

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

HUNTERS HILL

EST. 1888

Parish Contact Details:

All Saints—2 Ambrose Street, Hunters Hill
St Mark's—Figtree Rd, Hunters Hill

02 9817 2167
office@aphh.com.au
aphh.com.au

Instagram: @anglican.hunters.hill
facebook.com/pages/anglicanhuntershill

Our Parish Office is open Tuesday to Friday from 9:30am to 1:00pm.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

This church is built on the land of the Wallumata People.

We acknowledge their connection and custodianship of this land over many generations, and we pay respect and honour elder's past, present and emerging.

With them we long to be a reconciled people in this land, and so we pray:

*Lead us on then, Holy Spirit,
as we gather from the four corners of the earth;
enable us to walk together in trust
from the hurt and shame of the past
into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen*



FOREWORD BY THE RECTOR

I have reminded myself often, especially over the last two years of pandemic, of how fortunate I am to be able to call All Saints' both my physical and spiritual home.

We live next to the Church and benefit immensely from being in its proximity. It is my joy to watch others have picnics, play with their children, walk their dog, catch up for a coffee on the fence or take time for quiet, meditation and prayer in the green space that surrounds the church.

One of my privileges is to often show Brides and Grooms the inside of the Church, and to see their mouths drop open as they walk in to this stunning gem and sacred space. It is such a special place in which generations have worshipped, celebrating life's ups and downs.

It is a space, whether you are a person of faith, or no such faith, that is worthy of preserving and protecting. Whether it be to keep green spaces, or to have a place when life is tough that you can go and have quiet, and pray, or a place to mark the milestones of life.

I pray you might be able to help us keep this space as a safe and welcoming place for the present and the future. Enjoy reading the stories that follow!

REV'D MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, RECTOR.

STRONG FOUNDATIONS IN HUNTERS HILL

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever” wrote John Keats, but he may well have added, only so long as it is maintained in a right and fitting condition.

The Church of All Saints, classified by The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.), is certainly a building of considerable beauty. Over the years since it was dedicated in 1888 the devotion of many people has maintained the building, gardens and grounds to the condition it is today.

Some sixteen years after the opening of the Chapel School-house at Tarban in 1858 (now known as St Mark’s Church and located on Figtree Road, Hunters Hill from 1961), the population of the area had grown to such an extent that a decision was made in 1874 to appoint a building committee and charge that committee with the responsibility of finding a suitable site on which to build a much bigger church, and a parsonage.

It wasn’t until 1884 that the building committee reported it was negotiating the purchase of Seymour’s Garden for £1,100 and John Horbury Hunt (1838 – 1904) was commissioned as architect for the new church. The projected cost of the building was £6,982.

On May 30th 1885 the foundation stone of the church was laid by the then Primate, The Right Reverend Alfred Barry. Twelve months later, with the completion of the masonry, work stopped ... the building fund was exhausted. This situation was largely due to Hunt’s artistic temperament and his ‘ever restless creative urge which

led him to incorporate new features in the building as the work advanced’.

While records suggest that Hunt was a ‘difficult’ man to work with and the building committee had many differences with him, successive generations have acclaimed his work. All Saints’ is Hunt’s only surviving Sydney church and Hunt’s artistry and talent is obvious.

It was another twelve months (1886) before the roof was added. The architect’s decision to use tile ridge-capping, contrary to the direction of the building committee to use lead, finally led to the dismissal of Hunt.

With a temporary wooden west end, a budget over-run of some £2,000, and a threat of litigation by Hunt, All Saints’ was opened and dedicated on April 22nd 1888. It was not free of debt until 1913 when it was consecrated. The narthex or porch was added in 1938, replacing the wooden west end. This part of the Church was opened and dedicated on December 12th 1938. It remains as a fine example of the energy and commitment of the then Rector, the Reverend M. G. Hinsby, and his parishioners. His memory is perpetuated in the dolphin lamp and handrails at the western entrance.





The collection of stained glass in All Saints is acknowledged as one of the finest in the Sydney Anglican Diocese.

Most of the windows were made in Sydney, the exceptions are the two sets, each of three lights, immediately inside the west screen door on the right side. These were made in the United Kingdom by Morris and Company and the cartoons were drawn by Sir Edward Burne Jones. They are the only stained-glass windows in Sydney from this source.

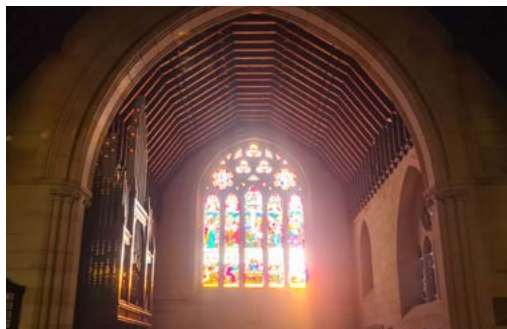
The provenance of the set of lights on the opposite side depicting St. Aidan, St. Augustine and the Venerable Bede is unknown.

The upper part of the east window above the altar depicts the theme of the Te Deum and the lower part the Last Supper. All the windows in this part of the Church are from the studios of Lyon, Cottier and Wells.

Adjacent to the pulpit, a four light window shows the four evangelists, each with his own ancient symbol. Left to right – St. John with the eagle, St. Luke and the ox, St. Mark with the lion and St. Matthew and the man child, each in its turn indicating the speed, dignity, strength and truth of the evangelic message.

Other windows in the south nave show the great saints Peter, Paul and Andrew. These south-side windows are Lyon, Cottier and Wells. The Morris and Company windows depict the patron saints of England (George), Scotland (Andrew) and Ireland (Patrick) and the transfiguration with the figures of Jesus the Christ, Moses and Elijah. On the north side, the window to the left of the screen door is from Alfred Handel’s studio, next the window of unknown source. The last window on this side shows scenes in the life of Jesus and is by Lyon, Cottier and Wells. The window in the porch is by Alfred Handel, with the resurrection subject.

The majority of the windows are memorials, as are the wall tablets. The Church itself is a memorial to all the saints ... ancient, modern, known and unknown. They will always be remembered.



All Saints has always had a strong musical tradition, built up over the years with a fine organ and choirs.

The organ was built by Bevington and Sons, Soho, London to specifications drawn by the then (1887) Parish organist, Mr E. Truman. It was installed in the Church in 1888, shortly after the Church was opened and is reputedly the largest most intact Bevington of its size in existence. With financial support from the N.S.W. Heritage Council, Parish fund raising and community support, the organ was restored and re-built in 1997-98.

During the 1960's, the Embroidery Guild worked the cushions and kneelers.

No church is complete without the people and the clergy. It was the Reverend P. Spry-Bailey (1882-1900) who supervised the construction of All Saints' and his successor, the Reverend E. Owen (1900-1925), who cleared the debt. Canon Hinsby (1925-1945) did much to furnish the Church and raise the enthusiasm and money to complete the west end. During these periods, the Boer War, World War 1, the Great Depression and World War 2 affected people and clergy alike.

The Reverend C. W. Gumbley (1945-1961) experienced with his new congregation the joy of peace after six years of world conflict. There were many changes during those years and rapid post-war growth. The proposed dismantling, re-siting and re-building of the old church at Fig Tree, to make way for the roadworks and bridges of the north-western distributor was proposed as early as 1948 and became a reality in 1962.

The supervision of this upheaval was by the Reverend C. Sherlock (1962-1985). The Reverend C. H. Norton (1985-2000) and



The Reverend P. Bradford (2000-2014), are respectively the sixth and seventh incumbents of the Parish since opened in 1888. The Rev'd Michael Armstrong (2015-) is the current Rector of the Parish of Hunters Hill.

The windows and plaques throughout the church also reflect the contribution and remembrance of a number of local colonial and first-settler families in Hunters Hill such as the Bailey, Garrick, Henning, Jeanneret, Jones, Lysaght, Manning, Moore, Simpson, Smith and Walsh families.

The very existence of any church in any place, will bear testimony to the faithful. They are places of sanctuary, worship and healing, passing to successive generations to care for.

ALL SAINTS IN 2022

The last two years have been tough for everyone, and we know as we reflect on our history that we are not the first community who have been through such tough times.

During the pandemic, and especially during lockdowns, All Saints' remained an active place of worship. The bell rang each day during lockdown as the Rector called the community to prayer, which was able to be entered into through live-stream into the church.

While holding to our traditions, we have also been a community who have sought to be creative in how we might engage and support our wider community – offering online concerts during lockdown, and leading and marking significant community occasions such as War Memorial Days. We also continue to partake in the milestones of life – including birth, marriage and death.

We remain a congregation of all ages and life experiences. We treasure our connection with the local community and welcome people from beyond our parish boundaries to worship with us.

The Parish also actively supports work across our local community to care for those in need, partnering with local agencies to do so.

All Saints' is used for a variety of other community purposes. In recent years we have held art exhibitions, festivals, concerts, dramas, lectures and debates. It has also been a place in which school music concerts, drama, ecumenical services and community fundraisers have been held and hosted.

All Saints' Church is a national treasure. The cost of maintaining this building is significant. Our Parish does not receive funding from sources outside the Parish (including the Diocese and Government). Our members give, fundraise and use the resources we have to ensure the Church functions in the present, and is able to be passed on to the next generation.



DAVID MORGAN AND MARY HINDE



All Saints' has been our spiritual home for many years. When we walk in, we feel at home and are comforted by prayers that have filled this place for over a century.

It has been, and continues to be, the place where we bring both our sorrows and our joys – both of which we have experienced in life and yet also many celebrations. Many of these events have occurred in these holy walls.

All Saints' is an inclusive community, and we have made many lifelong friendships within the congregation, and we appreciate the depth of these friendships through times of stress and loss.

We love being a part of traditional Anglican worship, and appreciate the sights and sounds of beautiful Anglican liturgy week by week. In this place the love of God is not only preached, but revealed in our love for one another, which brings hope, joy and peace.

This congregation nurtures us in the faith, and through that faith we look outwards as to how we can serve others. In this place, there is a place for everyone, and we value its inclusive nature.

We look forward to continuing to worship and celebrate in this sacred space, and to pass it on so that future generations may benefit from what we have received.

DEIRDRE BURNS



In 1969 my husband David and I moved to Hunters Hill with our four children, and shortly after started to attend All Saints'. My children participated in a range of activities in the Parish, including the All Saints' Soccer Team that was established by the Parish.

All Saints' is the place where my family have celebrated many occasions, as well as the place we have gathered for times of solemnity and remembrance. My husband David, who also treasured being a member of this congregation, has his memorial near the front door.

This Church is the place where I am free to live out my faith, and express my true self. When I enter it, I feel a sense of calm, peace and acceptance. I love being there to support others in time of need and be supported in my time of need. The more I have invested myself into the congregation, the more I get back.

KATE, JOEL, AMBROSE & ANTIGONE HARRISON



All Saints' is the place where we as a family feel we are growing. Ambrose (5) loves meeting up with his friends at All Saints' Kids for drama, craft, games, and learning together.

Ambrose is now asking the big questions about what it means to love everyone as God loves us, while telling us each week how much he looks forward to Holy Communion. Our daughter Antigone ('Tiggy') (2) was baptised at All Saints - a beautiful welcoming of her into the community, life with God, and our lives. She is now rambunctiously running up

and down the centre aisle for the kids' blessing (and for fun), joining the big kids, and always searching for 'baby Jesus' who was in the crib at Christmas. Our children are learning love for God and love for others in a church that values the liturgy and traditions of the church, while engaging them where they are. As parents and parishioners, this is what we want - for them, us, and all who enter All Saints' doors.

MORNA JENKINS



My family ties with All Saints' date back several generations to the Manning Family. In the Church there are memorials to my Great Grandfather, Charles James Manning and my Great Uncles, Guy Owen Manning & Charles Edye Manning.

My Great Aunt, Ruth Manning was one of the first babies to be baptized in the Church.

In 2010 I was fortunate to return to Hunters Hill. I remember my uncle saying, "how lovely to have family back in Hunters Hill again." It is a wonderful community to live within.

When I started to worship at All Saints' it felt like coming home.

It is a congregation who have continued to support me, especially in recent years through some tough times of illness. When I enter the building I feel not only a part of that space, but part of a community of people who are all working together for good.

MERLYN AND JEBY ARMSTRONG



We feel blessed to belong to All Saints'. It is a community that encourages and engages us to grow in faith, which helps us to show love, care and concern for others.

We feel welcome and included and encouraged to be welcoming and inclusive of all who we meet.

All Saints' is a place where we pray for each other, for our wider community and our world. We know that we are prayed for by members of this congregation, and they know we pray for them. This unites us with a special bond that is beyond words, and draws us closer together. As such we feel supported and loved.

Music is one of the ways that we express ourselves in our worship, and love to be a part of the choir. One of our great joys during lockdowns for COVID was to be able to come and sing for the recordings. It lifted our hearts in a tough time, and we know that it lifted up others.

Jebby has become a choral scholar in the Parish, and through that support is further developing her music skills. It has been wonderful to watch her grow during this time – from barely being able to sing out, to now leading solos. Her confidence has grown, and we are appreciative of being able to be a part of this.

We thank God for this church, and hope and pray that others might through its presence come to receive some of what we have.

FROM OUR ARCHITECT

Exceptional church buildings, such as All Saints' Hunters Hill, that have been designed by skilled and creative architects (in this case Horbury Hunt), capture fine aesthetic qualities but more importantly point us, as the congregation and visitor, to aspects of God's grandeur and accessibility.

We can be awed, humbled and made feel welcome and connected to God through experiencing the building and the acts of worship that take place within it.

Over time, all buildings fade and require work to recapture their original intent. Simple elements such as cleaning stone and glass, repainting decorative elements, repairing damage as well as the addition of new elements such as heating and cooling, sound and lighting not only revitalise but add new dimensions to churches that can enhance their function, beauty and comfort.

All Saints is a very fine building with a superb spatial quality and fine details and fittings. It has had maintenance work undertaken over the years but is at a point where a significant program of repair, refinishing and the addition of lighting (in particular) will enhance the use of the building for worship and

range of other uses. Other works such as re-imagining the entry area will work to make the building more usable both during and outside services to facilitate community.

We have found that undertaking works such as lighting, cleaning and re-finishing, transforms buildings but also congregations as new appreciations of the beauty and value of church buildings uplifts and encourages us. Our work at places such as Christ Church St Laurence, St Paul's Burwood and St David's Cathedral Hobart (which have similarities with All Saints') has demonstrated the extraordinary value of caring for and uplifting our church buildings.



BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATIONS, AND SECURING THE FUTURE

In 2016 a site “check-up” was done to allow the Parish to understand the needs of maintaining, restoring and caring for All Saints’. The following steps were identified:

1 Watertight – completed!

Our slate roof required several areas of repairs, including the replacement of tiles and flashing. This was done in stages over three years, and now seems reasonably water-tight.

The gutters that were put in place in the 1920’s, made from left over military surplus from WW1(!), were replaced with new copper gutters and down pipes. Four new down pipes were installed with the extra wide gutters to capture the large amount of water that is caught on the roof. The clay drain pipes, which were often broken or blocked, were replaced with a new drainage system.

This work cost the Parish over \$400,000.00, and the result has been a building that is now reasonably watertight!

2 Walls and Windows – Planned for 2023

An engineering report in 2018 identified significant amount of work that need to be done to repair, maintain and preserve the beautiful sandstone exterior walls of All Saints’.



The impact of smog, jet fuel, attempted repairs from good hearted souls in previous generations and just general age has meant work needs to be done to repair and restore the stonemasonry.

The report also identified that the magnificent Eastern Window has suffered buckling and damage as a result of failure of stonemasonry, some attempts to repair with the wrong equipment, and safety glass that has caused more damage than assisted.

This step will cost an estimated \$400,000.00. This is considered the next most significant and urgent work to be carried out.

3 The Interior – Planned for 2023/24

If you look closely in All Saints' you can see the work of various eras – from the era when the church was lit with lanterns, to the installation of gas-lighting and eventually electricity. Some of this has been done extremely well, and some needs some significant work to ensure that this sacred space not only remains beautiful, but also safe and practical.

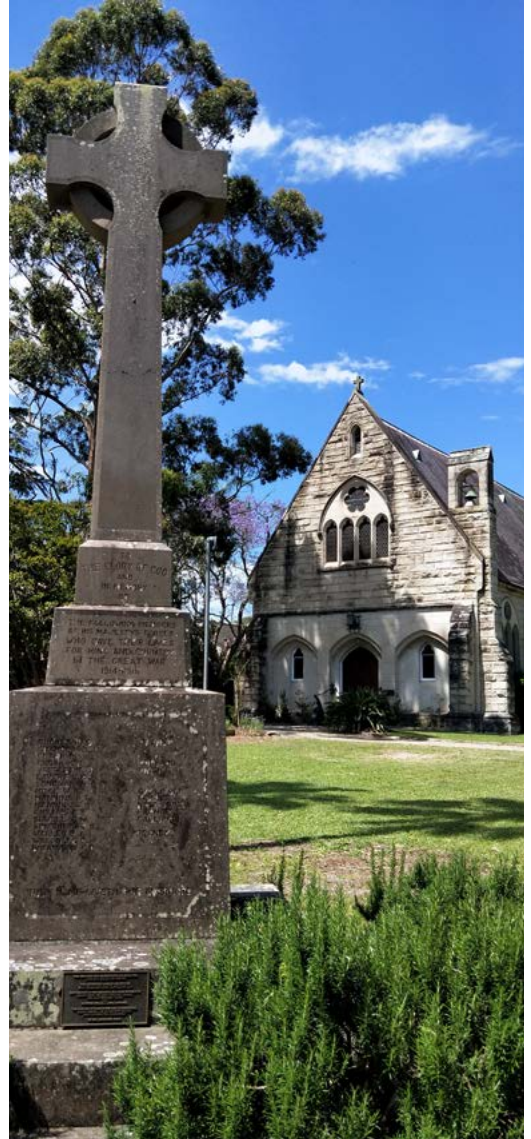
The stunning timber roof, with its amazing cross-beams is an engineering marvel, as well as a thing of beauty. It has not been cleaned, nor had a coat of oil, in at least the last 50 years (and perhaps ever). The timber is crying out for oil that will help preserve it. To do this will require significant scaffold.

While the scaffold is in place we hope to replace the lighting and fix the wiring. Some of the wiring, in the words of electrician, is the stuff of nightmares as we occasionally find sections of wiring still from the 1960's. Having safe wiring and a lighting system that shows off the beauty of the space and its features, but importantly also allows for lighting that can not only allow us to see, but be used in a way that will enhance worship and other events (such as being able to dim the lights for a concert) would be an immense blessing to present and future generations.

The red carpet down the centre aisle was put in place as a temporary measure in the 1990's as some of the stunning mosaic tiles that are found under it were in need of repair. We desire to lift the carpet and expose the tiles once again, ensuring that they are repaired and safe. Our Director of Music believes that this will also further enhance the acoustics of the church.

Finally, we would like to make improvements to the 1938 Narthex that will improve it aesthetically, as well as allow the space to be used more practically as a place to gather after worship or an event.

The total cost of this step is \$800,000.00.



DONATIONS

I wish to make a gift of \$1,888.00 / \$8,881.00 / \$18,880.00 / \$88,810.00 or \$_____ as a one off donation / divided into two transactions over two years to the Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill National Trust Fund for the restoration of All Saints' Church.

- I am enclosing cash / a cheque made out to "All Saints Parish Restoration Appeal".
- I have made a Direct Deposit into "National Trust of Australia (NSW), All Saints Parish Hunters Hill restoration appeal", Westpac BSB: 032 044, Account: 683 946
- I wish for this gift to be anonymous (by leaving this box blank you consent to have your name listed as a benefactor in Parish Publications).
- I would like a tax-deductible receipt, and this should be made to:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Thank you for your kind and generous support.

Please return to: 2 Ambrose Street, Hunters Hill NSW 2110
or office@aphh.com.au

ALL SAINTS'
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Thanks to David and Lauren from Inline Partners for their support of our Parish and the sponsoring of this booklet.

