ST JAMES THE GREAT
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE POSITIVE ORGAN

The demonstrator organ behind you was rescued when Cowie Parish Church in Stirlingshire closed recently. It has been rebuilt by David Loosley specially to show you how a church organ works.

You are welcome to look at, and play this organ. Just follow the instructions on it.

A positive organ (also positiv organ, positif organ, portable organ, chair organ, or simply positive, positiv, positif, or chair) is a small, usually one-manual, pipe organ that is built to be more or less mobile. It was common in sacred and secular music between the 10th and the 18th centuries, in chapels and small churches.

In rebuilding this organ, various panels were replaced with Perspex so you look inside the organ, and an electric blower was added, and some lighting provided.

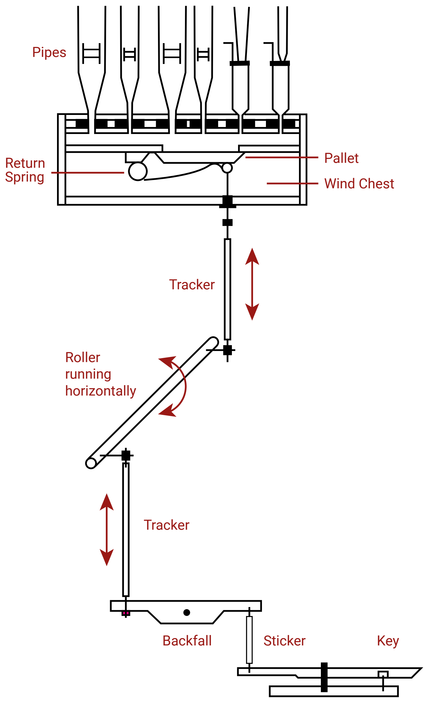
Description of this organ

The main organ sound is created by the Open Diapason stop, and the pipes for this are the metal ones you see at the front (and a few of the very low notes are pipes at the back of the organ). This supplemented by a Double Bass stop, whose pipes are wooden and at the sides of the organ.

All the other stops are inside the Swell box, which is in the large wooden box the centre of the organ. The swell box has louvres to control the volume of the sound coming from the pipes inside it.

Some technical terms about organs explained

Manual	The keyboard of an organ. Each key is connected so that it makes one pipe sound for each stop or rank
Stop	The knob which, when pulled, activates one type of pipe. This organ has 9 stops.
Rank	The array of pipes covering the full range of different notes, all making the same type of sound.
Diapason	The name given to the main type of organ pipe
Bellows	A flexible bag to hold air at a steady pressure to feed to the pipes
Mouth of organ pipe	The hole in the pipe, the shape of which determines the type of sound the pipe makes. If the hole is open, the pipe is called a flue. Other pipes, called reeds, have a short piece of vibrating metal, and make a sound like a brass instrument.
Swell pedal	A mechanism to open and close the swell box, thus making the volume of sound from the pipes within the box vary.
Tracker action	The way of connecting the keys to the pipe valves. Details of the action are in the diagram to the right.
Foot	The note that a pipe is sound is governed by its length. A rank is categorised by the length of its pipe. A rank of open pipes labelled as 8' (pronounced "eight-foot") would have a pipe for C two octaves below middle C that is approximately 8 feet long.
Stopped	A pipe is 'stopped' if its end away from the mouth is closed. A stopped pipe sounds one octave below a similar open pipe.



More information can be found by visiting our website **www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk**

Panel 12 : April 2019