

St. David's Presbyterian Church, North East Valley

The site of St. David's Presbyterian Church was purchased in 1883 for £500, with a £300 donation being made by Robert Glendining (a leading Dunedin merchant).¹ The building was designed by James Hislop, and cost almost £1,500 to build, the builder being Thomas Newton.² The foundation stone was laid on 15 November 1884 by the Revd Dr Salmond,³ and the building opened on 10 May 1885. It is built of brick with Oamaru stone facings and a slate roof, and originally seated 350.⁴ The nave was designed to be enlarged, but it was not until June 1912 that the nave was extended towards North East Valley Road, providing a large classroom space underneath. Above the extended nave, a gallery was built to bring the seating capacity to 670. The spire was also built at this time.⁵ Major interior modifications were done in the mid-1970.⁶



ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, NORTH EAST VALLEY (PETER STOCKWELL 2016)

On 10 March 1913, the Deacon's Court of the North-East Valley Presbyterian Church signed a contract with N. T. Pearce for a two manual and pedal instrument, with a detached console sited in front of the organ.⁷ This was opened on 24 July 1914 with an organ concert by Jesse Timson, Organist of First Church, Dunedin).⁸

GREAT			SWELL		
Open Diapason	8		Violin Diapason	8	
Claribel Flute	8		Rohr Flute	8	
Dulciana	8		Gamba	8	
Principal	4		Voix Celeste	8	TC
Wald Flute	4		Gemshorn	4	
Clarinet	8		Cornopean	8	
			Oboe	8	
PEDAL			Tremulant		
Bourdon	16	A			
Bass Flute	8	A			

ACCESORIES

Two composition pedals to Great
Two composition pedals to Swell
Balanced swell pedal

Compass: 58/30

Action: Tubular-pneumatic

COUPLERS

Swell Octave
Swell to Great
Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal



ST DAVID'S CHURCH, NORTH EAST VALLEY (C. T. TEMPLETON 2016)

This instrument was built by Nicholson & Lord of Walsall, England and was job number 914. This would seem to be at least the fifth confirmed Nicholson & Lord instrument that Pearce imported under his own name,⁹ as well as soundboards and pipework for two other organ enlargements.

The instrument was originally powered by a water motor, and in 1932 owing to water restrictions, the feeders had to be pumped manually. In 1960 an electric blower was fitted to the instrument and in 1964 the action of the instrument was converted to electro-pneumatic by Bert Hayman (ex HN&B). In 1973 the console was moved from its position in front of the case to the northern transept.⁶



ST DAVID'S CHURCH, NORTH EAST VALLEY (C. T. TEMPLETON 2016)

GREAT			PEDAL		
Open Diapason	8		Bourdon	16	A
Claribel Flute	8		Bass Flute	8	A
Dulciana	8		COUPLERS		
Principal	4		Swell Octave		
Wald Flute	4		Swell Sub Octave		
Clarionet	8		Swell Octave to Great		
			Swell to Great		
SWELL			Swell Sub Octave to Great		
Violin Diapason	8		Great Octave		
Rohr Flute	8		Swell to Pedal		
Gamba	8		Great to Pedal		
Voix Celeste	8	TC			
Gemshorn	4		ACCESSORIES		
Cornopean	8		Three Swell thumb pistons		
Oboe	8		Three Great thumb pistons		
Tremulant			Three Swell toe pistons		
			Three Great toe pistons		
			Balanced swell pedal		
Compass: 58/30					
Electro-pneumatic action					

- 1 *North-East Valley Presbyterian Church Jubilee 1882 - 1932 Souvenir Booklet*, p 2
- 2 Knight, Hardwicke, *Church Buildings in Otago*. (Dunedin: University of Otago, 1993), p.62
- 3 *Papers Past - Otago Daily Times*, 15 November 1884, p.3
- 4 *Papers Past - Otago Daily Times*, 6 May 1885, p.3. Reading this newspaper article shows that it couldn't be an authentic Presbyterian Church as "the pews are large and comfortable."
- 5 *Presbyterians in North East Valley 1882 - 1982* (Dunedin: St David's Presbyterian Church, 1982), p.5
- 6 Croot, Charles. ed. & White, Helen Watson, *Dunedin Churches Past and Present* (Dunedin: Otago Settlers Association, 1999), pp.130-131
- 7 Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand Archives Research Centre - North-East Valley Presbyterian Deacon's Court Organ file - Organ Contract
- 8 *Presbyterians in North East Valley*, op.cit., p.37
- 9 The earlier ones being:
 St Stephen's Anglican Church, Lincoln 1908
 Central Methodist Mission Hall, Dunedin, 1913 - opus 727
 Bank Street Methodist Church, Timaru, 1913 - opus 746
 Wesley Methodist Church, Hastings, 1913