

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



St James Church
1845

“...here, successive generations of locals have celebrated the joining of families in marriage and the gift of new life. Here, they have marked the passing of friends and family. Here, loved ones are still remembered in stone. And here, folk kneeled in prayer for a bountiful harvest, for seasonal rain and for the protection of loved ones serving their country in far-off lands.”

(From a St James Church publication—author unknown)

From the outset St James Church and its community established and have maintained close links. In fact, the foundation of the church was community driven. In 1844 the residents of Franklin Village and the surrounding areas of Breadalbane and Relbia petitioned the first bishop of Van Diemens Land the Rev. Francis Nixon to provide services at Franklin Village. He agreed, providing the community made available a building in which services could be held. In response Mr Britton Jones, a local innkeeper, donated the land on which to build a place of worship. Residents, led by Mr William Keeler Hawkes, Schoolmaster, raised funds to erect the building. In recognition of the efforts of the community to raise funds and the desire to extend the opportunity for Christian worship to the area a grant was made by the Society for the Propagation of Religious Knowledge in London.

The resultant chapel, opened on 15 April 1845 with 300 residents and several clergy in attendance, has been a community spiritual and cultural centre continuously since that time. Its register records the baptisms, weddings and burials of many generations of local residents.

Funding and in-kind donations from parishioners and the broader community have ensured the ongoing care and maintenance of the building but major conservation works are needed to ensure its long-term future.

THE APPEAL

To raise funds to undertake the necessary conservation work it is proposed to source contributions from grants and local donors as well as fund-raising by current parishioners supported by a **Heritage Conservation Appeal through the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)**

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF LAUNCESTON
SOUTH IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA
(TASMANIA)

ST JAMES CHURCH HERITAGE CONSERVATION APPEAL



ST JAMES CHURCH
1845
FRANKLIN VILLAGE



NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA
(TASMANIA)

ST JAMES CHURCH HERITAGE CONSERVATION APPEAL

Name:

Address:

I/We wish to make a donation of \$..... to the St James Church Heritage Conservation Appeal.

Cheques to be made payable to:

National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) - St James Church Heritage Conservation Appeal
and forwarded to:

The Treasurer, St James Church Heritage Conservation Appeal, PO Box 92, Kings Meadows, Tas., 7249

Donations above \$2 are tax deductible.

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ST JAMES CHURCH

St James Church, originally known as Franklin Village Chapel, is a rendered convict brick building of primitive Gothic architectural style. It is the seventh oldest Anglican church in Tasmania.

The foundation stone was laid in October 1844 and the building was opened on 15 April 1845 to function both as a chapel and village school. Following the opening the burial ground was consecrated but the chapel was not consecrated until 1926 when it was renamed St James and subsequently incorporated into the newly-established Anglican Parish of Launceston South.

WHY A HERITAGE CONSERVATION APPEAL?

The church has served its local community, the boys from Mr Hawkes' Academy (1842-1866) situated in what is now known as Franklin House and the residents of the Tasmanian Home for Boys (1921-1982) for a period of over 160 years. Although extensive restoration has been undertaken, particularly in 1926 and 1986, and regular maintenance carried out within the financial capacity of the parish, to bring the building to an acceptable condition relatively major conservation works are necessary. The object is to secure the church as a place of worship and historical and cultural local and Tasmanian icon for present and future generations.

WHY IS ST JAMES CHURCH IMPORTANT?

- Franklin House and St James Church are the only extant elements of the built heritage of a once thriving and vibrant early colonial village.

- The historical and architectural importance of the church has been recognised by the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) and by the Heritage Council of Tasmania which has placed the church and graveyard on its heritage register.
- It is a fine example of a primitive Gothic church "cruciform in plan with a side narthex and vestry opposite The southern gable apex has a small bell tower corbelled out from the wall" (Tasmanian Heritage Council). Unusually for Tasmanian churches it has an open fireplace within the church itself.
- What is now the vestry from 1847 housed a village school.
- The church has been in continuous use since 1845 and continues to provide weekly services to a viable local congregation.
- There are significant memorials including two stained glass windows, tablets and items of furniture in memory of past members of the congregation. There is a memorial to those who served in World War I. Ornatly carved altar, pulpit and prayer desk are features of the interior.
- The church is an essential component of a proposal currently being developed to highlight and promote as an historical and cultural icon the Franklin Village Heritage Precinct.
- The burial ground, an integral part of the heritage site, is dependent on the future of the church for its care and maintenance. It is the resting place of many pioneer families who were responsible for building this local community and contributing to the development of the state of Tasmania.
- Organizations such as the Order of Australia Association have held special services in the church. After conservation works and with promotion this practice by local groups is expected to continue and increase.