

Joseph William Walker & Sons

2 Hopton Court, SN10 2EU Devizes, United Kingdom

Founded/Born

1828 - ???

Closed/Death

Still active?

yes

Webpage

<https://walkerorgans.com/>

Description

J. W. Walker & Sons Ltd is a prominent British organ-building firm established in 1828 by Joseph William Walker in London. The company initially gained recognition for its small church and barrel organs but achieved significant acclaim with the creation of a large three-manual instrument at Romsey Abbey in 1858. Walker's death in 1870 led to his son, James John Walker, taking over the company, marking the firm's heyday towards the end of the 19th century. Under James's leadership, the company developed a reputation for excellence, particularly noted for its powerful and rich diapason voicing. Notable instruments from this era include those at Holy Trinity Sloane Street, St Margaret's Westminster, and several cathedrals, including York, Rochester, and Bristol.

The firm's reputation persisted through the Second World War, although the 1960s brought a period of eclectic and sometimes controversial organ design. Significant projects during this time include the rebuild of the Wimborne Minster organ and the new instrument at Liverpool's Catholic Cathedral. The company underwent a revival in the 1980s under the leadership of Robert Pennells and his team, producing prestigious instruments for locations such as Bolton Town Hall, Adelaide, and St Martin-in-the-Fields in London. Today, J. W. Walker & Sons Ltd operates under "The Walker Group," with distinct divisions for restoration, tuning, supplies, and new organ building, continuing its legacy in the organ-building industry.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._W._Walker_%26_Sons_Ltd

<https://walkerorgans.com/>

Brake, St. Marien

Willy-Brandt-Straße, 26919 Brake, Germany



| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Builder | J. W. Walker & Sons |
| Year | 1865 |
| Period/Style | Romantic |
| Stops | 15 |
| Keyboards | 2+P |
| Keyaction | tracker/mechanical |

Description

The St. Marien Church in Brake, built in 1963 and nicknamed the "Anchor Church" due to its distinctive tower, was finally able to incorporate a significant historical organ into its worship space in 2004. This organ, originally constructed by the renowned English organ builder Joseph William Walker in 1865 for Meopham Church in Kent, was sold to the Dutch organ restorer F. R. Feenstra in the late 1990s. The organ's historical and musical value led to its purchase by the St. Marien congregation in 2003, facilitated by recommendations from organ expert Stefan Decker and the local "Pfeifenorgel St. Marien Brake e. V." association.

The organ, once restored by Feenstra, was inaugurated on November 27, 2004. The restoration involved replacing worn components such as leather and brass wires, and adding a new 16-foot Trombone stop to complement the existing Bourdon stop. Additionally, a Tremulant was added to the Swell division in 2009. This restoration preserved the organ's authentic Victorian romantic style, making it a notable example of English organ craftsmanship in its new home in Brake.

Stoplist/Disposition

| Great | Swell | Pedal |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Double Diapason 16 ft | Open Diapason 8 ft | Bourdon 16 ft |
| Open Diapason 8 ft | Stopped Diapason 8 ft | Small Trombone 16 ft |
| Stopped Diapason 8 ft | Principal 4 ft | |
| Principal 4 ft | Quartaine 2 rks | |
| Flute 4 ft | Hautboy 8 ft | |
| Fifteenth 2 ft | | |
| Mixture 4 rks | | |
| Trumpet 8 ft | | |

Additional: 3 Couplers, 3 Composition-Pedals, Tremulant Swell, Swell pedal

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/brake-st-marien/>

Vernet-les-Bains, Église anglicane Saint-George

Église anglicane Saint-George, 66820 Vernet-les-Bains, France



Builder

J. W. Walker & Sons

Year

ca. 1963

Period/Style

Modern

Keyaction

electrical

Tuning

Unknown