



13 January 2015

BDG 474

Paul Baragwanath,  
Friends of St David's  
PO Box 42038  
Orakei  
Auckland 1745  
[www.saintdavidfriends.org.nz](http://www.saintdavidfriends.org.nz)

Dear Paul,

**ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

68-70 Khyber Pass Road  
Grafton, Auckland

Upper Symonds Street Historic Area List No. 7367

St David's Presbyterian Church at 68 - 70 Khyber Pass Road is a significant heritage place included within Heritage New Zealand's Upper Street Historic Area. The listed area includes and recognises a great number of buildings in the area which individually and together contribute much to the heritage of this early part of the city of Auckland. St David's occupies a prominent landmark position along Khyber Pass and was importantly built as a war memorial church.

The church has many heritage significances associated with it.

Commemorating the 'Great War', its intent was that it be open to a wide public, and particularly welcoming and accessible to war veterans which it accommodated from the beginning with a stairless ramp entry and listening stations for the hearing impaired. Within the church there are several memorials including the Sappers' Memorial Chapel that commemorates all Royal New Zealand Engineers. The church also notably honours Auckland Nurses serving in the war. Historically its strong links as a war memorial are very significant.

The church's inclusivity has meant that it has served the community in many important ways and contributes much to its social significance. It has welcomed and married people of different denominations, and we understand was the first in Auckland in the 1950s to marry divorced people. It has served educational institutions such as St Cuthbert's College, Auckland Boys Grammar School and the University of Auckland. It has had strong association with Mt Eden Prison, and been home to organisations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Presbyterian Support Services and the St David's Sea Scouts. It hosts gatherings such as last year's 2014 Bicentenary Celebrations of Christianity in New Zealand.

The architectural and aesthetic values associated with the church are also notable as both the original architect Daniel Patterson, and the author of the 1937 added chancel Horace Massey, were prominent and well regarded architects, and the architectural expression is finely detailed and articulated in Kamo red brick and Oamaru stone. The church typifies the style of the interwar period.

Many heritage buildings are faced these days with the challenges of seismic upgrading and their viability in terms of active use, but these challenges are rarely unsurmountable. Heritage New Zealand has, and does, work with owners and their consultants to try and achieve adaptive re-use outcomes and strengthening solutions that will ensure that places of significance can be made functional and relevant while still retaining the values that contribute to their significance.

Heritage New Zealand has recognised the value of St David's by its inclusion within the Upper Symonds Street Historic Area since it was confirmed on our list in 1996. It is a place of cultural and historic significance that should be retained for its values and for the contribution it makes to the wider context in which it is situated.

We advocate for its retention and fully support the Friends of St David's in their efforts to ensure that St David's survives into the future for the knowledge and appreciation of generations to come.

Yours sincerely



Sherry Reynolds  
General Manager Northern Region