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# Stained Glass Window at Canterbury Congregational Church



Canterbury Congregational Church, Brooks, Robinson & Co. 1920 and 1949

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## Location

in vicinity of Balwyn and Mont Albert Roads, Canterbury, BOROONDARA CITY

## Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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Heritage  
Study/Consultant

Vic War Heritage Inventory - Stained Glass Memorial Windows Study, Bronwyn Hughes, 2013;

Architect/Designer

Dancey, George H, Brooks, Robinson & Co, Wheildon, William,

Hermes Number

196669

Property Number

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## Memorial Window References & Acknowledgements

*Argus*, 7 April 1919, p. 8; 6 September 1915, p.1; NAA: B2455, Figgis SDJ; NAA: B2455, McCleery; A.G. Gunson, *A Brief History of the Canterbury Congregational Church 1891-1977*, 1978.

## Memorial Window Subject

Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane The Ascension of Christ

## Memorial Window Text

n/a

## Memorial Window Inscription

n/a

## Memorial Window Description & History

Discussion on placing memorial windows to men of the church who enlisted in the First World War began in 1919, and a fund set up that realised £120. Brooks, Robinson & Co. was commissioned for two windows that were inserted into the north wall at each side of the pulpit recess. The subjects, typical for Christian churches, were also intended to represent Sacrifice and Hope, in honour of the servicemen. The *Argus* noted the intention to insert a smaller window on either side to inscribe names of the men and the fallen, however this seems to have been abandoned, possibly due to the extra cost. Instead, an opus sectile memorial honour board was erected to their memory.

The first young man from the church to lose his life was Corporal SDJ Figgis in August 1915. Douglas Figgis was a 19 year old library assistant with the Public Library, Melbourne, when he enlisted on 13 March 1915, with the permission of his father, Arthur. As part of reinforcements, he was 'taken on strength' of 5 Battalion, and received shell wounds to his neck only five days later on Gallipoli; he died on 10 August 1915. He was buried at Beach Cemetery, Anzac Cove, after a service conducted by Chaplain JC McPhee. His name can be seen on the Honour Roll in the State Library of Victoria located at the entrance to the La Trobe Reading Room.

Thirty men enlisted from the church and over the next four years the deaths in France of Sergeant Stanley George Mathieson Campbell, of wounds on 3 October 1916; Lieutenant Alan James Kerr, killed in action on 27 July 1916; and Private Eric Alexander McCleery, who died of wounds in the United Kingdom, were also recorded on the church Honour Roll.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*