

## St Matthew's, Douglas



**Gt: 16,8,8,8,4,4,2 2/3,2,II,8,8,4 Sw: 8,8,8,8,4,2,III,16,8 Ped: 16,16,8,8,4,2.**

This comprehensive 2-manual and pedal instrument is a favourite with visiting recitalists. Originally built in the 1920s by Earnest Wadsworth of Manchester it had a detached console and tubular pneumatic action. When this became unreliable, in the 1970s, it was decided to invest in the latest electronic instrument.

The console was destroyed, but, fortunately, the organ itself (out of reach in a gallery chamber on the south side of the building) was ignored. When the electronic eventually failed the pipe organ was renovated by Philip Wood, of Huddersfield, who provided it with an electro-pneumatic action







and a new console. The stop list was also revised with some additional stops.

In recent years further stop additions, including the pedal trombone, were made by

Peter Jones to make this instrument, with its wide selection of tone colours and comfortable, modern console, one of the most versatile organs on the Island.







In the same building is a reed-organ (a true harmonium, in that it operates under pressure, rather than the American organs, such as that at Abbeylands Methodist Chapel, which operate under suction).

This instrument was built by N L Van Gruisen, Facteur d'Orgues, Rue St Houoré, Paris. The nameplate also informs us that they had a shop at 15 Bold Street, Liverpool.

Harmoniums were often of French manufacture (as opposed to the American organs, which were usually of American or Canadian origin) and this one has a very attractive rosewood-veneered case, and an unusual transposing mechanism, in which the keyboard may be moved several notes higher or lower in pitch. Extra keys are provided, and the unused ones slide out of sight into the hollow key cheeks.

