



AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN
CHURCH CALENDAR

All Souls', Sandringham, VIC



All Souls Sandringham With Sunflowers, painted acrylic on canvas by Geoffrey Rolls, (above) is a fine illustration of the church featured in our calendar this month. The church resides on the traditional land of the Bunurong people.

At first, the church Services in Gipsy Village (now Sandringham, in the Diocese of Melbourne) were held at a school in Francis Street and conducted by Mr. John Matthew Smith, Solicitor, in 1856.

A new wooden church was subsequently constructed in Queens Square: All Souls'. The first service here was conducted by The Rev. E. C. Spicer on 2nd November, All Souls Day in 1881.

In 1904 this church building was relocated to the present church site in Bay Rd. The foundation stone for the current church building was laid in September 1919. North & Williams were the Architects, and the church was consecrated in December 1921 by The Most Reverend Henry Lowther Clarke then Archbishop of Melbourne. The first service was held in it on the very next day!



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This concrete church built 1919-1921 was a memorial to those who served in the Great War of 1914-1918. It is believed to be the first reinforced concrete church in Australia and was built by the firm of C. Peeler at a total cost of about £10,000. Above is the earliest photo I can find of the church which is 1927.

When laying the foundation stone Archbishop Clarke remarked that he was 'gratified that it was to be a complete church including the tower. For all the years to come it would be a fitting memorial to those who had paid the supreme sacrifice.'

Much history about churches can be found in their artefacts. And there are many here. An honour board inscribes the names of 70 men of the parish who had enlisted in WW1, 14 of those were killed. There were a number of gifts of furniture to the church, an oaken eagle lectern and litany stool had been presented by the parishioners, and the children of the parish gave the font.

This photo was taken by our Calendar photographer, Robin Page.

The lower Foundation stone records: Greater love hath no man than that - a man lay down his life for his friends - Commemorate the sacrifice - The Great War for Righteousness - 1914 ~ 18 - This stone was laid by - The Archbishop of Melbourne - Most Revd. Henry Lowther Clarke DD - 7th September 1919 - Vicar: Revd. G A Calder Wade.

The plaque above it records: To the Glory of God - and - to mark the Centenary of - ANZAC DAY - 25th April 1915 - This plaque is dedicated to the service and sacrifice - of Australians who served in the First World War - and to commemorate over a century of service - by Australian servicemen and women - Lest We Forget.



Memorial window

This small window in the church refers to the Second World War. Designers John Ferguson and Nick Papas set up in business together in the mid-1950s. This window was among their early commissions. It was the first of many windows made for this church over the following decades. The design shows Christ Bearing the Cross, with representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Nursing Services ranged about Him in the background.

The inscription below reads:

In grateful memory of those
who served in World War II.
The gift of R.A.E. McKeon

Next door to the church, there is a plaque on the building which reads: In grateful memory of the - Reverend James Waterman - who founded - **All Souls' Opportunity Shop** - in 1957, knowing how much it - would mean to so many.- Erected by the Executive and Members of - All Souls Opportunity Shop Auxiliary, 1975.



Rev James Waterman had an idea back in April 1957 to open a charity shop. The Ladies Groups of the Church were asked to run the shop, and 36 ladies of the parish took up the challenge. The original committee members were all women with one exception - the Deputy Vice President. On the 30 August 1957, the Op Shop was opened for business.

The shop paid £6 a week rent to the church, and they quickly paid off the original amount owing. No church funds were used to purchase these properties. They had an amazing



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opening day they actually took £103 and averaged daily taking were £16 and 10 shillings back in 1957. Extensions were made to the shop in 1972 with the back room added. The shop had raised £10,000 pounds by 1962. Distribution of the funds today is the same as in 1962 - 75% to charities and 25% to the Church. Still trading after 67 years!

Bp Barbara Darling, among the first women to be ordained as priest in 1992 and the first woman to be appointed Bishop in the Diocese of Melbourne, was vicar here for almost 10 years between 1995-2005.

Today All Souls' Sandringham enjoys a lively congregation with various Christian groups, such as Christian Meditation, Messy Church, Life Groups, an Alpha film series, a Women's Circle and a Men's Breakfast.

