

BHSP3-1976

ORIGIN OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LISBON

(Reprinted from the First Annual
Report & Review of the Historical
Association, Lisbon Branch: 1937)

The Presbyterian Church in Lisbon had its beginning in October 1866.

The first Minister was the Rev. Robert Stewart, who conducted the services in a Hall, but after four years had elapsed it was considered desirable to have a Church built.

To obtain funds for this purpose it was decided to collect money from Britain. A circular was issued and in a short time £ 700 were received. Another £400 were obtained in 1872 and in the same year the Church and Convent of Mariannos, which had been confiscated by the government, was put up for sale.

This place was examined by the Committee, found suitable, and bought for £1,700. The sum in hand fell short of this, but the firm of Messrs. W. Graham loaned the required amount. The Church was then repaired and put in order and services were carried on until 1898.

In that year the Convent of Mariannos was sold and a site bought in the Rua Arriaga, on which the present Church was built.

After vacating the Mariannos, services were held in a Hall in the Rua Vasco da Gama, 60, whilst the Church and Manse were being built.

The building cost £2,000, and the inaugural Service took place on Nov. 5, 1899.

The Ministry of the Presbyterian Church was filled by the Rev. R. M. Lithgow, who directed the Services from 1892 until his much lamented death in January 1920. He was succeeded by the Rev. D. R. W. Scott, M. A.

M. A. W.

NOTE: The «Mariannos Convent» in the Rua das Janelas Verdes is now better known to Lisbon residents, and to many visitors, as York House. The Church, which was used by the Presbyterians from 1872 to 1898, is now the Pro-Cathedral of the Lusitanian Protestant diocese (Bishop Luis Pereira).