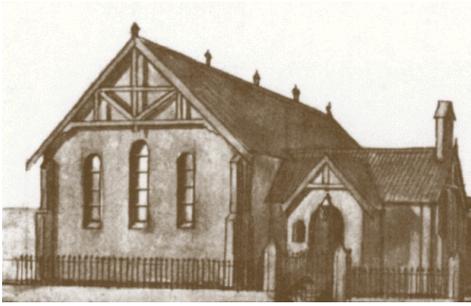


Stanmore SDA Church Historical Sketch



The Stanmore Seventh-Day Adventist Church was officially opened and dedicated on Sunday 24th April 1898. On that day the newly-built church was dedicated to the Lord. Pastor A.G. Daniells preached the dedicatory sermon. Pastor Daniells became President of the Australasian Union Conference and still later the General Conference President.

Before the Stanmore Church was built, members met in various halls in the surrounding suburbs. Later on a camp meeting was held near the Stanmore Railway Station, in what is now “Weekly Park”.

In the year 1897, it was decided to run an evangelistic mission for six months on the “Weekly Park” site. As a result of the mission, the membership increased to over 100 and it was decided to purchase the block of ground on which Stanmore Church now stands. ”

The Church was mainly built by volunteer tradesmen under the supervision of a Master Builder, Mr. Robert Shannon who was a member of the church.

The church consisted of the main body of the church and a side hall. The wall between the church and the hall could be raised to allow for a larger congregation to enjoy both Sabbath School and Church services. During the year 1901-1907, the side hall was used as a Church School.

There are two pieces of furniture in Stanmore Church which have great historical interest. These are the pulpit and the pipe organ.



The pulpit is 111 years old and was made and presented to the church by Pastor Johan Johanson. It was built and designed after a similar pulpit in the Dime Tabernacle at Battle Creek in Michigan U.S.A. Of historical interest also is that Mrs. Ellen G. White spoke from this pulpit.

Our unique pipe organ dates back to eighteenth century and is the oldest known organ casework in Australia. Since 1928 the instrument has played an integral role in the church’s worship services. About fifty years later, Mrs Petherbridge, one of the church’s organists, had the organ listed with the Organ Historical Trust of Australia, and we are indebted to her insight in doing this.



The opportunity to restore or reconstruct an historic organ with unknown provenance is always a recipe for discovering much more than you ever anticipated. Such was the case with the Stanmore Seventh-day Adventist Church pipe organ. Despite its apparent simplicity, the instrument proved to be full of surprises which it very slowly yielded up, right until the time of its reinstallation. Perhaps the biggest surprise concerned its age. Originally believed to be from the mid-nineteenth century, the restoration of this beautiful little instrument has revealed that the oldest parts it contains date from at least the beginnings of the eighteenth century!

Adventists look for the Second Coming. Should it not occur in this generation, this organ will continue to give glory to God far into the future. To this end it was rededicated on May 20, 2006.

The Church building was extended in the early 1950's to incorporate the rear hall which was officially opened in 1952. Much of the work was carried out by volunteer labour under the supervision of Mr. Lindsay Petherbridge. More recently the main body of the church has undergone considerable constructional changes including sound-proofing and air-conditioning. We praise the Lord for this lovely house of worship which we now enjoy.



What makes up the Stanmore church is its people – the congregation. There have been over the past 111 years so many wonderful people who have been members of the Stanmore Church, people of different ethnic backgrounds who have dedicated their lives to the service of God and His church here at Stanmore. They have supported the church in so many different ways with their talents, with their dedication and with their financial support. They have kept the flame burning. We have indeed seen Stanmore Church prosper because of God's blessing upon the faithful members over the years. We are confident that this blessing will continue as, by His grace, we faithfully witness in the Stanmore area.

