

DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
ST JAMES' CHURCH – 750 HAREWOOD ROAD,
CHRISTCHURCH

St James' Anglican Church is the site of an early place of Anglican worship in Canterbury, and has been a social focus for Harewood parishioners for 75 years. Land was set aside at Harewood for a school or church by the Canterbury Provincial Government in 1858. The first St James' Church was opened in 1862 and consecrated in 1880. For the first decade it also served as the district's school. In 1919 efforts began to replace the old building. The new, larger St James' Anglican Church was commenced, completed and consecrated in 1935. Part of the old church was moved to become the Sunday School. The new church was part of the Papanui parish until 1966, when it became part of the Mission District of Bishopdale/Harewood. Since 1983 St James' Anglican Church has been part of Burnside parish.

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 238
*ST JAMES' CHURCH AND SETTING – 750 HAREWOOD ROAD,
CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL, 2011

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 James' Anglican Church and its setting has historical and social significance as the site of an early place of Anglican worship in Canterbury, and a social focus for Harewood parishioners for 75 years. Land was set aside at Harewood for a school or church by the Canterbury Provincial Government in 1858. The first, very small St James' Church was opened in 1862 and consecrated in 1880. For the first decade it also served as the district's school. In 1919 efforts began to replace the old building. The new larger St James' Anglican Church was commenced, completed and consecrated in 1935, aided by a government subsidy through the Unemployment Board. One of a variety of subsidies that the board provided, this one required that the committee choose New Zealand-produced materials for the church, although after discussion they were allowed to use Pacific cedar shingles, subject to a fine per square foot used – the fine was later cancelled. Part of the old church was moved to become the Sunday School. The new church was part of the Papanui parish

until 1966, when it became part of the Mission District of Bishopdale/Harewood. Since 1983 St James' Anglican Church has been part of Burnside parish. A new hall was constructed in 1969 to replace the old Sunday School and an additional vestry was added to the church in 1991 on the north side of the church, opposite the existing vestry. The church was not badly damaged by the Canterbury earthquakes and has continued to remain open and in use.

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 James' Anglican Church has cultural and spiritual significance as the site of Anglican worship in the Harewood district for nearly 150 years. The present church has been the focus of the spiritual life of parishioners for 75 years.

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 James' Anglican Church has high architectural and aesthetic significance as an Arts and Crafts Gothic Revival church by Christchurch architect RSD Harman. RSD Harman, nephew of RD Harman of Collins and 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 of 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 (1926-1928) 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.

Harman adopted a plain style for St James, with small windows, solid massing and a squat battered entrance tower. This accorded both with the Arts and Crafts principle of simplicity and honesty to materials, and the prevailing aesthetic of the period towards greater simplicity. Other architects working on church projects during the period, such as Cecil Wood, designed in a similar fashion. Above the entry set in to the tower is the figure of St James in relief set within a geometric surround. The tower is topped by a copper-covered spire and the interior has a timber truss ceiling with three vertical queen posts linking the tie beam and rafters. The walls inside and out are finished with cement. Paired lancet windows are filled with leaded glass. A second vestry was added to the north elevation of the church in 1991, matching the original vestry on the south side. Otherwise the church maintains a high degree of integrity.

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 James has technological and craftsmanship significance for its use of concrete and for the potential it has to reveal information about 1930s materials, fixtures and fittings, and construction techniques. Concrete became popular as a church building material during the 1930s, for reasons of aesthetics, strength and economy. Harman used concrete extensively in many of his churches. In the case of St James, expense was of particular concern, and Harman was instructed to make changes to his original design to reduce the cost. The concrete work in St James was carried out by the Glue Brothers of Fendalton. The Glues had developed their own technique of poured concrete construction in 1914, and built a number of houses throughout Fendalton during the 1920s and 1930s using the method. The principal contractor for the church was HJS Harrington.

In addition the church contains the bell from the first St James' Church, which came from the first St Paul's Church in Papanui and was reported in 1932 to have been the ship's bell aboard the *Cressy*. Also transferred from the first St James' Church were the nave windows and the curate's prayer desk. The carved lectern was also designed by RSD Harman.

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.

St James' Church has contextual significance for its central location on a triangular 'island' site where Harewood Road and Whitchurch Place meet Russley Road within a churchyard setting. The setting of the church consists of the churchyard to the west, and the hall and a paddock to the east. The lychgate is situated to the south, overlooking Harewood Road. The grounds contain a number of mature trees. The wider environs of the church and graveyard remain semi-rural, although there are a number of houses and commercial premises in the vicinity, and the airport is close by. The church has contextual significance as a landmark that is clearly visible from the busy arterial routes of Russley and Harewood Roads and for retaining its semi-rural setting.

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 James' Anglican Church and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including pre-1900. The first church on the site was erected in 1862, and burials in the graveyard also began in the 19th century.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

St James' Anglican Church and its setting are of overall significance to Christchurch including Banks Peninsula. The church has historical and social significance as the site of an early place of Anglican worship in Canterbury, and a social focus for Harewood parishioners for 75 years. It has cultural and spiritual significance as the site of Anglican worship in the

Harewood district for nearly 150 years. St James' Anglican Church has architectural and aesthetic significance as an Arts and Crafts Gothic Revival church by Christchurch architect RSD Harman. The church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its concrete construction and interior and exterior finishing. St James' Church has contextual significance for its central location on a triangular site where Harewood Road and Whitchurch Place meet Russley Road within a churchyard setting. St James' Anglican Church and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including pre-1900.

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1343
*ST JAMES' CHURCH LYCHGATE AND SETTING – 750
HAREWOOD ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL, 2011

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 lychgate at St James' Church and its setting have historical and social significance as a memorial erected in 1950 to John and Mary Stanley, foundation members of the church who had arrived in Canterbury in 1850 on one of the first four ships, *The Randolph*. John Stanley was a Sunday School teacher at Papanui, before the original St James' Church was built in Harewood. He and Mary Stanley established one of the first apple orchards in the district and the land for Harewood School was purchased from John Stanley in 1871.

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 lychgate has cultural and spiritual significance as a memorial to early Harewood parishioners by their descendants and a demonstration of the way of life of the church's clergy and parishioners. Dating to the medieval era, lychgates were traditionally the place where pall bearers carried the body of a deceased person and laid it on a communal bier, with part of the burial ceremony being carried out under the shelter of the lychgate's roof. Later they were a place to shelter a coffin until the clergy arrived. As such they were classed as part of the church. In more recent times they are more commonly used as places to rest – where they have built in bench seats – and to shelter from the weather.

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 lychgate at St James' Church has architectural and aesthetic significance as a traditional Gothic Revival style lychgate, with the gates sheltered by a simple gabled roof with its roof beam structure exposed. The hardwood lychgate was constructed in 1950 by a local workman HJS Harrington, who was the original contractor for the church and also a member of the Stanley family by marriage.

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.

The lychgate has technological and craftsmanship significance for its construction using decorative bargeboards, exposed beams and traditional craft and design elements in timber.

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.

St James' Church lychgate has contextual significance for its relationship to the church and churchyard and its central location on a triangular 'island' site where Harewood Road and Whitchurch Place meet Russley Road. The setting of the lychgate consists of the churchyard to the west, and the hall and a paddock to the east. The lychgate is situated to the south of the church, opening onto Harewood Road. The lychgate has contextual significance for its position along the southern boundary of the property, providing a distinctive entrance to the church grounds from Harewood Road.

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.

The lychgate at St James' Anglican Church and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including pre-1900. The first church on the site was erected in 1862, and burials in the graveyard also began in the 19th century.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The lychgate at St James' Anglican Church and its setting is of overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. The lychgate has historical and social significance as a centennial memorial to John and Mary Stanley, foundation members of the church who had arrived in Canterbury in 1850 on one of the first four ships, *The Randolph*. The lychgate has cultural and spiritual significance as a memorial to early Harewood parishioners by their descendants. The lychgate at St James' Church has architectural and aesthetic significance as a Gothic Revival style lychgate in sympathy with the design of the church. The lychgate has technological and craftsmanship significance for its construction and finish by a local workman HJS Harrington, who was a member of the Stanley family by marriage. The lychgate has contextual significance for its position along the southern boundary of the church precinct, providing a distinctive entrance to the church grounds from Harewood Road. The lychgate at St James' Anglican Church and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including pre-1900.

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1287
*ST JAMES' CHURCH GRAVEYARD – 750 HAREWOOD ROAD,
CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL, 2011

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 St James's churchyard has high historical and social significance as the resting place of many early settlers, including the Stanleys, the Nunweeks, and the Dureys. The Stanleys were among the earliest settlers in Canterbury, arriving on *The Randolph* in 1850 and settling in Harewood where they built up a successful orchard business. The Nunweeks arrived in 1856 and were also well-known fruit farmers in the Harewood area. The churchyard at St James' Church is situated to the west of the church. It was full by the 1980s and subsequently a Memorial Wall was erected on the northern boundary. This is a block wall with a grid plan in front allowing the burial of ashes with corresponding memorial plaques fixed to the wall. There are plans to extend this facility.

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 churchyard at St James' Anglican Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as a Christian burial place and commemorative site. The churchyard is held in high regard both by the Diocese and its congregation and a broad range of Anglican spiritual and social services have been conducted on the wider site over the years. The churchyard also demonstrates past and present beliefs and practices relating to death, mourning, burial and commemoration.

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 churchyard at St James' Church has architectural and aesthetic significance for the diversity of tombstone designs in evidence. The cemetery evokes a sense of age and history in the patina of the monuments and individual graves are generally typical of contemporary monumental masonry designs and motifs.

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 James' Churchyard exhibits craftsmanship significance in its grave markers. The materials and methods used in the cemetery are representative of the period in which they were installed, and evidence past techniques, some of which are no longer practised.

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.

St James' Churchyard has contextual significance for its relationship with the church and lychgate, which together stand upon a triangular island site where Harewood Road and Whitchurch Place meet Russley Road to the west of the church. The churchyard relates to

the church, the hall and a paddock to the east. The churchyard is situated to the west of the church. The grounds contain a number of mature trees. The wider environs of the church and graveyard remain semi-rural, although there are a number of houses and commercial premises in the vicinity, and the airport is close. The churchyard has contextual significance as a landmark that is clearly visible from the busy arterial routes of Russley and Harewood Roads and for retaining its semi-rural setting.

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 James' churchyard is of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including pre-1900. The first church on the site was erected in 1862, and burials in the graveyard also began in the nineteenth century.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The churchyard at St James' Church is of overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. The churchyard has high historical and social significance as the resting place of many early settlers to the area, including the Stanleys, the Nunweeks, and the Dureys, as well as other members of the church community. The churchyard at St James' Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as a Christian burial site that originated in the 19th century and demonstrates the continuity of funeral practices and beliefs. The churchyard at St James' Church has architectural and aesthetic significance for the diversity of tombstone designs in evidence and technological and craftsmanship value for the degree of craftsmanship that they demonstrate in their design and execution. The churchyard has contextual significance as a local landmark set within the church precinct. St James' churchyard is of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including pre-1900.

REFERENCES:

Christchurch City Council, *Heritage File, St James' Church – 750 Harewood Road*
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