

# Christ the King, Claremont

## Anglican Church of Southern Africa



### The Bates Organ

During 2013 Christ the King celebrated over 50 years of inspiring worship with its fine Bates and Son Pipe Organ. The Bates Organ has led our communal worship with strength and authority, a towering musical presence that is at the very heart and soul of our congregational song.

The Organ was built for St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral (Cape Town) in 1859. After 100 years of faithful service in the cathedral, the organ was briefly relocated to St Michael's, Rondebosch, before finding its home at Christ the King in the early 1970's.

As the oldest playable pipe organ in the Western Cape, it is an invaluable heritage asset to our parish of Christ the King, the community of Claremont, and the city of Cape Town. Indeed, this organ bears venerable witness to a rich tapestry that is the musical and religious history of *all* South Africa.

The present instrument consists of one manual division and pedal, comprising 10 draw-knob stops, 12 ranks, and 553 pipes. Indeed, great things do often come in small packages!

Restoration of the Organ was entrusted to Charles Hart of Cooper, Gill, and Tomkins Pipe Organ Builders who found the following problems with the organ.

The main problem found was that channels inside the soundboard were leaking across to the next channel. (The work involved to correct this is analogous to removing a vehicle's engine to repair an internal leak.)

The organ needed to be completely dismantled to remove the soundboard so that the required repairs could be done. The soundboard, which is the largest piece of equipment in the organ had to be removed, stripped, flooded to reseal, and then recovered in American cloth.

The disassembled organ gave access to all moving parts so that repairs and replacement of worn-out leather buttons and felt cloths could be done effectively.

The bellows needed to be re-leathered as there were a few cracks in the old leather. This also required its removal as it is a large double rise bellows.

Some weak notes on the wooden pipes indicated cracks in the pipes: resealing of these pipes was required. The leather around the stoppers that seal the top of the stopped pipes also needed to be replaced.

The final item that needed attention was correction of the pitch of the organ—this needed to be lowered to standard Concert Pitch of A440.

The Sesquialtera Cornet 3-rank of cone-tuned pipes needed slides to be specially made in Germany and fitted to lower their pitch to A440.

The complete specification for the organ is:

THE ORGAN OF CHRIST THE KING CHURCH			
T. C. BATES & SON ORGAN BUILDERS, Ludgate Hill, London (1859)†			
SINGLE MANUAL 54 notes (4½ Octaves) CC - f <sup>3</sup>			
LEFT JAMB		RIGHT JAMB	
4	Principal	54 pipes	8 Hautboy <i>(prepared)</i>
8	Clarabella	42 pipes	111 Sesquialtra <i>(sic)</i> & Cornet 162 pipes
8	Stopt Diapason	12 pipes	2 Fifteenth 54 pipes
8	Open Diapason	54 pipes	2 <sup>2/3</sup> Twelfth 54 pipes
8	Dulciana	42 pipes	4 Flute 54 pipes
PEDAL 25 notes (2 Octaves) C - c <sup>1</sup>			
16	Bourdon	25 pipes	
8	Pedals to Manual <i>(sic)</i>		
Mechanical key and stop action			
Three combination pedals ( <i>pp - mf - ff</i> )			
Hitch-down swell pedal			