

Jurby Parish Church



Gt: 8,8,8,4,4,2, Sw: 8,8,8,8,4,II,8, Ped: 16,8,8,4.

The first recorded pipe organ in St. Patrick's was built by T J Mullineux, in 1932.

The Mullineux organ was made up from second-hand components, and had 2 manuals and pedals. It was hand-blown and served the church for over 40 years by which time, probably due to conditions in the unheated building, it had become unreliable.

In 1973 an electronic organ was bought in memory of William Teare, who had been organist of the church for 37 years between 1894 and 1931, just before the Mullineux organ was installed. Presumably William Teare played a reed organ - most likely an American organ rather than a harmonium - but this is not known for certain. The electronic was the gift of William Teare's son, Thomas, and his family. It was fitted into the console of the old pipe-organ by

the simple expedient of chopping out the keys, stops and pedals of the old instrument, and sliding the new electronic one into the hole created, thus effectively destroying the pipe organ.

The electronic organ (built by Compton Edwards, a company of remarkably short duration, even for one supplying electronic organs) succumbed to the cold and damp, and became unplayable in a little over 10 years, despite (or, rather, because of) the attentions of an equally short-lived servicer of such instruments, who traded under the name, 'Nymrod Electronics'. The Compton Edwards was only one of a number of electronics to be made unplayable by Nymrod, a one-man concern, promoted at one time by one of the less scrupulous music shops in Douglas, but which,



mercifully, ceased to exist in a very short while, having created mayhem amongst some of the Island's population of electronic substitutes.

The shell of the Compton remained in situ, and another, smaller, electronic was fitted in front, but it, too, became useless in a short while and services were accompanied by a large, 19th century, Mustel reed-organ loaned to the church, at no cost, by Peter Jones, Organ Builder, of St. John's. Thus the wheel had turned full circle, and St. Patrick's was back with a harmonium, this time played by, amongst others, John Adams, a very competent player from Yorkshire, who had been organist of Andreas Parish Church, and, later, Trinity United Reformed Church, in Ramsey.

The reed organ reigned supreme, giving a trouble-free service until the United Reformed Church (formerly the Congregational Church) at Finch Hill, Douglas, had to close, due to lack of numbers.

In the mid-1960s Finch Hill Church had been given the Conacher pipe-organ from Christian Street Primitive Methodist Chapel, in Peel. At that time the organ was adapted to suit its new home by the Irish Organ Company of Belfast, who removed the original mechanical action and fitted an all-electric action with a new detached console. When the Finch Hill congregation took the decision to close they went to great lengths to place the fittings of the building in good homes. The pulpit and some of the pews, for instance, went to the Island's crematorium chapel, and some of the stained glass windows may be found in St. Matthew's Church, Douglas. In this spirit, in 1993, they made a gift of their Conacher organ to St. Patrick's, and also gave money towards the cost of its installation. The instrument was felt to be at risk in the unused building at Finch Hill, and so was duly dismantled, by Peter Jones, and stored in the the pews at Jurby until such time as St. Patrick's could raise the money to pay for

its alteration and installation.

During 1994 the organ (still in pieces in the church) was partly damaged by vandals. It was completely restored, however, altered for a second time, and fitted in its present position by Peter Jones and his assistants.

The organ stands on a new purpose-made gallery at the west end of the building. At this time, the old Mullineux organ which stood in the chancel, was removed. Its case front was fixed against the wall for a short while as an interesting part of the church's history, but was removed at the instigation of the then vicar, Revd R Geddes. The bulk of the organ had to be burned in the field

behind the church, as so little of the internal parts remained, following years in poor conditions and the final assault by the installers of the Compton Edwards electronic. Part of the old Mullineux instrument still survives, however, as Peter Jones used many of its front pipes to make a new pipe display for the organ of Crosby Methodist Church when that organ was renovated in 1996.

The new organ at St. Patrick's was re-dedicated by the Rt. Revd Noel Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man, in December 1994.

