

In the 1830's parishioners and friends of the Church of England at Norfolk Plains (Longford area) sought public support for the furnishings of the then St. Augustine's Church of England. £190 was donated, a very generous sum for that period, and from this amount, £60 was paid for the purchase of a Seraphine (Harmonium) for use in the Church. The structure of St. Augustine's was not good and the Church was demolished to make way for the building of the present Church on the site.

The extremely rare Seraphine made by Gunther & Horwood, Camden Town, London, dated in the early 1820's is a rare example of this early free-reed instrument. It was imported from England and placed in the gallery of the previous church; it's player receiving £20 per annum. Unfortunately it was not in good repair and remained in that deteriorated state for many years. It is in a polished mahogany case, and has one keyboard, but no stops. This quaint instrument forms a very interesting link with the early history of the church in this part of Tasmania. Originally the Seraphine was placed in the back of a gallery behind curtains, in front of which sat the convicts employed in the district.

In 2011 a group of parishioners of Christ Church, Longford, with Jenny Williams, sought public support through the local Newspaper 'The Country Courier' to restore this museum piece to its former glory and for it to remain in the Church for many years to come. Donations of cash from the general public was received for which parishioners are truly grateful enabling the restoration by Australian Pipe Organs, Victoria, to be completed in 2012.

Picture of restored Seraphine –



Picture before restoration -

