

Wesley Hall, St Andrew's Church, Gardiner

Meeting place of the P.P.P.G.

The bluestone church was originally built in Carlton about 1851 by the Highlanders for a Gaelic speaking Presbyterian congregation at a cost of £10,000. It was located on the corner of Queensberry and Drummond streets Carlton. At that time, Carlton was a popular residential area and many wealthy families worshipped at the church. Gradually, the establishment of factories around the area force residents to other suburbs and this decline in population resulted in a reduction in the congregation.



The photo of the original church at left was taken in 1901. (Source; <https://victoriancollections.net.au>). It originally seated 1200 people and was called St. Andrews. It was the oldest Presbyterian church used for regular services in Melbourne. It had a bell tower with a clock made in Scotland in 1855. The clock was originally intended for the Melbourne Town Hall, however, it only had three dials instead of four, so it was duly installed in this Gaelic Church.

After more than eighty-six years of service, the old bluestone St Andrew's church in Carlton was demolished in 1938 and every stone numbered to be re-erected in a modified plan on this site for the Gardiner congregation on the corner of Burke and Malvern Roads.

The smaller church was actually built to seat 300 people and the extra stones were used for the surrounding fence structure.

The clock was relocated into the new bell tower and all was completed for the opening service in 1940.

Since 2016, it has had an Indonesian Christian focus.

The PPPG gathers in the cream brick Wesley Hall to the left of the church.



Photo credit: kieran-crichton.blogspot.com