

# SHREWSBURY ABBEY PRESS RELEASE

## ABBEY ORGANIST'S FUND RAISING CHALLENGE

In August Shrewsbury Abbey organist Nigel Pursey will be cycling 990 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for the Abbey's Organ Fund

The Abbey has launched an appeal to raise thousands of pounds to renovate and complete its fine 1911 William Hill organ

Nigel Pursey said "I want to do something on a personal basis to raise money for the Organ Fund. This is a fine and potentially magnificent organ which, without renovation, will fail at some future date"

Nigel claims to be a leisure cyclist only so 990 miles over 14 days (73 miles a day on average) is a significant personal challenge

In addition he will give 4 short recitals en route because, as he says, "fund raising for an organ needs also to involve organ playing!"

Abbey Vicar, Rev Dr Tom Atfield, said "Our organist Nigel Pursey's dedication to the project to renovate our 1911 organ is nothing short of remarkable. His cross country cycling challenge is one of many ways that a large number of people are contributing to the future of this unique historical asset"

He added "Please give generously to the Organ Fund and support Nigel with best wishes and prayers as he undertakes this personal challenge"

On line donations can be made through [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nigelpursey](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nigelpursey) or by cheque payable to the Shrewsbury Abbey Restoration Account and delivered to the Abbey's Foregate Street office

ENDS

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### Notes for Editor

Shrewsbury Abbey's organ was installed in 1911 by William Hill and Sons Ltd, one of the two leading organ builders of the time. It uses tubular pneumatic actions to link the keyboards (manuals) and pedals with over 1500 pipes. After over 100 years, the several hundred pneumatic motors are increasingly unreliable

The organ was never completed, although some additions were made in 1937 and 1945. In 1958 the organ was cleaned and some small tonal changes were made. No major work or additions have been made since then

Nigel Pursey's End 2 End cycle challenge starts on 11 August and he plans to arrive in John O'Groats on 24 August. En route recitals are at St Cuthberts Wells on 13 August, Shrewsbury Abbey on 15 August, Kendal Parish Church on 17 August, and St Mary's Episcopal Church Hamilton on 19 August