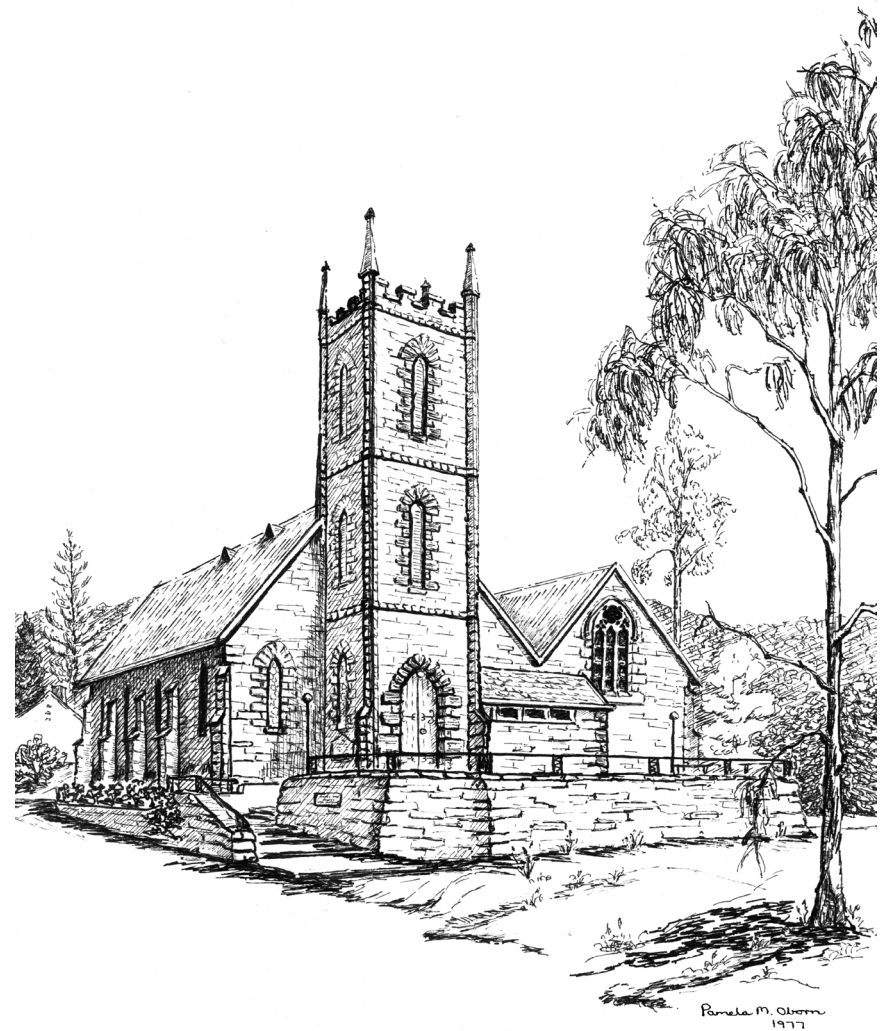


THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL



Revised 2014

**MITCHAM
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

INTRODUCTION

As part of St Michael's 125th Anniversary Celebrations in 1977 a small booklet was printed giving a brief history of the Parish. It was illustrated with drawings by Pamela Oborn. In this revised version it should be borne in mind that some of those furnishings and fittings, as featured, have since been relocated.

A comprehensive parish history, *Letters from Mitcham: St Michael's Anglican Church, 150 Years of Parish Life 1852 – 2002*, was published for the 150th Anniversary. This book of 326 pages with 300 illustrations is available from the Parish Office.

THE BUILDINGS

Land in the Village of Mitcham was first offered for sale in 1840, and by 1848 there were enough members of the Church of England living in the area to found a church. On the 30th September 1848 the foundation stone of the Church of St Michael was laid on two acres of land donated by Robert Thornber. Some four years later, when the first service was held on 17th October 1852, it was still unfinished "...being neither ceiled nor plastered, with temporary doors and calico windows". The architect was William Weir.

Within twelve years the building, which comprised only the tower and northern nave, was too small. Under the supervision of another architect, Edmund Wright, the southern wall was taken down, arches erected in its place, and the wall rebuilt some 23 feet (7m) further south, thus creating an almost square church. The original wood-shingle roof was covered with iron at that time.

The priest's vestry was added along the eastern wall in 1871, and a choir vestry adjoining the tower in 1899. On each occasion matching stone was acquired from the original quarry site near the Brownhill Creek Caravan Park. The Centenary Terrace in front of the church dates from 1953.

The Parish Hall was built in 1980, the architect being Graham Hardy. At the same time a direct covered route to the new Hall, via cloisters of Basket Range stone, was created by breaking through the tower wall between the porch and choir vestry to form the present narthex. The lychgate was also built at that time using matching stone.

Inadequate foundations have caused many problems over the past 160 years, and on several occasions demolition was seriously considered. The church was extensively damaged in the 1954 earthquake, following which it took nearly ten years to restore. All the external stone work was re-pointed at that time. Not only did this enhance the appearance of the church, but has also integrated the various additions into a beautiful and mellow historic building.

INCUMBENTS OF ST MICHAEL'S

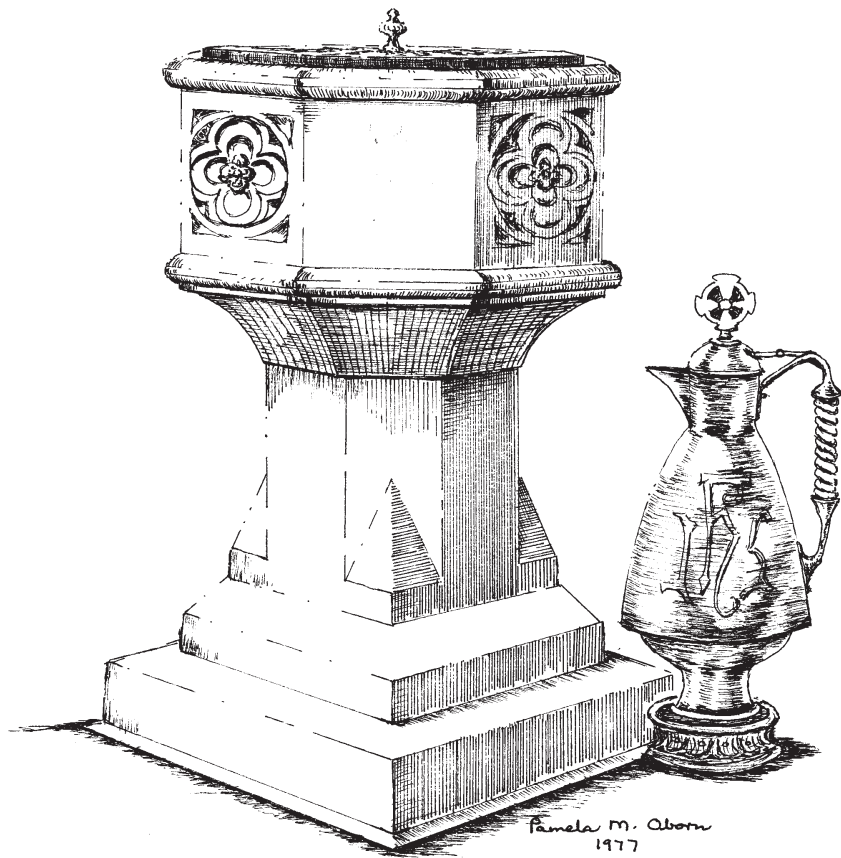
Edward Hayden Burnett	1852 – 1856
Richard William Needham	1858 – 1863
William Buckton Andrews	1863 – 1868
Henry Read	1869 – 1878
James Francis Hocter	1879 – 1883
George Henry Farr	1883 – 1883
Alfred Sells	1884 – 1888
Frederick William Samwell	1888 – 1893
Albert Wyndham Clampett	1893 – 1939
Reginald Henry Pearman	1939 – 1962
James Younger MacDonald	1962 – 1976
Andrew Walford Cheesman	1976 – 2001
Nigel Bentley Mitchell	2002 – 2007
Keith Patrick Brice	2008 – 2013
David Andrew Covington-Groth	2014 –

MITCHAM ANGLICAN PARISH PRAYER

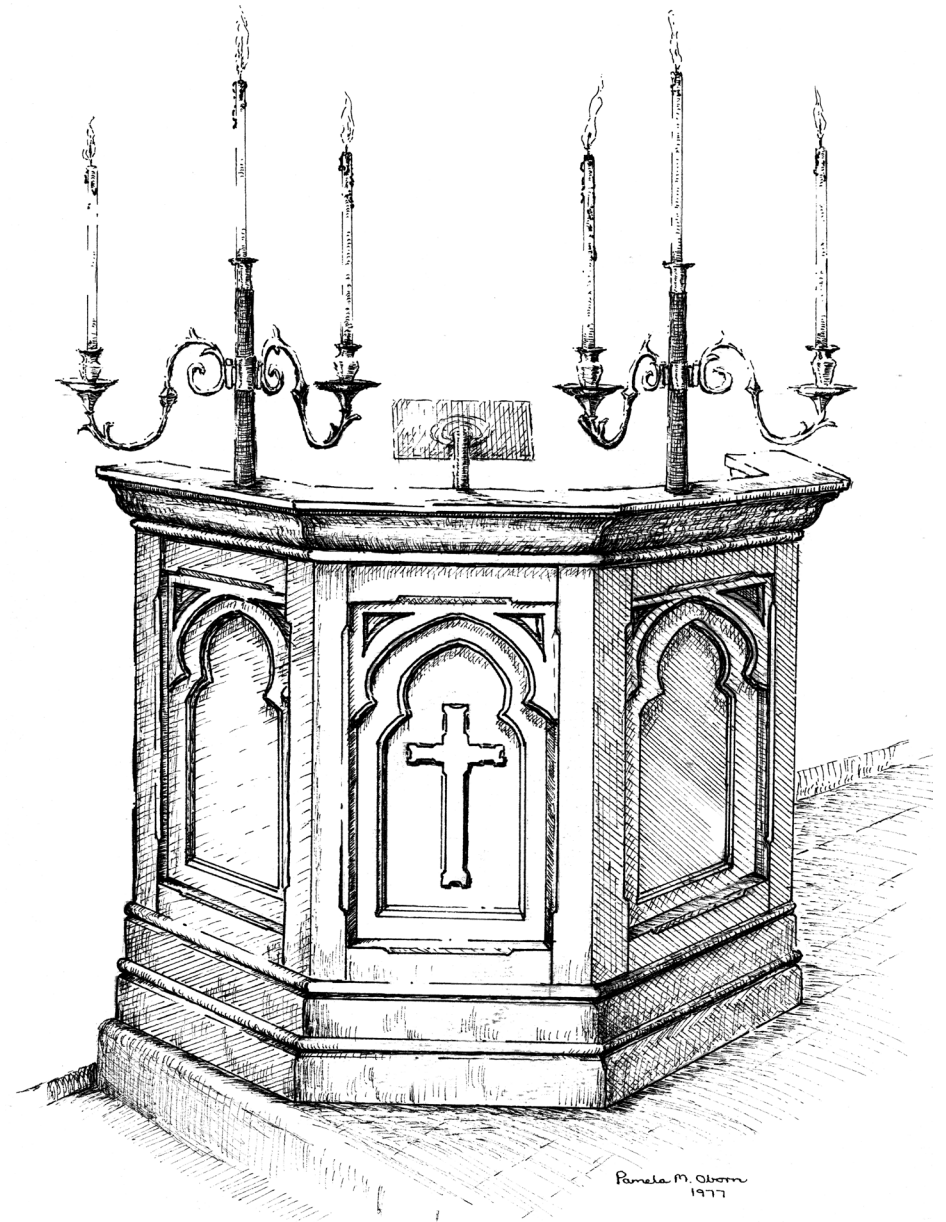
*Heavenly Father, pour down your Spirit upon our Church.
Grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power,
a new faithfulness to your word,
and a new consecration to your service;
that through our renewed witness, your holy name may be glorified,
and your Kingdom come.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FURTHER INFORMATION

Telephone: 8373 3433
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Website: www.mitchamanglican.org.au



The Font and Baptismal Ewer



The Pulpit with candelabra

FURNISHINGS & FITTINGS

Barr Smith Window: On entering St Michael's one's eyes are drawn up to the magnificent stained-glass window above the altar. Designed by John William Brown and fabricated in the workshops of James Powell & Sons in London. The **centre light** represents our Lord as the Shepherd of Paradise with crook in hand and sheep around him. From the mound under his feet issue the four rivers of Eden. The **northern light** represents the Archangel Michael holding the Scales of Judgement, whilst the **southern light** is a portrayal of the Archangel Gabriel holding pure white lilies. Above and below the main figures are angels with traditional instruments of praise, together with glorious flowers and foliage. The window was given by Robert and Joanna Barr Smith in 1901 as a memorial to her brother George Elder and his wife Jane.

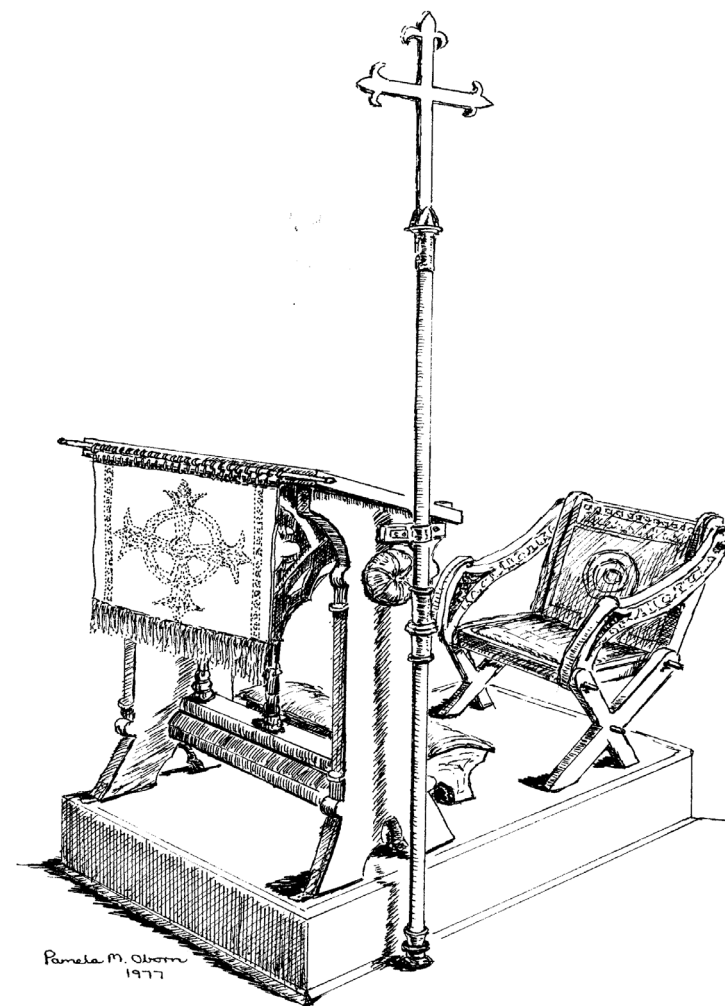
Altar: Presented by Mrs Joseph Fisher for the Diamond Jubilee in 1912. Carved from English oak, the design incorporates traditional Eucharistic symbols of vine leaves, grapes and wheat. At the base is carved "*Whoso Eateth My Flesh and Drinketh My Blood Hath Eternal Life*". Large brass candlesticks on the altar were used in WW1 in the 3rd Australian General Hospital in Abbeville, France.

Reredos and Altar Screens: Behind the altar is the reredos and its re-table or gradine (the shelf holding the brass cross). It was dedicated on Christmas Day 1904. It is carved from Singapore Cedar and features tracery panels 'in the arcade style'. These are repeated in the beautifully carved screens of English oak on either side of the reredos. They were "*A Thank Offering for Peace after the Great War 1919*" by the Misses Lily and Eva Wait and Adelaide Rymill.

The Memorial Panels which now surround the nave are of Australian oak, and were progressively installed between 1982 and 2001. The bronze sculpture of St Michael on the aumbry and the angel head are by noted S.A. artist John Dowie.

Brass Altar Rails: When installed in 1899 they originally enclosed the altar on three sides. In 1952 the sanctuary area was extended by 6 feet (1.8m) into the nave and the elegant rails re-sited into their present position.

Pulpit: It was purchased with money raised as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and dedicated on 5th May 1912. Originally set on a high platform, the pulpit was lowered to its present height when the Sanctuary area was altered in 1952.



Prayer Desk, Glastonbury Chair and Processional Cross.
The Latin inscription carved into the chair translates as:

*"John Arthur, monk of Glastonbury,
May God save him!
Let God be praised!
Grant him Thy peace, Lord!"*

Lectern: The handsome brass lectern, made in England by J. Wippell & Co., was dedicated on Easter Day 1901. It was a gift from the congregation in memory of Henry Morgan Hawkes who served as a Warden over a long period.

Organ: Purchased in January 1878 from the famous London firm of J.C. Bishop & Son, it was one of three similar organs imported at that time. The others were for St Peter's Cathedral (now, much altered, in St Augustine's at Unley) and St Peter's College Chapel. In 1913 an hydraulic pumping mechanism was installed, and in 1945 the organ was converted to electricity.

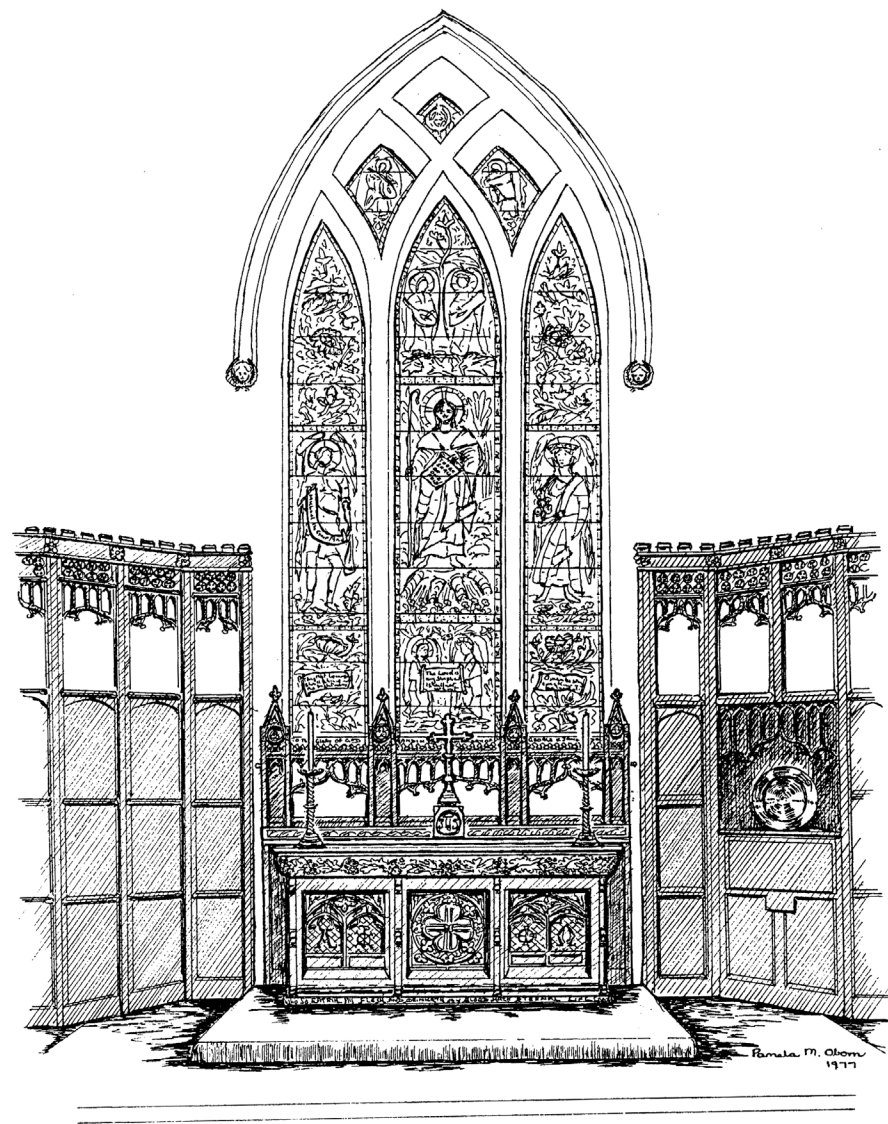
Prayer Desk, Glastonbury Chair and Processional Cross: The origins of the Prayer Desk are unknown. The Glastonbury Chair, made in Adelaide by John Cain in 1903, is a copy of one carved by a 16th century monk, John Arthur, of Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset. The Processional Cross was first used in 1918.

Font: The origins are unknown. The brass Baptismal Ewer (illustrated) was a gift from Mrs Granville Price during the 1912 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

Honour Roll: On the wall near the font is the Honour Roll listing the parishioners who enlisted in WW1. Tutt Avenue, Kingswood, is named after Henry Tutt, one of the first South Australians killed at the Gallipoli landing.

Wilcox Memorial: Situated on the wall south of the organ is a beautiful marble mosaic tablet set in an alabaster frame. The subject is the visit of the three women to the sepulchre on the first Easter Day. Made in England, it was unveiled on Easter Day 1922.

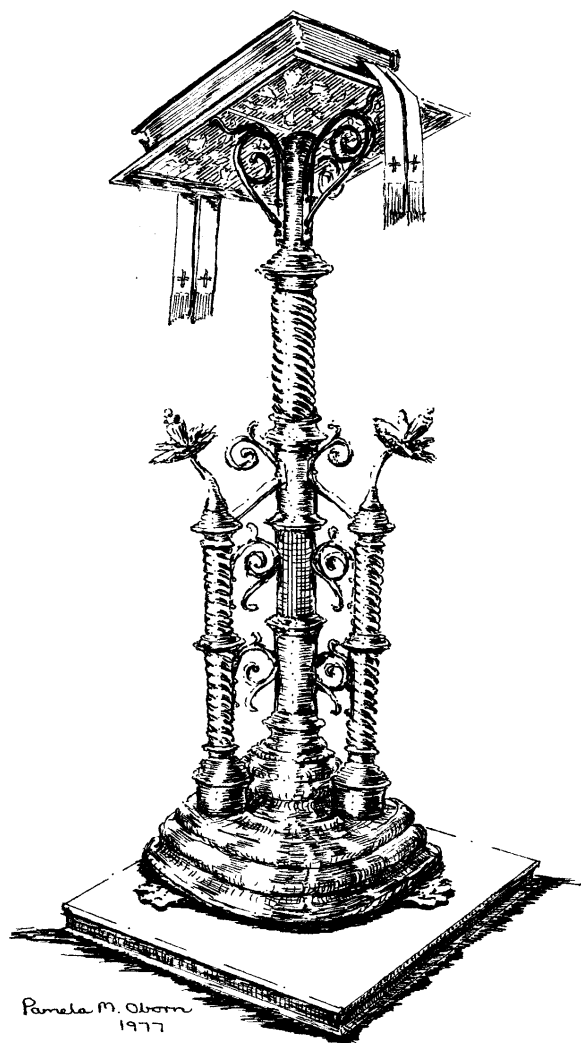
Stained-glass Windows: [clockwise from the organ] **Pearman Memorial:** *Christ the Carpenter*, designed by local artist Cedar Prest in 1981 featuring Australian flowers. **Hardy Memorial:** *Suffer the Little Children to come unto Me* made by Ferguson & Urie. **Western 'Cathedral' Window:** installed 1896 (possibly the work of E.F. Troy). **Crisp Memorial:** *Jacob's Ladder*, another Cedar Prest design installed in 1981. **Levi Memorial:** Based on W. Holman Hunt's famous painting *The Light of the World* (installed 1937, maker unknown). **Burston Memorial:** *St Michael* made by Brooks Robinson Ltd in 1961. **Children's Window:** *Christ as a Boy in the Temple*, made by Montgomery & Grimby in 1900. It was paid for by the children of the Sunday School.



The Barr Smith window, reredos and altar flanked by WW1 screens.

At the base of the window is the inscription:

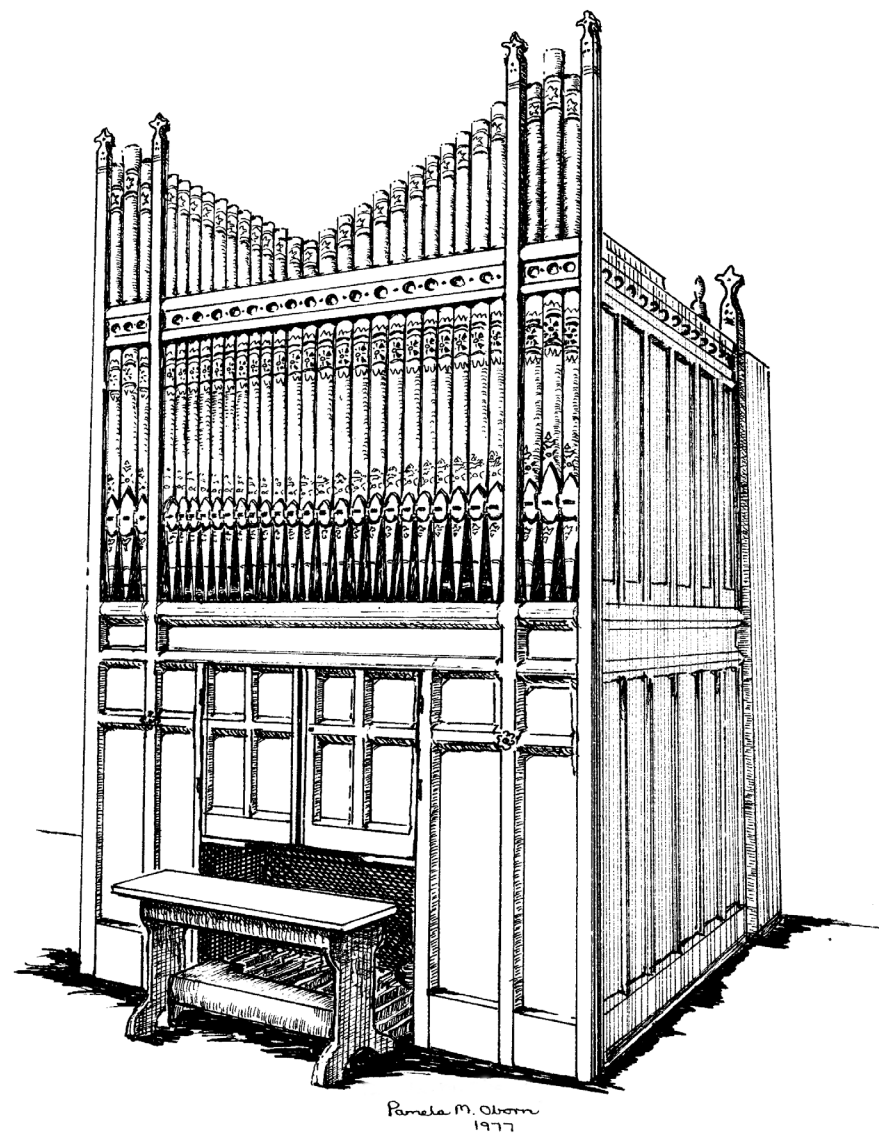
"To the glory of God, and in loving memory of George and Jane Elder".



Brass Lectern.

The inscription around the base reads:

"In Memoriam Henry Morgan Hawkes. Obit August 6th, MDCCCC"



The Bishop & Son Organ.

It was refurbished during 1994 and three extra stops added to complete the 1878 specification.