

**THE CONSTRUCTION
&
INSTALLATION OF
THE STOLLER ORGAN**



FOR
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Manchester Cathedral – The Stoller Organ

Its construction and installation

July-October 2015

The first task was to make the ‘soundboards’ on which the pipes stand. These supply the pipes with air and the valves within them are connected to the keys which the organist plays.

Here is the grid of a soundboard under construction:



At the same time, the metal pipes were being made by specialists in Leeds and in Germany, before delivery to Northampton. Once delivered, the pipes had to be made to ‘speak’ with the correct tone and on the correct note.

Overleaf are some pipes being ‘voiced’:



Smaller wooden parts were being made at the same time. Here are the 'pallets': the valves inside the soundboard which open to admit air to the pipes:





The huge oak and walnut casework was being made elsewhere; soon sections of it were delivered and stored, awaiting assembly at Northampton.

Here is a panel and the cornices for two of the tall towers.

Soon assembly started.

November / December 2015

The base of the casework was going together well:



Meanwhile, the wind system for the organ was being made.

The blower (from Germany):



A wind reservoir being leathered:



Wind trunks (to connect the reservoirs to the soundboards) being assembled:



At the same time, the connections between the keyboards and the soundboard pallets were being made, and fitting began:



January / February / March 2016

Voicing the pipes was well advanced, though with nearly 4,000 to voice, at a rate of no more than 100 per week, it's a long job!



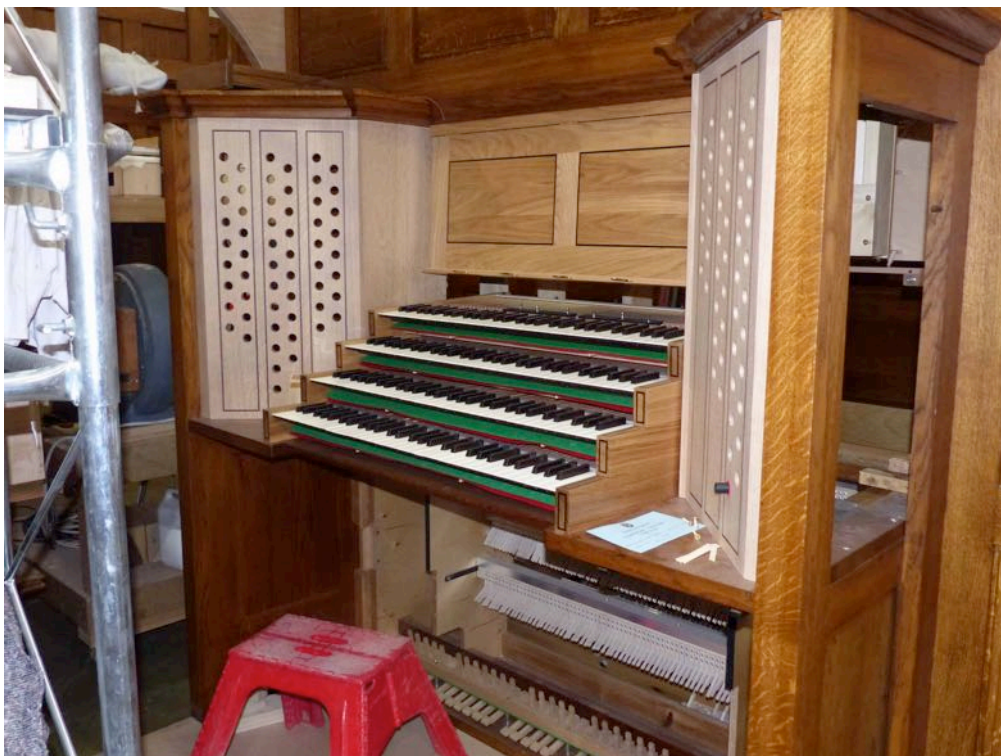
Wiring up of the electromagnets began:



At the side of the workshop, the casework for the separate Solo Organ was going together and two of its wind reservoirs can be seen dropped into place:



The console was in hand, the keyboards having arrived from the key-makers:



Rackboards to support the pipes were well under way:

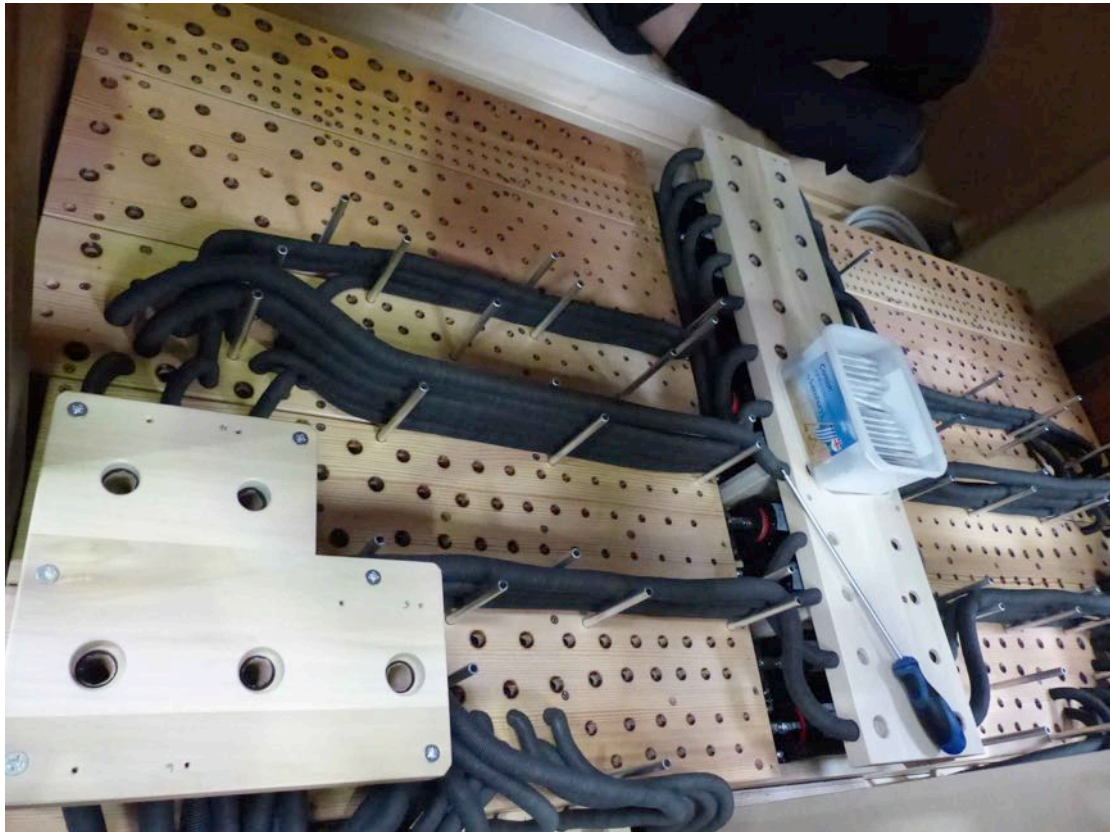


April / May / June 2016

The casework for the East side is now beginning to take on its finished appearance, at which point its great height can be appreciated:



The completed soundboards were being installed within the organ and the connections for the case pipes being formed:



the note mechanisms, mechanical and electrical, were being installed and connected up:





More connections
(‘trackers’)

and a ‘rollerboard’:





16ft long pipes retained from the old organ, awaiting attention.

A delivery of Clarinet pipes from Killinger in Germany: fine spotted-metal.





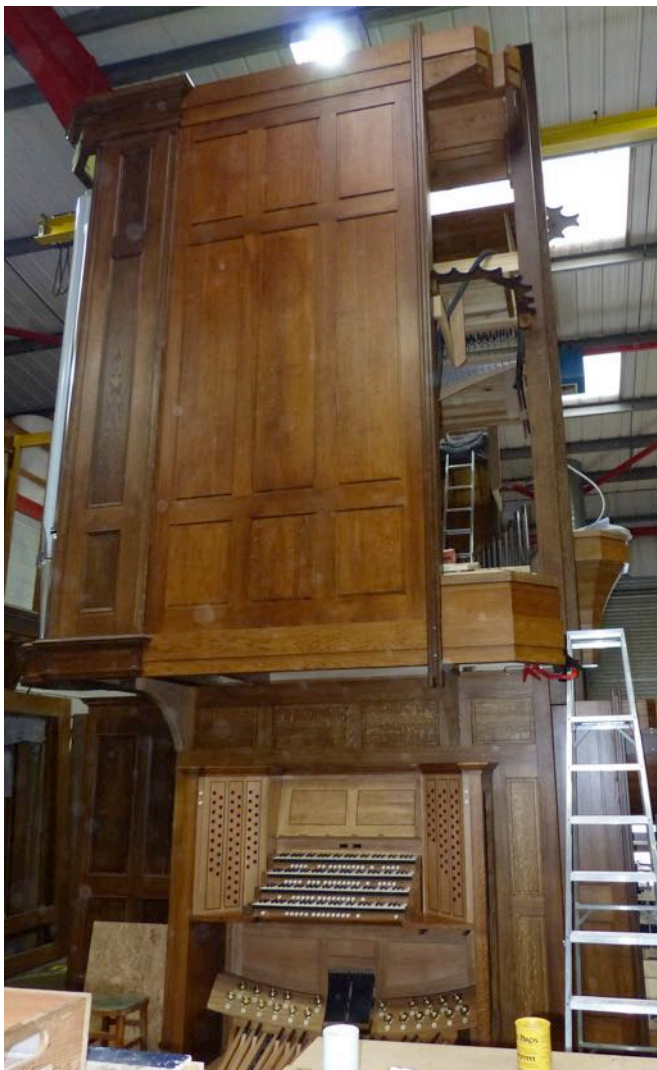
A rank of pipes in place for testing, as air runs through the organ for the first time.

A wind pressure regulator in place beneath a soundboard, under test pressure.



Wooden flute pipes under construction.

Supports for large Pedal pipes being installed

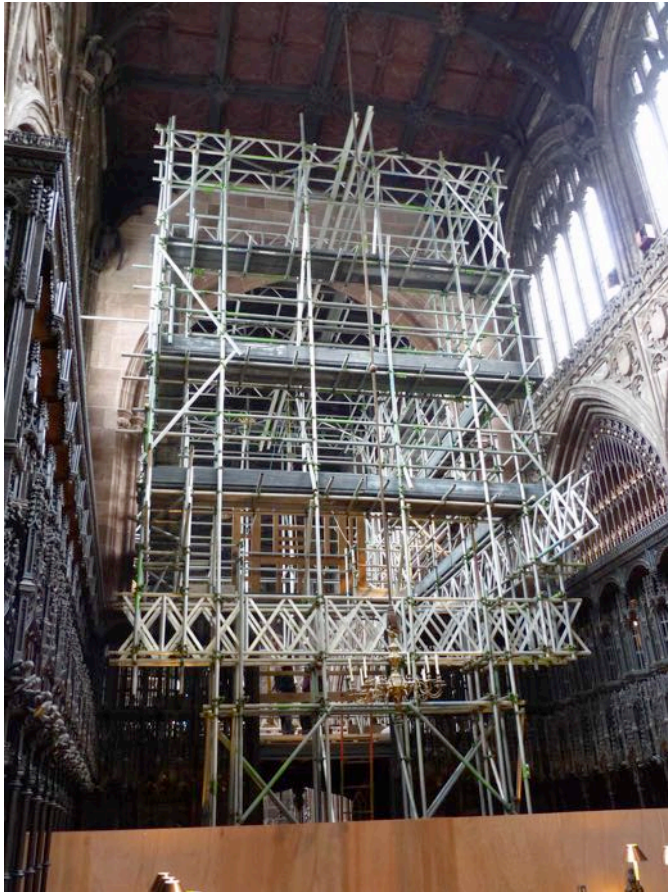


North side of the organ,
complete with console (awaiting
stop-knobs)

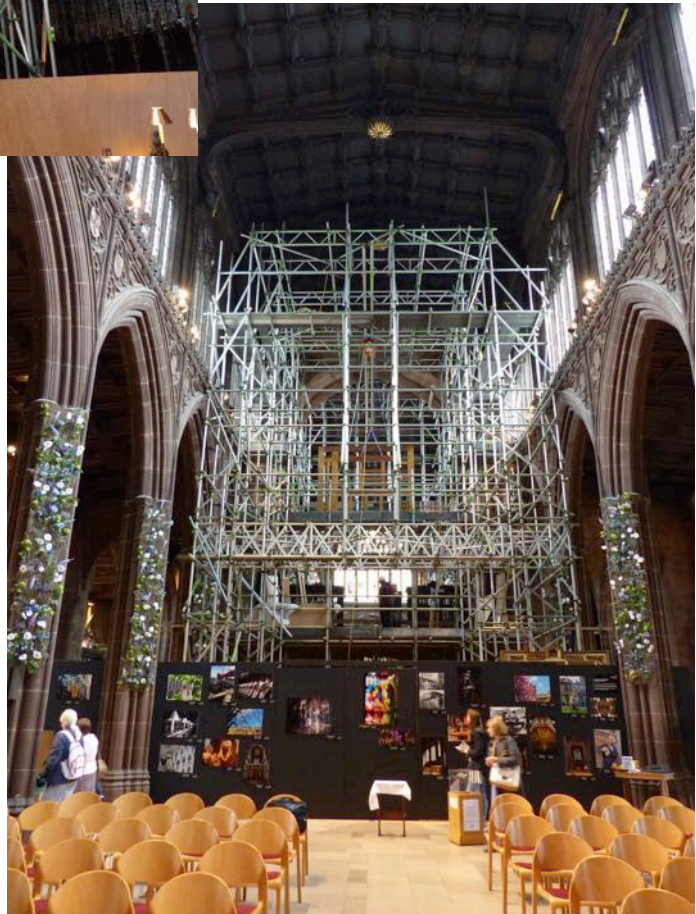
During June 2016 the organ was taken apart and much of it was delivered to the Cathedral. Assembly on site now began.

July / August 2016

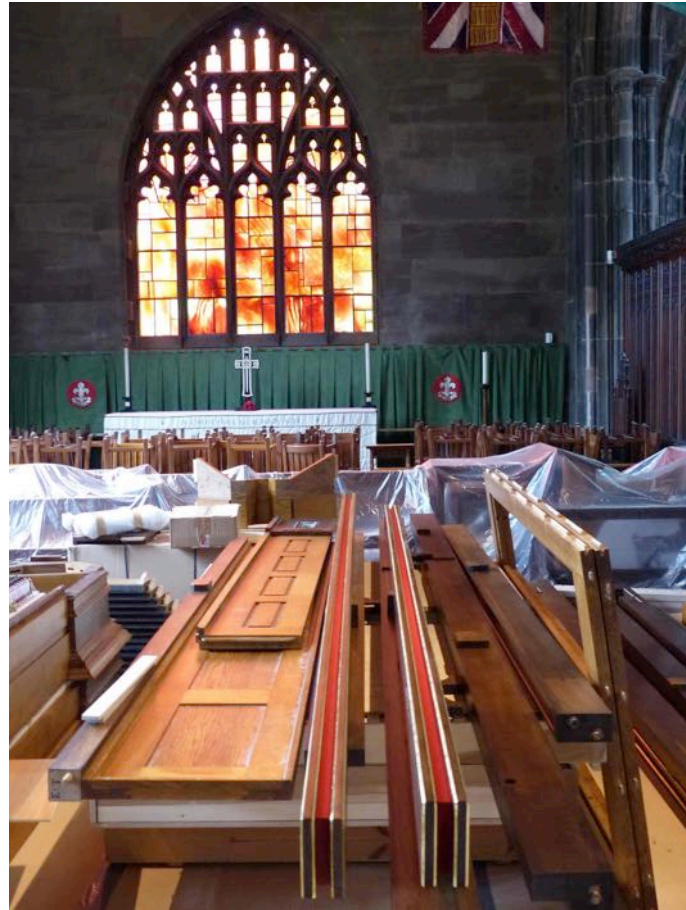
Chancel scaffolding.



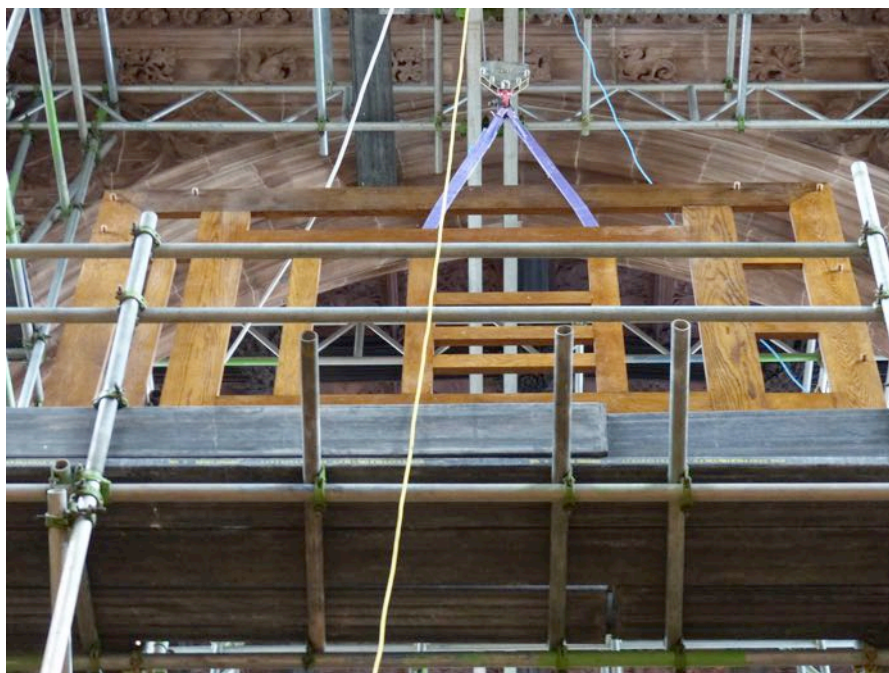
Nave scaffolding.



The organ lay in thousands of wrapped pieces, awaiting the long period of installation.



The case was hoisted into position, section by section.



The long cables to reach all round the organ, to control the stop action, were measured and loomed on site.



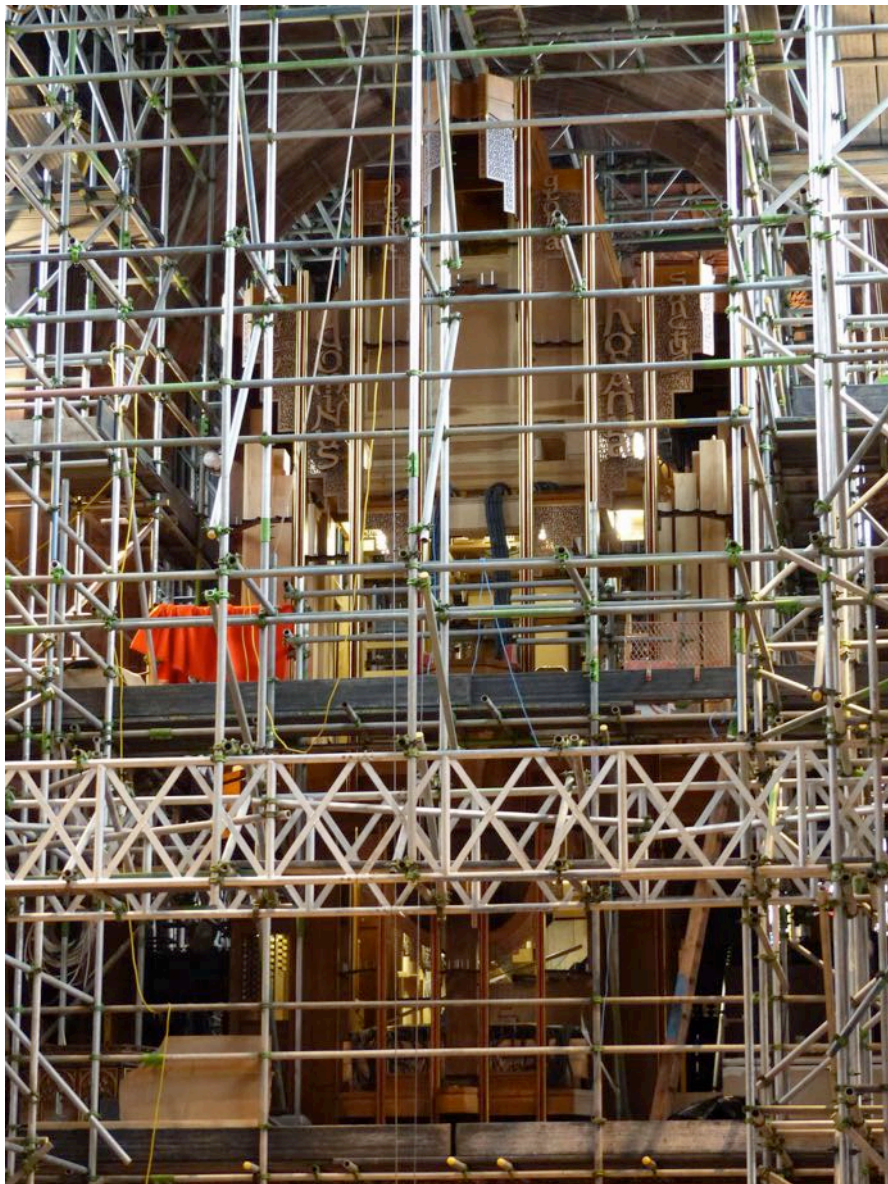
The huge vintage pipes in the Jesus Chapel were restored and a band of gold applied to their tops.

The longest is 32ft in length, 'bugled' at the bottom to fit under the ceiling.

Wooden pipes from the old organ had been used in local schools, decorated to fine effect and then mounted as part of the cathedral's organ display.



September / October 2016



The insides of the organ were taking shape behind the scaffolding, and the lettering was beginning to be applied.

The outline of the Positive case, with its insides showing, is visible.



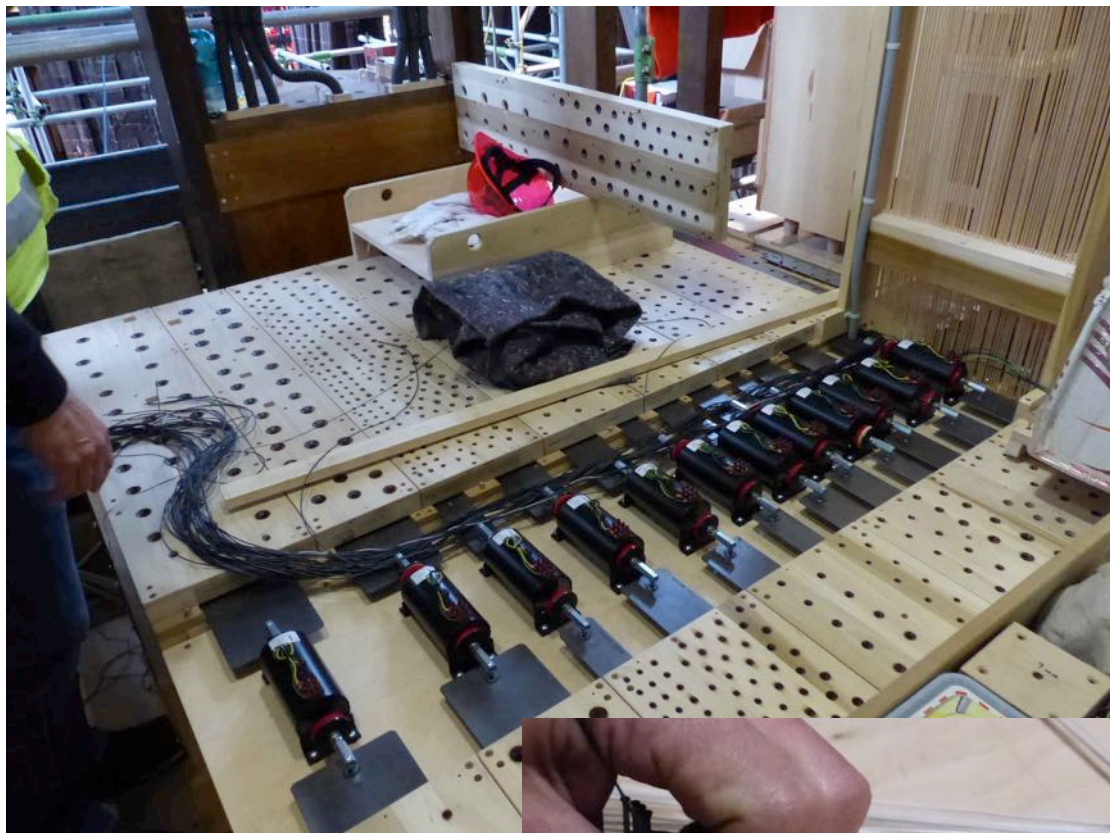
Pipe gilding was well advanced.



The organ's 'brain' was carefully installed and wired in.



The largest soundboard has its stop-solenoids installed and wired-up.



November / December 2016

The scaffolding is reduced, revealing the top of the West case. Pipes are still shrink-wrapped in grey plastic for protection, only the freshly-gilded mouths being uncovered.

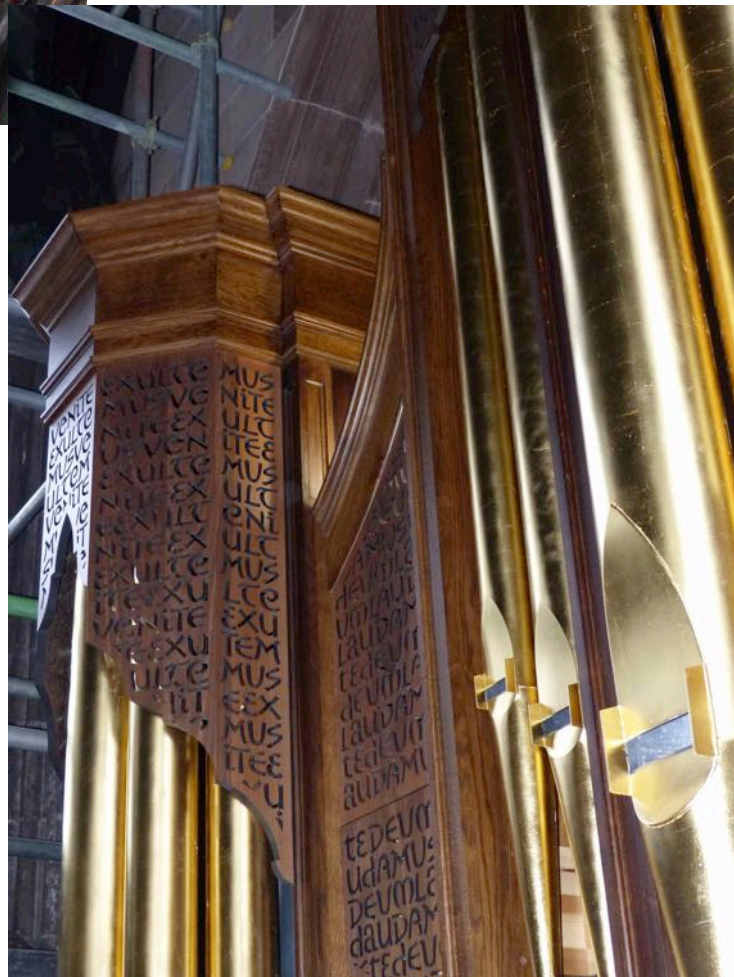


The internal fittings of the Solo Organ now are put in place.



The Positive pipes are installed.

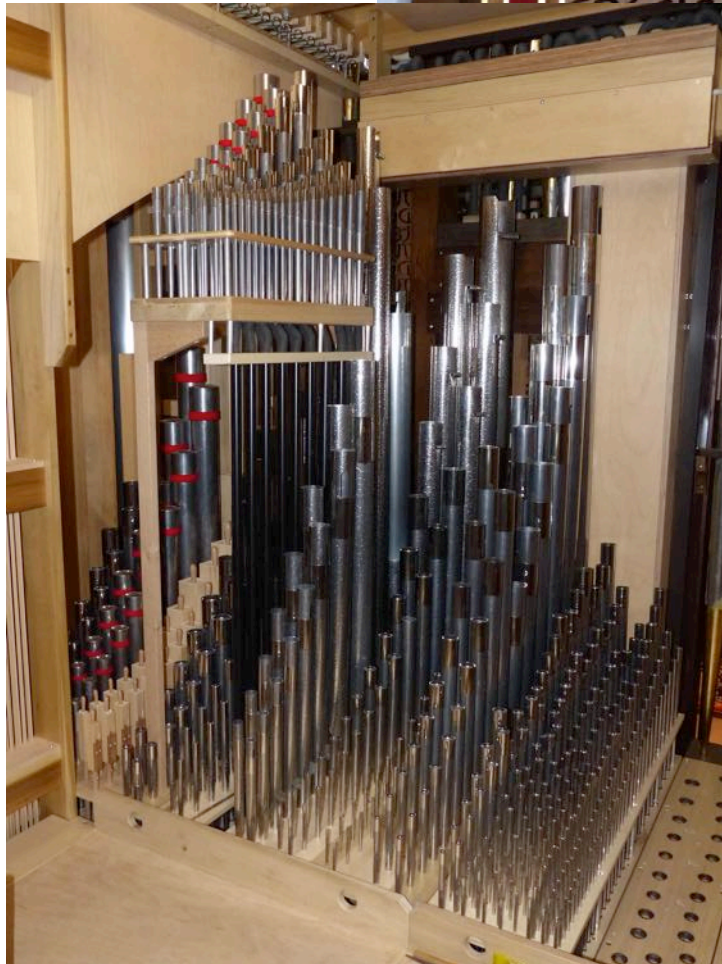
The East case front pipes and lettering are now in place.



A superb view of the East End is, for a short time, available from the scaffolding.

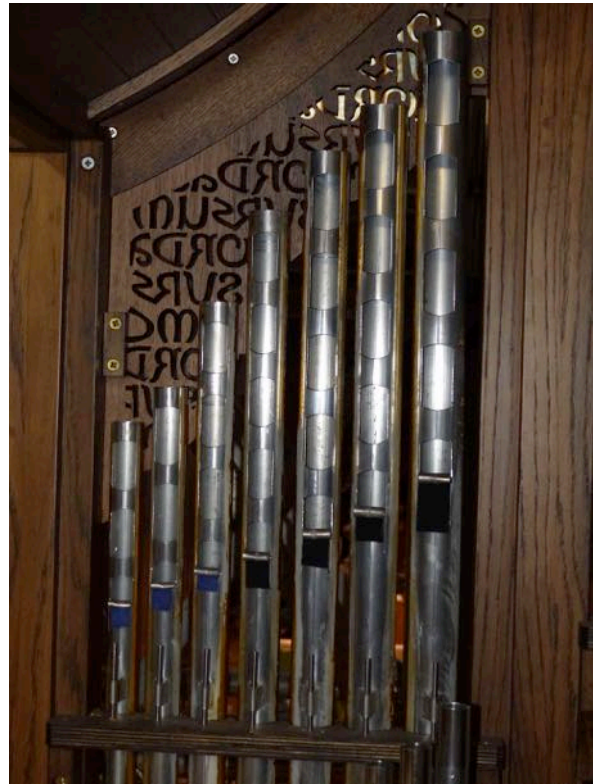


Lettering on the Nave side up close (the pipes still wrapped).



The pipes for the Great Organ are now mostly installed.

The rear of a row of large case pipes, slotted down to their tuning length.



The tongue, shallot, wedge, tuning wire and lead block from a Trombone pipe.

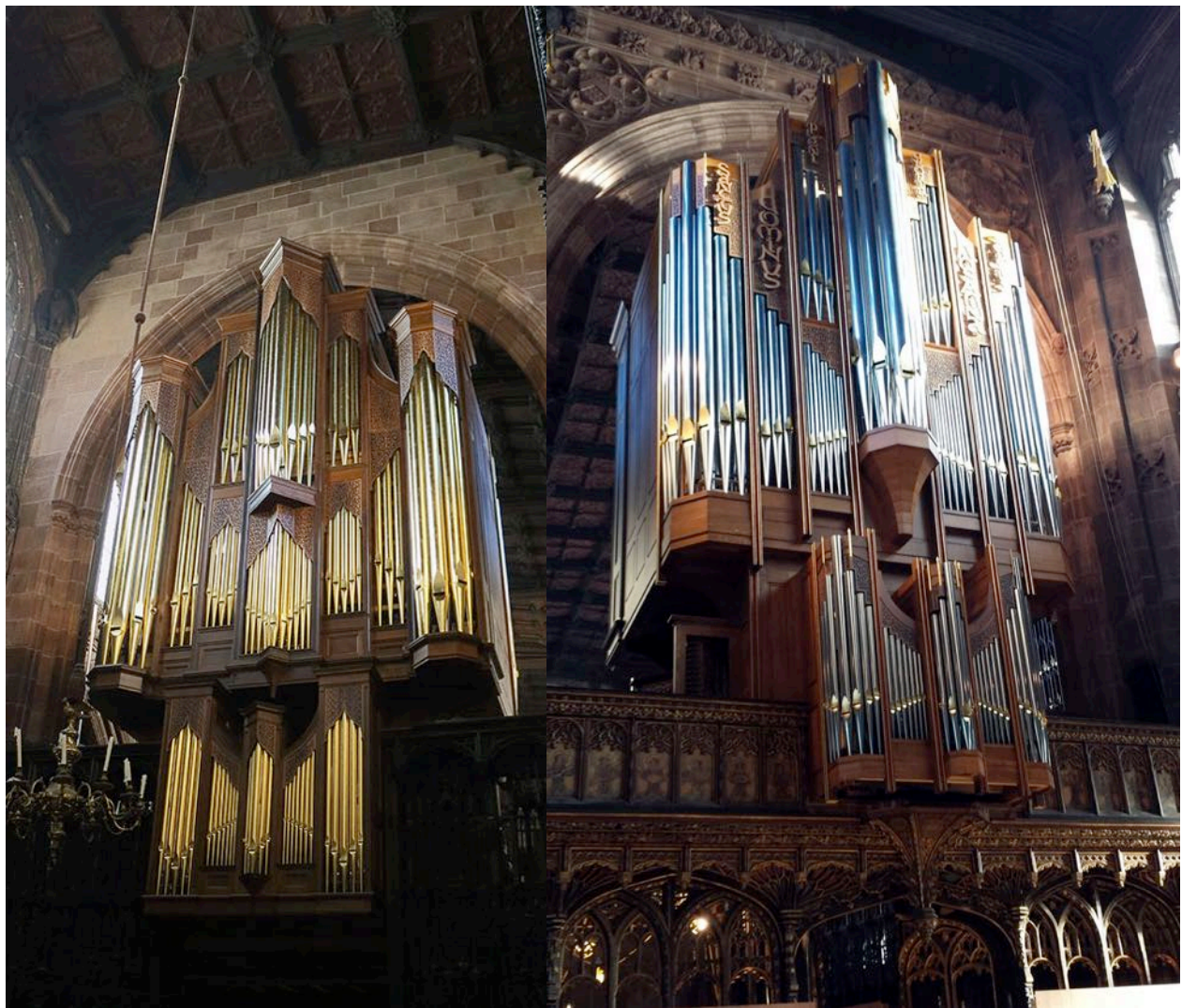
The Chancel – with chandelier – shortly before the removal of the scaffolding.



The Solo being installed – restored
Harrison & Harrison 16ft pipes visible.

January / February / March 2017

While the final regulation of the pipes takes place,
visitors can at last see the [nearly] finished
article. What a marvellous sight!



Paul Hale, 2-4 March, 2017