

Croit-e-Caley Methodist Chapel



Gt: 8,8,8,4,4 Ped: 16.

This tiny instrument bears no maker's name, but, judging from the case design, internal arrangements and level of workmanship, it certainly looks like the work of Hewitt of Leicester.

This is an instrument with character. The Principal stop runs from middle c only. Like the Open Diapason, is outside the swell-box,

but, unlike the Open Diapason (which is on the case front) there is no room around the back of the organ for any pipes larger than middle c.

The rest of the pipework is enclosed in a tiny swell-box, controlled by a trigger swell-pedal which obscures the top few notes of the straight pedalboard.



This is one of those instruments which reflects changing times, when pedals would not have been within the abilities of some organists. Consequently, the builder provided a full set of pedals which couple to the manual, but only 12 pedal pipes.

The tallest pipe in the swell-box is actually too tall to fit into it. Following a biblical precedent, the organ-builder cut a hole in the

swell-box top and allowed the longest few notes to pass through!

The blower switch is unique to any organ on the Island, consisting of a glass bulb, rather like an egg-timer, half filled with mercury. When the switch is operated, the bulb is tipped, dumping the mercury across the mains contacts (with a satisfying flash) and starting the motor.

The instrument was given a basic cleaning, by Peter Jones, in 1980, when the blower box, wind input valve and swell-box were replaced. Minor improvements have been made, as they were seen to be necessary. The organ has been stable since that time, though it would benefit from a full overhaul.

Having said this, it is yet another example of a little organ which fits its building, both visually and musically, and which continues to give good service year after year. A trial was made of an electronic some years ago.

The electronic did not last very long in a building which is basically unheated, and has been removed.



The pipe organ, now around 130 years since it was installed in the building as a second-hand instrument, has given good service, being played for the hymns and voluntaries after an estimated 7,000 services and upwards of 30,000 hymns, in addition to use in concerts etc. However, its immediate future is uncertain as the chapel has now been closed.

If you would like to see a video demonstration of the stops on the organ given by Gareth Moore, then follow this link to You Tube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=genqAyo_jHk

