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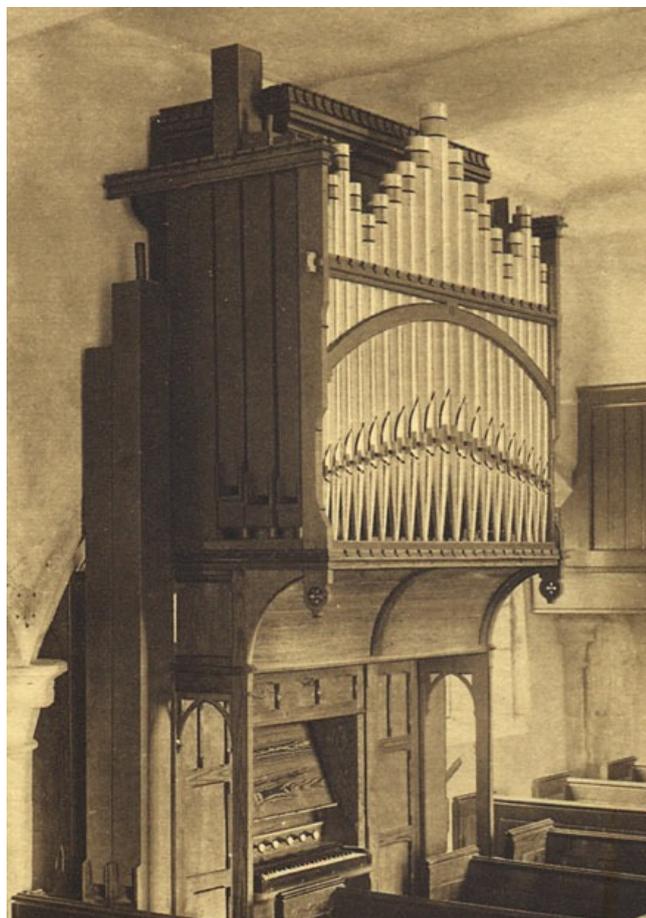
[www.organ-builder.co.uk](http://www.organ-builder.co.uk)

## FOR SALE

### ONE MANUAL & PEDAL ORGAN BY W. G. VOWLES

We offer for sale a charming small organ built by W. G. Vowles of Bristol in 1914 and rebuilt only a few years later by George Osmond, although the reason for the subsequent work is unclear and may have been as a result of the organ needing relocation within the church.

The most recent specification is on NPOR at R01057.



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**Organ by J. W. Walker  
Built in 1914, rebuilt in 1923 by George Osmund**

**SPECIFICATION**

**Great Organ**

Open Diapason	8
Clarabella	8
Gamba	8
Flute	4
Octave	

**Pedal Organ**

Bourdon	16
<i>Manual to Pedal</i>	



The organ has a very interesting historical connection in that it was built during the time that Thomas Hardy, the English novelist and poet, was heavily involved with West Knighton church. Hardy was born near there at Higher Bockhampton, and was born the son of a stonemason, and consequently young Thomas went on to study architecture, studying at Kings College, London and winning prizes from the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Architectural Association. The latter part of his life was spent in Dorset and it is then he became involved with St Peter's Church, becoming Clerk of Works during a major restoration in 1893 which was carried out sensitively and with much skill under Hardy's guidance. Hardy remained connected with the church until his death in 1928.

The year 1914 saw the arrival of the organ, just before the outbreak of The Great War. It is very difficult to know where it had originally been placed although it appears to have been adapted when it reached its final position on the south side of the nave, this is possibly the work of Osmond in 1923, although there are no records to support this. A photo does exist from the early days of the organ in this position which show the organ very well in a beautiful sepia print (see page 1).

The Open Diapason is unenclosed, however the other three manual stops are in the swell box. The pedal is permanently coupled to the manual

Compass: Manuals: 54 notes, Pedal: 25 notes.

## Restored Specification

### SPECIFICATION

#### Manual

Open Diapason	8
Clarabella	8
Gamba	8
Flute	4
Octave	

#### Pedal

Bourdon	16
<i>Manual to Pedal</i>	



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In 2011, at some 97 years of age, and loyal service through most of that time, the organ was removed by us having been replaced by an electronic. The organ is small but very charming, and encased in a rather attractive case with painted and stenciled display pipes. In this position, the organ was squeezed into a blind arch and consequently the pedal pipes were arranged behind the Swell Box and at each side of the organ. The blower was also situated outside the case.

Restoration work on the organ is being carried out by Jonathan Lane & Associates Ltd.

All metal pipework is being cleaned and fully restored, with voicing being regulated and new tuning slides fitted. The wooden pipes will be cleaned down and repainted. The pipework will be brought back to evenness of speech and tone.



A new pedal chest will be made to enable all the pedal pipes to be placed behind the organ ensuring clean lines at the sides and giving the case a little further depth.

New action will be created for the pedal and all the action will be thoroughly restored and regulated. The key touch will be evened for touch and weight.

The casework is will be fully restored and completed by making side panels, which look like they were always intended. This will ensure the organ becomes a freestanding instrument with a modest footprint.

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While not large, the organ has a beautiful tone and consequently may be suitable for a small church, or private individual, who wants an organ that will add character to a room and be a useful instrument in its own right. Alternatively, it may be attractive to someone who wishes to maintain something of historical interest through the Thomas Hardy connection.

The organ is available for sale by Jonathan Lane & Associates Ltd. We offer a full installation service as part of the deal and ongoing maintenance and tuning can be arranged.

Please contact us for further details and to discuss the possibility that this might suit your organ project.

**Price: £16,000** fully restored (**€18,000** at current exchange rate).

Price does not include VAT.