

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Temuka

The first Anglican service of any kind in the Temuka region took place on 13 January 1844, when Bishop George Augustus Selwyn, arrived at the Maori pa of Te-Wai-A-Te-Ruati (south of the present day Temuka). The Bishop found that native missionaries from the Wesleyan and Anglican northern missions had converted some of the local population, and he held Morning and Evening Prayers there.¹

With the formation of the Christchurch Diocese in 1856, the new Bishop, Henry John Chitty Harper would travel his diocese (from the Hurunui hills in North Canterbury to Stewart Island) yearly from 1857, when he recorded visiting one of the early European land runs at Temuka.²

The first Anglican Church was built in the Arowhenua area, (on the southern side of the Temuka River), for the Maori congregation there about 1866. The present Holy Trinity Church (visible on the right hand side travelling south past the Temuka River bridge) was built alongside the original church in 1931.³

The foundation stone for the Temuka Anglican Church was laid on 1 January 1870,⁴ and the building opened on 21 August 1870.⁵ St. Saviour's was designed by Mr Wiggins, and constructed by Edwards & King, principally of black pine milled from the Arowhenua Bush.⁶ It was not until 1878 that Temuka was considered a separate parish and the first vicar appointed. In 1884 the first pipe organ in Temuka was erected in St. Saviour's. Purchased from the music retailers Milner & Thompson of Christchurch, it was erected by E. H. Jenkins⁷ (who was at that stage employed by the firm, as he had petitioned for bankruptcy on March 1884). It was not built by Jenkins; according to a later newspaper report it was one of four imported by Messrs Milner & Thompson.⁸ This would imply that the organ was built by Henry Jones of London as the three other imported instruments were by that builder.⁹

MANUAL

Open Diapason	8
Dulciana	8
Stop Diapason Bass	8
Principal	4
Flute Bass	4

Compass: 54 notes

(No mention of Pedals in the newspaper account but there may have been pedal pulldowns)

Mechanical key and stop action with hand and foot blowing

The building, organ, and church records were destroyed in a fire on the night of 25 November 1897.

After the fire destroyed the congregation's place of worship, a new building was designed by the Timaru architect J.S. Turnbull. The foundation stone for the new building dedicated to St. Peter was laid by Bishop Julius on 29 June 1898 and the nave built by S. McBride. The building was on a site donated by Mrs Hayhurst senr., as the original site was too small for the newly-designed building. The church was opened exactly a year later.¹⁰

This had a pipe organ erected in the south-west corner of the nave in time for the opening of the building.¹¹ This instrument was purchased from Milner & Thompson and erected by Sandford. It is stated that the organ was imported from England, however that opening report¹² is at odds with other accounts of the instrument.

GREAT			PEDAL		
Open Diapason	8		Bourdon	16	
Stopped Diapason	8		Violone	16	
Dulciana	8	TC	COUPLERS		
Principal	4		Swell to Great		
Flute	4		Great to Pedals		
SWELL			Compass: 56/30		
Leiblich Gedacht	8		Mechanical key & stop action		
Hohl Flute	8	TC	Two composition pedals		
Gemshorn	4				
Flautina	2				
Trumpet	8				

The instrument was overhauled (which included some voicing and regulating work) in 1912 by Jenkins and Son and reopened on 27 October 1912.¹³ In 1925, the organ was dismantled by N. T. Pearce & Son of Christchurch, who added the tremulant, removed the Swell Trumpet and replaced it with an Oboe. The casework was also altered and an electric blower added.¹⁴ The organ was rebuilt in the north-eastern corner of the nave and reopened on 30 January 1926 with an organ recital by Arthur Lilly, organist of Holy Trinity, Avonside, Christchurch.¹⁵



ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, TEMUKA (C.T. TEMPLETON 2016)

In 1927, an addition to the chancel was consecrated as a war memorial to two of the Talbot family, and a year later the east window was dedicated in memory of Mr Talbot senr. In 1964, the Diocesan Architect Mr Donnithorne designed an enlarged vestry, built by Kurt Kempf stonemason and Watson Construction of Geraldine. It was dedicated on 15 March 1965.¹⁶ The Parish Centre was designed by Warren and Mahoney architects of Christchurch and built in 1978 as a Centennial project. After the earthquakes of 2010-11 the stone crosses at the gables of the building were taken down as a precautionary measure.

Rather than being an imported instrument as the opening account stated, the organ was built by Sandford & Parson for the firm of Milner & Thompson in 1888.¹⁷ It was first trialed by the organist Arthur Towsey in the music room of Milner & Thompson on 27 August 1888.¹⁸ From the showroom of Milner & Thompson it was installed in the Palace Skating Rink in December

1889 for a performance of *The Messiah*. This is not to be confused with the previous year's performance, where an E. H. Jenkins instrument was provided by Mr White - that organ is now in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Christchurch. The organ was returned to the Milner & Thompson showroom, from where it was installed in the Temple of Truth, where it was opened on 11 August 1892. It was purchased by the Students of Truth "through the liberality of a gentleman in America". The Temple of Truth was a church founded by Arthur Bentley Worthington in Christchurch in the early 1890s. Built on the corner of Madras and Gloucester Streets, it was a large wooden building designed by the architect W.A.P. Clarkson. With an Ionic column exterior and pediment, and internal gallery running around the interior of the building, the 1,650 seat building more than rivalled St John's Anglican Church on the opposite side of Latimer Square. Preaching of Truth and Love, Worthington's personal life was lacking in the former and oversubscribed in the latter. Born Oakley Crawford, in New York State in 1847, he fled bigamy and fraud charges to Christchurch in 1890. By December 1895 with yet another bigamous marriage and financial strife, he fled to Tasmania. Returning to Christchurch in September 1897, his attempts at a comeback resulted in a near riot by 6,000 people. Fleeing to Australia (where he received a criminal record and seven years jail for fraud), he then left for the United States where he died in custody in late 1917 having engaged in swindles around the United States.¹⁹



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The remaining Temple of Truth Trustees disposed of the assets, with the building later becoming the Choral Hall, and later Latimer Hall, before being demolished in 1966. The organ was secured by Milner & Thompson and then sold to St. Peter's Anglican, Temuka. In 1987 the organ was restored by the South Island Organ Company with the pitch being lowered from 540 to 522 hz. It was reopened on 23 August 1987.

GREAT		PEDAL	
Open Diapason	8	Major Bass	16
Stopped Diapason	8	Bourdon	16
Dulciana	8	COUPLERS	
Principal	4	Swell to Great	
Flute	4	Swell to Pedals	
SWELL		Great to Pedals	
Leiblich Gedacht	8	Compass: 56 / 30	
Hohl Flute	8	Mechanical key & stop action	
Gemshorn	4	Two composition pedals	
Flautina	2		
Oboe	8		
Tremulant			

- 1 Hopkins, Rev. H. I. *History of the Parish of Temuka* (June 1949), p.3
- 2 Ibid., p.4
- 3 Carlton, A.H., *Centennial History of the Parish of Temuka and Winchester 1878 - 1978* (Temuka Parish Centennial Committee, 1978), p.26
- 4 Ibid., p.5
- 5 *Timaru Herald*, 27 August 1870, p.6
- 6 *Papers Past - Temuka Leader*, 27 November 1897, p.2
- 7 Ibid., 1 January 1885, p.2
- 8 Ibid., 27 November 1897, p.2
- 9 With the other three Henry Jones instruments being 1881 Christchurch Exhibition / St Mary the Virgin, Addington, Christchurch; 1883 Ashburton Presbyterian (now in private hands), and 1883 North Belt Presbyterian, Christchurch (now broken up)
- 10 Hopkins, op.cit., p.25
- 11 Carlton, op.cit., p.24
- 12 *Papers Past - Temuka Leader*, 24 June 1899, p.2
- 13 Ibid., 12 October 1912, p.2
- 14 Ibid., 16 January 1926, p.3
- 15 Ibid., 30 January 1926, p.2
- 16 Carlton, op.cit., p.34
- 17 *Papers Past - Star*, 5 August 1892, p.1
- 18 *Papers Past - Press*, 28 August 1888, p.6
- 19 Richard S. Hill, 'Worthington, Arthur Bentley', from the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. (Te Ara: the Encyclopedia of New Zealand), updated 29 April 2014. URL <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/2w32/worthington-arthur-bentley>