

ST JOHN'S, SHAROW

I visited this church on Tuesday 16 June, 2015, at the request of the churchwarden, Simon Grenfell. Also present was the organist of the church, The Rev Canon John Colston.

The church is spacious, late Georgian, with added Victorian chancel, where the Abbott organ, (probably 1870's) is located in the north aisle. The sound is very well projected, there being two south facing arches in the north choir wall, and one west facing arch. The organ is two manuals, with 14 stops, plus couplers, and makes an impressive sound, especially the Great organ, which is very fine. The Swell is less satisfactory, but adequate, and gives the opportunity for contrast of tone, and variety, as well as an accompaniment facility for solo stops on the Great. After nearly 150 years, the need for a full overhaul and refurbishment is clear, and the organ should then give another 100 years or more of good service. Some work would appear to have been done on the instrument at some stage, but difficulty of access prevented me from seeing much details of the interior of the instrument.

John Clough, organ builder from Bradford, has written a good report on the instrument, listing all that needs to be done, and costing the work at £26,198.00. I recommended that another quotation should be sought from another builder, before any decision was made.

The church has the funds in place for such a restoration to be done, and it would seem sensible to do that now, rather than wait for further problems to arise. It is very pleasing to find a church where the authorities are prepared to raise the necessary funds to do a proper and timely restoration of a good quality and appropriate instrument, and this organ should be able to give long-term service for many years to come. The proposal is fully supported by me.

Tim Gray
(Diocesan Organ Adviser)

17 June 2015