

All Saints Parish Church, Lonan



Gt: 8,8,8,4, Sw: 8,8,8,(8)4,8, Ped: 16.

The organ found in Lonan church is the surviving member of a pair of twins - the other instrument falling victim to church 're-ordering' in the Broadway Baptist Church, Douglas, where it was unceremoniously thrown into a skip.

The Lonan organ, by Albert Keates of Sheffield, was installed in the 1930s and has an all-pneumatic mechanism, aside from the manual-pedal couplers, which are mechanical. Visually, the instrument is a great success and is excellently positioned in this light, airy building. It has a simple but attractive case design, with the unique

feature of incorporating the large wooden pedal pipes into the side case display. (These pipes, like the rest of the case, are in pitchpine. They have overly long fronts and sides, to conceal their stoppers.)

Musically, the Swell Cornopean is particularly striking, all the more so, thanks to the excellent acoustics of the building. Keates used the flexibility of pneumatic action to provide the player with every possible coupler (not, perhaps, a good idea in a church which has been damp in the past, though this seems to be no longer the case) and to incorporate the most sensitive

pistons (buttons under the keys, which bring out stops in certain combinations) of any organ on the Island. Merely brushing them brings on the stops.

This instrument has always been electrically blown, with the blower sited underneath it - something of a hazard on tuning visits, as

the tuner's assistant has to crawl under the floor, through a very small pair of doors in the bottom of the case. He also used a good deal of plywood, which attracted a wood-worm infestation. This, again, is a thing of the past, and the organ is now, like so many others, reliably fulfilling its role, Sunday by Sunday.

