With origins in the mid-12thcentury, the tower, north and south transepts date from the 14thcentury whilst the nave and chancel underwent two rebuilds in the 19thcentury.

Investment has been made in the organ over the years but in the 30 years it has been installed it has never had a real overhaul, it is now showing real signs of wear and tear.

As recommended by Anne De Greave, Organ Adviser for the Diocese of Leicester, and Pipe Organ Services Alan Goulding FISOB. After consultation by the Parochial Church Council, it was agreed that Pipe Organ Services should be commissioned for Phases One and Two of the repairs.

This will include:

**Stage One:** Replace the old switchgear and old key actions with a new solid-state system which has no moving parts, New wiring where appropriate. This will make the organ more dependable.

**Stage Two:** To Clean the organ down to the soundboard level on which the pipes sit. With the pipes being removed to the workshop for a thorough cleaning. The cost of these two phases will be £20,460 + VAT. To date the Friends have raised £8,000. Grants are also being applied for.

If the Parochial Church Council were to proceed with stages three and four, the whole cost would be £32,000 + VAT.

How do I donate? Please see the attached form for details. Please complete the form and return to the address provided.

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**The History**

The Organ (A Lewis Organ) was initially installed in 1994 by Rev Geoffrey Spencer, 30 years ago. It was dismantled and transported from a redundant Church in Southwark by Rev Geoffrey Spencer, Peter Topps and David Jones. The organ was built by the firm T C Lewis of Brixton in London. An instrument of the finest quality. Most of the metal pipework is spotted metal which is reckoned to give outstanding tone.

The organ suffered war damage and some of the pipework near to the swell box is not Lewis. Also, at some stage a mixture was added to the swell by Kenneth Cantor, Organ Builders, in place of a string stop.

The pneumatic action was not reusable, and the swell and Great Organ had suffered due to excessive heating in the Church in Southwark, plus dirt etc.

The sound boards were sent to Norman Hall and Sons in Cambridge for repair and electrical motors to be fitted. Reassembled by Rev Geoffrey Spencer and two Parishioners. The action was electrified by Norman Hall and sons in Cambridge who also regulated and tuned the pipework. The Opportunity was taken to extend the Pedal Organ and provide a Twelfth Spot on the ‘Great’, with pipes from a redundant organ from Anderby Creek in Lincolnshire, built originally by White and Sentence of Grantham.

**FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S CHURCH BOTTESFORD.**

**ORGAN REPAIR SPONSORSHIP APPEAL.**

**SPONSOR AN ORGAN PIPE** .

**Registered Charity No. 1154917**

I wish to sponsor............organ pipes at £10. 00 (suggested minimum donation) per pipe  **0R a donation in the sum of £..............**

I/We would like this donation to be in memory of Name(s):

..........................................................................................

...........................................................................................

**Please complete your details:**

Title:............................Forename:................................

Surname:........................................................................

Address:..........................................................................

.......................................................................................

………………………………………………………………………

Post Code: ..................................... **(*no information will be shared with a third party).***

**Payment: If you wish to pay by BACs here are the details:**

Account name: **‘Friends of St. Mary’s Church’, Bottesford.**

Bank**: National Westminster Bank, Grantham:**

Sort code: **60-09-09**

Account number: **71337032**

**I have paid £...............by BACS**: **(Please ensure we have your name for Reference, and it is marked clearly Organ Sponsorship Appeal**). **OR I enclose a cheque for £................. Please make Cheques Payable to Friends of St. Mary’s Church Bottesford. Marked clearly on the back Organ Sponsorship.**

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**Gift Aid**: I am a UK Taxpayer. **I wish/do not wish Gift Aid** to apply to the donation. In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR), the information provided on this form.

Signed...........................................................................

Date: ................................

If you would like to help us, please complete the attached donation form: (please complete the appropriate sentence**). The suggested minimum sponsorship/donation is £10.00.**

Please return this form to: **The Treasurer, THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARYS CHURCH, St. Mary The Virgin Church, Rectory Lane, Bottesford, NG13 0DA. Clearly Marked Organ Sponsorship Appeal**. For further details or any queries contact Di Illsley, or Frances Stapleton 01949 843427, The Church Office 01949 842859. There are addressed white envelopes provided at the back of the Church for you to return your completed forms.

You will be issued with a certificate acknowledging your sponsorship. A record will be kept in a book of donors and memorials and placed in the organ

The Trumpet stop was added to the ‘Great’. This came from a redundant Church in Sneinton, Nottingham. The pipework is thought to be Hope Jones.

There are no hoods on the pipes as it was originally a cornopean stop. The ‘sound board’ for the trumpets was donated by Paul Hale from Southwell Minster, as it was not required when the Southwell Organ was rebuilt.

All work was carried out through the Faculty.

**Source of Information.** Rev Geoffrey Spencer. He spent 10 years as Organ Adviser to Diocese of Lincoln. He also worked with his Great Uncle, W E Allen of Grantham, Piano Tuners and Organ Builders, helping them to install several organs.

A drawing of a church in a hands

Description automatically generated **We Need Your Help**

**Sponsor A Pipe**

**For The Restoration Of The Organ**

The organ restoration project comes in 4 Phases. The Parochial Church Council have Commissioned Phases one and two, at a cost of £21k, and of course ongoing maintenance costs.

The Organ, a Lewis Organ originally from a redundant Church in Southwark, London was installed 30 years ago by Rev Geoffrey Spencer and two Parishioners. There is now an urgent need for substantial repairs to the organ. This will enable us to secure the future of the organ and the role it has continuing the musical tradition of this beautiful grade 1 listed building and our Church, not just for members of the Church but the wider community. The organ is a central feature of our Grade 1 listed building. St. Mary The Virgin Church. Rectory Lane, Bottesford Leicestershire NG13 0DA. The village of Bottesford is situated right on the edge of the Leicestershire border with Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, in the beautiful Vale of Belvoir (pronounced Beaver)

The Church has been at the centre of the Community and Village life since the 12th Century, playing an important role in the Community of Bottesford and beyond today.