

**ALL SAINTS'
CHURCH
1888**

*A Short History
(which continues to be written)*

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever” wrote the poet, 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 and 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. We acknowledge the Wallumattagal People as the traditional custodians of the land on which we are located.

Some sixteen years after the opening of the Chapel School-house at Tarban (now Fig Tree) in 1858, 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 our records clearly indicate 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 had and has a strong musical tradition, built up over the years with a fine organ and choirs of men, women and children. 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 – as seen to the right) 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.

A mission church in the then industrial suburb of Woolwich commenced in 1899. This small church was the forerunner of St. John’s Church in Margaret Street, built and opened in 1908. Woolwich flourished as a separate parish until, with the closure of the industries and the social changes of the 1950’s and 1960’s, there was a decline in the congregation which persisted into the 1980’s. St. John’s was de-consecrated in 1994 and converted into a theatre. The residue of the land was sold for re-development, and the funds have been used to assist with ongoing capital needs within the Parish. In 2016 the Parish agreed to sell St John’s Church and use the funds to invest in much needed mission and ministry across the Parish.

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.

The Present

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

Our vision is to be a Christ-centred community, treasuring our diversity, accepting and supporting each other, reaching out to meet needs within and beyond our Parish, as we share the love of God.

All Saints' Church remains an active place of worship and community life. Acts of worship take place every Sunday, and throughout the week. We also partake in the many milestones of life – birth, marriage and death.

We are a “traditional” Anglican Community who uses the Book of Common Prayer as its basis of worship. We currently use A Prayer Book for Australia, usually celebrating at All Saints' on Sunday with a sung service of Holy Communion which seeks to include elements that engage people of all ages. We also celebrate many other forms of liturgy during the week and weekends.



We are blessed with people of all ages in our congregation, and because of this our Parish also has a range of groups which meet the needs of members of the Parish and beyond. The Parish also actively supports work across our local community to care for those in need, partnering with local agencies to do so.

Our Church is also used for a variety of other community purposes. In recent years we have held art exhibitions, festivals, concerts, dramas, lectures and debates.

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. 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. We occasionally may receive grants to assist, but these rarely cover half of the actual cost.

If you would like to assist in these costs a donation can be left at the Church, or you can make a tax-deductible donation. Cheques should be made to "Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill National Trust Fund". Our Church also has many other needs and are open to exploring with you gifts that may be placed in thanksgiving or memorial that continue to enhance the ongoing life of the Church.

Parish Contact Details

We would love for you to stay in contact with us.

You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or visit our website!

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

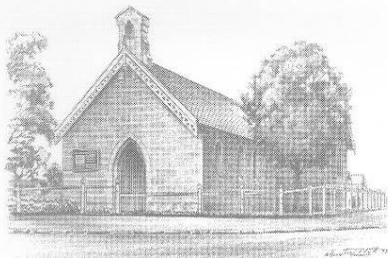
Our Parish Office is open Monday to Friday from 9:45am to 1:00pm.

Phone: 02 9817 2167 Email: office@aphh.com.au

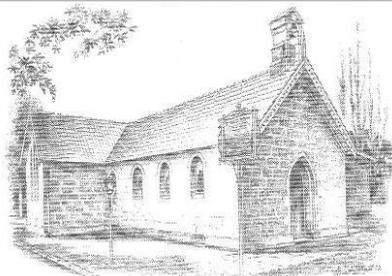
Web: www.aphh.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/anglicanhuntershill

Instagram: [anglican.hunters.hill](https://www.instagram.com/anglican.hunters.hill)



**OLD CHURCH FIG TREE
PARISH OF HUNTERS HILL
BUILT 1858**



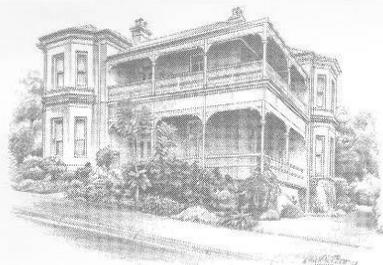
**ST. MARK'S CHURCH
(PREVIOUSLY OLD CHURCH)
MOVED TO NEW SITE 1962**

O ALMIGHTY God,
who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and
fellowship,
in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord:
Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints
in all virtuous and godly living,
that we may come to those unspeakable joys,
which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Collect for All Saints' Day, Book of Common Prayer)



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
PARISH OF HUNTERS HILL
BUILT 1888**



**ALL SAINTS RECTORY
BUILT 1890**