

## St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Lincoln



ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, LINCOLN (C.T. TEMPLETON 2016)

St. Stephen's church building was designed by Benjamin Woolfield Mountfort and opened in September 1877, with the transepts added in 1886.<sup>1</sup>

The organ is one of the Carnegie organs in New Zealand, with Andrew Carnegie donating £75, once the balance for the instrument was collected.<sup>2</sup>

An instrument was ordered from N. T. Pearce of Christchurch in 1907, and it was installed in the north transept in 1908 and dedicated by the Bishop on Friday 4 September 1908. The instrument itself extended beyond the north transept, into the crossing, necessitating the moving of the pulpit to the south side.<sup>3</sup> Two stops were prepared for, the Voix Celeste 8 and the Fifteenth 2. These were added in November 1911.<sup>4</sup> An electric blower was installed in 1923.

In the 1930s, the organ tuners were fighting a losing battle with rat infestation causing action problems and cyphers, and an amateur retuning what pipes could be reached from the front - putting the organ so far out of tune that even the vicar noticed.<sup>5</sup>

The organ was dismantled in 1999 in preparation for the building to be replaced, however some last minute rethinking saw the church repaired and extended (both the nave and the transepts being enlarged). The organ meanwhile was being restored by a group from the Christchurch Organists' Association under the supervision of John Dodgshun, with pipework and tonal finishing being done by the South Island Organ Company. The casework was French polished by a local retired cabinetmaker - Bruce Switala.<sup>6</sup>

The basis of the organ appears to be Nicholson and Lord, with Pearce building the casework of the instrument, and providing the bellows weights.



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#### GREAT

Open Diapason	8	unenclosed	PEDAL	
Lieblich Gedact	8		Bourdon	16
Salicional	8	TC	Manual to Pedal	
Voix Celeste	8	TC		
Principal	4		Lever swell pedal	
Wald Flute	4			
Fifteenth	2			

Compass: 58/30

Mechanical manual action,

Tubular-pneumatic Pedal action

All enclosed except Open Diapason 8 and Bourdon 16

- 1 Lochhead, Ian, *A dream of spires: Benjamin Mountfort and the Gothic Revival* (Christchurch: Canterbury University Press, 1999), p. 189
- 2 St. Stephen's Church Lincoln Historical Notes - Christchurch Diocesan Archives
- 3 *The New Zealand Church News*, September 1908, p.14
- 4 Ibid., December 1911, p.11
- 5 SIOC Archives HNB Collection N.042, F.006
- 6 Dodgshun, John. *The organ in St. Stephen's Lincoln*