

All Saints Church, Malabar Hill, Mumbai.

The trustees had applied in February 1891 to the Government of Bombay for a grant-in-aid for the erection of a Church at Malabar Hill. After due consideration, the Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5000/- and granted a land measuring 4,308 sq. yards for the conduct of religious worship of the members of the established Church of England. No other building was to be built in the compound without the written consent of the Government. All the repair work was to be effected by the trustees.

The new Anglican Church built at Malabar Hill was called the 'All Saints' Church. The money granted by the Government was inadequate and they had to depend upon private funds. Thus though aided by the state it was a private church.

This Church was intended to serve as a Chapel to ease the inconvenience caused to those who attended the Cathedral, since it was an 8 mile carriage drive from Malabar Hill to the Cathedral. The foundation of the Church was laid by Lady Ferguson, the wife of Sir James Ferguson, the Governor of Bombay.

The design of the Church is a modern style by Major Mant of the Royal engineers. As of today it consisted of a nave, 42 feet by 23 feet, a semi-circular chancel about 16 feet in diameter and a vestry of 10 feet. Square. The design included a neat belfry tower, and the extreme height of the building from base to tower, was about 64 feet. The bell turret, however with its wooden steeple, was removed as recently as 1951 when it was damaged by a cyclone. It now rests above the vestry door. The walls were constructed of irregular stone with tracings of Porbunder or Coorla stone, while the roof is tiled with Mangalore tiles. The Times of India report said in 1875 "Although inexpensive and unassuming in appearance, it is chaste and tasteful and when completed will form an elegant addition to the architectural feature of the district.

This Church became a permanent place of worship for the governors of Bombay since 1881 as Malabar Hill turned to be their place of residence. It however continued to be attached to the Cathedral. It was created as a separate ecclesiastical parish only in 1957.

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The important plaques that adorn the walls of All Saints Church are as follows:

James Ponsonby Cox, who died on 23rd September 1880 was a Col. of the Royal Engineers and also the Chairman of the Port Trust Bombay.

Henry Vero R. Kemball was a Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Bombay. Though he died at Tunbridge on the 25th April 1918 his memory is perpetuated on the walls of the 'All Saints' Church.

