

THE ORGAN INSTALLATION 2013-2014

The Project

St Michael's now has a rare opportunity to refurbish a substantial, historic pipe organ, which has been generously donated to the church, and to install it in our organ chamber, in place of an electronic instrument now reaching the end of its useful life. The 40 stop, 3 manual organ is currently in an organ builder's workshop in Dorset, awaiting cleaning and rebuilding. This project has become known as the **Organ Transplant** project, and funds have been raised by the church and held in **St Michael's Organ Fund**.

This project lies at the heart of **Mount Dinham : 150 years of Heritage and Music** which has been developed with the Heritage Lottery Fund. It comprises a series of music and heritage events at St Michael's, designed to widen public participation, share our rich heritage more fully and create a lasting legacy for future generations.

The organ and its history

The organ itself is of a high quality and contemporary with St Michael's itself. Its origins are in an instrument built by Bosward in 1867 for St Jude's Church, in central Birmingham. This organ was rebuilt in 1908 by the well-regarded firm of Bishop, and played for many years by the grandfather of well-known organ recitalist, David Briggs. When St Jude's Church was closed and demolished in the 1970s, the organ was moved to Clayesmore School, Dorset, where it was extended with colourful solo stops by Deane of Taunton. This fine organ needs a new home, and St Michael's would provide an ideal location for it to be heard and used to the full. Practically speaking, the organ is particularly suitable for St Michael's as it can be reconfigured to fit well into the dimensions of the church's organ chamber.

The work

The organ is being installed by organ builder Tim Trenchard, of Dorset, and the work overseen by the St Michael's church organist, Dr Nigel Browne, the Diocesan Organ Advisor, together with the church's Architect, Jonathan Rhind. The work will provide a number of days of voluntary and work experience for local student at Exeter College and Exeter school. Students keen to deepen their knowledge of subject areas including woodwork and carpentry, music, history, architecture, design, photography and theology, are welcome to work closely with the build team on site.