

The Walker Organ at St George the Martyr, Wash Common

In 1968, not long after the church building was completed, the Rev. W R Birt was in correspondence with J W Walker & Sons for the provision of a pipe organ to be built to fit under the West window. Money was scarce at the time, and the organ was required to fit a small budget; it served quite well for 56 years.

In 2014, a generous donor from overseas, seeing and appreciating the efforts already made to improve the church building and its capacity to welcome and embrace all who crossed the threshold, gave a more than generous gift of money to expand and re-furbish the organ to match its situation.

The original two-manual organ, based on the 'Positif' C scheme, had 4 ranks including an independent Mixture 'repeating' rank, 282 pipes in all, enclosed in swell-box with the exception of the Bourdon 16ft. The cost was £2,460.00.

The restored and expanded organ by J W Walker incorporates original parts where viable and effective.

An entirely new Great division and two Swell reed stops, comprising approximately 670 new pipes altogether, have been added in new cases placed on steel platforms cantilevered into the north and south walls and framing the West window.

A new terraced drawstop console has been manufactured from oak to match the organ cases. A full list of the pipes and technical description of the organ is available on request. Suffice to say that the refurbishment cost was little short of 100 times greater than the original.

The organ now truly deserves to be described as 'awesome.'