

Don't knock church buildings

The Revd Wilfred John Hudson was assistant priest at All Saints Woodham¹ from 1942-43. In September 1950 he was consecrated Bishop of Carpentaria at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, Australia.

The January 1951 All Saints' Parish Magazine quotes a letter from Bishop Hudson:

“The Consecration on Thursday was a truly wonderful experience. St. John's Cathedral here is the most glorious building and when completed will be the finest Cathedral in the Southern Hemisphere.”

Rebecca McIntosh in the video² “Poetry and Contradiction: The story of a building: St John's Cathedral” says:

“Churches were built to be...a sacred space in which the mere mortal could really believe in the power of an all-mighty God and have a taste of what was on offer after the mundanity of this mortal world had passed.

...This grand structure maintains its timeless magic, emoting romance, poetry, playfulness, lightness. In a world away from the digitally saturated times we live in. A quiet sanctuary that is brought to life by what truly makes a church, and that is its humanity.”



St John's Cathedral, Brisbane

Today Christians often complain about church buildings as a drain on finances that could be better spent on “mission”.

There is truth to that. But there is also truth that the best church buildings can awaken a sense of the holiness of God and an awareness of His presence. They can play a part in mission.

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¹ My current church

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esGD4Hxw-jU>