

The Organ at St Andrew's Parish Church, Halstead. (Henry Willis & Sons – 1882)

The Organ in the north chancel of St Andrew's Church, was originally built with a fully mechanical action, and was installed by Henry Willis and Sons in 1882. Three years later, in 1885, the Swell Oboe (8ft) and Great Clarion (4ft) were added. The instrument is considered to be one of the best examples of 'Father' Willis's work in Essex.

After World War II, in 1919, Henry Willis and Sons cleaned, repaired and enlarged the organ, adding a 16ft Quintaton on a separate chest on the Swell, a new bottom octave to the Choir Clarinet, a Pedal Bass Flute, and an Open Diapason No.2 on the Great. A Sw/Ch coupler was also added and at the same time the Pedal action was converted from 'tracker' to 'pneumatic'.

The organ remained very much in the same state until 1981, when a local organ builder (Peter Wood) who had been maintaining the organ, Dismantled, cleaned, and re-furbished the instrument. The 16ft Quintaton from the Swell, and the Harmonic Flute from the Choir were removed at the same time. The Treble pipes from the Quintaton were used to create a Stopped Flute for the Choir and the former Great Dulciana was modified to provide the 2ft Principal which is on the Choir today.

In 2002, The Village Workshop, Thaxted, was appointed to clean and refurbish instrument, replacing the original electric blower installed in 1929, and adding a Pedal Trombone 16ft, III rank Mixture (17.19.22) on the Great, and a 2ft Fifteenth on the Swell. The Great 8ft Open Diapason No.2 had to be removed to accommodate the additions, and these pipes are now stored behind the organ.

The full specification of the organ at December 2002 is:

Great.		Swell (Enclosed)	
Clarion	4'	Cornopean	8'
Tromba	8'	Oboe	8'
Fifteenth	2'	Fifteenth	2'
Principal	4'	Gemshorn	4'
Mixture	III (17.19.22)	Voix Celeste	8'
Clarabel	8'	Salicional	8'
Open Diapason	8'	Leblich Gedacht	8'
Lieblich Bourdon	16'	Open Diapason	8'
		Tremulant	

Choir (Enclosed)

Clarinet	8'
Principal	2'
Stopped Flute	4'
Wald Flute	8'

Pedal

Trombone	16'
Bass Flute	8'
Violincello	8'
Bourdon	16'
Open Diapason	16'

Couplers

Sw/Gt – Sw/Ch – Ch/Gt – Sw/Ped – Ch/Ped – Gt/Ped

4 Pedal combinations to Swell - 4 Pedal combinations to Gt and Ped

1 Gt/Ped (Reversible) – Balanced Pedals for Choir and Swell boxes.

Three Keyboard manuals (56). Pedal-board - radiating/concave (30)
CCC-F

Organists at St Andrew's Parish Church since 1882

Thomas Adams FRCO	1882-1888
Herbert Ham FRCO	1888-1895
Herman Brearley Mus.Bac. FRCO	1895-1902
W H Bullock Mus.Bac. FRCO	1902-1909
George Oldroyd Mus.Bac.	1909-1915
R T Bevan ARCO	1915-1916
O L Davage FRCO LRAM	1916-1920
Charles Walls (Deputy Organist)	1919-1951
Irby T Chapman FRCO (blind organist)	1921-1951
Roy G Wendon	1952-1953
Harry Hellen LTCC CMT TTD	1953-1956
Peter Crane	1956-1959
David Hart (Deputy Organist)	1960-1963
Roland Fisher FRCO	1962 – May 1962 (died)
Lyndon Marguerie Mus.Doc. FRCO	1964-1970
Ivan Cotterill Mus.Doc. MA ACIB	1971-1977
Ian Smith	1977-1981
John York-Skinner (Prof.RCM)	1981
Richard Clark ARCO	1982-1986
Nigel Brown	1986-1988
Brett Johnson LLB	1989-1991
J A P Hill CMG CBE (organist)	1991(Feb) -
Priscilla Holland-Smith LRAM (Choir.Dir)	1991 (Nov) -