

# Killara Uniting Church

## A short history

Peter Graham

- A. The Christian faith was brought to the land now known as Australia by British settlers in 1788.
- B. The Christian faith in Australia splintered into numerous denominations, including the Church of England, later known as the Anglican Church of Australia, the Congregational Union of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia, the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Roman Catholic Church, also known as the Catholic Church in Australia, the Baptist Union, the Salvation Army, the Churches of Christ in Australia and the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia.
- C. In 1977 the Methodist Church and the Congregational Union were dissolved upon the formation of the “Uniting Church in Australia” on 22 June, when the former Methodist and Congregational Churches, together with part of the Presbyterian Church of Australian were combined.
- D. The Basis of Union included the following statement:  
*“The Uniting Church acknowledges that the faith and unity of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church are built upon the one Lord Jesus Christ. The Church preaches Christ the risen crucified One and confesses him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.”*
- E. The Uniting Church believes in baptismal services, Christian marriage services and Christian funeral services as well as regular worship services being conducted in its church buildings.

## Fiveways

- F. Worship at “Fiveways”, located at 29A Arnold Street Killara commenced in 1902 upon the consecration of a Congregational church at that site.
- G. 29A Arnold Street formed part of a marriage grant of 160 acres made to Jane Bradley upon her marriage in 1830 to James McGillivray. It was later acquired by J.G. Edwards who subdivided those parts near to the railway line running between Milson’s Point and Hornsby, which opened in 1893 and became electrified in 1928.
- H. In 1897 the Congregational Church acquired the Fiveways land from J.G. Edwards and on 19 July 1902 a wooden church opened on that site.

- I. In about the same time, a Methodist church was built in Springdale Road, Killara about 200 metres removed from Fiveways. It closed about 50 years ago.
- J. In 1909 the Church of England also purchased land in Arnold Street, Killara, c.200 metres from Fiveways, on which it built its church, dedicated in 1911.
- K. In about 1970 a new church was erected at 23 Fairbairn Avenue Killara, which in 1977 became known as the East Killara Uniting Church. It closed on 31 December 2016, whereupon some of the East Killara Congregation relocated to Fiveways.
- L. In 1923-4 the current church building was erected on the Fiveways land in recognition of the grace and favour of Almighty God as a memorial to the human service and sacrifice in the Great War (1914-1918) of 25 young members of the congregation, 8 of whom were killed.
- M. The foundation stone was laid on Anzac Day 1923 and the building was consecrated in 1924. The four memorial buttress stones, each marked with a cross, were set in position by the mothers of six of the fallen.
- N. The Church has six painted and stained-glass windows dedicated to the memory of young members of the congregation who gave their lives in the service of their country in the Great War and in World War II (1939-45). Lest we forget.
- O. The second major building on the Fiveways land is the Killara Uniting Church Memorial Hall, erected to the glory of God and in grateful remembrance of the sacrificial service in World War II of 84 members of the congregation, 12 of whom were killed.
- P. The foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia on 21 July 1951, and the building was declared open by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales on 18 October 1952.
- Q. The Memorial Church building, and the Memorial Hall are testimony to the witness of Christians worshipping in Killara for over 120 years. The Killara Uniting Church's Church Council is responsible for the management and administration of the Fiveways land and buildings, now held by the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust of the Synod of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory for the use of the Killara Uniting Church congregation, and also responsible for the financial affairs and the management of all funds related to the property.
- R. More recently, a link building has been constructed by the Killara Uniting Church congregation to provide an enlarged entrance vestibule and connection between the Memorial Church and the Memorial Hall.

- S. Fiveways has provided a home for the Killara Community Service Club which for many years served underprivileged young people of New South Wales whom it brought from country areas to see the sea for the first time and experience a life away from their bush environment.
- T. Killara Uniting Church was one of the four founding churches of the Lindara (*Lindfield/Killara*) Family Program established to tackle homelessness and its congregation continues to support this program. This program brought together the congregations of four Uniting Churches – the former Lindfield Methodist Church in Tryon Road (now a Korean Church), the former St David’s Presbyterian Church, now the Lindfield Uniting Church, the Killara Uniting Church and the East Killara Uniting Church, now closed. For a time, Killara Uniting Church provided an office for the Lindara Family Caseworker.
- U. Fiveways congregation has been enriched by members of the Tryon Road (former Methodist) Church. However, at the (more recent) time when the Tryon Road Church became a Korean Church, the then congregation united with the Lindfield Uniting (former St David’s) Church at their site.
- V. The Killara Uniting Church is a loyal and committed congregation guided by its settled Minister, Reverend Yangrae Son, an ordained Minister of the Word of the Uniting Church in Australia.
- W. The Killara uniting Church congregation is rooted in Fiveways, which has provided a spiritual home for its members, past and present and their families for over 120 years. in many cases for generations. The pipe organ was installed in the church in 1929, the piano, Bibles, hymn books, pulpit, reading lectern, communion plates and trays, collection plates and church bell, to name but a few, have all been gifts of loyal members of the Fiveways congregation over the years.
- X. Community activities taking many forms, including public interest lectures are and have been held in the Memorial Hall in addition to children’s and youth activities, craft groups and fellowship groups. The Hall is also used by the wider community.