



St. George's, at North Melbourne

The brick building at the Parkville site was closed in 1925, was demolished in 1926, and rebuilt as St. Alban's Church, North Melbourne. It had only about ten years in service as 'St. George's'. The original St George's foundation stone (now incorrect) is still to be seen at St. Alban's.

The move to Travancore became a probability when the expanding Melbourne rail network cut off the Royal Park church from the rest of the parish. This move was first proposed in 1889, but did not occur until 1925. Worship continued at both sites after the building of the Travancore church, until the closure of the Royal Park building.

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North Melb., OHTA, John Maidment
Travancore, Architectural drawing, John Maidment
Aerial church, State Library of Victoria, C.D. Pratt
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The church lands and buildings at the Royal Park site were sold and the monies used to fund the new church and vicarage in the Travancore Estate, on the corner of Baroda and Lucknow streets. Well-known church architect Louis Williams drew up the plans, building commenced, and in January 1925 Archdeacon Hayman inducted Murray Austin Scales as incumbent of St. George's. Mr. Scales continued as Vicar for the following forty years.

An early decision was made to convert the church hall into a church, by the addition of the sanctuary, and the originally planned church was never built. The architectural plans for the unbuilt church are held by the State Library of Victoria.

In 1937 the church was enlarged by the addition of the Vestry, now used as the parish office. The money to pay for the work was largely raised by the ladies of the parish, as is mentioned in the Vestry minutes of the time. The enormous sum of seventy-seven pounds was raised in one such effort.

More minor changes have occurred within the church

The stained glass windows over the sanctuary were brought from the Royal Park church. The Ellis family, who donated them, were very generous supporters of St. George's in the early days.

The beautiful icon of the baptism of Christ was made by Nigel Burgess a son-in-law of long term parishioners, Bob and Joyce Lukey, and presented to the church in the early 1990s.

Electrical re-wiring of the church and hall took place in 2016. In 2022, toilet facilities were upgraded courtesy of a Federal Government grant and donations from parishioners.



Compiled by 'St George's Heritage Committee'

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41 Baroda Street, Travancore VIC 3032

stgeorges.org.au

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