

By 1897, the Samuel Green organ was considered very old-fashioned, with its outmoded key compass. The absence of a Pedal organ made it almost impossible to play music by Bach. The instrument was rebuilt by Peter Conacher of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, with a Pedal organ department, a new console, new soundboards and new key and stop action. To make space for Pedal organ pipes, tubular pneumatic action was fitted to the Pedal organ and the Choir organ was moved out to a new case, projecting into the chancel and above the console. This was an architectural disaster; its Victorian Gothic design clashing with Wyatt's case of 100 years earlier and spoiling the symmetry of the chancel. The silver-colour front pipes also clashed with the gilded pipes of the original case.



The projecting Choir organ case removed in 1969



2021 Stop-list

Reconstructed by Stephen & Edward Cooke

Great organ

Compass CC-a 58 notes

Open Diapason *	8
Open Diapason *	8
Stopped Diapason *	8
Principal *	4
Harmonic Flute	4
Twelfth *	2 ^{2/3}
Fifteenth *	2
Sesquialtera *	III
Old Fourniture *	III
Trumpet	8

Choir organ

Compass CC-a 58 notes

Rohr Flute	8
Dulciana *	8
Principal *	4
Flute *	4
Fifteenth *	2
Bassoon *	8

Asterisk * denotes original Green pipes incorporated
Pitch: C = 523 at 15⁰ C

Swell organ

Compass CC - a 58 notes

Lieblich Bourdon	16
Open Diapason *	8
Rohr Gedeckt *	8
Dulciana *	8
Vox Angelica (tenor C)	8
Principal *	4
Flute Ouverte	4
Block Flute	2
Cornet *	III
Contra Fagotto (2021)	16
Cornoepan	8
Hautboy	8
Cremona	4
Tremulant	

Pedal organ

Compass CCC - f 30 notes

Open Diapason	16
Violone *	16
Bourdon	16
Principal (2021)	8
Bass Flute *	8
Trombone (2021)	16

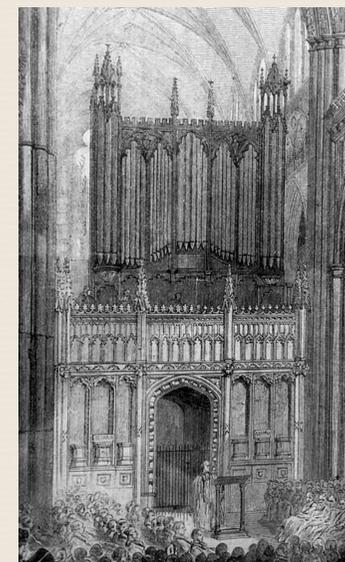
Couplers

Great to Pedal
Swell to Pedal
Choir to Pedal
Swell to Great
Choir to Great
Swell to Choir

Wind pressures: Great & Pedal 89 mm, Swell 80 mm, Choir 70mm.
The initial design was by the late David Coram. John Norman was organ consultant on the project and also prepared this brochure

St Thomas's Church Salisbury

The Organ 1792-2021



The Samuel Green organ on the former screen in Salisbury Cathedral

In 1792 King George III gave Salisbury Cathedral a new organ, made by Samuel Green. It replaced a 1710 instrument by Renatus Harris. Green was paid 1000 guineas (£1050) plus the old organ (which he sold on to a church in Cornwall). The organ was placed, like its predecessor, on a pulpitum screen separating the nave from the choir. The Renaissance style of the case of the Harris organ had fallen out of favour, so the Samuel Green instrument was provided with a Gothic-style case, probably designed by the celebrated James Wyatt (architect to the King).

1792 Samuel Green original stop-list

(as recorded by Henry Leffler c.1800)

Great organ

compass FFF - e 59 notes
(FFF sharp omitted)

Open Diapason	8
Open Diapason	8
Stop Diapason	8
Principal	4
Twelfth	2 ^{2/3}
Fifteenth	2
Sexquialtra	III
Furniture	II
Cornet	IV
Trumpet	8

Swell organ

compass Tenor F - e 36 notes

Open Diapason	8
Stop Diapason	8
Dulciana (Tenor C)	8
Principal	4
Cornet	III
Trumpet	8
Hautboy	8

Choir organ

compass FFF - e 59 notes

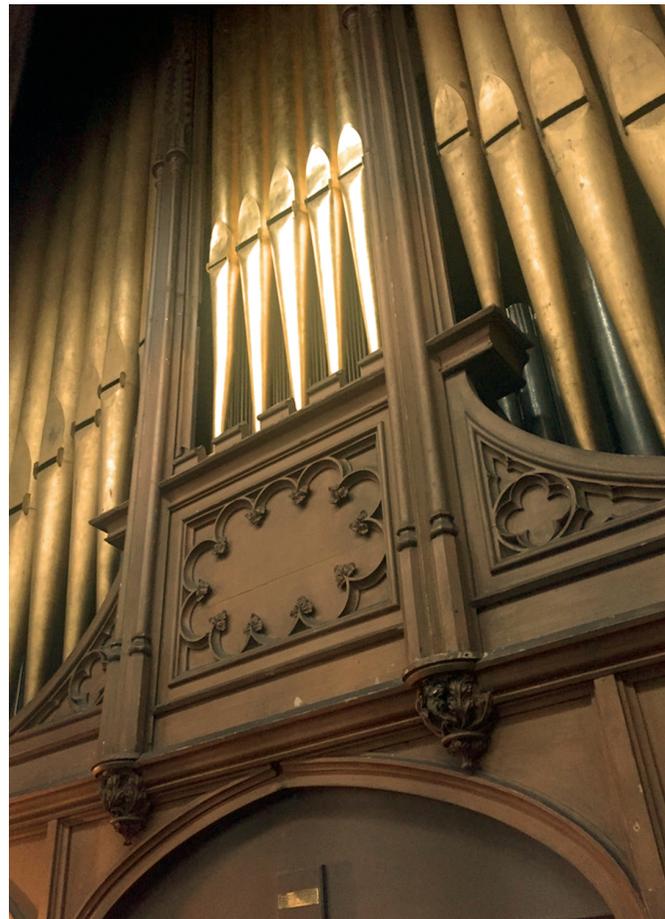
Stop Diapason	8
Dulciana (Tenor C)	8
Principal	4
Flute	4
Fifteenth	2
Bassoon	8

Pedal Keys

compass FFF - ten C

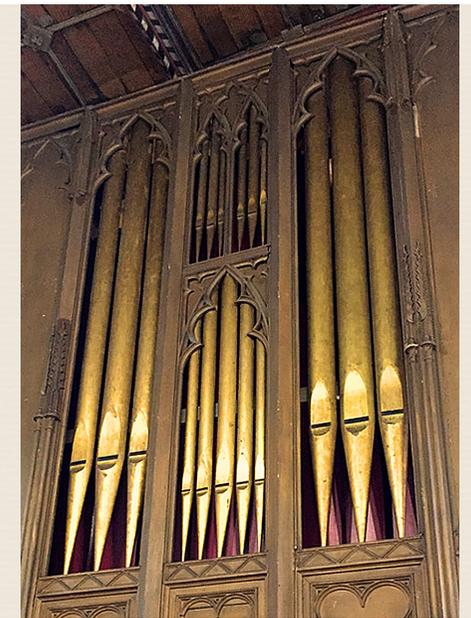
19 notes only- no pipes
Pedal keys permanently
coupled to Great organ
No other couplers

Pulpitum screens in cathedrals fell from fashion in the 1870s and it was decided to remove the screen to open up a full-length view of the building. Henry Willis was engaged to provide a new organ, divided either side of the Choir (made possible by Willis's newly-invented pneumatic action, as first used in St Paul's Cathedral, London, four years earlier). The Samuel Green organ was now surplus and, together with its Wyatt case, was given by the Dean and Chapter to St Thomas's church in 1876. Hill & Son were paid £600 to move it to its present position in St Thomas's. The pinnacles on the top of the case had, sadly, to be omitted for lack of height.



South-facing front of the Samuel Green case as restored in 1969

The instrument was in need of repairs by 1969, when the organ was conservatively rebuilt by Hill Norman & Beard. The Choir organ was moved back into the main case and the missing parts of the original case re-created together with some new reproduction Green gilded front pipes. To make sufficient space, the action of the Pedal organ was changed to electro-pneumatic operation.



East-facing side of the Samuel Green case

The mechanism of the organ having become unreliable, the organ has now been restored by Stephen and Edward Cooke. To fit everything in the case, the wind supply system has been redesigned with new wind trunks with Lewis-type 'concertina' connections. The wind supply to the Choir Organ has been revised, the Conacher bellows modified and re-leathered and the electric blower rebuilt by James Richardson-Jones. The manual soundboards have been re-engineered and the Pedal organ soundboards replaced, with new mechanical tracker key and coupler action throughout. The stop-list has been redesigned to correspond more closely with Samuel Green's original musical style.

Sadly, Stephen Cooke was killed in a motor accident just before the work was completed and final adjustments have been made by his son Edward Cooke, with final voicing by Joost de Boer.