

AN ORGAN FOR GLASGOW

# A MILLION THANKS and please keep giving



## A WHOLE CHURCH ENDEAVOUR

An Organ for Glasgow is a truly special initiative that aims to enrich St Mary's Cathedral and its city community.

Our aim is to replace our current organ with an exceptional Willis II organ, given to us by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. First, funds must be raised to repair it... This is a whole-church endeavour. Our Facebook page [anorganforglasgow](#) has details of how to join in.



## JUST LOOK AT WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED!

**Through generous donation nearly 75% of the restoration costs have been raised.**

Give in church, by bank transfer or standing order.  
St Marys Cathedral Glasgow, sort code: 82-20-00  
account number: 30185232 reference: ORGAN FUND  
Don't forget to add Gift Aid. This adds 25% to a donation. For all enquiries contact [treasurer@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@thecathedral.org.uk).



"Our single most important task is making contact with philanthropists. So we appeal to our friends and supporters to help us reach out."

Roddy Neilson  
PROJECT LEAD, AN ORGAN FOR GLASGOW



## THE CURRENT ORGAN IS FAILING

Recent introduction of central heating in the Cathedral has accelerated the demise of our current organ. You may already have noticed that, despite the skill of our musicians, it plays 'off' notes.

It is a race against time to install the new Willis II organ. The good news is that thanks to St Mary's generous donors work has started at Henry Willis and Sons. Read more about this overleaf.



## CHEERFUL GIVING, GREAT EVENTS

A big thank you to St Mary's wonderful donors whose magnificent support continues to inspire and encourage fundraising. We are truly grateful.

A series of events have been organised not only to raise essential funds but also to raise the spirits. A superb Thank You Night, a fascinating and fun WOOFYT and a glorious Ceilidh. There is more to come including a Come and Sing event! Sign up to our Facebook page [anorganforglasgow](#) and Instagram [an\\_organ\\_for\\_glasgow](#)



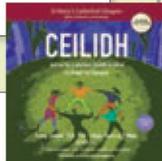
## OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

We thank the many musicians and others who have so generously given of their time and talents to create wonderful events.

We thank the following organisations for funding awards. The Benefact Trust, The James T Howat Charitable Trust, Buccleuch Charitable Foundation, Co-op, Next Retail, AMW Charitable Trust, Miss E H Hendry Charitable Trust, Pilling Trust, Margot and Gerald Smith Foundation, James Wood Bequest Fund.



AMW CHARITABLE TRUST MISS E H HENDRY CHARITABLE TRUST  
PILLING TRUST MARGOT AND GERALD SMITH FOUNDATION  
JAMES WOOD BEQUEST FUND



# LATEST NEWS

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HENRY WILLIS ORGANMAKERS WORK IN PROGRESS  
WHAT HAS BEEN RAISED SO FAR AGAINST TARGET  
UPDATE ON SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

AN ORGAN  
FOR GLASGOW

# OUR WILLIS ORGAN is coming back to life



## IN APRIL 2024...

The dismantled 1902 Henry Willis organ was removed from storage at premises in Glasgow and transported to the Liverpool workshop of Henry Willis & Sons Ltd. In December 2024 the formal contract with Willis was finalised and signed as the organbuilder to whom the restoration and eventual installation of this instrument is entrusted.



## FOCUS ON RESTORATION

The nature of the work undertaken has been **purely restoration**, using traditional techniques and materials as employed at the original point of manufacture, and returning all components listed below as close to a "factory new" condition as is feasible. In some cases the same instruments used to build the organ were used to repair it and many elements are hand-made.



## WILLIS ARE WORKING ON...

All metal and wooden pipework – over 1700 individual pipes in total.

**Key mechanisms:** mechanisms which make the 1700+ pipes speak when a key is depressed by the organist. **Wind system:** comprising large bellows which store the wind, and lengths of trunking which distribute the wind. **7 Soundboards:** large wind chests on which the pipes stand. Each soundboard contains internal valves which admit wind into the pipes to make them speak.



## NEW MATERIALS

**Leather regulation buttons:** made bespoke in the workshop for the fine adjustment of the key mechanisms.

**Small wooden components:** manufactured in the workshop to replace those which have been either irreversibly damaged or worn beyond viable restoration.

**Stainless Steel:** for the manufacture of new tuning slides, replacing badly corroded originals, for metal pipework.



## FUNDRAISING

**2018-2024:** St Mary's received a generous philanthropic donation, successfully kicking off the campaign. At this stage, a specific instrument to restore had not yet been identified.

**2023:** A suitable instrument was found. However, another organisation stepped in and claimed it before we could secure it.

**2024:** The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow generously offered a magnificent Willis II Organ, requiring an estimated £1.1 million in repairs. If a new pipe organ had been purchased it could have cost twice as much.

**2024-2025:** A revitalised campaign was launched which resulted in an excellent year for fundraising, with donations doubling. This success was thanks to the incredible generosity of members of St Mary's congregation and a diverse group of funders.

TARGET  
£1,100,000



## A NEW TARGET

Nearly 75% of the sum required to complete the renovation of the Willis II organ has been raised. There is still a further £300,000 to go. It's time to pull out all the stops: please join us to bring this exceptional organ back to life.