

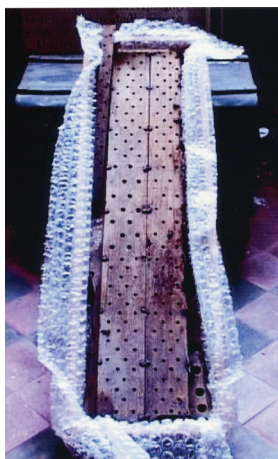


THE
EXPERIENCE
OF WORSHIP
IN LATE MEDIEVAL
CATHEDRAL AND
PARISH CHURCH

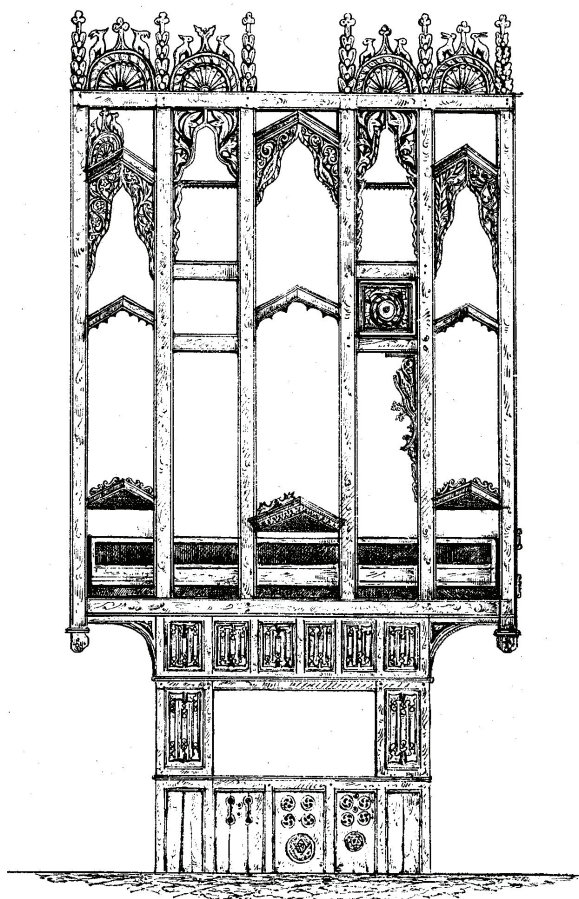
PLANNING THE MEDIEVAL ORGAN

The evidence for pre-Reformation organs

There is ample evidence of pre-Reformation organs and organ players in church and cathedral records, but only three fragmentary elements of late medieval British organs survive: two windchests from Suffolk, and part of the organ case from St Stephen's Church, Old Radnor, Powys. And only a few pipes survive from the late 16th and early 17th century.



Photos, Dominic Gwynn



The pre-Reformation survivals: a windchest c.1535 adapted as a dairy door in a house in Wetheringsett; a second windchest found in the coffin house at Wingfield Church, and a drawing of the Old Radnor organ case c.1510–30, as it survived before restoration in the 19th century.

Towards the new organ

The organ builders, Goetze and Gwynn, had already made instruments based on the Wetheringsett and Wingfield fragments (2001–2). They now set about a third instrument for the medieval church of St Teilo, being reconstructed as it was c.1520 in St Fagans: National History Museum Wales.

The preliminary sketch for the new organ shows some influence from the Old Radnor case, reflecting a Welsh character; the pipework was modelled on the earliest West Country survivals, from the mid 17th century.

