



ORGAN



The organ was built in 1895 for the Howland family who lived at Rushymead, then a private house in Coleshill, now a hospice and residential care home. The house was sold, and then demolished at the end of World War I. By 1920, the organ had been moved to St Michael's Church (now the church hall). When the present St Michael's was built in 1966, the instrument was taken to pieces and reconstructed in the new building. This provided an opportunity to make additions and alterations, including electrification. (Prior to this, the bellows had been pumped manually.)

The original intention was to install the organ in the South Transept gallery, where the church office is now placed. Fortunately the church was persuaded to follow the recommendation of the Royal School of Church Music consultant and use the West Gallery instead, from where the organ is able to speak clearly into the body of the Nave.

In 2016 to mark the Golden Jubilee of the present church building, funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Mobbs Memorial Trust and On Organ, enabled the organ to be cleaned and re-leathered. This work took several weeks, as the instrument had to be dismantled and individual parts taken off-site for cleaning before being put back into position. The result has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of the sound, something appreciated both by the regular team of organists, and the congregation.



The organ in the original church - now the hall

