

Trinity Church, Darfield



TRINITY CHURCH, DARFIELD (C. T. TEMPLETON 2016)

*The present church was dedicated in 1986 following a decision by the three congregations, Anglican, Methodist & Presbyterian, to amalgamate. The aptly named Trinity Church is now governed by an oversight committee comprising members from all three denominations. It is an amicable partnership. The individual buildings were in need of much restoration and sadly, they were demolished. A Miller electronic instrument was installed but this proved to be quite unsatisfactory and unreliable. Hugh Stevenson, a member of the Anglican congregation and one of the organists, sowed the seed for obtaining a pipe organ and after much looking, found the present instrument. It is an Arthur A. Hobday instrument built in 1914 for the Wesley Methodist Church in Masterton and opened on there on 18 December of that year.¹ Provision was made for a Harmonic Flute 4 on the Great organ which was installed later following fund raising by the choir.

The church closed around 1975 and the building was bought by the local drama group. They shifted it across Masterton and the organ was never heard again. In 1990 they decided that the space occupied by the organ would be useful so it was put up for sale. Hugh Stevenson and John Dodshun went to inspect the organ and decided that it would be suitable for Darfield. George Sanders, George Croft's Wellington representative, after a long discussion recommended buying it. He had maintained it for years and knew it well. Trinity Church bought the instrument and in 1991 it took a week for dismantling and packing. Despite being assured that the truck would be driven directly to Darfield, the organ was re-packed in Wellington with consequential extensive damage to valves and lead tubing. It was unpacked into a private, large shed where it was worked upon for the next two years before being installed in the church. Members of the congregation assisted in all sorts of restoration jobs including releathering all the primary purses. Because of the roof angles, the display chest was relocated to the back of the swell box and the Bourdon, which was at the back, has made a good side. The decorative front casework is the handiwork of a young, local cabinetmaker.

The organ was opened in September 1993. Provision was made for a Melodic Bourdon 16ft on the Great Organ but this has not been installed yet. It suffered significant damage in the September 2010 earthquake. Hugh & John continue to maintain it with considerable help from SIOC.



TRINITY CHURCH, DARFIELD (JOHN DODSHUN 2016)

GREAT			PEDAL		
Open Diapason	8		Bourdon	16	
Claribel Flute	8		Bass Flute	8	
Dulciana	8		COUPLERS		
Principal	4		Swell to Great		
Harmonic Flute	4		Swell Octave to Great (changed from Swell Sub Octave to Great)		
SWELL			Swell to Pedal		
Violin Diapason	8		Great to Pedal		
Rohr Flute	8		Two composition pedals to Great		
Gamba	8	TC	Two Composition pedals to Swell		
Flute	4		Balanced Swell		
Oboe	8				

Compass: 58/30

Tubular-pneumatic action (supply system)

- Article by John Dodshun 2016

1 *Papers Past - Wairarapa Age*, 19 December 1914, p.5