

# St Paul's Church, Foxdale



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

St Paul's church was built for the mining community in Foxdale in the 19th century, and the organ found there is the most dignified of all the Hewitt instruments, with a mid-oak case, simple but effective pipe display and original brass candle holders.

Tonally, it features a stop at which Hewitt excelled - the metal Stopt Diapason, with enough variety in the rest of the modestly-voiced pipework to cover all the possibilities required of an organ in a country church.

The mechanism is mechanical throughout, and features 2 single acting wooden composition pedals. These pedals, found above the pedal keyboard, bring out certain

stops which the organist might need in a hurry, enabling the player to change the sound of the organ quickly, without the need to take the hands from the keyboard. In later organs, such pedals put out the desired stops and took in those which were not needed. Such later pedals are called double acting - i.e. taking stops out and putting others in at the same time. In the Foxdale instrument, one of the pedals acts to put out a fixed number of stops without affecting those already in use. The other pedal takes these same stops back in again, also without affecting any other stops which may be drawn. Though this was an old fashioned idea, even in the 1880s when this organ would have been installed, it is not

without its usefulness, and even has some advantages over the double-acting pattern. Single acting pedals such as these are a rarity in modern times.

By the late 1970s woodworm seemed likely to finish this attractive little instrument, and the church had actually made the decision to use it until it fell apart, then replace it with an

electronic. Fortunately, they were persuaded to have it completely taken apart, cleaned, overhauled and treated for the infestation.

This work was carried out in 1979 by Peter Jones, and the instrument has performed with no trouble since.

