

8	Claribel Flute	8
9	Dulciana	8
10	Principal	4
11	Flauto Traverso	4
12	Twelfth	2 2/3
13	Fifteenth	2
14	Trumpet	8

Swell Key action: Electric; Stop action: Electric;
Compass-low C; Compass-high c4; Keys 61 Enclosed

15	Geigen Diapason	8
16	Lieblich Gedact	8
17	Viola da Gamba	8
18	Voix Celeste	8
19	Gemshorn	4
20	Mixture	III
21	Cornopean	8
22	Oboe	8
23	Tremulant	

Console

Console type: detached; Stop type: drawerstop; Pedalboard: radiating concave.

Couplers

Swell to Pedal

Swell to Great

Swell octave to Great

Swell sub octave to Great

Swell octave

Swell sub octave

Great to Pedal

Swell Octave to Pedal

Accessories

4 thumb pistons to each manual

4 toe pedals

Thumb pistons Sw to Gt and Gt to Ped

Toe pedal Gt to Ped

General Cancel.

Timeline of the instrument:

Church records relating to the history of the organ are not clear and undoubtedly incomplete. However, the main events are as follows:

- 1936: Organ built and installed by Rushworth and Dreaper, located in the elevated chamber behind the north Chancel wall. The specification was similar to the current instrument, except that there was a 16' TC Lieblich Bourdon on the swell which is no longer there, but we now have a three rank repeating mixture on the Swell as well as a 16' double open and an 8' trumpet on the Great. The console was detached with electric action and located on a platform immediately beneath the organ chamber, behind the choir stalls. The price for supply and installation was £900.
- 1940: War damage. The east end of the church sustained a direct hit affecting the organ badly. The pedal Bourdon and some of the Great No 2 Open Diapason basses were lost entirely and the rest of the Great and Pedal divisions were also damaged. Rushworth and Dreaper quoted a price of £6/15/- (six pounds and fifteen shillings) on 31.12.1940 to dismantle the Great division, and stack it for storage.
- Shortly afterwards, a temporary east wall was built which allowed the church to continue functioning pending reconstruction of the destroyed east end. It appears that the organ was still partly in working order and the Swell and undamaged parts of the Pedal continued in use.

- 1949: the temporary wall was demolished and the organ was dismantled, cleaned and the damaged parts replaced and the instrument re-assembled by Rushworth and Dreaper at a cost of £66/-
- 1955: The organ started to experience persistent cyphering (more likely to be what are called running faults) as shrinkage and splitting of the wooden soundboards started to take effect. Rushworth's blamed it on a warm dry spring and summer, but a local organ builder, one Albert Applegate of Thornton Heath, looked carefully at the problem and worked out that it was heated air which was the problem. When the organ was installed, the blower was located in the boiler room under the tower. The trunking which supplied the pressurised air to the organ shared the same ducting as the boiler flu and so was being heated on its way to the organ. Over a longer period of a few years, the damage to the organ was progressive and by 1955 the effects all too audible. Mr Applegate quoted £200 for the repairs and he was commissioned to undertake the work, which he completed by the end of August. Rushworth and Draper were let go.
- 1955: A proposal for tonal enhancement by means of the addition of the Great Double Diapason was put forward by Mr Applegate at a cost of £250. This quotation was accepted and the work carried out in early 1956. It cannot be ascertained when the new Great Trumpet or the Swell mixture were installed.
- 1956: The blower was moved to its new home inside a silencing cabinet in the Tower Room, by the Croydon firm of Davie & Warr in early 1956, with whom there would have appeared to be endless arguments and disagreements concerning the cost and details of the work. Some of the finest bad tempered correspondence I have ever read!
- At some point during the next thirty years, the Great 8' Trumpet was installed, the Swell Mixture was installed and the console was moved from its original position under the organ chamber to a new home in the Lady Chapel, facing east. There is anecdotal speculation that the Great Trumpet was sourced from the Davis Theatre organ in Croydon when it closed in 1959. The organ was a four manual 22 rank Compton, the largest they ever built, and when the Theatre closed the organ was offered to Croydon Council for installation in the new

Fairfield Halls, but they declined the offer, so the organ was broken up. There is a tantalising reference made in the records of the Davis Theatre that some of the organ pipework was sold to an un-named church. Sadly, there is no record in our church archive of when the new Great Trumpet was installed or its provenance, but it would be fun to believe that we have one of the last remaining parts of the largest Compton organ ever built!

- Again, at a date unknown, care of the organ passed from Mr Applegate to Mr Kenneth James (a much respected ex-employee of Rushworth and Draper who looked after many fine instruments such as the present Croydon Minster and even the Albert Hall organ), possibly via the hands of other organ tuners unrecorded in the archive, until we come to 1987.
- 1987-9: The firm of Nicholson & Company Limited of Worcester were engaged to undertake a substantial schedule of work on the organ, which was beginning to show its age once again. They were invited to quote and they tendered on 4th June 1987 for the following: a new Swell soundboard and actions at £8,877, a new draw stop console at £8,291, new low voltage cables at £4,525 and to recompose the Swell mixture at £2,256. The work was carried out at the end of 1989.
- 2015: Occasional cyphers experienced and some pedal and bass notes are noted to have failed permanently. In July of that year a roofing tile slipped above the organ chamber, allowing a large quantity of water to fall on the Great Division during some unseasonably poor weather, rendering it useless. Nicholson quoted to undertake the repairs and, at the same time, submitted an additional quotation to correct the faults experienced prior to the flood by re-leathering and renovating the action of the front pipe and off-note chests. The water damage element of the cost to be covered by insurance and the balance by the church. The work was completed in February 2016 at a total cost of £27,000.
- The organ remains in the care of Nicholson and Company Limited to this day.