

movement of the perimeter brick walls. At the South frontage of the Church a Cintec rod was installed across the full width of the building and the grouted in place. This was the first time this technique had been used in Western Australia and was similar to the method used in Newcastle NSW in the repairs to the cathedral following the earthquake damage in 1989.

Following the structural repairs, extensive remedial work was carried out on the damaged buildings, including the demolition and subsequent rebuilding of the Ada Purnell Lounge, subsequently renamed the Betty Creagh Lounge in honour of Mrs. Betty Creagh.

The opportunity was taken to clean and refurbish the external Western elevation of the Church. In conjunction with the refurbishment of Trinity's commercial arcade, scheduled for late 2013, the cleaning and refurbishment of the Southern and Eastern elevations of the Church will be carried out. Internally the church was completely repainted in 2010/11.

Peter Thomson

October 2013

Information sourced from

History of Trinity Church by Revd Sydney Herbert Cox 1845 – 1916

A History of Trinity Congregational Church 1914 – 1984 by Muriel Brockis and Peter Thomson's personal records.

A Brief History of the Trinity Uniting Church Buildings 1865-2013



**A brief history of the buildings associated with the present Trinity
Uniting Church, Perth, located at 72 St. George's Terrace, Perth,
Western Australia.**

Trinity Church, a Congregation of the Uniting Church in the City, stands in St. George's Terrace in the heart of the city of Perth. It owes its foundation to Henry Trigg, (b. 30 June 1791) a Congregationalist from Gloucestershire, England, who arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1829 aged 38 years.

Trigg held his first prayer meeting in 1843 at his home facing the riverside, on Bazaar Terrace (a continuation of Mount's Bay Road). Two people were present Trigg comments, 'himself and the Lord'.

In 1845, a few friends met to discuss the building of a chapel. A site in William Street was leased for eighteen years. He and a group of independents built the Perth Independent Chapel in William Street for £350. For six years Henry Trigg conducted all the services until, in 1852, the Colonial Missionary Society sent the Revd. James Leonard to be the first ordained Minister.

The next ten years were difficult ones in the colony, but the church grew and by 1863 it was decided to buy land in St George's Terrace for £350 and build a larger chapel. The new church was opened in 1865. The Congregational denomination "did not accept any portion of State aid to religion, but by their own zeal and liberality sustained and built up their cause'.

This second church (now used as a Hall) is classified by the National Trust and was designed by the Clerk of Public Works at the time, Richard Roach Jewell. Henry Trigg was Superintendent of Public Works in the Colony and responsible for the supervision of much of the early

aisle of the worship area. The lighting and sound systems were also upgraded. The wrought iron screen from the baptismal enclosure was relocated to provide a visual partition between the worship area and the pedestrian traffic area from the church entrance. The platform provided an open space for visiting choirs, musicians and other events to be located within the church.

On 14th July 1991 the ANZ Building was imploded. Following the removal of the resulting building debris from the ANZ site an open park was established, pending the redevelopment of the site in 2006. As a result of the extensive boarding up of the windows of the Church and Main Hall prior to the actual implosion only minor damage occurred.

Early in 2006 the redevelopment of the ANZ site was commenced with the construction of a new concrete retaining wall to virtually the whole site. The wall along Trinity's western boundary, approximately 18m deep, was required to prevent the western wall of the Church falling into the excavated basement of the new building. This involved installing ground anchors beneath the Church and Main Hall as the excavation progressed. In all five rows of ground anchors had to be installed in addition to the two rows installed in 1991 at the time of the demolition of the ANZ building. On 16th November 2006 the footpath along the western boundary of the Trinity property partially subsided. The initial subsidence was followed by structural damage to the Church, Main Hall, Ada Purnell Lounge, a storeroom and the Kitchen off the Lunchroom. After lengthy investigations and negotiations with the owners of the 100 St George's Terrace site and the main contractors, Brookfield Multiplex, liability for the damage, and therefore the cost of the repairs was accepted by the Owners and contractors insurers. The repairs included a structural steel frame at the North end of the Church, above and beyond the organ chamber, to prevent further

In 1977 with the retirement of Rev S.J. Henshall and the founding of the Uniting Church in Australia, Trinity's manse, located in Labouchere Road, Como became vacant. Rev & Mrs Henshall moved to a house in Ardross and the Labouchere Road was redeveloped. The 24 townhouses, designed by architect Peter Overman, were sold, the proceeds subsequently being used to fund the extension to the arcade and the internal alterations to the inside of the Church and Main Hall.

In October 1979, after much discussion, a special congregational meeting resolved to carry out a major extension to Trinity's commercial arcade. This involved the demolition of Trinity House, the Guild Room and the caretaker's flat followed by the commercial arcade extension at both the St George's Terrace and Hay Street levels. In addition a new caretaker's flat, together with suite of rooms were constructed off a balcony at the 1st floor above the Hay Street level. The opportunity was also taken to install an upper floor in the Main Hall and the removal of the stage on the west side of the Main Hall and convert the area into a new room for the Women's Guild. The room was subsequently named after Miss Ada Purnell. The Trinity arcade extensions were formally opened by the Lord Mayor of Perth, Mr. F. Chaney, on December 2nd 1981.

Attention then focussed on the interior of the Church itself. As a result, the organ console was relocated from its central location to the western aisle of the worship area, the choir pews were removed, the pulpit lowered and a raised single level platform constructed on which the Communion Table, lectern and a grand piano were located. The baptismal memorial font, presented in memory of George Randall, one of the foundation members of Trinity, who from 1856 until his death in 1915 occupied every official position in the Church and Sunday School from Secretary to Treasurer to Life Deacon was relocated to the east

buildings in Perth during the period when Perth Town Hall, the Pensioner Barracks (only the Barracks Archway remains today) and Government House were built and the brickwork is of a similar style. It is possible that as in the other buildings, convict labour was used in the construction.

In the open area just north of the new church was located a well which provided water to the site. In 1870 a committee was appointed for the purpose of building a new schoolroom on the open land to the north of the new church. The new schoolroom was opened in August 1872. Initially used as a schoolroom, it was subsequently used as a gymnasium. Below the floor of the schoolroom was constructed a rendered brick built baptistry measuring 3.370m x 1.800m x 1.270m deep with 6 steps to provide access. The Baptistry was rediscovered when the original timber floor to the old schoolroom was replaced in January 2013. Two small wings, one to the East and the other to the West were subsequently built in 1890. The East wing was demolished when the arcade was extended in 1981, whilst the West wing still exists. It now houses the kitchen facilities in connection with the Lunch Room activities.

In 1892 with the growth of the congregation and the general increase in prosperity resulting from the Gold Rush, plans were drawn up by Mr. Henry Trigg, grandson of Trinity's founder for a new church. This new church was to be located in front of the second church together with an office block, Trinity House, fronting St. George's terrace and located on the eastern boundary of the Trinity property. The present church was built in 1893 by Bunning Bros. at a cost of about £7,500, including £500 for the organ, £500 for finishing and £1,500 for the office building, adjacent, being Trinity House. The highly decorative Romanesque façade features Victorian turrets and two steeples topped

with iron finials. Above the entrance is a fine rose window designed by the architect as a personal memorial to his grandfather.

Built of brick with a good deal of elaborate stonework, its impressive double central doorway is approached by a sweeping flight of steps sitting well above the Terrace in a dominating position. The gold cross which surmounts the facade is a replica of the original one, which was damaged during the Meckering earthquake of October 1968. The present cross, erected in 1993, the centenary year of the present church building, was made by a member of Trinity, Mr Bob Meldrum. The interior of the sanctuary is wide and spacious with a domed metal ceiling and an arched gallery surrounded by a beautiful iron lace balustrade supported by fourteen columns.

In 1904-5 a suite of rooms were constructed immediately behind Trinity House to house new club rooms for the Guild where the ladies of the church held their regular meetings, together with a gymnasium and other facilities.. A narrow pathway led pedestrians from St. George's Terrace to the side door of the present church and then up some steps to the front entrance of the second church and then on through to Hay Street.

In 1924 a number of significant decision were taken by the Trinity Trustees.

The first was the decision to install a new 3 manual organ to replace the one installed when the current church was built in 1893. The new organ from William Hill & Son and Norman and Beard of London, installed in 1928 is still regarded as one of the finest pipe organs in the State.

The second was the decision to replace the existing shops fronting on to Hay Street at the northern end of the Trinity property. A four storey steel framed building, known as Trinity Buildings, was constructed in 1927 with a ground floor arcade from Hay Street to connect with the footpath from St. George's Terrace. The income from this commercial property has provided sound financial resources for the work of the church into the present day.

The third was the decision to upgrade Trinity House and take the opportunity to construct a new Guild Room and caretaker's quarters for the resident caretaker. The Sun Insurance Company agreed to lease Trinity House for it's West Australian operations.

In 1955 a stage and dressing rooms were added to the West side of the Main Hall. These provided facilities for dramatic productions.

In 1965 the ANZ bank constructed their new 12 storey Head Office on the Western boundary of the Trinity property. During the construction some damage to the dressing rooms occurred although the extent is not recorded. The Trinity Annual Report for 1967 merely states that the repairs had been completed.

In 1968 the Meckering earthquake caused damage to the Guild Room and caretaker's flat. This resulted in tie rods having to be inserted in both building to stabilise the walls and enable the buildings to continue to be used.

In 1969 the Trinity Trustees received a tentative approach from developers, Stocklands Pty Ltd, to redevelop the whole Trinity site between St. George's Terrace and Hay Street. Discussions continued until 1974 when the scheme was abandoned.