

St Thomas, Douglas



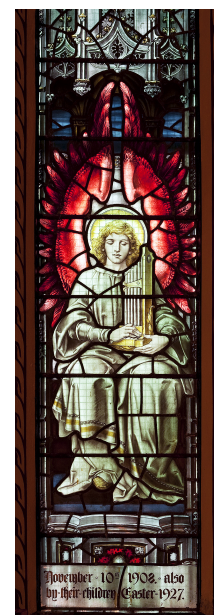
Gt: 16,8,8,8,8,4,4,2 2/3,2,IIII,8 Sw: 16,8,8,8,8,4,2,III,16,8,8 Ch: 8,8,8,8,4 Ped: (32),16,16,8.

One of only two 3-manual organs on the Island (the other being the reed-organ in Glen Maye Methodist Chapel) this is also the largest instrument, so far as numbers of pipes is concerned. Built by William Hill and Son as a 2-manual with mechanical action, this organ is actually the second one in St Thomas's and replaced a 1852 Forster and Andrews instrument, for which they allowed £120 in 1886.

Following a fire in the tower, and consequent water damage, the organ was rebuilt and enlarged by Hills as a 3-manual, with charge-pneumatic action, and re-opened in 1913. This must be one of the very last of the instruments built by William

Hill and Son before their amalgamation with the equally well-known London firm of Norman and Beard.

The wind supply is provided by a truly impressive blowing plant sited under the organ, and the hydraulic engine (which supplied mechanical blowing before the electricity supply) is also extant, though disconnected.





Repairs and cleaning have taken place down the years but the instrument remains, tonally and mechanically, as Hills left it, with the smooth, refined tone for which the firm was noted, and what may be said to be the finest case of any organ on the Island. Its poorest feature is undoubtedly the organ chamber, which is too deep and with too narrow an opening to allow the full quality of the Hill pipework to be appreciated.

Nevertheless it makes a fine sound in the building and is a favourite with visiting recitalists and Island players alike.

