

# St Mark's Church

*Serving Broomhill, Broomhall and beyond the Parish*

## **ORGAN APPEAL**



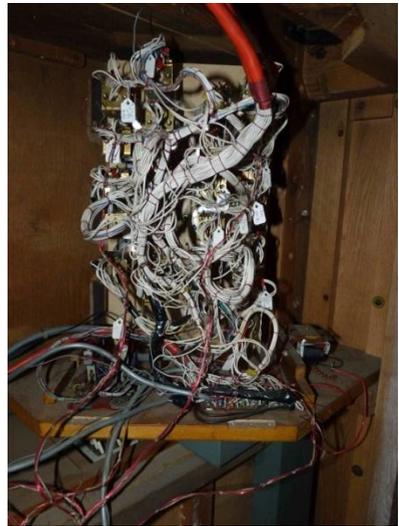
Launched on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Consecration of the New Building

Dear music lover

FIFTY YEARS AGO witnessed the triumphant reopening of St Mark's Church. Fire-bombed during the Second World War, it remained a hollow shell for more than 20 years until it was not so much restored as resurrected in 1963. An integral part of architect George Pace's visionary design for the new building was the organ, to be built by Cousins of Lincoln.

Since then, the organ has become one of the church's major assets. It underpins the vibrant musical tradition of St Mark's and is regarded as Sheffield's finest parish church organ. It is an essential part of the pattern of worship. But, equally, it serves a much wider community through concerts, recitals and tuition.

Although the organ has been tuned and cleaned annually since its installation, no major restorative programme has been carried out. After 50 years' of service, it is now showing signs of age!



*Worn out electrics*



*Dust laden pipes*

If it is to continue to play a vital role in the worshiping life of the church, as well as serve the broader community, an extensive programme of restoration must be undertaken.

Earlier in 2013, St Mark's Governing Body (the Parochial Church Council) commissioned an independent assessment of the state of the organ. The resulting report highlights a number of areas requiring urgent attention, including:

- a renewal of the electrical system, which is life-expired;
- work to the pipes to renew rusting parts and to regulate the instrument as a whole;
- a major check on the wind system with renewal of worn-out parts;
- work to the organ console.

If work is done in line with this report, St Mark's will have the continued use of a very fine organ for the next 30 years, without the need for further major intervention.

This programme has been estimated at **£100,000**. Half of this sum can be borrowed from the church's own investment which means that we need to raise **at least £50,000** if the work is to go ahead.

We will be applying for grants from outside charities, but we need to find much of this money from within the congregation as well as from the wider community that benefits from this wonderful instrument.



*Corrosion to the humidifier*

Our aim is to secure funding **by the end of 2013** so that work can commence in 2014 to be carried out by Nicholson & Co Ltd of Malvern, Worcestershire, a company of organ builders and restorers with 85 years' of experience and an international reputation.



*Pitted contacts from sparking*

Please support us by completing the enclosed **Pledge Form** and returning it to David Ryder, St Mark's honorary Treasurer.

Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

*Philip Booth*

*On behalf of the Organ Sub-Group.*

