

### OLD PARISH HALL

The original Parish Hall stands at the southern end of St Jude's property, the foundation stone being laid by Edward Fuller in 1914. It took the place of the denominational school house, which predated the church of St Jude's.

### ST COLUMB'S CHURCH, ARCADIA & CHRIST CHURCH, KENTHURST

There are two other churches in the Parish located at 138 Arcadia Road, Arcadia and 28 Pitt Town Road, Kenthurst. Services are held there each Sunday.

### CEMETERY

The Parish Cemetery is located a few hundred metres to the south of the church on the eastern side of Old Northern Road opposite Hargraves Nurseryland, on land sold to the Parish by Mrs Eleanor Wingate (nee Rouse) for a nominal sum in 1876. Details of graves in the Cemetery can be found in the Dural & District Historical Society's booklet, published in 1996.

### OTHER FORMER BRANCH CHURCHES

Dural Anglican Parish, which stretches from where New Line Road crosses Pye's Creek in the south to Gentleman's Halt on the Hawkesbury River in the north, used to contain four other branch churches. Of these, Emmanuel, Galston is now the public library at Galston; and St Mark's, Glenorie is a private house at 1477 Old Northern Road.

The other former church buildings, St Stephen's, Annangrove and St David's, Hillside no longer exist.

circa 1850, attributed to Rev W. H. Walsh (Mitchell Library)



### Dural District Anglican Churches

IN CHRIST BELIEVE	Jesus is the centre of our activities which aim to foster growth in faith through Bible learning and prayer
BELONG	to build a community of Christians supporting each other
BEHAVE	to promote the gospel of Jesus in word and action

*Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Titus 2:14, NIV

March 2007



## SOME HISTORICAL NOTES ON ST JUDE'S DURAL FOR VISITORS

St Jude's church reflects the Christian faith of the early European settlers of the Dural district, and those who have followed them over the past 150 years and more. It has been cared for as a place where Anglican parishioners gather regularly to encourage each other in our faith and to proclaim our love of the Lord Jesus Christ to those privileged to live in the district. Its simple beauty bears witness to the desire of successive generations to glorify God.

The church continues to be actively used by the people of Dural District Anglican Churches. Each Sunday, we hold a service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer here at 7.45 am. We also use the church on an occasional basis for the wedding and funeral services of parishioners. Other church services and activities are held in the nearby Education Centre, at Christ Church, Kenthurst and at St Columb's, Arcadia.

### ORIGINS

The church was built at the initiative of local residents on land donated by the Roughley family. Construction, using locally quarried sandstone, started in 1846 and was completed before the end of 1848. Bishop William Broughton visited the building site on 11 November 1846 and performed a stone laying ceremony. It was the 29<sup>th</sup>

Anglican church to be built in the Sydney district.

### **EXTERIOR**

The building is constructed of large sandstone blocks and was originally without either a vestry or porch. Its design is that of a 12<sup>th</sup> century Norman single-cell, aisleless, apsidal church, of which there are four examples in England. The most similar one of these to St Jude's is St Swithun's church at Nately Scures, Hampshire. William Broughton was vicar of the neighbouring church at Hartley Wespall for nine years before he came to New South Wales and it is possible he had St Swithun's in mind when commissioning the design of St Jude's. The vestry dates from between 1866 and 1877 and the porch, which is built of bricks covered with cement render, was added on in 1894. The roof was clad with wooden shingles until 2006, when these were replaced with longer lasting and more fire resistant Welsh slate from the Penrhyn quarry at Bethesda, North Wales.

### **PORCH**

Inside the porch, which shelters the original south door, the Bible in the glass case (made in 1968) pre-dates the church by a few years, having been given to the Dural congregation in 1839 by Rev. William Clarke (first Rector of Castle Hill Parish, 1839-1844). A pick, supposedly used to dress the stone walls, hangs on the wall. The text of the framed historical summary contains a typographical error – the lychgate, stone fence and sundial were built in 1938, not 1930.

### **INTERIOR**

The distinctive features of the simple interior are the most unusual curved east

wall and the narrow windows. The general appearance of the interior dates from the embellishments made soon after the end of World War II, although until the late 1960's, when major repairs to the interior were undertaken, the stone walls were covered with whitewash. The present wooden floor was installed in 1954, but part at least of the original floor would have been stone flagging. A sample piece of flagging was retained from the centenary renovations of 1946 and made into a bench outside the church by the southern wall of the porch.

### **WINDOWS**

Originally the windows were plain glass diamond shaped panes. Four of the stained glass windows were made by Alfred C. Handel –

Eric Donald Best (east wall): 1924

Clara Blaxland (west wall): 1924

Samuel Moore (north wall): 1924

Matilda Blake (north wall): 1926

The remaining stained glass windows were made by Arthur Benfield at Edward G. O'Brien's glassworks. The known installation dates of three of these are -

Alfred Ernest Best & Lydia Anne Best (south wall): 1941

Nelson, Herbert & Kathleen Christobell Bushell (north wall): 1947

Children's window (vestry, east wall): 1947

### **FONT**

We have no information about the origins of the stone font at the rear of the church. Its wooden cover was given to the Parish in 1952.

### **PEWS & LECTERN**

It is likely that the present pews were installed in or about 1949, at the end of

Rev R. A. O'Brien's time as Rector. One remaining example of the previous pews has been retained in the vestry. Before that, the seating consisted of plain forms without back supports. The lectern was made to match the pews in 1961.

### **PRAYER DESK**

The desk and kneeler, and the wall plaque on the south wall commemorating those who died in World War I, were installed in 1920 as a memorial. The seat of the prayer desk was added as part of the Centenary celebrations in 1946.

### **CHANCEL**

The Communion rail and wall panelling were installed as a gift from the Fuller family in or about 1927. The stone paving, communion table, brass cross and pulpit date from the restoration of the church in 1946. The table and pulpit were given by the members of the 2/3 Machine Gun Battalion, with which the then Rector, Rev R.A. O'Brien, had been closely associated as a padre during World War II in Papua New Guinea.

### **WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL SCREEN**

The wooden screen separating the vestry from the main body of the church was erected in 1946, as part of the Parish's Centenary commemoration. The screen carries a list of parishioners who died in service in World War II.

### **FLAGS**

The Union Jack was brought back from World War II by Rev. R.A. O'Brien from the 31/51 Infantry Battalion Chapel of St John in the Swamps, Merauke, Dutch New Guinea. The Australian flag was given to the Parish in 1952 in memory of the late Arnold Hirst.