

## **FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGAN OF ST JAMES'**

The original St James' organ was one of the first in the colony. It was built by John Gray of London and was played for the first time on 7 October 1827. A contemporary newspaper recounts: 'The organ at St James' Church is said to be a most powerful instrument. The bass may be assimilated to the rolling of thunder.' It was originally installed in the west gallery, moved a number of times, and finally placed in what had been intended as the south porch in 1867.

From 1872 the organ was in the care of William Davidson, an Englishman who had begun his career in Melbourne ten years previously. He added to and rebuilt the old organ over the next 30 years. The impressive tall organ case, of English design, was reused by William Davidson when he modernised and enlarged the organ. The side towers of the original casework were surmounted by mitres and the central tower by a crown. A stylised replica case above and behind it accommodated Davidson's enlargements.

Further extensive alterations and additions were made under organist Arthur Mason (who was also City Organist) and the instrument was placed in its current position on either side of the Choir in 1901. Additional stops were added by George Fincham & Son of Melbourne in 1905 and C.W. Leggo (formerly an employee of Fincham) in 1912.

In 1967 the Parish Council decided to place a contract with Hill, Norman & Beard (Aust.) Pty Ltd for the reconstruction of the organ. The work was completed in 1971. The console is in memory of the Reverend J.H. Chaseling and the Trompette Militaire stop in memory of George Faunce Allman, organist at St James from 1907 to 1961.

Click [here](#) for current and past specifications of the organs at St James' Church.