

## ORGAN

The first mention of an organ in All Saints Church, Birchington is in 1540, when the 'glow' (glue) to mend the organ 'bellas' (bellows) cost a penny. During the Reformation in 1550, the 'pypys' of the old organ were sold for 6s 8d.

Whether a new organ was installed later we are not sure.

In 1804 there is an entry in the churchwardens' accounts which reads:

“for a new pipe for psalm singing . . . . 7s 0d”

At this time there was a gallery across the west end of the nave, which may have been used for the singers and /or musicians, but we have no proof of this in our church, though it is sometimes noted in other churches at this time.

After the appointment of the Rev John Price Alcock in 1871, as the first Vicar of the parish (as opposed to a Curate, as all the previous ministers had been) a new organ by **Gray & Davidson** was purchased at a cost of £255. This did not include the cost of erecting the instrument.

The present organ was installed in 1911, soon after the new vestries were added in memory of Bishop Charles Ellicott of Gloucester, who is buried in the churchyard. The new organ was built by **Messrs T. Hopkins & Son**. The electric discus blower was installed in 1935.

A. T. Walker