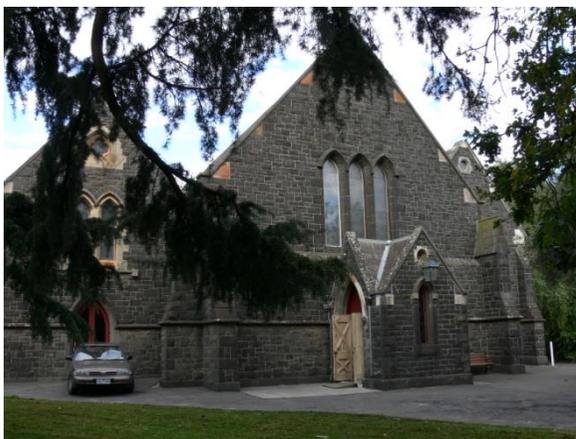


ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

St Stephen's Parish, which dates from 1849, was the first to be established in the eastern suburban area of Melbourne. An acre of land was offered in this year by the Revd Joseph Docker, a local landowner, after whom Docker's Hill was named, and by the end of the year Arthur Newson and James Blackburn had been engaged to design a church building. The foundation stone was laid in June 1850 and the unfinished church opened in November 1851. Further work, mainly on the interior, was carried out in 1854 under the supervision of architect Charles Webb. In 1863 the north aisle was erected to the design of Nathaniel Billing, and the west wall of the church rebuilt. In 1876 the south aisle and chancel were erected under the supervision of architect D. Goldie while in 1923 the choir vestry was erected by Clements Langford, thus completing the fabric of the building as it stands today.

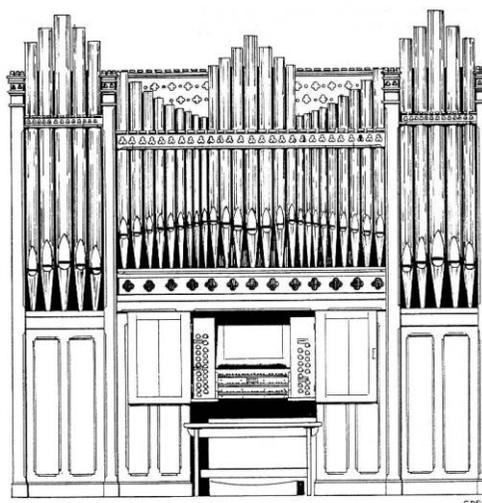


ENQUIRIES

The Parish Secretary,
St Stephen's Anglican Church
PO Box 7112, Richmond 3121

Organ Historical Trust of Australia
ABN 99 005 443 372

St Stephen's Anglican Church, Richmond



ORGAN CONSERVATION APPEAL

1865 J.W. Walker
London

The pipe organ at St Stephen's Church

HISTORY

The organ was built in 1865 by the noted London organbuilder Joseph William Walker for 'Rose Hill', the Toorak home of William Philpott. The firm's job number 776, it cost £670. In 1869 it was acquired by St Stephen's Church and in 1876 moved to its present position in the south aisle of the church. Minor restoration work was carried out in 1963 by Arthur Jones, the Australian representative of the Walker firm, but it has never received a complete and thorough restoration.

Joseph Walker (1803-1870) was one of the leading organbuilders in 19th century Britain, founding his firm in 1828. It was the most prominent exporter of organs to Australia from the 1850s to the 1880s. The St Stephen's organ, and that in Hobart Town Hall opened in 1870 (which was an almost identical copy of the St Stephen's organ) were the two largest examples.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The instrument is of international significance on account of its size and originality, with very few changes having taken place in its 152-year history. Very few comparable Walker organs exist in Britain or elsewhere.

The instrument is notable for its use of first-class materials, including spotted metal for the whole of the metal pipework. It retains its mechanical key and stop actions together with the original wind system and all of the original pipework, with the exception of one rank.

The tonal design is in the English-classical style with three Mixture stops and 14 ranks of upperwork.

PROPOSED CONSERVATION

The organ is now in need of a comprehensive conservation. The mechanical key actions can be unreliable, particularly in summer months and are heavy and irregular in operation. The windchests would benefit from a complete overhaul and the large double-rise

reservoir urgently requires the releathering of its joints. The pipework requires cleaning and regulating while the casework would benefit from cleaning and waxing of the oak timbers.

The organ will be fitted with a new silent electric blowing plant of sufficient capacity to provide ample wind for full organ.

Part of the work will also consist of the rotation of the organ by 90 degrees so that it faces down the south aisle of the church rather than across the chancel, where its casework and facade pipes are partially hidden and tonal egress is unsatisfactory. This will enable the whole of the casework to be viewed and the sound of the instrument greatly enhanced through improved projection down the building.

The organ will continue to be used for services and provide a valuable accompaniment to the liturgy and be an essential community resource for musical performances and teaching.

THE APPEAL

The St Stephen's Church organ conservation appeal is being coordinated through the Organ Historical Trust of Australia which, through its listing in the Federal Government Register of Cultural Organisations, is able to offer tax-deductibility for donations received to the appeal. The donations will attract a receipt which can be used when donors are claiming income tax deductions.



www.ohta.org.au

Drawing of the St Stephen's organ case courtesy of Graeme D. Rushworth

APPEAL TARGET

The target for the St Stephen's organ restoration appeal is \$325,000

THE ORGANBUILDER

The restoration will be carried out by the Melbourne firm of Wakeley Pipe Organs Pty Ltd which has an enviable record for sensitive conservation work. The firm has restored a number of instruments both in Australia and China, a recent outstanding example of which is at St Francis Xavier's Catholic Cathedral in Adelaide.

APPEAL COMMITTEE

Christopher Trikalis (Chairman), Professor Garry Warne AM (Secretary), Dr Tim Gilley (Treasurer) Reverend Dennis Webster (Vicar) Alistair Lloyd AO, Barry Novy OAM

ADVISOR

John Maidment OAM



St Stephen's Church, Richmond Organ Conservation Appeal

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone Private.....

Business.....

I/We wish to make a donation towards the restoration of the St Stephen's Church, Richmond organ:

I/We wish to donate \$ _____

Payment by: Cheque Visa Mastercard

Amount.....

Card number ---- / ---- / ---- / ----

Expiry date.....

Name on card.....

Signature.....

Date.....

To ensure tax-deductibility please make cheques payable to: Organ Historical Trust of Australia.

Please send this form with your donation to:

St Stephen's Richmond Walker Organ Conservation Appeal
St Stephen's Church
Church Street
Richmond Victoria 3121