

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 321  
*ST SAVIOUR’S CHURCH AND SETTING – 50 KIRK ROAD,  
CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH: 16.1.2015 M. VAPIOVA**

**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 Saviour's Anglican Church and setting has historical and social significance as one of the early colonial churches of Canterbury and a historic church within the village of Templeton. The church was built by Theodore Dethier in 1867 to the design of Anglican diocesan architects Speechly and Crisp. Four years earlier the Templeton community had petitioned the Canterbury Provincial Council for a local school. The Templeton School was opened in 1864 and fund raising to build a church became the next priority. In 1867 land for a church was donated by EM Templar, after whom Templeton was named, and construction began. The church opened in November 1867 and both it and the associated cemetery were consecrated by Bishop Harper in December 1868. Tenders for additions to the church were called in 1873. These involved the erection of north and south transepts, each to

accommodate 25 people, and a 'very light graceful' bell turret (*Press* 24 May 1873, p. 2). The work was completed, to the design of Benjamin Mountfort, in 1874.

From 1877 to 1895 Templeton constituted a separate parish but, due to financial difficulties, it was reduced to a parochial district in 1895. The church published a centennial history in 1967 and continues to serve the local Anglican community. Since 1956 St Saviour's has been part of the Hornby parish.

## **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 Saviour's Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as an Anglican church since 1867. For almost 150 years it has served the local Anglican community as a spiritual and social centre in Templeton. There is one recorded war grave in the cemetery, that of Daniel Kempthorne, who died on 20 July 1915.

## **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 Saviour's Church has architectural and aesthetic significance due to its Gothic Revival design by Speechly and Crisp. Robert Speechly arrived in Lyttelton from England in 1864, accompanied by his articled pupil William Crisp, having been appointed resident architect to supervise the construction of the Christ Church Cathedral. When construction of the cathedral came to a halt due to financial constraints in 1865 Speechly offered himself as architect to the Church Property Trustees. Speechly was also responsible for the Chapel at Christ's College (1867), St Mary's Anglican Church at Addington (1867) and St Luke's Anglican Church Vicarage (1867). By 1867 Crisp was in partnership with Speechly. At St Saviour's Speechly and Crisp designed a simple church, following ecclesiastical principles and adapted to New Zealand conditions and materials. Speechly returned to England in 1868 following the completion of this four-year contract. Crisp was the architect of St Michael and All Angels' Church in Oxford Terrace before he returned to England in 1872. St Saviour's is also associated with Benjamin Mountfort, one of New Zealand's leading Gothic Revival architects, who added the transepts and a bell tower to the church in 1874.

Mountfort's bell tower was removed in 1951 and the church has since been re-roofed with Monier tiles and the exterior stuccoed. The interior of the church has an open timbered roof with board and batten walls. The stained glass for the east window and a quatrefoil in the south sanctuary, attributed to Ferguson and Urie, were ordered from Melbourne and arrived in 1881.

## **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 Saviour's Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for the potential it has to reveal information about 19<sup>th</sup> century construction methods and materials. The interior

woodwork and two stained glass windows attributed to Ferguson & Urie of Melbourne (c. 1881) have some craftsmanship significance.

## **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 Saviour's Anglican Church and its setting have high contextual significance as a tangible reminder of the establishment of the village of Templeton during the 1860s. The church has landmark significance for its Gothic Revival architecture, established park-like setting and proximity to Templeton School. The demolition of Templeton's Methodist Church (1881) in 1985 and the sale and intended demolition of St Brendan's Catholic Church in October 2014 has elevated the landmark value of St Saviour's by virtue of its survival and continued operation.

The setting consists of a large rectangular block fronting on to Kirk Street. The church sits back from the road with large mature trees, including five that are listed, on the site. The listed trees consist of two Italian Cypresses, which flank a Gothic style lychgate on the street boundary, two Atlas Cedars and a large Monkey Puzzle tree. St Saviour's cemetery sits behind the church and encompasses over half of the total site.

## **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 Saviour's Anglican Church and its setting have archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900. An earlier school building and schoolhouse were also on the property.

## **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

St Saviour's Anglican Church and churchyard setting is of overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks' Peninsula. The church has historical and social significance as an early colonial church and tangible link with the early settlement of Templeton. St Saviour's has high cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Anglican worship for almost 150 years. It has architectural and aesthetic significance as the work of Speechly and Crisp, who designed a number of buildings for the Anglican Church Property Trustees in the 1860s. St Saviour's Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for the potential it has to reveal information about 19<sup>th</sup> century construction and materials. St Saviour's Anglican Church and its setting have high contextual significance as a tangible reminder of the establishment of the village of Templeton during the 1860s and due to the cemetery located within the setting. St Saviour's Anglican Church and its setting has archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900.

**REFERENCES:**

*St Saviour's Church, Templeton: 1867-1967* (Christchurch, 1967)

GR MacDonald Dictionary of Canterbury Biographies: C793: Templar, Edward Merson (1820-97) (Christchurch, 1964)

Historic place # 3075 – Heritage New Zealand List  
<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3075>

Fiona Ciarin 'Stained Glass in Canterbury, New Zealand – 1860 to 1988' (PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, 1992)

'Templeton & Weedons – Edward Merson Templar & William Weedon' – Peeling Back History  
<http://www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz/templeton-weedons-e-m-temple-william-weedon/>

**REPORT DATED: 12 MARCH 2015**

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.