



Landmark gone, but the mission continues

FIRE

Kate Sullivan

THE building may be gone but the church lived on as more than 500 people gathered for a St Barnabas service on Sunday.

The service was held in Sydney University Great Hall with all present mourning the loss of the historic inner city church.

St Barnabas Anglican church on Broadway was gutted by fire in the early hours of last Wednesday. The church hall was also damaged. Apartments and a hotel adjacent to the church were evacuated.

The heat from the flames and smoke set off fire alarms and sprinklers in the adjoining UniLodge Hotel.

The fire is not being treated as suspicious but investigations are under way to find the cause.

Employees of Barney's gathered at the scene of the fire on Wednesday. Most

could not believe the devastation they saw. Congregation member Rowena Whittle managed to salvage a charred piece of wood and some stone from the rubble.

"My parents store burnt down a few years ago and I know how important it is to keep memorabilia like this."

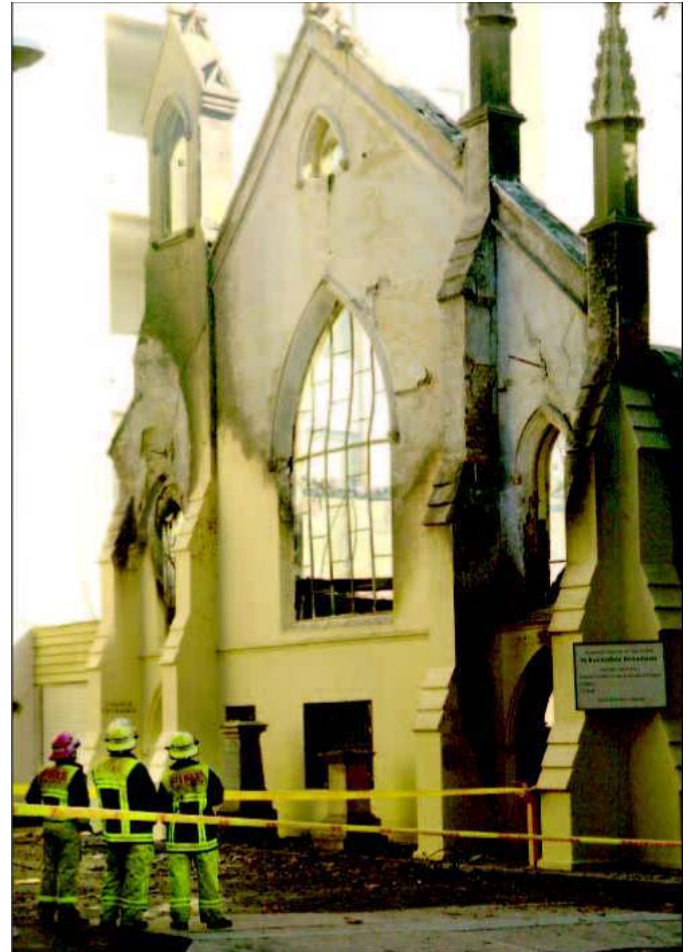
She said the congregation was like a family and they would all stick together and get through the hard time.

"Just like a family home it will get rebuilt."

In a statement made on the church website Reverend Ian Powell asked for everyone to pray about the loss of the historic building.

"Please pray that as we grieve the loss of the building we may know the joy of being part of Christ's Church and that the flames of our passion for Him and the lost would burn all the more strongly."

The gothic style church built in 1859 had one of Sydney's finest organs that was more than 100 years old.



The shell of historic St Barnabas Church on Broadway is all that remains.

Picture: DANNY AARONS