

# Alfred Robert Gaul

**(1837 – 1913)**

Alfred Gaul, one of the most respected British composers, started out as a chorister at Norwich Cathedral and later assistant organist at the cathedral under Zachariah Buck.

Alfred Gaul graduated with a Cambridge music degree in 1863 and afterwards assumed position of organist at St. John's, Ladywood Birmingham then in 1868 at St. Augustine's in Edgbaston until his death in September 1913. In 1887 he was made conductor of the Walsall Philharmonic Society.



Gaul taught at the Birmingham and Midland Institute where he taught counterpoint and harmony. He also taught at the King Edward High School for Girls in Birmingham.

Alfred Gaul composed a number church anthems, hymn tunes and psalms, an oratorio and several cantatas including "The Ten Virgins", "Joan of Arc", "Israel in the wilderness" and probably his best known work, "The Holy City" (1882).

After forty-five years of service and as a memorial to Mr Alfred Gaul, the organ was rebuilt in 1914 by the firm of Frederick Rothwell of London, at a cost of nearly £1,000.

A Memorial plaque erected following the organ rebuild, placed below the picture shown above, reads as follows:-

*To the Glory of God - The Organ Was Rebuilt in 1914 - In Grateful Memory of*

*Alfred R Gaul. Mus.Bac - Master of the Music in this Church - From the Foundation in 1868 till*

*1913 - When He Joined The Choir Invisible - "I Saw a New Heaven and a New Earth"*

The 'Holy City' among other compositions can be purchased at [Musicroom.com](http://Musicroom.com)