

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE**  
**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
***ST BARNABAS CHURCH – 8 TUI STREET, CHRISTCHURCH***

The Anglican Church had from early European settlement owned the land on the west side of Clyde Road and Sir Charles Bowen had set aside five acres of glebe land here for a church but the area was thought to be too far from settlement. Then land on Fendalton Road was donated by Daniel Inwood as a site for a church in 1875. J.B.A. Acland suggested the name St Barnabas. The original wooden church was built in 1876 and used as a chapel-of-ease for St Peters, Upper Riccarton. In 1883 Fendalton was constituted a separate Parish and the Revd T Jasper Smyth, who had just come out to New Zealand from the South of Ireland, was appointed priest in-charge of Fendalton until the first Vicar, the Reverend Jeremiah Chaffers-Welsh, took up his duties early in 1884. Plans to build a church in stone began as early as 1903 but were delayed by World War I. A building scheme and fundraising campaign was launched in 1919 but construction did not get under way until 1925 when Archbishop Julius laid the foundation stone. The church, designed by architect Cecil Wood, was completed and consecrated in 1926. The current building replaced the original timber church. The Parish Hall was constructed in 1941 and extended on a number of occasions; the Sunday School was built in 1965.

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 188  
ST BARNABAS CHURCH AND SETTING – 8 TUI STREET,  
CHRISTCHURCH**



**PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 24/12/2014**

### **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Historical and social values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular person, group, organisation, institution, event, phase or activity; the continuity and/or change of a phase or activity; social, historical, traditional, economic, political or other patterns.*

St Barnabas Anglican Church has high historical and social significance as a focus for the Fendalton community for over a century, in particular for the boys of Medbury School who regularly worship there and provide a chapel choir, and as one of the few churches in New Zealand that is a memorial to those who died in WWI.

The present building replaced an original timber church dating from 1876. Plans to replace the old church had been proposed as early as 1903, but did not get underway in earnest until 1919 due to World War I. The Anglican Church had for many years owned the land on the west side of Clyde Road and Sir Charles Bowen had set aside five acres of glebe land here for a church but the area was thought to be too far from settlement. Then Fendalton Road was donated by Daniel Inwood as a site for a church in 1875 and J.B.A. Acland, one of the first run holders in Canterbury suggested the name St Barnabas. The original wooden church on the site was built in 1876 and used as a chapel-of-ease for St Peters until 1883 when

Fendalton was constituted a separate Parish. In September 1918 a special building committee was appointed for a new church and at the Easter Meeting held in 1919 a building scheme was launched. Cecil Wood was selected as the architect of the new church. Construction begun in 1925 and the building completed and consecrated on 20 November 1926 as a memorial to those who died in the Great War 1914-1918.

The building was damaged in the Canterbury earthquakes but will be repaired, along with undertaking earthquake strengthening and upgrades to fire safety and egress.

### **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Cultural and spiritual values that demonstrate or are associated with the distinctive characteristics of a way of life, philosophy, tradition, religion, or other belief, including: the symbolic or commemorative value of the place; significance to Tangata Whenua; and/or associations with an identifiable group and esteemed by this group for its cultural values.*

St Barnabas Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as a centre of Anglican worship and parish life in Fendalton since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and as a memorial to those lost in WWI. These factors provide a high cultural and spiritual value within the local community. The church has high commemorative value, being built as a memorial to the men and women who died in WWI and is one of several war memorial churches in New Zealand.

### **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

*Architectural and aesthetic values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular style, period or designer, design values, form, scale, colour, texture and material of the place.*

St Barnabas Church is of high architectural and aesthetic significance as a fine Arts and Crafts influenced church, by leading architect of the day Cecil Wood. Wood was an exponent of the application of the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement to church architecture, and St Barnabas expresses the hand-crafted, vernacular qualities of the philosophy. Although the 1920s was a busy period for church building and rebuilding in Canterbury, many of which show the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement, Wood's churches demonstrate a particular sophistication. The church is long and low, built in stone from a local quarry, with facings of red stone and Oamaru stone. It is roofed in slate with a pattern of lighter coloured diamonds. The long plan, with a squat square tower over the main entrance, is similar to other of Wood's churches. There is a similarity between the long plan, the low stone walls, the massive timber roof, and the lack of differentiation between nave and chancel of St Barnabas with the English tradition of medieval tithe barns. Such barns were seen as pure examples of vernacular design by Arts and Crafts architects by whom Wood was influenced. However, he chose jarrah and oak for St Barnabas rather than an indigenous timber. St Barnabas is set back from the road because the old timber church remained in situ and in use until after the new one was consecrated. Comparable with St Barnabas is Wood's St Paul's Church (1931) at Tai Tapu – also built as a commemorative church.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

*Technological and craftsmanship values that demonstrate or are associated with: the nature and use of materials, finishes and/or technological or constructional methods which were innovative, or of notable quality for the period.*

St Barnabas Church has high technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stone and woodwork. The decorative work was executed by prominent carver Frederick Guernsey, a frequent collaborator with Wood, including a statue of St Barnabas above the main doors and an oak reredos with a bas-relief depicting the Last Supper and the pews. The font and lectern came from the original St Barnabas Church.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Contextual values that demonstrate or are associated with: a relationship to the environment (constructed and natural), a landscape, setting, group, precinct or streetscape; a degree of consistency in terms of type, scale, form, materials, texture, colour, style and/or detail; recognised landmarks and landscape which are recognised and contribute to the unique identity of the environment.*

The church has high contextual significance as part of a strongly related group of buildings, for its relationship to the site of the original St Barnabas Church and as a landmark in the parish of Fendalton. The setting of St Barnabas Church consists of the immediate land parcel and includes the Sunday School and Parish Hall. The setting consists of a large corner site, fronting Fendalton Road and Tui Street, with grassed areas, hard surfacing and mature trees, including Copper Beech, Lime and Horse Chestnut. The church and its ancillary buildings are set back from Fendalton Road. The Parish Hall and Sunday School are located immediately to the east of the church. Separated only by a low stone wall from the busy arterial of Fendalton Road, the church and its ancillary buildings have landmark value. The buildings on the site relate to one another through the use of irregular Halswell stone and aggregate block, slate roof cladding, gabled roofs and a high degree of architectural detailing, particularly in terms of carved stonework.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

*Archaeological or scientific values that demonstrate or are associated with: the potential to provide information through physical or scientific evidence an understanding about social historical, cultural, spiritual, technological or other values of past events, activities, structures or people.*

St Barnabas Church and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the ability to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900.

## **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

St Barnabas Church and its setting are of overall high significance to the Christchurch District, including Banks Peninsula as a focus for the Fendalton community for over a century and as one of the few churches in New Zealand that is a memorial to those who died in WWI. St Barnabas Anglican Church, has high historical and social significance as an Anglican centre of parish worship since 1876 and one that is associated with the community in particular for the boys of Medbury School who regularly worship there and provide a chapel choir. St Barnabas Church has cultural and spiritual significance as the Anglican parish church for Fendalton and as a memorial to those lost in WWI. St Barnabas Church is of high architectural and aesthetic significance as a fine Arts and Crafts-influenced Neo-Gothic church, by leading architect Cecil Woods. St Barnabas Church has high technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stone and woodwork. The church has high contextual significance as part of a strongly related group of buildings, for its relationship to the site of the original St Barnabas Church and as a landmark in the parish of Fendalton. St

Barnabas Church and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the ability to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900.

**REFERENCES:**

Christchurch City Council, *Heritage File, –St Barnabas Church, Sunday School, Parish Hall and Setting – 145 Fendalton Road/8 Tui Street*

Christchurch City Council, *Christchurch City Plan – Listed Heritage Item and Setting. Heritage Assessment – Statement of Significance. St Barnabas Church, Sunday School, Parish Hall and Setting – 8 Tui Street (145 Fendalton Road) – 2011*

Dave Pearson Architects Limited – *St Barnabas Church, Fendalton – A Heritage Assessment – 2011*

<http://www.stbarnabas.org.nz/history>

**REPORT DATED:** 05/11/2014

PLEASE NOTE THIS ASSESSMENT IS BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF WRITING. DUE TO THE ONGOING NATURE OF HERITAGE RESEARCH, FUTURE REASSESSMENT OF THIS HERITAGE ITEM MAY BE NECESSARY TO REFLECT ANY CHANGES IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ITS HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE.

PLEASE USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CCC HERITAGE FILES.

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1304  
*ST BARNABAS PARISH HALL AND SETTING - 8 TUI STREET,  
CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 24/12/2014**

### **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Historical and social values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular person, group, organisation, institution, event, phase or activity; the continuity and/or change of a phase or activity; social, historical, traditional, economic, political or other patterns.*

The Parish Hall, originally used from 1941 to 1965 as the Sunday School, has historical and social significance as part of the church site that has been a focus for the Fendalton community for over a century. The Parish Hall was constructed in 1941 and extended on the east side in 1951. The building was constructed following several years of fundraising to meet the needs of the growing community and address the problems of overcrowding in the then Sunday School. The building was designed by R S D Harman, a former partner of Cecil Wood.

The building stands adjacent to the former Sunday School, now the administration building, on the site of the original church. Currently the Parish Hall is the focus of much of the community and youth activities at St Barnabas, especially following the closure of the church

itself after earthquake damage. The Hall, along with the administration building, has remained in use following the Canterbury earthquakes.

### **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Cultural and spiritual values that demonstrate or are associated with the distinctive characteristics of a way of life, philosophy, tradition, religion, or other belief, including: the symbolic or commemorative value of the place; significance to Tangata Whenua; and/or associations with an identifiable group and esteemed by this group for its cultural values.*

The Parish Hall building has cultural and spiritual significance as an integral part of a centre of Anglican worship and parish life in Fendalton.

### **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

*Architectural and aesthetic values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular style, period or designer, design values, form, scale, colour, texture and material of the place.*

The Parish Hall has high architectural and aesthetic significance as a well-executed carefully detailed Arts and Crafts building designed by R S D Harman. A more domestic scaled building than the church or administration block, the hall has deep pitched slate roof with small roof dormers, a castellated entry porch and utility and break out rooms to the east and west of the central hall area. The Hall area of the building features multi-paned squared headed fenestration with stone quoining. The hall has been designed to relate to the church through the use of irregular Halswell stone and aggregate block, slate roof cladding, its deep gabled roof and high degree of architectural detailing.

Harman was born and educated in Christchurch where he subsequently became one of the city's most competent ecclesiastical and residential architects. He served his articles with the local firm Seager and MacLeod while attending classes at the Canterbury College School of Art. Following the First World War he studied at the Royal College of Art in London before returning to New Zealand in 1920 to rejoin Seager's office. After another period in London he was temporarily in partnership with Cecil Wood, 1956-1928 before setting up his own practice. Harman was closely associated with the Anglican Church throughout his career and went on to design the well known Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo and St John's Cathedral, Napier, although the latter was not built until after his death.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

*Technological and craftsmanship values that demonstrate or are associated with: the nature and use of materials, finishes and/or technological or constructional methods which were innovative, or of notable quality for the period.*

St Barnabas Parish Hall has high technological and craftsmanship significance for the use of materials, quality of its stonework and the degree of architectural detailing internally and externally. The building also has technological significance for the information it can provide of construction techniques employed in the 1940s.

### **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Contextual values that demonstrate or are associated with: a relationship to the environment (constructed and natural), a landscape, setting, group, precinct or streetscape; a degree of consistency in terms of type, scale, form, materials, texture, colour, style and/or detail; recognised landmarks and landscape which are recognised and contribute to the unique identity of the environment.*

The Parish Hall has high contextual significance as part of a strongly related group of three parish buildings, for its relationship to the site of the original St Barnabas Church and as a landmark in the parish of Fendalton. The setting of St Barnabas Parish Hall consists of the immediate land parcel and includes the church and Sunday School. The setting consists of a large corner site, fronting Fendalton Road and Tui Street, with grassed areas, hard surfacing and mature trees, including Copper Beech, Lime and Horse Chestnut. The church and its ancillary buildings are set back from Fendalton Road. The Parish Hall and Sunday School are located immediately to the east of the church. Separated only by a low stone wall from the busy arterial route of Fendalton Road, which gives the group of buildings have landmark value.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

*Archaeological or scientific values that demonstrate or are associated with: the potential to provide information through physical or scientific evidence an understanding about social historical, cultural, spiritual, technological or other values of past events, activities, structures or people.*

St Barnabas Parish Hall and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the ability to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900.

### **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

St Barnabas Parish Hall and its setting are of overall significance to the Christchurch District, including Banks Peninsula as part of a church site that has been a focus of worship for the Fendalton Anglican Parish for over a century. The Parish Hall has historical and social significance for its use initially as a Sunday school and after 1965 as a centre for parish activities. It was constructed in 1941 (and extended in 1951) following several years of fundraising to meet the needs of the growing community and address the problems of overcrowding in the then Sunday School. The Parish Hall building has cultural and spiritual significance as an integral part of a centre of Anglican worship and parish life in Fendalton. The Parish Hall has high architectural and aesthetic significance as a well-executed, Jacobean-style Arts and Crafts building designed by architect R S D Harman. St Barnabas Parish Hall has high technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stonework and high degree of architectural detailing. The Parish Hall has high contextual significance as part of a strongly related group of buildings, for its relationship to the site of the original St Barnabas Church and as a landmark in the parish of Fendalton. St Barnabas Parish Hall and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the ability to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900.

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