

## ST JAMES' CHURCH, KING STREET, SYDNEY

### **NEW PIPE ORGAN FOR ST JAMES' CHURCH**

On Sunday 4 March it was announced that terms have been agreed with Dobson Pipe Organ Builders Ltd of Lake City, Iowa, USA for the construction of a new organ for St James' Church. Dobson's have built up an excellent international reputation for building high quality instruments and have recently completed work at St Thomas' Church Fifth Avenue, New York and Merton College, Oxford.

A Fundraising Appeal Committee, chaired by Mr Robert Marriott, has been established by the St James' Music Foundation to help raise the funds for the project (including on-costs), which will be around \$3 million AUD. As with the Conservation Appeal, we will be seeking philanthropic and government grants as well as private donors to support the project. The launch of the appeal will be held on Friday 6 April in the Church.

The first organ was installed in 1827 and rebuilt several times (most recently in 1971); but it is now in a perilous state, suffering frequent malfunctions and costing noticeably more to maintain. Consideration was given to restoring the current organ, however a range of expert advice over several years has concurred that the present instrument is not of sufficient musical or historical value to merit retaining.

In addition to an exhaustive global search for a suitable organ builder, a large amount of engineering and acoustical preparation work has been done to ensure that the new organ will be well-suited to this historic building. In this way the Church will end up with a more versatile instrument than the current one, enhancing its use both in worship and concerts.

It is planned that the new Dobson organ will be completed in late 2020 and will be a major component of the upcoming Bicentenary Celebrations of St James' Church.

The Reverend Andrew Sempell  
Rector

7 Mar 18