

AINSWORTH METHODIST CHAPEL – CHURCH ORGAN

Information supplied by David Earnshaw

This organ is not the original one that was installed soon after the Church was built in 1892, that instrument was made by Higginson with the keyboard on the front aspect. The organ now in use was made by Alexander Young and has had two previous homes. Up to 1966 it had been in Jumbo Methodist Church Middleton Junction where Mr Alan Ogden was the organist this Church was closing and Mr Ernest Ogden Alan's father mentioned to Mr Walter Earnshaw that they had a good organ if he new of anyone in the Bolton Circuit that may be in need of an instrument for a very reasonable figure. (David thinks £100.) Mr Earnshaw knew Darcy Lever Methodist's only had an harmonium so rang David and the ball started rolling, 1966 (This was how David got to know Alan) a group of men went from Darcy Lever each evening and dismantled after numbering and lettering each part and pipe then transported it on the local coal mans lorry. Everyone raised praises to the Lord with loud music from the organ when the task was completed. There had been people who doubted that they would see a good outcome to the task. Alas it only had a short life there because the Church closed in 1971. But it had made a big difference to the worship. As David was still attending Ainsworth in the evenings he knew that the organ was in need of a lot of expensive work. So Darcy Lever Methodist Church offered Ainsworth the organ as a gift knowing there were people who could and would move it. So after the Sunday School Anniversary Services May 1971 it was Bank Holiday Monday work started on removing the organ, the parts of the replacement all ready having been transported once again on the coal lorry and all laid out on the Sunday School floor. One week later after a lot of late nights and sweat the first notes were played by John. When that installation was completed we had one wooden bracket spare which we have never found where it should be!!! There are some items from newspaper cuttings I am sure you will find interesting.

AINSWORTH

DEDICATION SERVICE FOR CHURCH ORGAN

(Bolton Journal 25.6.71)

AN ORGAN which was carefully dismantled in Darcy Lever Methodist Church, Bolton, and re-assembled in Ainsworth Methodist Church, was dedicated at a special service on Sunday.

The organ was offered to the Ainsworth church when it was decided to close Darcy Lever Methodist's. The job of dismantling it and installing it in its new home was carried out by voluntary workers of both churches and took only one week.

The dedication service was conducted by the Rev F. A. Andrews, and the large congregation included representatives from Darcy Lever and from Middleton where the organ was originally installed. Mr D. Earnshaw praised those who had been responsible for its transfer.

An opening voluntary was played by Mr J. S. Mills and the choir sang an anthem under the leadership of Mrs W. Earnshaw.

CHURCH HISTORY

A special hymn was sung to a tune composed by Mr F. Jones of Ainsworth, who accompanied at the organ and incidentally this hymn tune won first prize at a recent Circuit Eisteddfod.

The afternoon service was conducted by Mrs C. Horrobin of Harwood.

The Methodist Guild meeting on Tuesday evening had as guest speaker the Rev K. P. Bullock, Vicar of Ainsworth, who gave an interesting talk on the history of Ainsworth Parish Church.

* * *

MAY 1971.

Church organ on move again . . .

FOR THE SECOND time in three years a group of Bolton Methodists have got themselves a jumbo job—dismantling and re-erecting the organ they got from Jumbo.

It all began when Darcy Lever Methodist Church acquired the organ from a church at Jumbo, Middleton. The volunteers dismantled it and brought it to Bolton for use in their own church.

But now the Bolton church has closed down, and the organ is on the move again.

A team from the Darcy Lever church has spent sev-

eral nights dismantling the organ and transporting it to its new home at Ainsworth Methodist Church, where it will replace an instrument which would have cost hundreds of pounds to restore.

Now the volunteers are re-assembling the Bolton organ. They hope to have the work completed in time for next Sunday's services.

One of the "organ-builders," Mr David Earnshaw, who is a trustee of both churches, told me: "It's a big and complicated job, but we've numbered every single piece, so everything should be all right."



DO-IT-YOURSELF organ builders carrying some of the pipes into Ainsworth Methodist Church. From left: David Earnshaw, Bill Earnshaw, Norman Mills, and Jack Green.

rebuild church organ

IT HAS taken just one week for a team of 12 men of Ainsworth Methodist Church to install a new organ in their 19th century building.

Said the minister, the Rev. F. A. Andrew:

"If we had brought in professionals to do the job, it would have cost more than £1,000 and would have taken months."

As it was, the cost to the church was just £20, and most of that was to replace parts broken in transit.

Last to be connected were the stops, and now the new organ, built by Alexander Young and valued at £5,000, is waiting to be tuned.

Said church organist Mr. John Mills:

"The organ is much better than the old one, but it will probably be about a year before it settles down."

The old organ, installed on the completion of the church building in 1892, needed restoration running into hundreds of pounds.

The problem was solved

when recently-closed Darcy Lever Methodist Church offered its organ to the Ainsworth chapel.

It was carried to the village on a coal lorry.

The organ had a very short stay in the Bolton church. It was only three years ago that volunteers from Darcy Lever dismantled the organ and took it to Bolton from Middleton.

Leading the team of workers at Ainsworth was Mr. David Earnshaw, a trustee of both the Ainsworth and the Bolton churches.

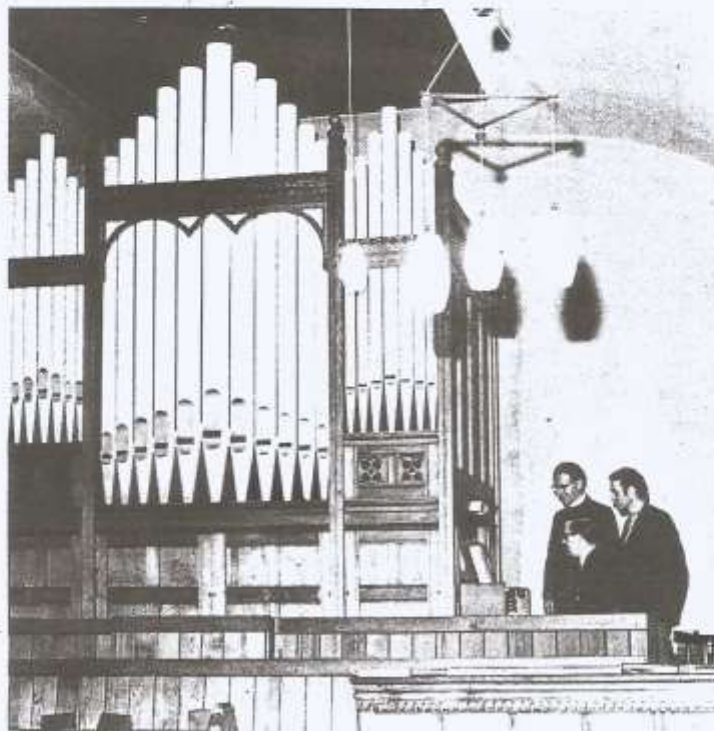
He said: "Having built this organ before, we knew more or less how to approach the task. It was a big and complicated job but we made it easier by numbering every piece."

'LAST FOR YEARS'

He added:

"This new organ should last for years. We are all hoping that there will be no cause to move it again."

The organ will be dedicated in the near future.



Mr. John Mills at the newly-installed organ, with the minister, the Rev. F. A. Andrews and Mr. David Earnshaw.