

St Mary's Church



St Mary's Church of England, Birrell St, Waverley - c. 1959

On 5th June, 1863 the foundation stone of the Church was laid by Sir John Young, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. Its full name was St. Mary the Virgin but it is commonly known as St. Mary's. It is believed that the land was purchased from Mr. R. Newman, and formed a part of the south-east corner of the grant of land to Barnett Levey.

The architect of St. Mary's was Edmund Blacket, a great Australian architect and a personal friend of the first Rector, Stanley Mitchell. Blacket intended that the building would dominate the landscape, but the tower and spire he designed never eventuated.

The church was built of white stone with a bell tower at the western end and an Anglo-Norman cross at the eastern gable of the building.

St. Mary's was dedicated on May 13, 1864. In 1872 two porches and an organ chamber were added, and in 1889 the organ was installed.

There have been six rectors in all: Rev. Mitchell, Rev. McKeown, Rev. North-Ash, Rev. Riley, Rev. Pattison-Clarke and Rev. Dicks.

Restoration of the church has recently taken place. The building is classified by the National Trust and funds from the Heritage Council have assisted with the building work.

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