



Christ's Church Anglican Church

Corner Sholl Street and
Pinjarra Road

After the formation of the Swan River Colony in 1829, early church services were held in Thomas Peel's house. In 1842, Peel turned a workman's hut into a limestone chapel near Stewart Street, which was

opened by Revd. George King, Chaplain of Murray District and Rector of Fremantle.

In 1869, a fire burnt the village, hastening the plans already begun for a new church. Over one hundred pounds was donated by settlers and two grants, each of £35, were made from the Perth diocese towards the Church Building Fund. Dorothy Anne Peel and her husband Henry Hastings Hall donated the land for the church, on the corner of Sholl Street and Pinjarra Road.

On 26th of February 1871, the first service was held in the new church by the Pinjarra Chaplain, Revd. James Steward Price. At this time, the church had no pews or any plaster on the walls, but there was a pulpit, donated by a church in Fremantle.

The church was consecrated on the 25th of October 1871 by the Rt. Revd. Mathew Blagden Hale, Bishop of Perth.

On the 24th of October 1971, the centenary celebrations of consecration were held at Christ's Church by the Rt. Revd. R G Hawkins, Bishop of Bunbury, and Revd. E C King. Over 200 people attended this event.

Until 1836, Mandurah was under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Calcutta, whereupon the Diocese of Australia was created. Mandurah was then under the Archdeaconry of Adelaide until Revd. Hale was made the first Bishop of Perth in 1857.

In 1861, Mandurah was put under the administration of the Rector at Pinjarra.

In 1958, Mandurah was made a Parochial District, with churchwardens and vestry members elected for the first time. Mandurah was made a parish in 1958, with Revd. Canon E H Burbidge as first Rector.



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The only marble memorial tablet in Christ's Church is on the north wall of the nave, and is in remembrance of Jane Sutton, who died in 1905. There are three stained glass windows in the church, the one over the altar on the east wall shows the Ascension and is in memory of Charles and Emma Tuckey. The window on the south wall of the nave, nearest to the sanctuary, shows Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and is in memory of Stanley V. Smith. The other stained-glass window on that wall is The Ladies Memorial Window showing women of the past, present and future, donated by The Ladies' Anglican Guild. It was installed for the Bicentenary Celebrations of Settlement of Australia of 1988, although not installed until 1990. On the south wall is a glass case with a chalice and paten, which were presented to Peel on his departure from England.

The churchyard is the resting place of many pioneering families, with names including Tuckey, Eacott, Sutton, Mewburn and Dalrymple. Thomas Peel's remains are also in the churchyard, alongside his mother-in-law, Bridget Ayrton. His son, Fred, is in an unmarked grave. Many victims of the James Service (which was lost with all hands, off Mandurah in 1878) are also found in the churchyard, as is the policeman who had to search through the wreckage – Robert Holmes. However, termites have destroyed many wooden headboards, including that of George Winjan.

When Mandurah was established as a parish in 1958, a rectory was needed. A rented house in Leslie Street was used at first, and then a larger property at 55 Pinjarra Road. In 1979, a new rectory was built at 63 Leslie Street, which gave privacy to the Rector and family, whilst allowing access for visitors and space for parish meetings.

Over time the church has grown, with tiles added to the roof in the 1930s, and a sanctuary and vestry added in the 1950s. In 1988, a Niche Wall was added as a resting place for ashes. The large population growth resulted in a need for extra services, PA systems for Midnight Mass and extra chairs for events such as baptisms. Plans had to contend with the space limits for the church complex, as much of the grounds are consecrated as a burial area. In 1994, redevelopments extending the church and moving the hall and altar took place to address the growing lack of room.

When Mandurah was in the Parish of Pinjarra, due to the lack of transport, services were held by vestry members. Now, Mandurah has many parish assistants to lead worship, administer Holy Sacraments, be involved in Missions, and help in ministering to hospitals. There are also Sidesmen, Welcomers, food makers and musicians.

There have been many church organisations, of which only a few remain. The Mandurah Ladies' Anglican Guild was formed in 1939 and helped to fund the Church Hall, which was built in 1964. The Guild also runs an Op Shop. A Mothers Union was formed in 1959, under Janet Burbidge, the new Rector's wife. The ARC (Anglican Reach out and Care) was formed in 1983, with members visiting the sick and bereaved. There is a Prayer Chain, where prayers are circulated through the entire group. The church has had many choirs, including the Mandurah Anglican Little Theatre, which formed in 1974. It was made into the Mandurah Little Theatre three years later. There are now catering, flowers, knitting and healing service groups, a Sunday school, and many Home Groups.

References: Williams V (1992). *A brief history of - Christ's Church Anglican Church Mandurah.*



Timeline

Early 1830s – Services held in a building at the back of Thomas Peel's house

June 1842 – Revd. George King, Rector of Fremantle and Chaplain of Murray District, opens the limestone Chapel near Stewart Street which Peel made from a workman's room

1869 – A fire burns the village, hastening the need for a new church

March 1870 – Tenders are called to build the new church on land donated by Dorothy Anne Peel and husband Henry Hastings Hall, on the corner Sholl Street and Pinjarra Road

18th May 1870 – Foundation stone laid of new church

26th Feb 1871 – The first Service in the new church held by the Chaplain of Pinjarra, Revd. James Steward Price

25th Oct 1871 – The church consecrated by the Right Revd. Mathew Blagden Hale, Bishop of Perth

1880 – The churchyard consecrated by Bishop Parry

1930s – Tiles added to roof

1954-55 – The sanctuary and vestry added

1958 – Mandurah made a Parochial District. Churchwardens and Vestry Members elected

24th Oct 1971 – Centenary anniversary of the consecration held. The Bishop of Bunbury, the Right Revd. R G Hawkins celebrated Holy Communion, and Revd. E C King (a former rector of Pinjarra) held a special Centenary Service of Holy Communion

1979 – The first purpose-built Rectory built in Leslie Street

2nd Feb 1988 – Mandurah made a Parish, with the first Rector being Revd. Canon E H Burbidge

1988 – The Niche Wall built

1990 – The Ladies Memorial Window for Bicentenary Celebrations of Settlement of Australia, donated by the Mandurah Ladies' Anglican Guild, is installed

1994 – Redevelopments extending the church are completed

