

Sulby Methodist Church



Man: 8,8,4,4,2 Ped: 16.

This 5-stop instrument started its life as a chamber organ, without pedals. It was modified to be more suitable as a church organ by Forster and Andrews, and installed in Sulby in February 1887 by their workmen William Wilkinson and Bob Waterhouse (who left a statement to this effect inside the organ). Forster and Andrews added sections to the casework and provided the appropriate mechanism, so that a set of pedal pipes could be accommodated on

each side of the player. They also enlarged the scaling (ie. the relative size of the pipes) in several of the stops, with a view to making the instrument louder, and it is likely that they added the swell-box. The original case mouldings have been so skilfully matched in the additions that it seems possible that Forster and Andrews were the original builders (and therefore still had the moulding planes from which the original mouldings were formed). Though by no



means conclusive, the organ's bellows' weights are marked, 'F & A'.

The dignified, veneered case, with its dummy wooden display pipes and inlaid woods around the keyboard, is typical of an 18th century chamber organ, and the tone is sweet and mellow. The pedal-board is non-standard in its size and compass, by modern standards, and even the shape and size of the keys presents something of a challenge to the modern player. The hand-blowing gear is still in place, and written on some of the less accessible parts of the case and pipes are some of the names of former blowers, including the possibly unique inscription in memory of a Mr Kneale, who died 'hanging from a tree', in the early 1900s.

The organ was given a basic cleaning and woodworm treatment, by Peter Jones, in 1997, when the shutters of the swell-box were taken out to allow a better opening for the sound.

