

Lydiard Street Uniting Church—History

Year	Activities / Events
2009	This site became the home of the Ballarat Central Uniting Church which was formed in 2008 and is a Parish Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia.
2003	Re-enactment of the opening of the Wesleyan Chapel celebrating 150 Years.
1999	Peart Wing opened. The sale of the old Congregational manse at 505 Mair St enabled the Lydiard St Manse to be developed as a new Lifeline centre. The Peart Wing which links this area with the Church houses the Helen M. Schutt Training Room and is a joint facility for Church fellowship and Lifeline activity. Opening of the Peace Memorial Garden adjacent to the Peart Wing at the southern wall of the Church- to accommodate the burial of ashes of former parishioners.
1998	Present manse built at Invermay Park.
1984	The centenary of the current building was celebrated.
1981	Major restoration work to both exterior and interior of the church . The Church interior was completely scaffolded and repairs done to the plaster and it was repainted as we see it today—the glass doors were stripped of their duck-egg blue paint—the cost of scaffolding alone to reach places untouched for decades was \$23,000
1977	May —Dawson Street Congregational Church and Wesley Methodist Church congregations united. June —the Uniting Church in Australia was established and this congregation became known as the Lydiard Street Uniting Church. The sale of the Congregational Church property on the corner of Mair and Dawson Streets enabled the purchase of a building on Dana Street to meet the developing needs of the growing Outreach Centre now <i>UnitingCare</i> . <i>UnitingCare</i> has since moved and expanded onto the Church property on the Dana Street hill.
1958	24th May , the new cream brick parsonage was dedicated, replacing the two-storey bluestone parsonage built in the 1870's.
1954	The organ was rebuilt.
1952	The interior of the Church was painted duck-egg blue throughout! At this time the present lanterns were installed.
1922	The choir stalls and organ console were lowered by almost three metres to their present position.
1920	The War Memorial window on the north wall was unveiled.
1920's	It is believed the 'tablets', with the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes were painted during this time. The paintwork is original.
1913	The gas lighting was replaced with electric and an electric motor for the organ blower was installed.
1890	The new Fincham organ was installed. The cost—£1.000.0.0.
1884	December —The present Church was opened, having been built in just 14 months at a cost of £7,115.2.6d. Built from polychrome brick in the style of the period it is designed to accommodate 1200 people. The architect was Perry Oakden of the firm Terry and Oakden. It is described as an "elaborate, patterned brick church with its dual frontage (it) is an important feature of the streetscape—Lydiard Street. The interior features amphitheatre style seating."
1883	The foundation stone for the present Church building was laid.
1871	A substantial bluestone Parsonage was built between the old church and the current church building. The cost £1180

	A brick Sunday School complex was built facing Dana Street—Wesley Hall now the Light Lounge Op Shop.
1858	New Wesleyan Church was built in Lydiard Street, serving the congregation for 25 years. This building still stands – it has a new brick façade and the stone walls have been rough cast rendered. It is now part of Ballarat University’s School of Mines complex to the South of the present building. This 25 years was a period of unparalleled expansion
1853	A group of Wesleyans on Winter’s Flat—now Magpie—decided to form a Society and purchase a tent for worship. The tent was erected on Pennyweight Hill—now Otway Street South. This was the nucleus of the Lydiard Street Methodist Church. A place for worship and a denominational school removed to the corner of Lydiard and Dana Streets in the developing township. A stone building was erected on the site of the present church. This building soon became too small and was unstable due to subsidence above the Waterloo Mine. Although it was used as a School for a few years, a new church was soon planned