

BIOS CERTIFICATE

THE ORGAN was awarded a Grade 2* Historic Organ Certificate by the British Institute of Organ Studies, the second highest grade of certificate awarded. The Grade 2* Certificate is awarded to Organs which are good representatives of the work of their builder, in substantially original condition. Why not a Grade 1 Certificate? Organist and Choirmaster Graeme Finnie explains: "Since my arrival at Galston in 2010, as your organist and director of music, it has given me great pleasure in providing you, the congregation, Sunday by Sunday, a diet of liturgical music inspired by the church's outstanding Binn's Organ. an instrument with a wealth of power, voicing of great clarity and colour. Therefore, owing to this, I had no hesitation in my mind that the Organ would receive a heritage certificate from SHOT (Scottish Historic Organ Trust) on behalf of the British Institute of Organ Studies. I feel that I should clarify that the decision to give the award at Grade 2* level was made, not on the instrument's outstanding musical worth, but purely on a minor alteration (non specification) to a lead tube many years ago, which was changed to a plastic tube, a small but important detail at the time.. "As mentioned earlier, your Organ is most outstanding, and stands in Galston Parish Church today, resplendent, with unaltered JJ Binns specification."



CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

SONGS OF PRAISE: A memorable Songs of Praise was held to commemorate the Centenary of our magnificent JJ Binns 3-Manual Pipe Organ on Sunday, 10th February, 2013 at 11am.

"It is a long time since I have been so moved like that in our sanctuary" was how one member of the congregation described the experience. Led by our Locum, Rev. Alastair Symington, and Organist and Choirmaster, Graeme Finnie and the Church Choir, the service was, indeed, one to remember. A brass ensemble from Newmilns and Galston Band added to the occasion - Douglas Cameron and Phillippa McDougall (cornet), Lauren Dale (horn), Chris Dale (tuba) and Jane-Anne Cameron (baritone) delighted with various pieces including *The Irish Blessing*. International mezzo-soprano Linda Finnie sang *We Cannot Measure* and *Take This Moment* with the choir singing *Holy Holy Holy* and *Let all the World*. David Gray read the Bible Lessons and the congregation had seven hymns to sing and were in fine voice! Graeme Finnie, who organised the whole event, as always used the organ to full advantage. *From Kirk News No. 147 (May 2013).*

ORGAN RECITAL

A CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL by International Organist IAN HARE will be held in the Church on Saturday, 19th October at 7pm.

A FESTIVAL OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC will be held in the Church on Sunday, 15th December at 11am

SPECIFICATION

GREAT ORGAN		
1 Bourdon	16 feet	61 pipes
2 Large Open Diapson	8 feet	61 pipes
3 Small Open Diapson	8 feet	61 pipes
4 Hohl Flute	8 feet	61 pipes
5 Harmonic Flute	4 feet	61 pipes
6 Principal	4 feet	61 pipes
7 Twelfth	2 2/3 feet	61 pipes
8 Fifteenth	2 feet	61 pipes
9 Trumpet	8 feet	61 pipes

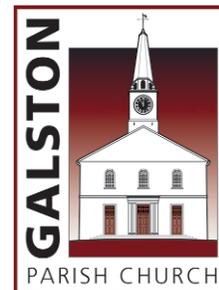
SWELL ORGAN		
1 Geigen Principal	8 feet	61 pipes
2 Rohr Flute	8 feet	61 pipes
3 Viol d'Orchestre	8 feet	61 pipes
4 Vox Angelica	8 feet	61 pipes
5 Celeste	8 feet	61 pipes
6 Salicet	4 feet	61 pipes
7 Mixture	3 racks	183 pipes
8 Cornopean	8 feet	61 pipes
9 Oboe	8 feet	61 pipes

CHOIR ORGAN		
1 Salcional	8 feet	61 pipes
2 Leiblich Gedact	8 feet	61 pipes
3 Dolce	8 feet	49
4 Flauto Traverso	4 feet	pipes
5 Piccolo	2 feet	61 pipes
6 Clarionet	8 feet	*61 pipes

**Enclosed in a separate swell box*

PEDAL ORGAN		
1 Harmonic Base	32 feet	30 notes
2 Open Diapson	16 feet	30 pipes
3 Sub Bass	16 feet	30 pipes
4 Octave 18 from no. 2	8 feet	12 pipes
5 Flute 18 from no. 3	8 feet	12 pipes

COUPLERS		ACCESSORIES	
1 Swell to Great	Four combination pedals	to Great Organ acting symmetrically on the Pedal Organ.	
2 Swell to Choir			
3 Choir to Great			
4 Swell Sub-octave			
5 Swell Octave	Four combination pedals	to Swell Organ, all double acting and fitted with builder's patent percussions.	
6 Swell to Great Sub-octave			
7 Swell to Great Octave			
8 Great to Pedal			
9 Swell to Pedal			
10 Choir to Pedal	Balanced crescendo pedal to Swell Organ		
11 Tremulant to Swell	Balanced crescendo pedal to Choir Organ.		
12 Tremulant to Choir			



Charity No. SCO 10370

JJ BINNS ORGAN

1913-2013



*Extracted from
Growing Together in Faith: History of
Galston Parish Church 1909
By Irene Hopkins*

More information about Galston Parish Church can be found at www.kirknews.org.uk

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

By 1909 only the Drumclog Original Secession Church in Darvel and the Parish Church in Galston in all of the Irvine Valley had not installed an organ. The Evangelical Union Church in Galston had led the way in 1884 when it had introduced a Mason & Hamlin Organ. There were many who were opposed to this innovation in religious worship, fearing that it would lead to "glorification of music over the true ends of the sanctuary." As a writer in the Galston Supplement & Advertiser wrote in February 1913 "The Scottish religious nature goes too deep to be satisfied with a sensual gratification usurping the place of the spiritual and eternal in their religious life. On the other hand there cannot be the slightest doubt that the introduction of the musical instrument has been of immense value in enlarging the scope of our praise service and increasing its enjoyment. It is questionable if we have any better choir now than we had thirty years ago, but the lack of instrumental aid handicapped both the choir in getting up new music and the congregation in getting hold of it." We may not know just how the Kirk Session of Galston Parish Church felt or what their views were in the debate over a "kist o whistles" in the church but their arm was forced when in January 1910, Mr. Alexander Young, Precentor of the church for thirty-six years, decided to retire.

The Moderator, Mr. Hogg, intimated the news to the Session and a suggestion was put forward that they should consider the question of installing an organ. We know from the minute book that Messrs. John Littlejohn, cashier, David Richardson, miner, Robert Blair, banker, William Donald, farmer, John Hendrie, banker, J.A.Yeudall, joiner, John Stewart, tailor, Alexander Laidlaw, clothier, James Livingstone, miner and Robert Muir, gas manager were present as well as Mr. Hogg the Moderator. What we may not know is how fast and furious the discussion was and who were for and who against, as assuredly some must have been. The dusty words "it was decided to call a special meeting of the congregation on 16th February 1910 to further discuss the matter and leaflets explaining the circumstances would be distributed" gives us no clue as to the debate which had ensued. Obviously there were enough supporters to warrant carrying the matter further but not enough to put it to the congregation as a fait accompli. The special meeting duly took place, presided over by the Rev. Mr. Hogg. I wonder how many attended and if it was a discussion of fire and passion or a tame acceptance of the inevitable. Whatever rhetoric the meeting produced the outcome was a decision to appoint a committee to go into the whole matter and to report to a future meeting of the congregation.

It has not been noted who were appointed to that committee only that their "names were laid on the table." However later snippets mention Mr. Guthrie, solicitor, Mr. Peden and Mr. Sam Farrell, all of whom sang in the choir and were musically knowledgeable. They obviously had an enormous task and were no doubt ably assisted by an enthusiastic group for it would have been foolishness to appoint any to the committee who were opposed to instrumental aid in the worship. The minutes only give scappy information as to how they were progressing; memos such as "the Session were satisfied to learn that they would get a larger Session House," "subscriptions were well up to date", "the Session considered the probable cost of the installation of an organ". Then on 10th May 1911 there is a notice of another congregational meeting in the church. Mr. James Guthrie, Convenor of the organ committee, reported that £1,300 for the proposed chancel with organ chamber and re-arrangement of the Session House had now been subscribed and that only the cost of the pipe organ amounting to

£800 or £900 was still to be raised. Praise must be accorded to the committee. From Galston Parish they had raised a large amount of money in less than fifteen months. When this is translated into today's standard we can only wonder at their acumen and talents. After several questions had been asked and satisfactorily answered, it was decided that the proposed chancel and organ installation be proceeded with and a large committee, consisting of the minister, eighteen elders and fourteen church members with Mr. Guthrie as Convenor was appointed to carry out the motion and to raise the necessary monies still required. Again there is a gap of about a year before any more mention is made of the organ and its installation. However in June of 1912 Mr. Hogg reported to the Session that only £120 remained to be found. That announcement was superseded the following month when on 16th July a letter from Mr. Bertram, secretary of the Carnegie Corporation, was read. In it he intimated that the Corporation would be glad to provide half the cost of an organ for the church, at the price of £1,000, and stating conditions attached. Needless to say the Kirk Session was only too pleased to accept the £500, conditions and all. A letter was drawn up to reply forthwith to Mr. Bertram at the Carnegie Corporation in New York thanking him for authorising the grant. Andrew Carnegie, born in Dunfermline, had gone to America and "made good" in steel. He became a noted philanthropist giving many donations to install organs and fund libraries back home in his native Scotland. Galston is indeed fortunate to have a Carnegie organ and all thanks must be due to the person or persons in 1910 who first thought of applying to the Corporation. We do not know what the conditions were but we do know that an order for a three manual pipe organ was immediately placed with J.J. Binns, Leeds. Final cost of the organ and installation was £922. 5/6 with £41 5/- going in professional fees to Mr. Stephen.

By the 15th November 1912 arrangements were being made for a special service to inaugurate the installation of the organ. It was to be held on Wednesday, 12th February 1913 and Dr. Dill of Alloway, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland would preach the sermon and David Stephen Esq., Director of Music to the Carnegie Trust, Dunfermline, would give a short organ recital to show the congregation what musical powers the organ had. The Session Clerk was to write to J. & J. Binns informing them of the chosen date and urging them to have the organ ready for the occasion. The Moderator undertook to speak to Mr. Young, the Precentor, who had continued in that position until such times as the organ was ready, to inform him that he was now able to take his long overdue retirement when he wished. It was also agreed to place an advertisement in the Glasgow Herald for an organist to take up duties around the middle of January. Mr. Stephen of Dunfermline was to be asked to test the musical abilities and qualifications of the applicants and to make up a short list of no more than five in order of merit. They were indeed optimistic as to the attraction of the position, but their optimism was well founded as they received ten applications. However more of the organists in another chapter, suffice to say the first organist was Mr. Sidney Warnes of Closeburn.

Several small, and some not so small, ends were left to be tied up. Invitations were to be issued to local ministers. A suitable praise list needed to be drawn up in consultation with the moderator. An organ fund had to be set up to cover future expenses and to that end a sale of work was held which raised £20. The organ and extension fund still had a deficit of £200 and Mr. Hendrie was instructed to approach those subscribers who had not yet remitted their promised donation. But more importantly than all of these was a letter to the Town Council

applying for a supply of water for the hydraulic motor of the organ. This was granted at the cost of £2 per year. It was also necessary to provide some method of preventing sand and sludge from entering the motor and the advice of J. & J. Binns was sought. Messrs. Watkins & Watson of 16 White Lion Lane, Islington recommended the use of a strainer set in an accessible position so that it could be readily cleaned. This would cost £2 10/- . It was also decided to insure the organ for £1,000 and to arrange for its tuning three times a year by J. & J. Binns at an annual cost of £5. Mr. Stephens had charged £41 5/- for his assistance in setting up the organ and hearing the applicants for the position of organist and all accounts had been received from contractors.

Finally all was done and the whole project had come to fruition. The organ was built in three weeks into the organ chamber on the north side of the chancel. It was a three manual pipe organ encased in unstained oak panelling with silverised pipes. It had a dignified and impressive appearance and most thought it added greatly to the beauty of the church.

All was ready for the opening ceremony. At 7.p.m. on the 12th February 1913 it commenced. An account written at the time tells us that it was a momentous occasion and almost the entire sitting accommodation was occupied. The minister of Galston Parish Church, the Rev. James Allan Hogg, presided and Dr. S. Marcus Dill M.A. D.D., Moderator of the Church of Scotland was the special guest. Other ministers attending were Rev. George S. Hendrie M.A., Dalmellington, Rev. Hamilton Moore M.A., Loudoun Parish Church, Rev. A. J. Forrest B.D., Erskine U.F. Church, Rev. J. G. Sutherland B.D., Trinity U. F. Church and the Rev. J. Lyle Rodger, Congregational Church. They and the Kirk Session occupied the seats in the chancel. The service opened with the 100th Psalm to the tune The Old Hundredth, the deep rich tones of the organ adding lustre to the full voiced praise of the choir and congregation. The other singings were Psalm 122, Hymn 205 and Hymn 371. The readings were from Isaiah, chap. 9 and John 14 read by the Rev. A. J. Forrest while the Rev. George Hendrie led the prayers. The sermon was preached by Dr. Dill. He used the text from Romans 15 verse 13 "that ye may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost." At the end of his discourse Dr. Dill said that he had come here tonight to rejoice with the minister, the elders and the members of the congregation on the occasion of the re-opening of this improved church and the provision of this excellent organ. He most heartily congratulated them on what they had so well accomplished. Churches must at times be renovated, we should never allow our church to be in a worse condition than our home. He realised a considerable sum had been spent, for these things cannot be done for nothing and £2,800 must have seemed an impossible target to reach. But all things are possible with faith and the elders and the congregation should look with satisfaction on the outcome. The church had a long and honourable past and now we build for future generations. He concluded by asking them to remember that Jesus Christ was the same amidst all changes and to go forward in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. Immediately after the service Mr. Stephen, who had assisted from the beginning in the choice and installation of the organ, gave a recital. He chose works that would show off the capabilities of the organ. He made use of a variety of stops and ably demonstrated the changes in light and tone, softness and swelling thunder of the instrument. The recital consisted of four works:- Overture to the Occasional Oratorio by Handel; Sonata in D no.5 by Mendelssohn; In the Garden from Rustic World by Goldmark and Overture to Oberon by Weber.