

St Helena and the Cross, Blue Hill



Consecrated by Bishop Turner on 15th June 1952, this lovely church serves the north-west of the Island. That November, he blessed the simple iroko reredos behind the altar, and later blessed and anointed the old ship's bell from "Mutlar". The views of High Hill are spectacular.

St Martin's-in-the-Hills, High Point



Built up near Crack Plain, this tiny church was dedicated as a memorial to Bishop Beardmore on 22 May 1971. Its great simplicity makes it much loved by all. Hanging high up on a steep scarp, from here you can see dramatic views of this northern part of the Island – including "the Friar", alone on his volcanic crag. Mystified? Just ask!

St Peter's, Sandy Bay



Originally a school and chapel built in the 1850s, it was finally consecrated by Bishop Giggall on 5 September 1976. Three of the pews are the old fashioned "forms" where the back was turned over to make a desk! On the wall is a memorial plaque to Edward Constantine (1886-1967) who was Headmaster here for 56 years.

St Andrew's, Half Tree Hollow



In 1951 Bishop Turner bought "Stone Top Cottage", and extended it to make this eye-catching church to serve the increasing population of Half Tree Hollow. The font was made (both here and at St Peter's) by Mr Douglas Augustus, and Bishop Capper consecrated St Andrew's on 7 August 1971.

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The Cathedral Church of St Paul The Island of St Helena



WELCOME

We hope you enjoy your visit and take away happy memories of our Cathedral, and Island.

Whilst you are here in this part of St Helena, do go and see the daughter churches of the Cathedral Parish – at Half Tree Hollow, Blue Hill, High Point and Sandy Bay.

Each of them has a story to tell. Above all, each of them is about people, and they tell of God's love for us all

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St Paul's Cathedral, St Helena

The first church, “the Country Church”

was sited 50 feet up to the south-west of the present building – though when it was built is unknown. A Churchwarden was appointed in 1678, so there was probably a church here around the same time that St James' was built down in Jamestown.

But this building was not to last long, for in his “St Helena Records”, Governor Hudson Janisch quotes a comment made back in 1699: *“the Church in the Countrey is much decayed being made all of timber”*. Yet little was done for over 30 years, for a 1732 Vestry Report tells of *“...the ruinous condition of the Chapple in the Country...”*

The second church was built in stone with a new tower at the West end, and there was seating for a good number – including pews in a west gallery. A later Government Order of 1822 tells of pews reserved for the Governor and his family; other seats were for members of the Council and senior East India Company officials. Meanwhile, the gallery was reserved for school children and teachers. Astonishingly to us today, at the back of the church were the seats for *“Men of colour and Soldiers in uniform... below the gallery.”*

By the mid-1840's even this second building was in a very poor state with the walls propped up by struts! So in 1848 the site for the present church was cleared, and work started – the foundation stone being laid by the Governor, Sir Patrick Ross, on 6th February 1850.

The fine carved stone for the doorways, windows and other parts of the church was prepared in London and brought out as ballast by sailing ships who were due to call here. This was then mixed with local volcanic stone, and so the new church opened for services on Wednesday 3rd September 1851.

The new church was designed by the distinguished London architect, Benjamin Ferrey, and he has left us a splendid, if simple “Gothic” building in the Early English style. Almost certainly Ferrey also designed St. John's in Upper Jamestown - in this same style. But what is of special interest is that Ferrey himself trained alongside AWN Pugin under Pugin's father, Augustus. Yet whilst the books all talk about Ferrey's work at St Stephen's Westminster, and his restoration of Christchurch Priory, his excellent work here on St Helena has been forgotten!

In 1859, the new Diocese of St Helena was carved out of the massive See of Cape Town. The Letters Patent for both the new Diocese and its Bishop were signed by Queen Victoria, and Piers Calveley Claughton was consecrated in Westminster Abbey on Whit Tuesday 14th June 1859. He was translated to Colombo in 1862, but meanwhile had done great work, both developing the parishes, and dealing with the needs of thousands of released slaves being landed here on the Island.

This is a fine building, attractive in its simplicity, with just the two chambers - the Nave, and the Chancel at its east end. The windows are in the “First Pointed” style –

with lancets put together in groups of two or three.

As you look around the Cathedral, you see many Memorials to those lost at sea, or perhaps who had died in battle, or disease elsewhere in the Empire. Up in the Chancel, take a look at the splendid Bishop's Throne - like much of the woodwork of the reredos behind the High Altar it was carved by Richard Constantine (1880 – 1953). In addition to doing much other work in the Diocese he was also Cathedral Organist for 44 years.

If it's open, take a look also at the little Chapel of St Swithun on the south side of the Cathedral.

But above all – WELCOME, and we hope you find God's peace in this holy place.

Service Times are published weekly in “The Sentinel”. Every Sunday at 8am there is a Eucharist, with Sung Mass at 10am on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month. Sung Evensong is at 5.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

The Incumbent of the Cathedral Parish is the Bishop of St Helena, the Right Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick (00-290-24471). The parish is very fortunate to be served also by Canon Clive Duncan, and Fr Jack Horner.

Other churches in the Cathedral Parish are St Andrew's Half Tree Hollow, St Martins-in-the-Hills High Point, St Peter's Sandy Bay, and St Helena and the Cross Blue Hill. Each is well worth a visit.

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