



**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 239
*ST FAITH'S CHURCH AND SETTING – 46, 50 HAWKE
STREET, CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH: 1.7.2015 M. VAIRPIOVA

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 Faith's Anglican Church and its setting has high historical and social significance as the site of Anglican worship and communion since 1886. The history of the Anglican Church in New Brighton closely parallels the suburb's growth. The area was originally part of the parish of Holy Trinity Church, Avonside. In 1880 auctioneer James Hawkes, after whom Hawke Street was originally named as Hawkes Street, donated two acres as a site for a church. A mission church was erected in 1886 to plans by city surveyor Cornelius Cuff. Dedicated to All Saints in 1887, the church became commonly known as the Beach Church to distinguish it from All Saints', Burwood. All Saints' New Brighton was consecrated in 1889, and joined with All Saints' Burwood in 1890 to constitute the parish of New Brighton. It was not until

1906 that it became the focus of a separate New Brighton parish with its own resident clergyman.

Although the original timber church was enlarged in 1909, the need for a new building was considered pressing, particularly as the congregation was regularly swelled by holidaymakers. Investigations were made into the erection of a new church, but with the intervention of World War I, the present building was not constructed until 1924-25. St Faith's was consecrated in 1925, the name having been chosen by a ballot of parishioners in 1925. The church was badly damaged in the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes. The church hall continues to provide a venue for worship and community classes and events.

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 Faith's Anglican Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as a centre of Anglican worship in New Brighton community for almost 90 years. In replacing 'a wooden shanty', the new church at the time was seen as an act of faith by the people of New Brighton. St Faith's is esteemed by its present congregation and many of its fittings and fixtures are commemorative having been given in memory of members of the parish.

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 Faith's Anglican Church has high architectural and aesthetic significance as an inter-war Gothic Revival church designed by leading city architects Collins and Harman. Originally founded by William Armson in 1870, the firm of Richard Harman and John Collins had developed into one of the city's leading architectural practices by the turn of the 20th century. Collins and Harman were responsible for commercial, religious and domestic buildings in a variety of styles. Notable ecclesiastical buildings by the practice included the Nurses' Memorial Chapel at Christchurch Hospital (1927) and the chapel at Nazareth House (1939). St Faith's Church has the long, relatively low profile and chaste embellishment common to many interwar churches that were particularly influenced by the simple forms of Early English Gothic. The church was originally intended to have a square tower, which was also a typical feature of the style.

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 Faith's Anglican Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its construction of random rubble Port Hills' basalt, with Oamaru stone dressings and linings, and a slate roof. It was built by Messrs P Graham and Sons. At the time of its opening in November 1925 it was noted that the altar, pulpit and lectern had been made of English oak and the 'remainder of the furnishings are in figured rimu'.

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 Faith's Anglican Church and its setting has contextual significance in relation to the church hall at 46 Hawke Street and the wider streetscape of New Brighton, particularly as it is prominently sited at the intersection of Hawke Street and Shaw Avenue. The church is a local landmark, within a part of the city that has few recognised heritage buildings or places. St Faith's had a relationship with the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception (Luttrell Brothers, 1911), by virtue of their similar age, style, location, and masonry construction, until the latter's demolition following after the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes. New Brighton's early 20th century Union Church (Methodist & Presbyterian) was demolished in 2011, further enhancing the contextual significance of St Faith's as an important surviving contributor to New Brighton's sense of place and historic identity.

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 Faith's 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 that which predates 1900. There has been a building on the site since 1886.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

St Faith's Anglican Church and its setting have high overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. The building has high ritual and social significance as a tangible expression of the development of New Brighton's Anglican presence from mission church beginnings to the 'fine new stone church' of the interwar period. St Faith's Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Christian worship and fellowship. It has high architectural and aesthetic significance as an example of Collins and Harman's ecclesiastical work. St Faith's Church has the long, relatively low profile and chaste embellishment common to many interwar churches that were particularly influenced by the simple forms of Early English Gothic. The church has craftsmanship significance as an example of inter-war masonry construction. St Faith's Anglican Church and its setting has contextual significance for its siting and location in a part of the city with few recognised heritage buildings. The church has archaeological significance as the site of an Anglican church since 1886. St Faith's 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 that which predates 1900.

REFERENCES:

Eve Minson *A History of Anglican Ministry in New Brighton* (Christchurch, 1988)

Press 18 July 1927, p. 11

Press 23 November 1925, p. 11

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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.

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