

Specifications of the JJ Binns Organ

<i>Great Organ:</i>	1 Bourdon	16 feet	61 pipes
	2 Large Open Diapason	8 feet	61 pipes
	3 Small Open Diapason	8 feet	61 pipes
	4 Hohl Flute	8 feet	61 pipes
	5 Harmonic Flute	4 feet	61 pipes
	6 Principal	4 feet	61 pipes
	7 Twelfth	2 feet	61 pipes
	8 Fifteenth	2 ² / ₃ feet	61 pipes
	9 Trumpet	8 feet	61 pipes

<i>Swell Organ</i>	1 Geigen Principal	8 feet	61 pipe
	2 Rohr Flute	8 feet	61 pipe
	3 Viol d'Orchestre	8 feet	61 pipe
	4 Vox Angelica	8 feet	61 pipe
	5 Celeste	8 feet	61 pipe
	6 Salicet	4 feet	61 pipe
	7 Mixture	3 racks	183 pipe
	8 Cornopean	8 feet	61 pipe
	9 Oboe	8 feet	61 pipe

<i>Choir Organ:</i>	1 Salcional	8 feet	61 pipes
	2 Leiblich Gedact	8 feet	61 pipes
	3 Dolce	8 feet	49 pipes
	4 Flauto Traverso	4 feet	61 pipes
	5 Piccolo	2 feet	61 pipes
	6 Clarionet	8 feet	61 pipes

Enclosed in a separate swell box

<i>Pedal Organ:</i>	1 Harmonic Bass	32 feet	30 notes
	2 Open Diapason	16 feet	30 pipes
	3 Sub Bass	16 feet	30 pipes
	4 Octave 18 from no. 2	8 feet	12 pipes
	5 Flute 18 from no. 3	8 feet	12 pipes

<i>Couplers:</i>	1 Swell to Great	7 Swell to Great Octave
	2 Swell to Choir	8 Great to Pedal
	3 Choir to Great	9 Swell to Pedal
	4 Swell Sub-octave	10 Choir to Pedal
	5 Swell Octave	11 Tremulant to Swell
	6 Swell to Great Sub-octave	12 Tremulant to Choir

Accessories:

Four combination pedals to Great Organ acting symmetrically on the Pedal Organ

Four combination pedals to Swell Organ. All double acting and fitted with builder's patent percussions

Balanced crescendo pedal to Swell Organ

Balanced crescendo pedal to Choir Organ

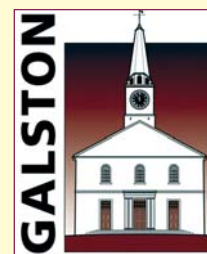


Galston Parish Church of Scotland (Charity No. SC010370)

Information Leaflet - *Our Heritage* - JJ BINNS ORGAN

www.kirknews.org.uk - email: kirknews@btinternet.com

OUR HERITAGE



PARISH CHURCH
of Scotland
Charity No. 010370

JJ BINNS ORGAN

An outstanding instrument



JJ Binns 3-manual Organ

The Chancel in Galston Parish Church came about almost by accident, as many good ideas do, and what a magnificent accident it is! It speaks volumes of the workmanship, craftsmanship and imagination of the people involved in 1911-12. Unfortunately, no records remain to put names to these people. We can only admire the result.

And why was this addition conceived and brought to fruition? In 1910 Galston Parish Church still had a precentor, viz a man who sang the tune and led the singing of the congregation. All other churches in the Valley had some form of organ. Then the precentor, Alexander Young, Provost of Galston, Elder in the church, decided to retire. He was by this time an old man and had held the post for 36 years. The idea of installing an organ was met with much opposition. "There will be nae kist o'whistles in oor kirk" was the attitude of those against. However, the pro-organ lobby won the day and in typical "what the Valley can do Galston can do better" manner.

A committee was formed, avenues were explored, a subscription list was opened and an inspired decision to approach the Carnegie Trust was taken. Andrew Carnegie, born in Dunfermline, had become a millionaire, in steel works in the USA, and a philanthropist. His great loves were books and music, hence the Carnegie Library in Ayr and the Carnegie Halls in New York.

Many churches, libraries and schools have benefited from his generosity and we, in Galston, certainly did. The Carnegie Trust put up half the money for the organ, a gift, not a loan - and the congregation found the rest. It was built by J. & J. Binns of Leeds to definite specifications and is one of the finest examples of its kind in the West of Scotland. It cost £1,000 in 1912.



The JJ Binns Organ sits proudly in the Chancel of Galston Parish Church.

But where to house this organ? It needed a large organ chamber to be built to hold the pipes and the powering engine, hydraulic at first, and an area to act as a sounding chamber. So the idea of the chancel took shape. It was pushed out from the west wall with a barrel ceiling and raised three steps above the floor of the existing church. The organ chamber was built to the right and a new robing room and meeting room to the left, i.e., the present vestry and session house. The chancel was dedicated in 1912, the pulpit and organ in February 1913 and the choir stalls in October 1913. The wood panelling is unstained oak as is the organ wood and the floor is black and white Carera marble as supplied by Messrs. Galbraith and Winton of Glasgow. Stained glass windows were installed in the centre of the back wall and three additional small stained glass windows installed in the south wall.

In June 2013 the Organ was awarded a Grade 2* Historic Organ Certificate by the British Institute of Organ Studies, the second highest grade of certificate awarded. The Grade 2* Certificate is awarded to Organs which are good representatives of the work of their builder, in substantially original condition.

Why not a Grade 1 Certificate? Organist and Choirmaster Graeme Finnie explains: "Since my arrival at Galston in 2010, it has given me great pleasure in providing you, the congregation, Sunday by Sunday, a diet of liturgical music inspired by the church's outstanding Binn's Organ, an instrument with a wealth of power, voicing of great clarity and colour. I had no hesitation in my mind that the Organ would receive a heritage certificate from SHOT (Scottish Historic Organ Trust) on behalf of the British Institute of Organ Studies. I should clarify that the decision to give the award at Grade 2* level was made, not on the instrument's outstanding musical worth, but purely on a minor alteration (non specification) to a lead tube many years ago, which was changed to a plastic tube, a small but important detail at the time. As mentioned earlier, your Organ is most outstanding, and stands in Galston Parish Church today, resplendent, with unaltered JJ Binns specification."

Mr Finnie is one of many fine organists who have had the privilege of displaying their skills on the Galston organ. His predecessor was Bill Murray and for more than 60 years Alex Hopkins was organist on several occasions. Messrs Murray and Hopkins have been awarded the title of 'Organist Emeritus' in honour of their years of service.



The centenary of the Organ was celebrated with a Songs of Praise