

St Ninian's, Douglas



Gt: 8,8,8,8,4,4,2,8; Swell: 16,8,8,8,8,4,III,8,8, Pedal: 16,16,16,8.

This instrument was built by Norman and Beard Ltd. in 1915, and is similar in all essentials to its smaller counterpart at Castletown Methodist Church. This must have been one of the very last to be built before they joined with William Hill and Sons after the First World War. Its construction is on a more massive scale than is found in many of the Island's organs, using heavy framing members, thick metal and timber for the pipework, 3 sets of bellows (the main ones being some of the largest found in any instrument) and a sensitive 3-stage pneumatic action, giving very good repetition of the notes – something which the player appreciates. This is a high quality, commercial job, with no unnecessary frills, but nothing of importance neglected.

The sound of the instruments is likewise massive, the overall effect being one of

refined, smooth tones which are never shrill even at their loudest, and this is certainly an organ which can make its presence felt when need be.

A spectacular pair of oak cases was planned in the gothic style (and these plans still exist) to clothe the organ in a way which would have matched the woodwork of this





distinctive building, but these cases were never made, so the organ presents a rather austere front of grey zinc pipework on black timber support.

The bellows and pneumatic key actions have been re-leathered by Peter Jones, and the

console (which was originally up in the organ chamber) was moved to floor level many years ago, but, other than this, the instrument remains exactly as the builders left it and is a tribute to Edwardian craftsmanship.

