

ST MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH WINDSOR

HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

Brief history

The first church service in the Hawkesbury was conducted by Rev Samuel Marsden in 1795. John Harris was the district's first preacher and teacher. A combined chapel and schoolhouse was established in Bridge Street in 1803 and opened in 1804. Until the Church Act, 1836 the Church of England was the designated church, and convicts were obligated to attend services.

Rev Robert Cartwright was the first Chaplain for the Hawkesbury district, and was appointed in 1810. A new building was erected in 1811 with the ground floor a chapel and first storey a schoolhouse. Eventually larger premises were needed and a site selected. During Governor Lachlan Macquarie's 1810 visit, he recorded in his Journal, "the exact scite [sic] of the new Church...being particularly marked out."

The tender for the new church was advertised in 1816 and the contract to build a church and tower in Windsor was given to Henry Kitchen, a rival of Greenway, the emancipated convict who conceived the concept and drew the plans.

The proceedings of laying the foundation stone in 1817 were recorded by the then Parish Clerk, Joseph Harpur in the church registers:

A little after sunset on Saturday, the 11th day of October, 1817, the corner-stone of St. Matthew's Church was laid by Governor Macquarie, and after depositing the rim of a Spanish dollar, with the circular bit struck out of its middle (the currency of the colony), which pass for six shillings and threepence sterling, His Excellency, in a very impressive tone of voice, said—'God prosper St. Matthew's Church,' gently striking the stone three times with a mason's mallet...

Unfortunately the coin was stolen shortly after. Harpur recorded "*this evening, about the same time, the corner-stone was re-laid by His Excellency, and a dollar deposited underneath it by the Rev. Robert Cartwright.*" Afterwards the official party celebrated at the Macquarie Arms in Thompson Square and the coin was removed again. A few days later another coin was stolen for the third time.

Controversy also surrounded the building of the church with rumours about poor standards of brickwork. An enquiry was held with inferior mortar, bricks and poor workmanship reported. The walls were demolished to the foundation and the 'inferior' bricks acquired by Richard Fitzgerald and used to build a wall surrounding the Macquarie Arms, which still stands.

The building recommenced, with Greenway at the helm, and it appears he tweaked his original design at this time making it one storey instead of two. The church was named St. Matthew's however St Andrew's was suggested.



St Matthew's Church prior to porch
[Rex Nan Kivell Collection, National Library of Australia]

A consecration service led by Rev. Marsden, was held 18 December 1822, despite services being held in the building from about 1821. Several precious gifts, silver communion plate and chalice, were given to the church from King George IV in 1822. The bell and clock were also gifted to the church in the 1820s. Over the years there have been various alterations including the addition of the 1840s cross and orb, several new roofs plus the building of a porch in 1857 which covered up the Commemorative Stone. The stone was revealed during repair work in 1919 and placed in a better position.

Bits & Pieces from the Parish Registers

Baptism Registers

- Samuel Marsden Stiles, son of Rev Henry Tarlton and Jane Stiles was baptised by his father in 1841, the minister of St Matthew's. Sadly he was buried six months later.
- Twins Jane and Sarah, daughters of John and Marie Windred) baptised in 1857.
- Florence Australia Teale baptised in 1875.
- In 1875 five children of Martin and Mary Rien baptised in a job lot on 11 September. The eldest was eight, the youngest nine months.
- Theresa Ball was a single-woman when her daughter, Isabella was baptised in 1885

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Baptisms solemnized in the Parish of St Matthew Windsor in the County of
Lancashire, in the Year 1849.

When Baptized.	When Born.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the ceremony was performed.
			Christian.	Surname.			
1849 Nov 23 rd No. 16	1848 Feb 1 st	William John	William John	Elizabeth Sophia	Windsor	Farmer	Henry P. Stiles
April 1 st No. 17	Feb 11 th 1849	Elizabeth Ann	John Ann	Holden	Windsor	Blacksmith	Henry P. Stiles
April 15 th No. 18	Jan 17 th	William Matilda	William Joanna	Hopkins	Windsor	Yeoman	Henry P. Stiles
May 6 th No. 19	March 21 st	Anna Barbara	August May	Windsor	Windsor	Druggist	Henry P. Stiles
June 10 th No. 20	May 5 th	George Edward	Edmond Mary	Robert	Windsor	Farmer	Henry P. Stiles
June 10 th No. 21	April 14 th	Elizabeth Margaret	William Margaret	Dudley	Windsor	Farmer	Henry P. Stiles
June 17 th No. 22	April 1 st	Mary Jane	John Sarah	Higginson	Windsor	—	Henry P. Stiles
June 17 th No. 23	May 28 th	James Joseph	James Joseph	Dove	Windsor	Surgeon	Henry P. Stiles

Sample from the Baptism Registers of St Matthew's 1849.

Burial Registers

- Daniel Barnett [1823] was the first corpse taken into the body of St. Matthew's Church, according to the burial register. He arrived in 1788 and one of the original 1794 settlers.
- Ann Bladdey [1820] was one of the first women to receive a land grant in the Hawkesbury in 1797.
- George Spinks [1869] a warder at the Windsor Gaol was murdered with an axe.
- Thomas Watkins buried 1853 aged 11 died accidentally "by blowing into a gun"
- Rev Henry Tarlton Stiles was the minister at St. Matthew's from 1833 until his death at the height of the great flood in 1867. Prior to his death, he opened the church for refuge.
- William Dettmer was buried in 1858. He was a piano forte maker

Marriage Registers

- In 1835, Benjamin Matthews was the commanding Officer of the 50th Regiment aged 21 and married Sarah Britt aged 18.
- Widower Frederick Garling crown/public prosecutor and judge-advocate married Sarah Wilkinson in 1835.
- Rev Henry T. Stiles performed the marriage of his daughter to Mary to Rev Garnsey in 1860.
- One of the oldest grooms in the 19th century was Joseph Teale who married aged 64 to 45 year old Isabella Bowen in 1874.

Resources: what is held?

A range of material including published books, church registers, newspaper articles and images.

Church history

St Matthew's, Windsor : an Anglican landmark celebrating 200 years by Ian Jack & Jan Barkley-Jack in conjunction with St Matthew's Anglican Church Windsor.

Shelved RL283.9441 JAC

The cathedral of the Hawkesbury: a sketch of St. Matthew's, Windsor by W. F. Carter

Shelved RL283.9441 CAR

Macquarie Country and also Hawkesbury Journey by D. G. Bowd

Both shelved RL994.42 BOW

Early days of Windsor by J. Steele

Shelved RL994.41 STE

Parish Registers

The Library also holds copies of the church registers:

St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor, NSW. Parish registers...a complete transcription covering 1810-1856; 1857-1900; 1901-1950; 1951-2001 [5 volumes]

Shelved RL283.9441 LAK

St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor, NSW. Original parish registers 1810 to c.1980 [microfilm]

Shelved RLFILM 1 & FILM 2 microfilm cabinet

Ministers

Short biographies on the ministers who worked at St. Matthew's over the years can be found in the relevant volumes of St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor, NSW. Parish registers...[5 volumes].

Shelved RL283.9441 LAK

Also information maybe found in the Pamphlet files, and other publications as listed above. Some of the ministers, such as Robert Cartwright, Charles Frederick Garnsey and Henry Tarlton Stiles have entries in the Australian Dictionary of Biography <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>

See also Images our at
<https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Gallery.aspx> and Trove
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Cemetery Transcriptions

St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor, NSW cemetery transcriptions

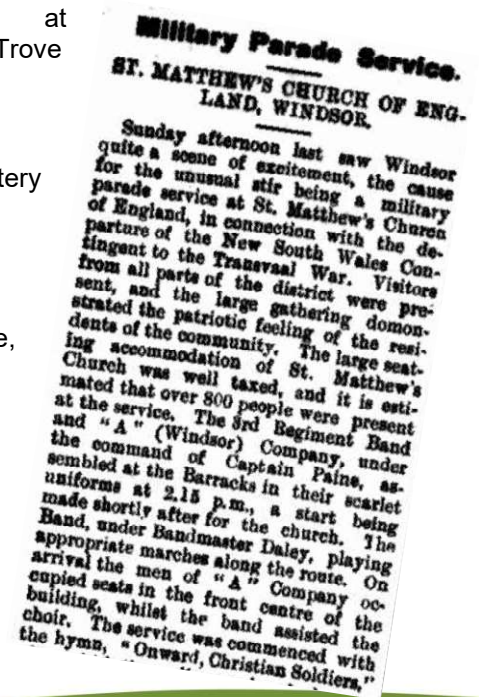
Shelved RL BOOK 4. Older versions at RL BOOK 5 & 6

Pamphlet material

A collection of miscellaneous information is held in the pamphlet file, titled St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor shelved at RLP SAI

Newspaper articles

Check the historical newspapers which can be accessed via Trove online covering 1800s-1960s <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> For 1965+ local newspapers are available on microfilm.



Military Parade Service.
ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, WINDSOR.

Sunday afternoon last saw Windsor quite a scene of excitement, the cause for the unusual stir being a military parade service at St. Matthew's Church of England, in connection with the departure of the New South Wales Contingent to the Transvaal War. Visitors from all parts of the district were present, and the large gathering demonstrated the patriotic feeling of the residents of the community. The large seating accommodation of St. Matthew's Church was well taxed, and it is estimated that over 800 people were present at the service. The 3rd Regiment Band and "A" (Windsor) Company, under the command of Captain Paine, assembled at the Barracks in their scarlet uniforms at 2.15 p.m., a start being made shortly after for the church. The Band, under Bandmaster Daley, playing appropriate marches along the route. On arrival the men of "A" Company occupied seats in the front centre of the building, whilst the band assisted the choir. The service was commenced with the hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers,"

Archives

The following material has been digitised and currently being catalogued.

- Wardens Accounts 1838 – 1882 & Cashbook 1940 -1943
- Churchwardens Minutes 1886 - 1918
- Confirmation Book 1954 - 1987
- Ladies Guild Minute Book 1955 - 1969 & Mother's Union Minutes 1939 - 1943
- Various Ledgers 1932 - 1989
- Minute Books 1838 – 1885 & 1918 - 1977
- Service Books 1868 - 1982

Photographs

The Library holds a number of images in our Images Database which can be searched and viewed online at <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Gallery.aspx> These include people associated with the church such as Rev Charles Garnsey 1828–1894, minister at Windsor from 1867 for over a decade, or various views of the church and surrounds, pictured below.

Also check Trove as there are many images available <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>



St Matthew's Anglican Church, 1994



Rev Charles Garnsey 1828–1894

St Matthew's Anglican Cemetery

The burial ground at St Matthew's Church of England is the final resting place of numerous pioneers, convict and free, as well as affluent and humble members of the community. Includes members of the military, merchants, magistrates, boat-builders, clergy and traders. Enterprising emancipist Andrew Thompson died 1810 was the first person buried in the new cemetery and his monument was erected by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Other notables include Richard Fitzgerald died 1840 convict, public servant and settler who was responsible for establishing Macquarie Arms. The elaborate vault containing members of the Tebbutt family is the largest in the cemetery and includes the remains of world renowned astronomer John Tebbutt who died 1916. Large number of First Fleeters (arrived in 1788) are buried here including Robert Forrester died 1827; Henry Kable died 1846 and wife Susannah nee Holmes died 1825.

Prepared by Local History Librarian & updated 30/12//2022

Contact Information

ADDRESS

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Hawkesbury Central Library
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HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am-7pm
Saturday 9am-1pm
Sunday 2pm-5pm
Closed Public Holidays

LOCAL HISTORY CONTACTS

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Access the catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/>