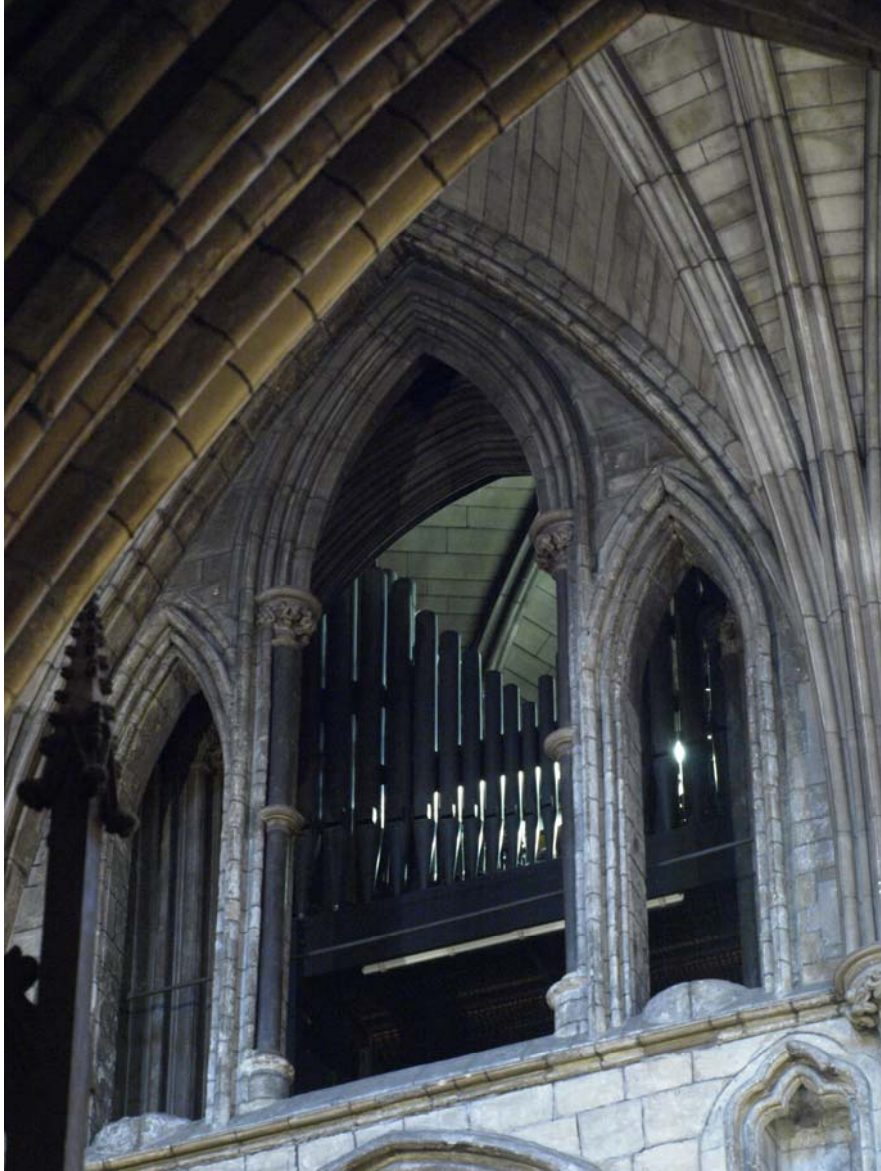


Dean's Annual Gift Day



Saturday 6 June 2009

The Dean Writes

In 2007 the Dean's gift day raised money to help with the restoration of the Cathedral's Minot Tower, with a particular focus on work in the belfry. This work has now been completed at a cost of over €1,200,000 and has been much admired.

It is now more than 25 years since Dean Griffin instituted the concept of the Dean's Annual Gift Day, and in that time a huge sum has been raised to be invested in projects related to the conservation of the Cathedral's fabric. All donations, large or small, are greatly appreciated and are used to the long-term benefit of the Cathedral.

Last year I asked your help for work in the Lady Chapel and I hope that this will be addressed later this year.

This year I am appealing for work on the organ which was not included in the 1995 restoration. There are three things needing attention:

1. The playing action to be replaced throughout the organ.
2. The restoration of the wind system.
3. The upgrading of the solid state key action transmission system.

All this will cost in the region of €70,000. The organ, the work of Henry Willis, is the largest in Ireland and dates from 1902 when it was the gift of Lord Iveagh. It beholds us to keep it playing in good order.

I will be present in the Cathedral from 10.30 – 11.30 and from 14.30 – 15.30 on the day to receive donations in person. If you are unable to attend, but still feel that you would like to make a donation, then please send a cheque made payable to "Saint Patrick's Cathedral" to the Cathedral Office.

Many thanks for your continued support of Saint Patrick's.



Robert MacCarthy
Dean

The Programme of Work

The organ has been played for several hours every day ever since it was installed in 1902 – more than ten times the usage of a typical parish church organ.

After over a century of such intensive use, it is hardly surprising that many of the organ's working parts are in need of serious overhaul attention.

In recent years a phased programme of repairs and renewals has been initiated, and this is devised in such a way as not to interfere with the essential use of the organ in accompaniment of the ongoing daily Cathedral services.

The restoration programme commenced in 2005 with the most urgent item: the replacement and upgrading of the electric blowing plant. The organ was originally blown by water power, but electric fans were introduced in 1909. The new blowing plant not only provides more than enough wind for sustained playing on full organ, but uses only two-thirds of the electrical power formerly required.

Since 2006 the wind distribution system within the organ has been overhauled, including re-leathering of some eleven bellows (the average parish church organ has only one). Repairs and renewals of the

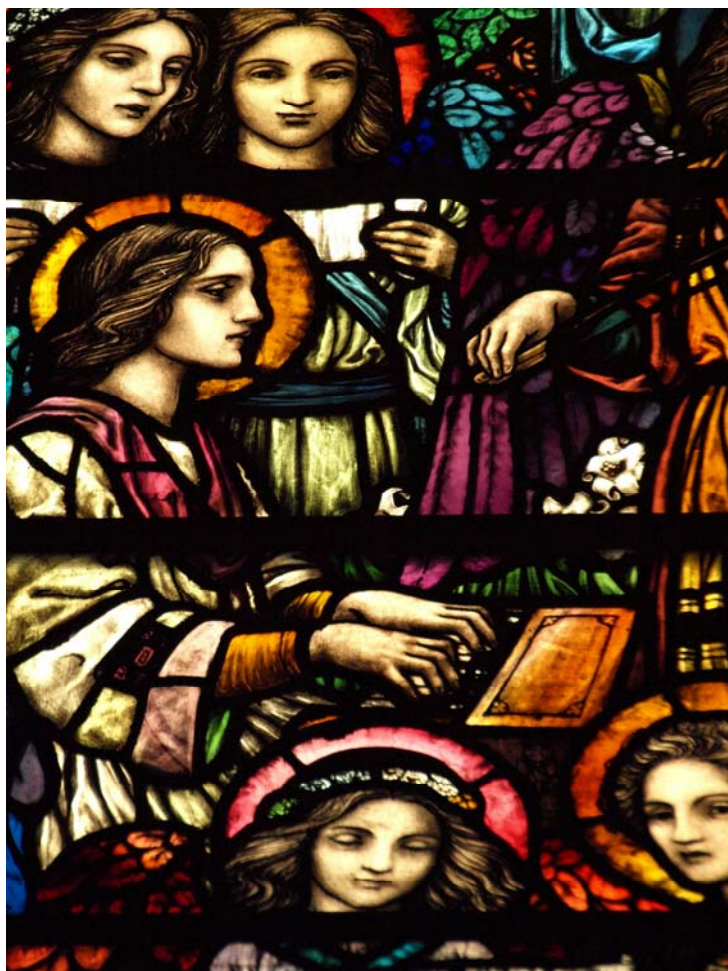
electropneumatic action have also been in progress. At this point in time the actions of the main Choir, Great and Pedal soundboards have been renovated, and work on the Swell and Solo actions is contemplated over the coming year.



Also in hand, and due for completion this summer, is the upgrading and rewiring of the electrical transmission system (which relays signals from the keyboards and stops to the magnets operating the action at the soundboards).

Later work will include the overhaul of the various soundboards and windchests on which the pipes stand, and ultimately the cleaning and regulation of the many hundreds of reed pipes which constitute the crowning glory of this organ.

Trevor. Crowe (2009)
Trevor Crowe Ltd, Organ Builders



*Detail from the Dobbin Window, South Choir Aisle
(An Túr Gloine, 1909)*

Saint Patrick's Cathedral is a registered Charity: CHY848

Dean's Annual Gift Day
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