

SPIRITUAL STONE



WHY WE LOVE IT

Trinity Congregational Church was architect Benjamin Mountfort's first stone church built in Canterbury. The Gothic Revival style church was completed in 1874 and opened the following year.

TOGETHERNESS: In the 1960s Christchurch's Pacific Island community began to hold services at the church, with Pakeha and Pacific congregations combining in 1968.

A part of home: In 1969 the church then combined with the Presbyterian church of St Paul's to become St Paul's-Trinity-Pacific Presbyterian Church. This was the first Samoan Church in Christchurch where Catholic and Protestant worshipped together in one place they felt as new immigrants this church was a part of home. The church was later sold and the congregation moved to Cashel Street.

STYLE GURUS

Benjamin Mountfort was New Zealand's most outstanding Gothic Revival architect.

In 1965 Christchurch architect Peter Beaven was inspired by Mountfort's church when he designed the Manchester Unity building for the corner opposite the church.

WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE

A building opened on the site in 1864 served as a schoolroom, hall and temporary church until the stone church was built.

WONDERFUL & WEIRD

Mountfort's design is cruciform with short transepts making the central space octagonal. It has a double-barrel vaulted ceiling.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz>

PHOTO 1 – MEMBERS OF TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, C.1967. PHOTO 2 – INTERIOR – TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. PHOTOS FROM CCC HERITAGE FILES & PRIVATE COLLECTION