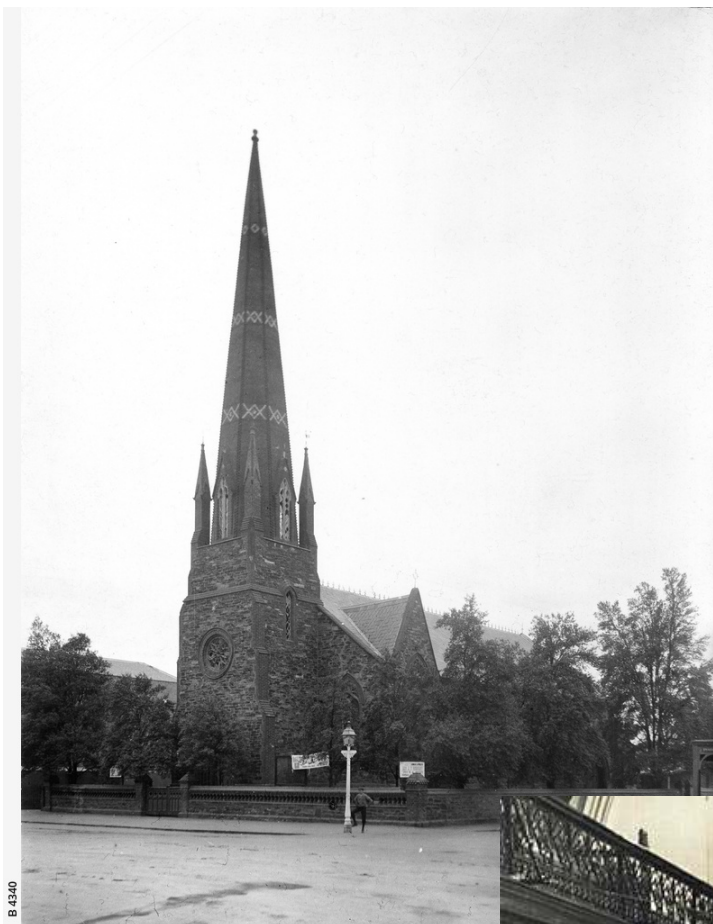


## Maughan Church, Adelaide



The prominent tower of the old Maughan Church could be seen silhouetted against the sky in early Adelaide. Designed by architect James

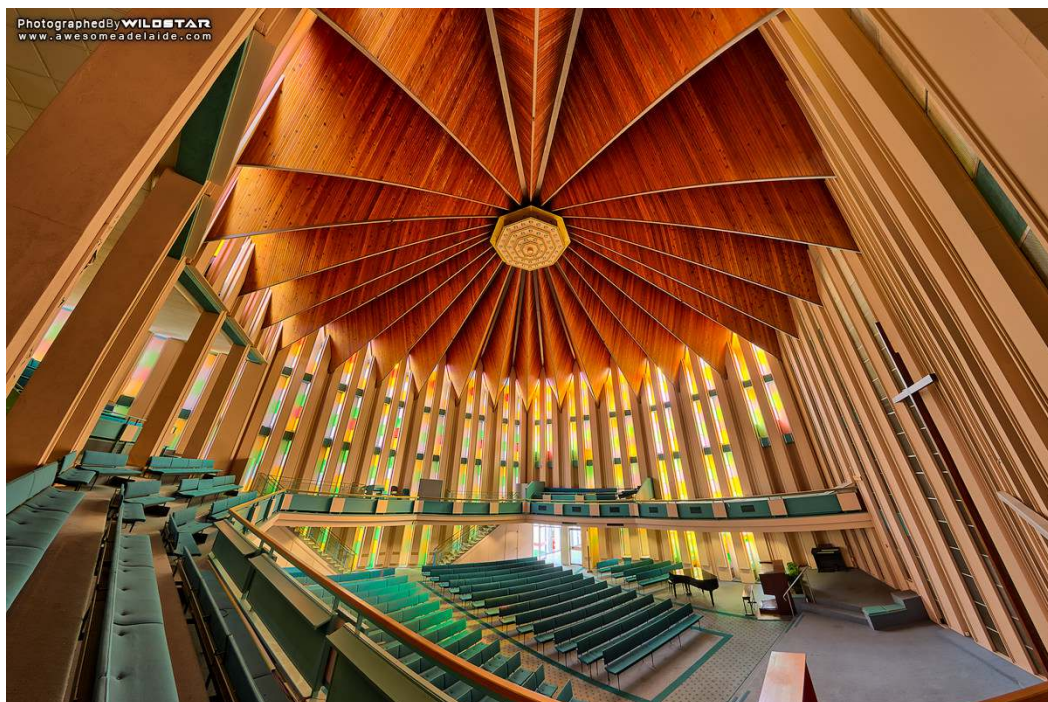
MacGeorge, this bluestone church was built in 1866 and known as the Methodist New Connexion Church. It was later named the Maughan Church after its pioneering minister, Rev. James Maughan (October 1826 – 8 March 1871). Maughan was sent from England to Melbourne, Victoria aboard the *Blanche Moore* to serve as a New Connexion missionary, arriving in August 1862. He visited Adelaide in November 1862, and found he could be more usefully employed there. Within weeks the congregation had swollen to such an extent they had to move from



the West Adelaide Assembly Rooms ("Hillier's Rooms") in Hindley Street to White's Rooms on King William Street, then built a manse on Whitmore Square and the new Church on the corner of Franklin and Pitt Streets, Adelaide. The original 1865 Methodist church



established the Central Methodist Mission on this site in 1900, providing outreach services to the poor. In 1943, the Methodist Church acquired the license for Radio Station 5KA and broadcast from this site. With the establishment of LifeLine on the site



in 1963, larger and more modern facilities were required and hence a new church was commissioned. The spire of the old church had been a landmark of the city until the demolition and subsequent replacement of the church in 1965.

The new church was octagonal in shape, described as Contemporary Gothic, featuring a folded plate roof, parquetry timber ceiling and tall slit windows that formed a 24 sided crown. The building was designed by architects Gordon C. Brown and Donald L. Davies, with consultant architect Eric von Schramek. Its design incorporated an octagonal, twenty-four-gabled roof, a large and lofty semi-

circular auditorium and a square tower at the apex of the two streets. It was breathtakingly beautiful. The architecture of the ceiling was a masterpiece. On completion it was noted in the Heritage Register as “a notable and prominent example of contemporary Gothic church architecture which is rare in South Australia and unique in the city centre”.





The organ at Maughan Uniting Church was built in 1928 by J.E. Dodd for the previous church building and was sited at the front of the church behind a three-tower case. It consisted of two manuals, 30 speaking stops, 7 couplers, and utilised tubular-pneumatic action.

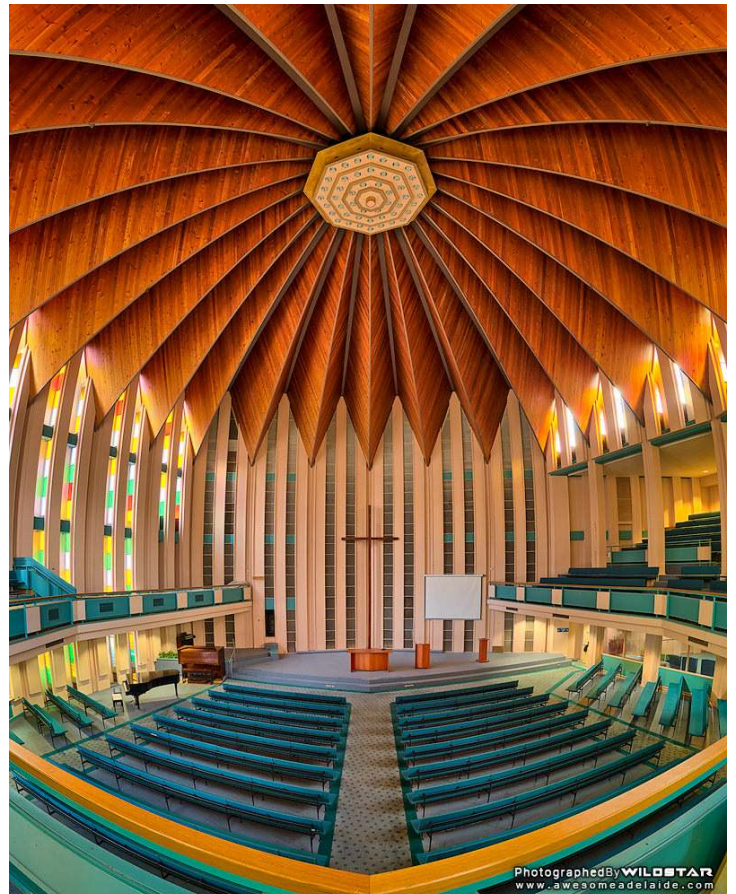


The following account appeared in The Advertiser, 11 April 1929, p.8

The new organ at the Maughan Central Mission (Maughan Church), Franklin-street, a two-manual and pedal instrument with thirty speaking stops, and tubular-pneumatic action throughout, was built by Mr. J.E. Dodd of Adelaide, to the specifications of Mr. Montague Finlay, organist and choirmaster of the church. The dedication ceremony will take place on April 18.

This instrument, the latest example of the excellence of local organ-building, is handsomely cased and replete with modern control devices, including double-touch pneumatic pistons. A wind range of couplers is provided, and the organ responds readily to every demand of the player. Diapasons are well-voiced, flutes of limpid tone, and reeds of delightful timbre. A notable feature of the pedal organ of eight stops, giving this important department a variety of tone seldom obtainable in South Australia.

The organ was rebuilt and greatly enlarged for the new church in 1965 by J.E. Dodd & Sons, Gunstar Organ Works. This included the addition of considerable upperwork, extension units and reeds. The organ now had three manuals, 69 speaking stops, 18 couplers, and used electro-pneumatic action. Other notable Dodd/Gunstar

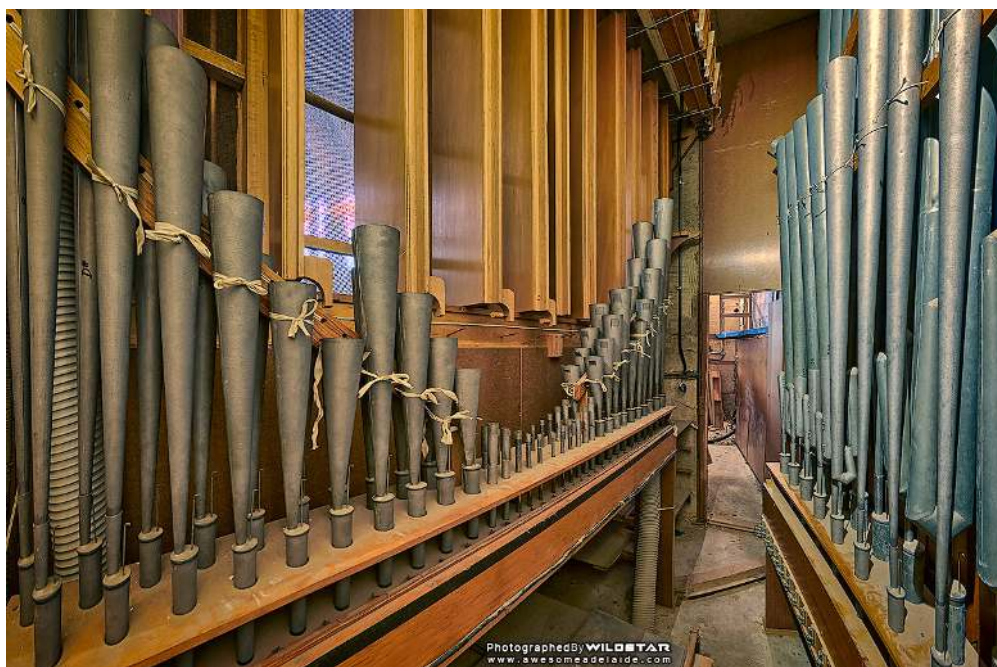




rebuilt carried out at around this time included Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adelaide, Tynte Street, Baptist Church, North Adelaide and St Mary's Cathedral, Perth.

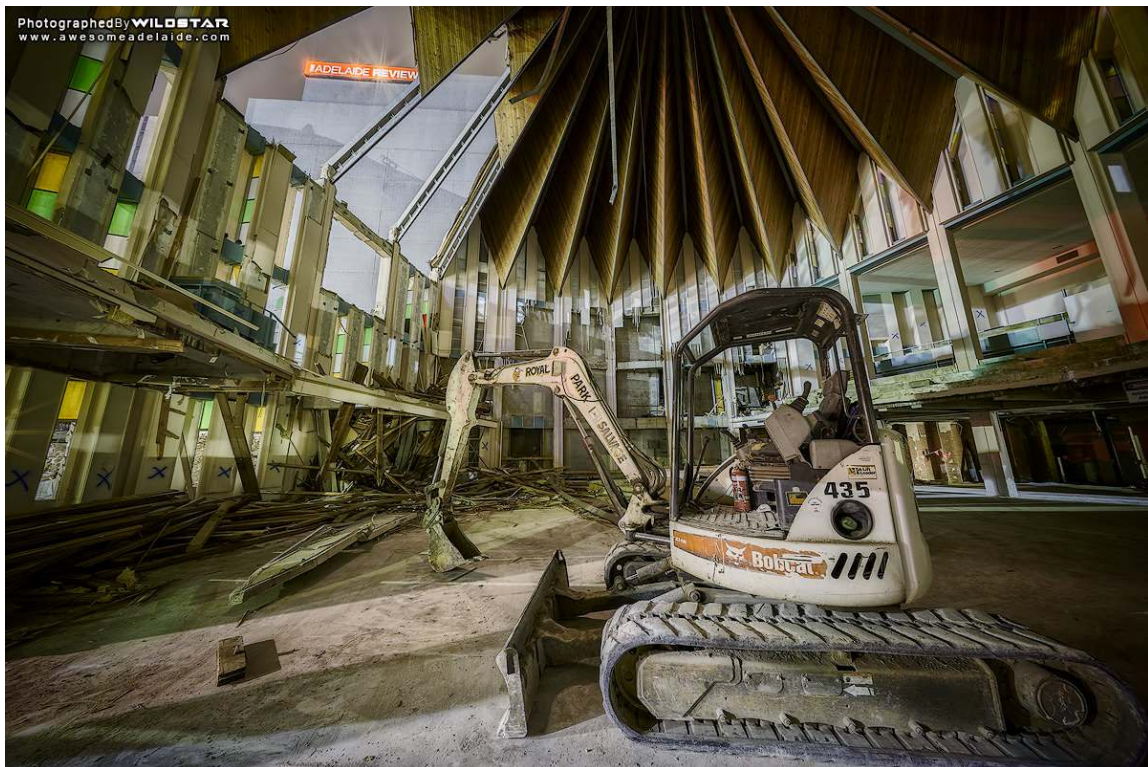
The new church project was designed to cover the importance of retaining a church in the city centre rather than relocating to a suburban location. At the time it was perceived that the city was the centre of government, education, commerce and mass communication, and it was noted that many people in the city were served by this church. Uniting Communities conducted outreach services from this site until its closure in 2016.

Radio Station 5KA operated from the site for many years. Congregation numbers dwindled over the years and, in its last few years, Maughan Church offered Chinese and Sudanese services. Opting to demolish the church and its surrounding structures, the church instead plan





to construct a 20 storey building with apartments for retirees and people with disabilities, along with space to continue church services. Demolition commenced in August 2016 and was completed in September.



and organisations throughout South Australia and Victoria.

*Bruce Duncan*

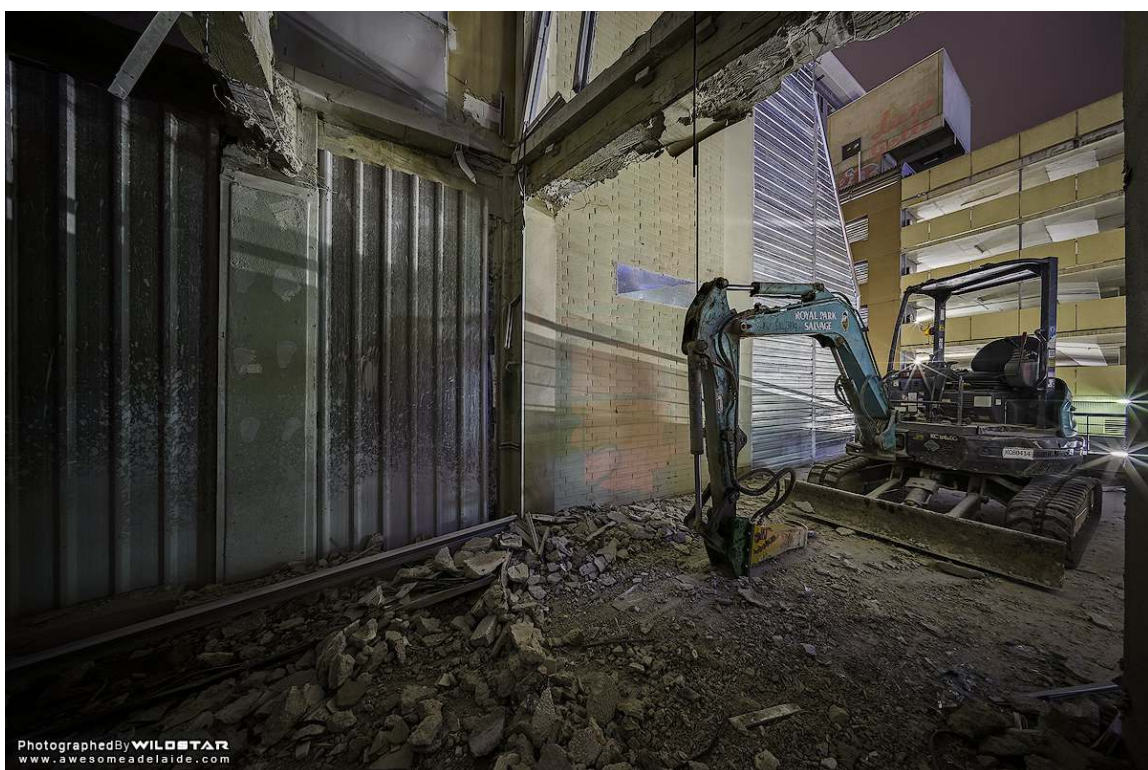
The organ had been built into the structure of the church building and covered by screens. While some of the pipework has been retrieved and the console, it is unlikely that it can be preserved as a whole. What could be salvaged from the building has been saved and re-utilized elsewhere.

Organ pieces have been sent to the Payneham Road Uniting Church while the organ pipes (hidden behind the rear wall screen) have been moved to other churches

Detail for this article has come from many sources. Notable among these are:

- The Organ historical Trust of Australia
- Autopsy of Adelaide
- Amazing Adelaide
- Adelaide Advertiser

Particular thanks to [awesomeadelaide.com](http://www.awesomeadelaide.com) for permission to reproduce their dramatic photographs.







PhotographedBy **WILDSTAR**  
www.awesomeadelaide.com



# Specification of the Maughan Church organ, 1965 rebuild

<b>GREAT</b> 61 notes	<b>SWELL</b> 61 notes	<b>CHOIR</b> 61 notes	<b>PEDAL</b> 30 notes'
Dulciana 16	Lieblich Bourdon 16	Dulciana 16	Major Bass 16
Open Diapason no 1 8	Open Diapason 8	Gedact 8	Sub Bass 16
Open Diapason no 2 8	Hohl Flute 8	Flute 8	Echo Bourdon 16
Claribel 8	Viol d'Orchestre 8	Viol d'Gamba 8	Dulciana 8
Gedact 8	Aeoline 8	Dulciana 8	Quint 10-2/3
Dulciana 8	Octave Diapason 4	Angelica 8	Principal 8
Principal 4	Flauto Traverso 4	Flute 4	Open Flute 8
Harmonic Flute 4	Fifteenth 2	Dulcet 4	Stopped Flute 8
Twelfth 2-2/3	Mixture 22.26.29 III	Twelfth 2-2/3	Dulciana 8
Fifteenth 2	Sesquialtera 12.17 II	Nazard 2-2/3	Octave Quint 5-1/3
Mixture 19.22.26 III	Oboe 8	Piccolo 2	Fifteenth 4
Contra Tromba 16	Double Trumpet 16	Tierce 1-3/5	Octave Flute 4
Tromba 8	Trumpet 8	Larigot 1-1/3	Mixture IV
Octave Tromba 4	Clarion 4	Dulciana Mixture 26.29 II	Trombone 16
Tuba 8	Tremulant	Clarinet 8	Tromba 8
Octave Tuba 4	Swell Sub	Contra Tromba 16	Octave Tromba 4
Swell to Great 16	Swell Super	Tromba 8	Double Trumpet 16
Swell to Great 8		Octave Tromba 4	Trumpet 8
Swell to Great 4		Tuba 8	Clarion 4
Choir to Great 16	Chimes	Octave Tuba 4	Great to Pedal 8
Choir to Great 8		Tremulant	Great to Pedal 4
Choir to Great 4		Swell to Choir 16	Swell to Pedal 8
		Swell to Choir 8	Swell to Pedal 4
		Swell to Choir 4	Choir to Pedal 8
		Great to Choir 8	Choir to Pedal 4
			Great & Pedal Pistons Coupled



Left: Pedal Mixture  
Right: Swell Trumpet  
Photo: John Maidment

