The Church of “STELLA MARIS” celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of its opening for public worship on August 15, 1961.

According to W. A. Bayley’s “Green Meadows” the people of the parish announced their intention early in 1859 of building a stone chapel. The mason’s work was completed in November, 1860, and a ball was held in June, 1861, to raise funds.

Rev. Fr. FLANAGAN officiated at the church’s opening and at the time the building was described as “decidedly the best ecclesiastical edifice in the township.”

Shellharbour was part of the Kiama parish in 1861, becoming part of Albion Park parish on its formation in 1867. Shellharbour became a parish on its own in 1953.