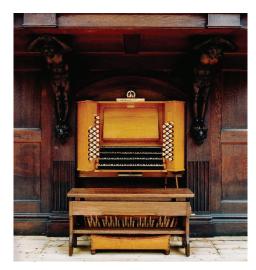
## **READING TOWN HALL**



The organ was built by Henry Willis in 1864 for the old Town Hall, which dates from 1785. Additional buildings, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, were erected in front of the small Hall in 1876. The present large Hall was added in 1882, to a design by Thomas Lainson in harmony with the Waterhouse building; the Art Gallery and Reading Room completed this impressive group of municipal buildings in 1894.



The organ was rebuilt by Willis for the new Hall in 1882, with magnificent casework designed by Thomas Lainson jnr, and new front pipes of tin. The Solo Organ and several other stops (shown by an asterisk in the specification) were new at that time, the old Solo Organ becoming the new Choir Organ.

During the twentieth century the only changes made to the organ were the installation of electric blowing, probably in the 1920s; the lowering of the pitch in 1947; and the introduction of a balanced swell pedal in 1964.

In 1999 Harrison & Harrison comprehensively restored the organ; the work included reinstatement of the original sharp pitch (c = 540Hz) and lever swell pedal, thus returning the organ to its 1882 form

## THE FATHER WILLIS ORGAN

1864 and 1882

RESTORED BY

HARRISON & HARRISON 1999

## **READING TOWN HALL**

PEDAL ORGAN		SWELL ORGAN		
1. Open Diapason	(wood) 16	24. Do	ouble Diapason	16
* 2. Violone	16	25. Op	pen Diapason	8
3. Bourdon	16		opped Diapason	8
4. Principal	8		incipal	4
* 5. Ophicleide	16	28. Pic	ccolo	2
		29. Se	squialtera 17.19.22	
CHOIR ORGAN			ornopean	8
6. Lieblich Gedact	8		autboy	8
* 7. Viol d'Amore	8		ox Humana	8
8. Salcional	8	33. Cl	arion	4
9. Flûte Harmonique	4			
10. Piccolo Harmonique	2		SOLO ORGAN	
11. Corno di Bassetto	8			
12. Oboe	8	_	ohl Flute	8
12. 0000	v		oncert Flute	4
CDEAT OD CAL	\.T		chestral Oboe	8
GREAT ORGAN	N	* 37. Tu	iba	8
* 13. Double Diapason	16			
<ol><li>Open Diapason</li></ol>	8			
* 15. Open Diapason	8	COUPLERS		
16. Claribel Flute	8			
17. Principal	4	Choir to P Great to P		
18. Flûte Harmonique	4	Swell to P		e (to Great)
19. Twelfth	3	Solo to Pe		'
20. Fifteenth	2	Solo to Gr	eat	
21. Mixture 17.19.2				
22. Posaune	8	ACCESSORIES		
* 23. Clarion	4			
The estimate we have a serial solid ways of		Four composition pedals to Pedal and Great Three composition pedals to Swell		
The actions are mechanical, with pneumatic lever to the Great Organ and pneumatic		Reversible pedal to <i>Great to Pedals</i>		
level to the Oreat Organ and pheumane		Swell Tremulant (foot lever)		

THE FATHER WILLIS ORGAN 1864 and 1882

assistance to the Pedal Open Diapason.

Manual compass 58 notes; Pedal 30 notes

Swell Tremulant (foot lever)

\* Stops dating from 1882

Lever swell pedal

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