
- Oak with diapered façade pipes.

The instrument was moved by T. Hopkins & Son of York to St Lawrence’s Church in York
and reopened there on Sunday 26 May 1907. After a century of service at its new location,
the organ was transferred by Principal Pipe Organs of York to St Mary’s Church in
Lastingham, where it was rebuilt and re-dedicated on Sunday 13 November 2011.
J. W. Walker & Sons built a new organ for St Olave’s Church in 1907. Comprising three manuals and twenty-eight speaking stops, the instrument was described as ‘one of the best organs to be found in the county of Yorkshire’ in an account published by the *Yorkshire Gazette* on Saturday 25 May 1907. Reginald Rose (Organist of St Olave’s Church, 1901-1951) played the organ during its official dedication service on Friday 24 May 1907.

The architect George Pace provided sketches for two new organ cases (chancel and aisle) within his proposal for a new War Memorial Chapel at St Olave’s Church in 1949. Only one of these organ cases (aisle) has been completed to date.

The organ was restored by J. W. Walker & Sons in 1978 at a cost of £22,500. In addition to a renewed wind system and electrified action, the instrument received new keyboards and a new pedalboard, but the only significant tonal alteration was an adjustment to the breaks of its Swell Dulciana Mixture III. Nicolas Kynaston gave a recital on the organ shortly before its official re-dedication by Archbishop Stuart Blanch on Sunday 29 October 1978.
Principal Pipe Organs of York secured the organ tuning and maintenance contract for St Olave’s Church in 1984, but their work mostly consisted of routine repairs until 2004. Although its Swell Vox Humana 8’ was removed in 1986 and replaced by a Fifteenth 2’, the instrument remained in largely original condition for just under a century.

A significant rebuild of the organ at St Olave’s Church was undertaken by Principal Pipe Organs in 2004. The instrument was enlarged and provided with new solid state note switching and piston capture systems (including several new couplers and accessories).

The Great division was remodelled with new pipework and the transfer of two original 1907 ranks to other divisions of the organ. The Wald Flute 8’ was moved to the Swell division in a direct swap with its Stopped Diapason 8’ and the former Open Diapason I 8’ used to create Pedal Principal 8’ and Fifteenth 4’ stops. A new Double Diapason 16’ was provided by borrowing twenty-nine pipes from the Pedal Contra Gamba 16’ and adding second-hand pipework from middle F upwards. The original Dulciana Fifteenth 2’ was re-scaled by two notes (i.e. new pipes for bottom C and C sharp) and two new ranks were purchased to form a Mixture III.

The Swell division was largely unaltered during the 2004 rebuild, except for the aforementioned swapping of its Stopped Diapason 8’ with the Wald Flute 8’ formerly residing on the Great.

The enclosed Choir division was enlarged with three new ranks, namely: Nazard 2'/3', Flageolet 2’ (also forming a separate Sifflöte 1’, without an extra octave of pipes) and Tercel 1'/3’. A separate chest was provided behind the aisle case to receive the formerly enclosed 1907 Choir Trumpet 8’. Another chest was positioned above the Great soundboard for a new unenclosed Choir division comprising Open Diapason 8’, Octave 4’, Super Octave 2’ and Mixture III. Pipework from the Willis organ originally built in 1878 for the Yorkshire School for the Blind at King’s Manor in York was used to form the Open Diapason 8’ (with its bottom octave from the Great Open Diapason 8’) and Octave 4’ stops.

The Pedal division gained five new stops in 2004, but most of these additions were formed from original 1907 pipework. Seven independent pipes from a 10'/3’ rank were used to form an Acoustic Bass 32’ in conjunction with the Bourdon 16’ rank. The former Great Open Diapason I 8’ rank was used to create Pedal Principal 8’ and Fifteenth 4’ stops and a new Trombone 16’ unit (including a Clarion 4’ extension) was added.

Naji Hakim played the organ for its official reopening on Sunday 22 May 2005.

The organ suffered water damage during a lead theft incident in October 2011. Principal Pipe Organs repaired the instrument and swapped over its Choir and Great Mixture III stops prior to the reopening concert given by Daniel Cook on Saturday 29 September 2012.

Wood of Huddersfield electrified the Great stop action in 2018, provided a Choir Chorus on Great transfer (using the 2004 Sifflöte stophead) and converted the Pedal Clarion 4’ into a Trumpet 8’ whilst retaining its extra twelve pipes for use with the Pedal Octave coupler.

In 1907, four years after completing the York Minster Organ, J W Walker and Sons installed a new three manual and pedal instrument in the church of St Olaves, York. It was constructed with a tubular pneumatic action and placed on the North side of the Chancel with South and West facing cases. Walker restored and converted its actions to electro-pneumatic in 1978, revised the windings system and updated the console controls.

The PPOC team has just completed a programme consolidating the early work and this has included the installation of new solid state note switching and piston capture actions.

St Olave’s continues to enjoy a flourishing musical tradition enriched with organ, choral and orchestral music. We were invited to develop and expand the instrument’s tonal charmers and blend in additional colours to match the musical needs. Walker’s fine original material remains distinct but is now heard within a more comprehensive and flexible musical whole.

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