

# SA Heritage Register

Nomination form

## South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

To help your nomination be successful, please fill out this form with as much information as possible.  
Feel free to expand the answer fields as much as you require or append information to the form.

Please note that places which have been nominated during past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council unless you can provide significant new information not provided through the previous nomination and assessment.

*For assistance with this form you may contact:*

Your local historical society or heritage adviser may be of assistance OR you may telephone an assessment officer in Heritage South Australia on (08) 8124 4960.

### A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	St David's Anglican Church
Any other or former name(s):	
Is the place already on another heritage list?	Partially, it is on the same site as the St David's Anglican Church Complex (Heritage # 8369) (State Heritage ID 13992)

2. Location					
Street Address:	492 Glynburn Road				
	Suburb / Town: Burnside			Post Code: 5066	
Local Council Name:	City of Burnside				
Land Description: (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	CT	5636	681	A	48
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:	
	F	141609		Adelaide	
GPS Location/s: (if known)	Longitude / Easting / X			Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum = )	

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	[REDACTED]
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	[REDACTED]
Postal Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Ownership History:	[REDACTED]

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	[REDACTED]
Organisation/Position:	[REDACTED]
Daytime Phone:	[REDACTED]
Postal Address:	[REDACTED]
Email Address:	[REDACTED]

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## B. Description

<b>5. Description of nominated place or object</b>	
<b>Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:</b>	<p>St David's Church is an outstanding example of Modernist church architecture of the 1960s in South Australia.</p> <p>The towering white cross reaching up from the arc shaped roof of the building is an imposing symbol of the presence of Christ in the community and can be seen from near and far. The cross is illuminated at night. A modern variation is the colour of the illumination can be changed dependemt on the Church Season. The spacious church building seats up to 300 people and is a fitting location for life events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.</p> <p>St David's has a magnificent organ and offers a superb quality of church music, both in worship and in concert. This beautiful church is proud to house an artistic copper sculpture production, 'Glad Tidings of Great Joy', completed in 2012 as a series of 12 panels by local artist and parishioner, Pat Colley Brooks.</p> <p>It also has three notable works in copper by the Czech Australian sculptor Voitre Marek, widely known for his contributions to ecclesiastical sculpture in the post-War years in South Australia.</p>
<b>Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object?</b> Can you provide dates for these changes?	The choir loft had to be modified and strengthened to accommodate the larger organ purchased in the 1980's from St Paul's Anglican church Pulteney Street.
<b>Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground?</b> Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	No
<b>Date you inspected the place or object:</b>	22 March 2023
<b>Have you had any contact with the Owner?</b>	Yes
<b>Current use of the place or object:</b>	Church / Worship, Parish and community events
<b>Original or former use(s):</b>	Church / Worship and Parish events
<b>Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?</b>	None known
<b>Name of Builder:</b>	Structural engineer: JH Bullocks <b>Builder:</b>
<b>Any other information:</b>	<p>The building is mainly single storey with an organ loft/gallery, trapezoid in plan with entrance on the north-west side. It is constructed of a mixture of materials – concrete, brick, stone, timber/steel gallery and steel framed roof with steel columns.</p> <p>The main roof is a hyperbolic paraboloid, or saddle-shaped, finished in zinc roof sheeting.</p> <p>The internal timber roof is curved towards the front of the church like the hull of a boat, sweeping upwards to its high point over the altar.</p>

## C. History

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6. Origins and history	
<b>Years of Construction:</b>	<b>Start:</b> 9 September 1962 <b>Finish:</b> 9 November 1963
<b>Name of Designer / Architect:</b>	Stewart Game of Game and Gilbert Architects
<b>History of the nominated place or object:</b>	<p>The original Saint David's Church of England was completed in 1887, one of the earliest churches established in the Burnside District Council area, then a semi-rural environment surrounded by paddocks. The brick and stone church building was erected next to the Burnside Council Chambers, which had been built in 1869.</p> <p>As Adelaide extended its limits, urban sprawl began to engulf the parish and the St David's congregation grew steadily. Even with an extension to the church building in 1959, it became clear that a larger building was required.</p> <p>The foundation stone of the new, architecturally innovative church was laid on September 9<sup>th</sup> 1962 and the completed building was dedicated on November 9<sup>th</sup> 1963.</p> <p>Designed by Adelaide architect and parishioner Stewart Game, the modern church shows distinctive features that make it "a fine example of contemporary architecture of the era, with its soaring roofline and towering white cross" which stands out as a local landmark.</p> <p>Apart from its architectural lines St David's has a number of internal features which make it particularly worthy of attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The massive hand-hewn wooden cross behind the altar</li> <li>• Stained glass windows by Adelaide glass artist Cedar Prest</li> <li>• The beaten copper sculpture of St David by Czech Australian artist Votire Marek, as well as two other copper panels by Marek in the Lady Chapel.</li> <li>• Copper sculpture frieze Glad Tidings of Great Joy by Pat Colley Brooks, completed in 2012</li> <li>• The Lady Chapel, a tranquil space for reflection which includes the altar and stained glass from the original church.</li> <li>• Altar frontals and embroidered cushions created by parishioners over a number of years.</li> </ul> <p>Music has long been a strong feature of St David's. The small organ installed in 1959 was replaced in 1986 with the rebuilt 1879 organ purchased from St Paul's Pulteney Street and which has seen a number of additions and improvements over several decades. The organ is extensively used both for services in the church and for the enjoyment of the wider public, with ongoing concert series, particularly in winter. St David's has been fortunate to have attracted many excellent organists to perform and bring out the varied features of this fine instrument.</p>
<b>Historical sources used to support your nomination:</b> Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.	

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## D. Heritage Significance

### 7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?

It is of State heritage significance because it is an outstanding example of Modernist church architecture of the 1960s in South Australia.

Built in 1962-63, the structure is a clear expression of the cultural values of Adelaide post WW2.

The current Church is located on a state heritage listed site. Two other buildings on the site are state heritage listed buildings and the Church itself is a National Trust listed building.

### 8. Significance Criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.   | St David's Anglican Church is a fine and prominent example of post war Modernist Church architecture, built at a time when churches were centres of local culture and social life.   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.  | This church is considered to be one of South Australia's finest post-war churches, both for its paraboloid plan and use of materials for its sweeping curved roof.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.  | Much of life in mid-20 <sup>th</sup> Century Australia still revolved around churches as centres for family life and activities for young people. St David's is a fine example of the connection between the church and the local community, [providing access to Burnside Primary School and with the hall used by the community for a number of different purposes.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics. | Designed by Adelaide architect and parishioner Stewart Game, the modern church shows features that make it a distinctive example of contemporary architecture of the era, with its soaring roofline and towering white cross. In particular the design of the roof itself was revolutionary and presented considerable challenges to the builder. The distinctive design takes advantage of modern building techniques and materials that were newly available in the 1960s.   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.  | The Anglican Church of St David's Burnside has been a constant feature of the local community for a century and a half, from the building and dedication of the original stone St David's Church of England in 1887 to the dedication of the current brick St David's adjacent to the original Burnside Council Chambers in 1963 and continuing into the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century. There has always been a strong teaching focus and over the half century from 1960 to 2010 twenty-two curates received formation and training for the priesthood at St David's. Two of these went on to become bishops.<br><br>With its prominent location on the busy Glynburn Road and proximity to Burnside Primary School, its use for public events such as a polling station for elections and the location for public concerts, St David's has been and |

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	remains a constant not just for the Anglican community, but also for the broader community in Burnside ever since.
<input type="checkbox"/> It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.	St David's Anglican Church was dedicated to the memory of those who gave their lives in war, 1914-1918 and 1938-1945. Both sons of the Rev. Leslie D. B. Riley, Rector of the parish from 1937 – 1957, lost their lives in World War II.

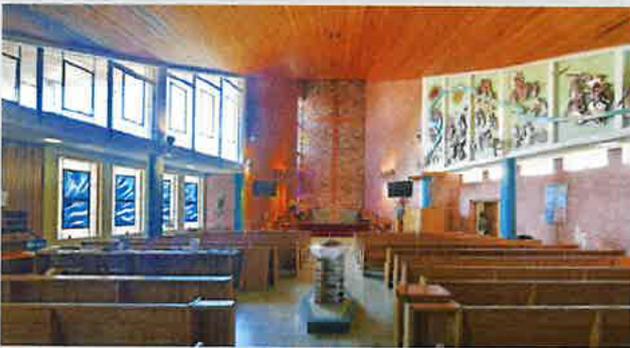
## E. Additional Information

<b>9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans</b> A full range of images including maps, site plans, and photographs will help your nomination. Please provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a clear outline of the place or object being nominated within any maps or plans provided</li><li>• high quality images of the place or object (please list the total number of images being provided)</li><li>• the subject of each image</li><li>• the date each image was created</li><li>• the author of each image, and</li><li>• the copyright holder of each image (if known)</li></ul> <b>Paste images here:</b> 
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The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I [REDACTED] nominate St David's Anglican Church to be heritage listed.

The information I/we have provided is correct to my/our knowledge.

Your Signature/s:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Date:

26 May 2023

### Nomination Form Checklist

**Please check that your nomination includes:**

- A clear indication of the location of the place or object (including map/s). Where a number of features are nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary surrounding the significant elements of the site.
- A history of the place or object explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination.  
This should generally help support arguments of cultural significance.
- A clear description of the nominated place or object/s.
- A statement of significance and indication on how the place or object satisfies one or more of the significance criteria.
- Have you taken the opportunity to discuss the nomination with a heritage assessment officer? It is strongly advised you to do so prior to submitting this nomination.

**Email:** [DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au)

**Post:** Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council  
Department for Environment and Water  
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001



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St David's Anglican Church precinct is made up of three buildings: The original church built in 1887 and now used as the church hall; the original Burnside Council Chamber built in 1869 and now used as St David's Church office and the modern St David's church built in 1963. The former two buildings are Heritage listed while the current church is seeking inclusion on the South Australian Heritage Register.

## Description

St David's Church is an outstanding example of Modernist church architecture of the 1960s in South Australia, *"perhaps the most adventurous experiment in the expressive possibilities afforded by new materials after World War II ... One of South Australia's finest post-war churches, St David's possesses the only known hyperbolic paraboloid saddle roof in South Australia."*<sup>1</sup>

The towering white cross reaching up from the arc shaped roof of the building is an imposing symbol of the presence of Christ in the community and, illuminated at night, can be seen from near and far (although today this spectacle is often interrupted by the growing tree canopy). The spacious church building seats up to 300 people and is a fitting location for life events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as its day to day function as the core of St David's parish.

St David's has an excellent organ and offers a superb quality of church music, both in worship and in concert. This beautiful church is proud to house an artistic copper sculpture, 'Glad Tidings of Great Joy', completed in 2012 as a series of 12 panels created by local artist and parishioner, Pat Colley Brooks.

It also has three notable works in copper by the Czech Australian sculptor Vojtěch Marek, widely known for his contributions to ecclesiastical sculpture in the post-War years in South Australia.

The building is mainly single storey with organ loft/gallery, trapezoid in plan with its entrance on the north-west side. It is constructed of a mixture of materials – concrete, brick, stone, timber/steel gallery and steel framed roof with steel columns. The main roof is hyperbolic paraboloid, or saddle-shaped, finished in zinc roof sheeting. The organ loft was modified and strengthened in the 1980s to accommodate the larger organ purchased from St Paul's Anglican Church Pulteney Street.

The internal timber roof is curved towards the front of the church like the hull of a boat, sweeping upwards to its high point over the altar.

## History

The Anglican Church of St David's Burnside has been a constant feature of the local community for well over a century and a half, from the building and dedication of the original stone St David's Church of England to the dedication of the current St David's, adjacent to the original Burnside Council Chambers, in 1963.

With its prominent location on the busy Glynburn Road and proximity to Burnside Primary School, its use as a polling booth for elections and the location for winter concerts, lecture series and many other events St David's has been a constant not just to the Anglican community, but also to

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<sup>1</sup> [A Modern Image: Postwar Churches in South Australia](#) - Spirit of Progress, Journal of Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia Inc Issue 85 Vol 22 no. 1 Autumn 2021

the broader community in Burnside ever since. The illuminated cross which soars above the roofline is a local landmark, appreciated by the local community.

The original Saint David's Church of England was completed in 1887, one of the earliest churches established in the Burnside District Council area, then a semi-rural environment surrounded by paddocks. The brick and stone church building was erected next to the Burnside Council Chambers, which had been built in 1869.

As Adelaide extended its limits, urban sprawl began to engulf the parish and the St David's congregation grew steadily. Even with an extension to the church in 1959, it became clear that a larger building was required in an era when churches were commonly centres of local culture and social and family life.

When the new church was in the planning stage two designs were submitted: one a traditional church building, the other an innovative modern style which presented several challenges for construction. After considerable – and heated – discussion the contemporary design was accepted, to the great benefit of St David's parish today.

Due to the siting of the old Burnside Pound the church could not be placed in the usual East-West orientation so was set on the diagonal, thus making better use of available space and clearly relating the new church to other adjoining buildings. The plan *"is based on an ancient fossil of a trilobite, adapted to form the nave, sanctuary and Lady Chapel"*<sup>2</sup>

The foundation stone of the new, architecturally innovative church was laid on September 9<sup>th</sup> 1962 and the completed building was dedicated on November 9<sup>th</sup> 1963.

Designed by Adelaide architect Stewart Game, of Game and Gilbert Architects, the modern church shows distinctive features that make it *"a fine example of contemporary architecture of the era, with its soaring roofline and towering white cross"* which stands out as a local landmark.

The architect of the new church, Stewart Game, was a parishioner of St David's and said at the time *"It is an architect's dream to be asked to design and erect a structure which is to play an important part in the lives of so many people . . . . I was delighted and honoured when in December 1959 the Council of St David's Burnside commissioned me to design their new church"*<sup>3</sup>

The materials were specially made brick and local Carey Gully stone, with large areas of glass, meranti timber, marble and copper. The foreman Gus Schultz, a devout Christian, was enticed out of retirement to supervise the building of the church which he regarded as "his church", having always wanted to build a church but never having the opportunity until now.

One of the most striking features of the modern church is the massive wooden cross set into the wall of quarry stone behind the altar, with the finish on the timber being produced with an adze by a master-craftsman, a migrant from Cyprus who had little English but who had brought with him to Adelaide his full complement of woodworking tools and had no need of words to exercise his craft. Stewart Game remembered him sitting astride the timber as he worked, putting into form his superb understanding of timber and his craft.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Stewart Game: **A Forward-looking design ...** Action magazine September 1991 p.3

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

At the exterior eastern end of the church, beneath the soaring cross are two sharply angled walls forming the columbarium, containing the ashes of many past parishioners.

Apart from its architectural lines St David's has a number of internal features which make it particularly worthy of attention:

- The massive hand-hewn wooden cross behind the altar
- Stained glass windows by Adelaide glass artist Cedar Prest, installed during the 1980s
- The beaten copper sculpture of St David by Czech Australian artist Vojtech Marek, as well as two other copper panels by Marek in the Lady Chapel.
- Copper sculpture frieze Glad Tidings of Great Joy by Pat Colley Brooks, completed in 2012
- The Lady Chapel, a tranquil space for reflection which includes the altar and stained glass from the original church.
- Altar frontals and embroidered cushions created by parishioners over a number of years.

The centre of the church is dominated by the font with its base of local quarry stone, the top of Angaston marble and a copper cover.

The altar is made from one-inch thick (2.5cm) Italian travertine marble set on concrete and carved by the same firm that carved the font.

Music has long been a strong feature of St David's. The small organ installed in 1959 was replaced in 1986 with the rebuilt 1879 organ purchased from St Paul's Pulteney Street and which has seen a number of additions and improvements over several decades. The organ is extensively used both for services in the church and for the enjoyment of the wider public, with ongoing concert series, particularly in winter. St David's has been fortunate to have attracted many excellent organists to perform and bring out the varied features of this fine instrument.

Teaching has also long been an important feature of the parish and over five decades some 22 men and women held curacies at St David's where they received training and formation for the priesthood. Two of these went on to become bishops.

Likewise, for many years St David's has offered a variety of programs – lectures, discussions, study groups – many of which are open to the wider public.

It goes without saying that a site with three heritage properties is in constant need of maintenance and repairs. The modern St David's building is no exception to this. Recently the outside lighting to the cross has been renewed, including variable colours to highlight different seasons.

A program has been established to repair and replace the roof structure to ensure a fully waterproof shell, preventing damage to the fabric of the church. This is essential in order to preserve the internal features of the church.

### The Future

The current ten-year program includes work to both the exterior and the interior of the Heritage buildings – that is, the State-listed old Church/Hall, the former Burnside Council Chambers/Church Office and the National Trust listed contemporary church, together with ongoing development of external areas.

Conceptual drawings have been developed for integrating the three buildings into a site with the Modernist theme.

The proposal is to develop the site to make greater use of the Modernist theme, both internally and externally. The aim here is to provide greater access to fine art, music and other artefacts of the period so that the site can be a centre of Modernism for South Australia. Broader consultation is planned to understand how partnerships might be developed to enable greater community usage. A high-quality camera/audio system has been recently installed so that concerts, lectures and similar events can be webcast.

██████████  
May 2023

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