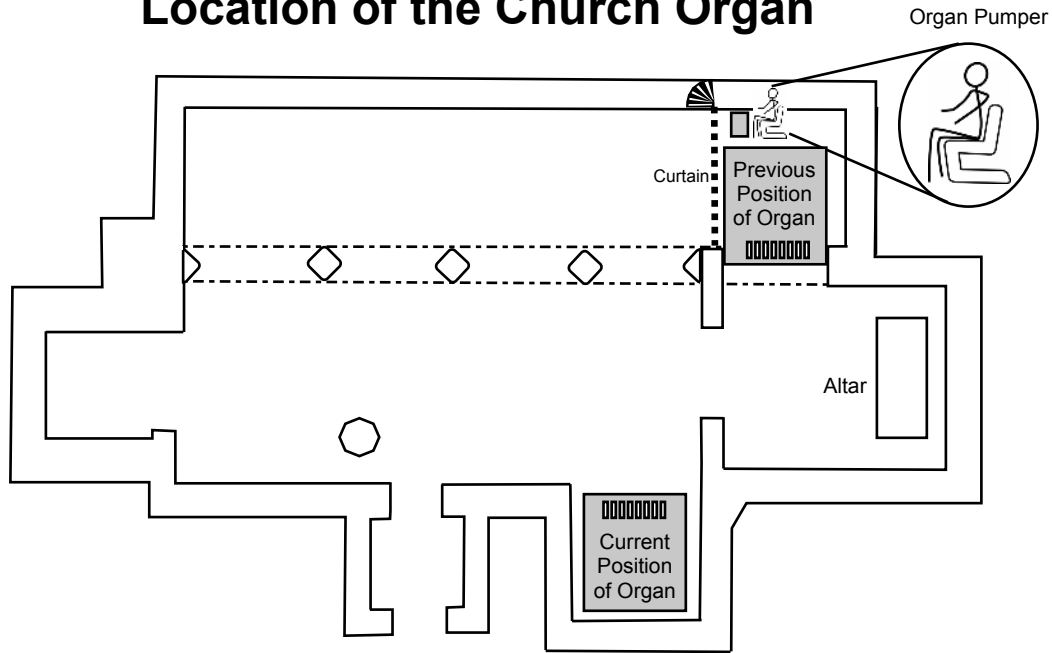
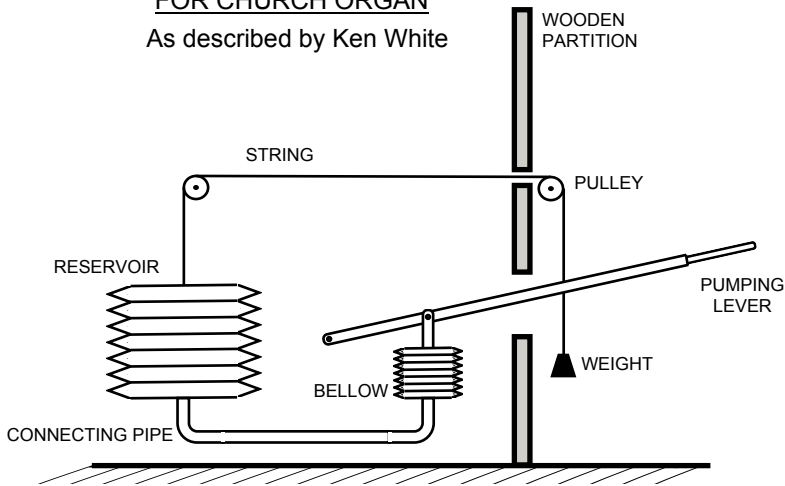


Location of the Church Organ



PUMPING MECHANISM FOR CHURCH ORGAN

As described by Ken White



Ken White was an evacuee in the village for two years from 1939 and one of his duties during his last year was to pump the organ during Sunday services. Ken was trained by his predecessor Norman Cheek. At that time, the organ was situated in the Lady Chapel as shown in the diagram and Ken pumped the bellows at the back of the organ facing the congregation behind a thick curtain.

At times, the manual pumping would be physically demanding. Ken remembers Mrs Cheek helping her son, Norman, during the 1939 Harvest Festival service; these hymns are joyous, booming and demanding of the pumper; in fact rapid pumping was needed throughout for those hymns. Most hymns are less demanding but it was always a standup task.

Judging when to stop pumping was a crucial skill. If you stopped too early, the organ would fade before the end of the hymn and if you stopped too late, the organ would wheeze loudly after the hymn had finished as the air reservoir evacuated the remaining air. However, the pumping mechanism incorporated a low-tech solution to this problem. A piece of string, passing over pulleys, was attached to the air reservoir with a weight on the other end which dropped as the reservoir of air was pumped up and rose when all air was evacuated. This helped the person doing the pumping to judge when to stop as the end of each hymn drew to a close. Timing was of the essence.