



THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF
LINCOLN'S INN

Lincoln's Inn Chapel Organ

Lincoln's Inn Chapel had to wait almost 200 years until the first organ was installed in 1820. There had been offers of instruments before, but these had been declined by the Society fearing that they would incur great expense in their upkeep and maintenance. The modest organ of 1819-20 by Flight and Robson was replaced in 1856 by a three-manual and pedal organ by William Hill, one of the finest organ builders in the country. This organ was rebuilt on no less than nine occasions, most recently in 1969.

As the organ approached its 150th birthday it became clear that its increasing unreliability meant that a decision needed to be taken about its future. After exhaustive research it was concluded that so little of the original Hill organ had remained unaltered that it was impossible to restore it to any original condition, and to spend a considerable sum of money 'making good' the instrument would only store up more problems for the future.



After a lengthy tender process, a contract was signed with Kenneth Tickell in 2005 for a new three-manual organ. It was assembled in the Northampton workshops of Tickell in 2008-9, and arrived on site in July 2009. The case, of European oak, has been stained to match the woodwork of the Chapel, and the highly polished front pipes are complemented by shades of lime wood carved to a foliage design based on the

surviving example of early sixteenth-century mural painting displayed in the room that now forms the passage between Gatehouse Court and Hardwicke Building. The casework has been universally admired, not only for fulfilling a requirement that it should look as if it had always been there, but also for creating an effect of great light and space at the back of the Chapel. The West Window has never looked better.

The organ has been in use since October 2009, and congregation and organists alike have been greatly impressed with the beauty of tone.

The opening recital was given by the Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey, James O'Donnell on 15 March 2010, when many members of the Inn attended to celebrate the end of a five-year project. The Inn has invested in an instrument of enormous visual and aural beauty. It is a worthy addition to the heritage of the Society.

Nicholas Shaw
Organist and Director of Chapel Music