



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Synod of New South Wales and the ACT**

**Uniting Church in Australia**

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## **Back to the future?**

One hundred and forty years ago, Haberfield as a suburb did not exist.

But Sarah and David Ramsay had seen a vision of the future, so the beautiful sandstone building known now as St David's Uniting Church Haberfield was opened for worship. Back then it was part of greater Ashfield, surrounded by fields and bush. Today it is an iconic structure within modern Haberfield.

The Ramsay vision, which motivated their donation of land and leadership in the establishing of the church, was for a place that would be a centre for the community: a church, school and graveyard. They recognised the importance of community and the spiritual dimension of life.

Today's people of St David's share that same vision. The church's 140th birthday, to be celebrated on Sunday March 29 at 9.30 am in Dalhousie Street, is a day to celebrate the past, but also to look to the future.

The Moderator of the Uniting Church in New South Wales and the ACT, the Rev. Niall Reid, will lead those celebrating the day in thinking about the challenge of the future.

Mr Reid says the Uniting Church is trying to encourage individuals to see that they have a role to play in shaping the future and that, in working together, church members can offer something significant in Australia and overseas.

He believes the Uniting Church is making a significant contribution to welfare provision, social justice advocacy and in modelling new kinds of Christian community.

St David's today lives out that original Ramsay community vision through worship, inviting the use of the expansive grounds and by underpinning the work of The Ella Centre.

All are welcome to join the celebration on Sunday, which will include Morning Tea and informal tours of the historic graveyard and buildings.

For further information about St David's and the 140th Anniversary, please contact the Rev. Graeme Tutt, 9798 3059 or 0423 224 528.

For further information about the Rev. Niall Reid, or to arrange an interview, please contact Stephen Webb, New South Wales Synod Media Officer, 0423 259 945.