

**Donating by cheque** (please turn over for other ways to donate).

Cheques should be made payable to **St John's Church** and sent to:

**2025 Organ Appeal, Parish Office, 1a Bromyard Road, Worcester. WR2 5BS**

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of  
£\_\_\_\_\_

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

#### My Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2025

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

**Worcester St John in Bedwardine and St Michael's Joint Council** is a charity with Registered Charity Number 1205354

If more money is raised than needed, the surplus will be used to support other fabric repairs and maintenance projects at St John's

## Tell me more about the history of the organ

The organ was built around 1840 by Nicholson. It was originally placed on the west end gallery but proved to be unsatisfactory in this position as the instrument was not entirely audible.

In order to accommodate the organ the old tower arch was heightened and widened in part. This can be seen from the Chancel because the arch is wider on the gallery than on the ground-floor.

The organ was moved to its present position after a new organ chamber was created when the chancel was built.

The organ was rebuilt by Nicholson in 1900 and 1954. Tonal and action modifications were made by Trevor Tipple in 1983 and 1995. In 2018 Trevor Tipple completely replaced the notes cabling and switching system with a new Taylor micro-processor system.



**The organ at St John in Bedwardine**

*St John in Bedwardine Parish Church*

## Breathing new life into the organ



### What's the problem?

In short - we've got leaky windbags in our organ! These are made of leather, and were last replaced in 1954. There is now critical deterioration, and the organ will soon become unusable.

We need your help to raise the money to make the necessary repairs and "breathe new life into the organ."

### Windbags? Seriously!

Yes! The electric blower in our organ blows air into reservoirs (bellows) which temporarily store the air under controlled pressure. The air is then used to blow the pipes.

The leatherwork on four out of the five reservoirs is at the end of its working life. The corner gussets and ribs have perished causing significant wind leakage.

The fifth reservoir is in better condition, but we aim to do all the reservoirs at the same time due to the amount of dismantling (including all the other four reservoirs) needed to reach it.

### What problems does the leakage cause?

While the organ is running it now makes a continuous hissing noise which is steadily getting louder (ask the choir!).

The air which leaks out is not available for the organ pipes. The organ now cannot be played with too many pipes at once, and is liable to run out of breath on big passages of music.

Soon the organ will become unusable.

### How much will the repairs cost?

We need around £32,000 for this essential work. Although this is a sizeable sum it is perhaps best viewed in the context of the stewardship of an important, much used and well-loved asset whose total replacement cost would be somewhere in the region of one million pounds.

### Tell me more about these reservoirs

We have four single-rise reservoirs (3.5ft x 3ft) and one double-rise reservoir (4ft x 2.5ft). These reservoirs (bellows) store air under controlled pressure which is then used to blow the pipes. Air is supplied by an electric blower.

Here's what the reservoirs look like:



Single-rise reservoir similar to those at St John's



Double-rise reservoir similar to that at St John's

*St John in Bedwardine Parish Church*

## How can I help breathe new life into the organ?

We need £32,000 to replace the organ's 70-year-old wind bellows. Will you help to breathe new life into the organ? Every donation, however small, will help to ensure the organ sounds for another 70 years!

- You can donate via the card machine at the back of St John's Church.
- You can donate online at <https://givealittle.co/c/Organ2025> or by scanning this QR code.



- You can donate by cheque by completing the form overleaf and sending it with your cheque to the Parish Office.
- You can donate by bank transfer to:
  - Account number: 20150628
  - Sort code: 82-12-08
  - Account name: WORCESTER ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE AND ST M
  - Reference: ORGAN
  - Bank: Virgin Money/Clydesdale