

## History of St Annes

In 1792 the settlement east of Parramatta extended to the present Ryde area and became known as Eastern Farms or Kissing Point. Grants were given to twelve settlers, among whom were William Careless, John Morris, Richard Cheers and James Weavers. They were among convicts who had left England in the second fleet on the HMS Guardian which struck an iceberg off the Cape of Good Hope. They continued their journey later in the Surprise. For their help and good conduct on the sinking of the Guardian they received conditional pardons and land grants.

1798 On the 26th August the first service in the district was conducted by Rev James Fleet Cover and Rev Wm Henry of the London Missionary Society, in a barn near the Parramatta River. William Henry preached from Acts 13:38.

1800 The first Chapel Schoolhouse was built for £40.12.1, most of the money being donated by the settlers and the balance paid by the London Missionary Society. The Rev Richard Johnson and Rev Samuel Marsden officiated at the opening and three children, Joseph Hatton, Enoch Weavers and Elizabeth Wood were baptised. Matthew Hughes, an Irishman, was the first teacher. He married Mary Small and their daughter, Suzannah, married James Devlin, who built "Willandra".

1812 The second Chapel Schoolhouse, with schoolmaster, Mr William Brown, was built near the present Ryde Shopping Centre, costing £ 106.6.0.

1826 The third Chapel Schoolhouse In 1826 Rev John Espy Keane became chaplain at Kissing Point. John Small exchanged 15 acres (formerly William Jones' grant) for 15 acres of the Church and School Corporation land together with a payment of twenty pounds and a house to be erected for John Small on his new land. This enabled the third Chapel Schoolhouse to be built, which is the Nave of St Anne's today. It had a pitched roof covered with shingles, arched windows with three glass panels, a belfry and a gallery with a vestry underneath. It was opened in 1827 and was known as the schoolhouse at Field of Mars and also the Kissing Point Schoolhouse.

1838 The Fourth Schoolhouse Land was purchased at the corner of Belmore Street and Victoria Road for a schoolhouse. A stone bearing "Hunters Hill Parochial School AD 1838" from this building was later incorporated in the Centenary Memorial Hall and can now be seen in the Ryde Anglican Centre foyer. The third Chapel Schoolhouse then became known as St Anne's Church and the name was changed to St Anne in 1877. Land was also purchased for a Parsonage which was completed in 1840. This land was where the present Kirkby Garden Units in Church Street now stand.

1861-1862 Additions were made to St Anne's of the Tower, Chancel and small Vestry at the side of the Chancel.

1870 On 14th September the Church was consecrated by Bishop Barker.

1874 The fifth schoolhouse was built in Victoria Road with "St Ann's School 1874" on the stone arch over the entrance door. This arch was incorporated into the church's War Memorial Vestries built with the stone from this building in 1954.

1875-1876 The bell and clock were installed in the tower.

1890-1891 The present organ, purchased from St Paul's Burwood was installed in the special Organ chamber next to the Chancel. It was moved to the Gallery in 1983.

During the last years of the 19th Century the pulpit, reading desk, the present cedar pews and the stained glass windows were installed in the church.

The Reredos is in memory of Mary Britten, wife of Rev H H Britten, Rector from 1877 to 1905.

The Holy Table of red cedar is in memory of John and Ellen Blaxland in 1921. John was the son of Gregory Blaxland who with Lawson and Wentworth crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813.

1917 The Second Rectory was built where the present Kirkby Garden Units now stand in Church Street.

1934 The Villers Brettoneux Cross This is an exact replica of the original Cross which was placed in St Anne's in 1934 and which was transferred to St George's Cathedral Perth, in 1956. It commemorates the members of the 51st Battalion AIF who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War of 1914-1918.

1936 The Centenary Memorial Hall was built. The vestibule wall incorporated the stones from the 1838 schoolhouse and the Coat of Arms from the first Post Office which was demolished when the Hall was built. These are now in the Ryde Anglican Centre foyer. The hall was demolished in 2001.

1944 The Chime Carillon was installed in St Anne's. This was designed by Dr J Ernest Benson, a churchwarden at St Anne's.

1954 The War Memorial Vestries were built from the stone of the 1874 Schoolhouse.

1964 Rickard House, the octagonal building at the rear of the church complex, was opened. It was named after Mr JC Rickard, a Churchwarden and Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years. It was demolished in 2001.

1966 The first sound system was installed at St Annes.

1968 The Third Rectory was built next to the Courthouse. Demolished in 2001.

The Tower Cross, was erected in memory of Dr Geoffrey G Cumming, a previous parish councillor.

1969 Archbold Building, adjoining the old Post Office in Church Street, was built. It was named after Mr K A P (Tony) Archbold, a previous churchwarden and Treasurer at St Anne's.

1970 Kirkby Garden Units were built on the site of the second Rectory in Church Street. They were named after a former Rector, Rev S J Kirkby, who founded the Bush Church Aid Society and was later Bishop Co-adjutor.

1974 Livingstone Lodge was built at the corner of Little Church Street and St Anne's Street. It was named after the Rector at that time, Rev D G L Livingstone.

These buildings were constructed to produce funds for ministry and maintenance here and outside the Parish. Livingstone Lodge was sold in 2000 to help pay for the Ryde Anglican Centre.

1978 The Tower Clock was electrified and the front clock face was in use for the first time in living memory.

1983 The church was altered internally by repositioning the organ in the Gallery which was rebuilt and extended; renewing and lowering the floor of the nave to same on level; moving the Holy Table to the Centre of the Chancel and replacing the cedar Prayer Desk with two small ones. A new sound system was installed replacing the one installed in 1967. Extra vestry accommodation was built.

1991 An off-site Rectory was purchased in Cressy Road, Ryde - the fourth Rectory.

2000 the Assistant Minister's house was erected

2002 The Ryde Anglican Centre was opened. The new complex adjacent to the Church of St Anne consists of an 350 seat auditorium, 150 seat hall, kitchen, 6 classrooms and underground parking.

The Inscriptions over the Chancel Arch and the eastern wall were first painted by Mr James Shuttleworth, an architect and an organist at St Anne's.

The Vestry Windows depict the insignia of the various dioceses to which St Anne's has belonged over the years and the three arms of the defence forces.

The Nave is the main body of the church where the congregation sits. (1826)

The Sanctuary is that part of the Chancel containing the Holy Table bounded by a communion rail where the parishioners kneel for Communion (1862)

The Chancel is the eastern part of the church beyond the Pulpit. (1862)

The Church and churchyard have many historic memorials to pioneers who have played an important part in the life of the district and the church.

Among these are:

Rev William Henry who preached the first Sermon in the district. (Grave on the north east of the church).

Rev George Weaver Turner and his wife, Mary, who came from Ryde on the Isle of Wight and it is thought were mainly responsible for the name of Ryde being adopted. (Grave on south west side of church near the driveway. Also a memorial on the nave wall).

James Squire Farnell, one time Premier of NSW and largely responsible for building of the old Gladesville Bridge and the Iron Cove Bridge. (Grave on north east).

Major Edward Darvall The eastern Good Shepherd window is in his memory and also of his daughter, Mrs Annie Tully. He built "Ryedale" which became St Columb's Rectory at West Ryde (Graves on north side).

William Forster was one time premier of NSW (Wall Plaque). He was the son of Thomas and Eliza Forster. Eliza was the daughter of Gregory Blaxland. (Stained glass window memorial)

The Terry Windows are in memory of the Terry children who died in a diphtheria epidemic when very young. They were buried at St Anne's. Richard Rouse Terry (plaque memorial) built Denistone House, which became part of Ryde Hospital. Edward Terry built Eastwood House and was the first Mayor of Ryde. The Brass Lectern is in memory of Richard Terry's eldest daughter, Mrs Florence Muller.

Lady Eleanor Parkes, the second wife of St Henry Parkes is buried on the north eastern side of the yard.

Emma Oxley was the wife of the explorer, John Oxley. (Grave on south side of the church).

Maria Ann Smith "Granny Smith" of apple fame. Buried at St Anne's with her husband, Thomas, her headstone is on the south east side of the church.

The Popes (Graves on north side of the church), came from the Isle of Wight in 1838. George ran the Ryde Store and became Postmaster in 1850. His son, George Miller Pope, was a churchwarden and trustee for many years. He built the Court House in the 1860s. He married Isabella, daughter of Paul Benson. There is a stained glass window in the Chancel.

The Smalls John and Mary (nee Parker) arrived in the first Fleet. Their descendants are buried on the south east side of the church.

The Bartons There are memorial plaques to Robert and Emily (third daughter of Major Edward Darvall and his first wife Emily) in the Chancel. They and their daughter, Rose Isabella, were buried at St Anne's on the north side. Rose Isabella was mother of Andrew Barton Paterson, better known as "Banjo" Paterson, the Australian poet.

Paul and Charlotte Benson There is a window commemorating their golden wedding anniversary in the side chapel. Charlotte (nee Wicks) was the grand-daughter of James Weavers and Mary Porter (nee Hutchinson). The Benson grave is on the south east side and the Porter grave on the north east side of the church.

James Devlin There is a memorial plaque in his memory on the wall of the nave. He built "Willandra" at the corner of Victoria Road and Devlin Street now the home of the Ryde Art Society and the Ryde Historical Society. He was a churchwarden and married Suzannah, daughter of Matthew and Mary (nee Small) Hughes.

Percy G Chatfield. A memorial plaque in the nave commemorates his memory. He was a churchwarden for many years and was also Mayor of Ryde.

Robert G Moon Organist and Choirmaster 1911 to 1941. A memorial plaque in the nave commemorates his memory.

Maud Goodwin The cedar Hymn Board was given in memory of Maude (nee Benson), who married Percy Goodwin. Their eldest son, Clive, was Archdeacon of Sydney and in 1964 was the first Chairman of the Board of Management of the Anglican Retirement Villages.

Henry and Elizabeth Bond There is a stained glass window in their memory near the entrance to the church. Elizabeth was a daughter of James and Ann Shepherd and a sister of Ann who married Rev William Henry.

George Cobham Watson a former Warden and Trustee of St Anne's. The Watsons were related to the Squires who were early pioneers and owners of Ryde ' s first brewery.