

## History of our Church

The Kawagoe Christ Church is a church of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Anglican Communion of Japan. The Anglican Church is sometimes referred to as a "bridge church," as Anglicanism is a blend between the Catholic and the Reformed traditions, sharing aspects of both, yet being distinct from each. As a global expression of Christianity, Anglicanism is second only to Roman Catholicism: its members number approximately 70 million people worldwide.

Since its foundation, the Nippon Sei Ko Kai has made substantial contributions to the development of social capital in Japan. This has been achieved through the establishment of a number of educational and medical institutions, such as the Rikkyo University and St. Luke's International Hospital, which are based firmly on Christian values and principles.

The Kawagoe Christ Church dates back to 1878, when two Japanese missionaries began working in this town. The original church building, built in 1889, was burned down by the Great Fire of Kawagoe in 1893, which destroyed one third of the town. The church was relocated and rebuilt with substantial support by Mr. and Mrs. Peterson (Mr. Peterson was a professor at the

New York University). The present redbrick Tudor-style building, built in 1921, has survived the 1923 earthquake and World War II. In the year 2000, we celebrated the completion of a new hall/rectory.

In over 120 years of its history, our Church has witnessed some of the greatest changes in Japanese society: the most dramatic change occurred due to World War II.

Despite these changes, our Church has preserved the Anglican faith in this town and has produced prominent leaders in various civil and religious posts of authority and leadership. Our Church has continued reaching out to the local community through various outreach and community programs.

## The Church Building

The existing red Tudor-style building was designed by American architect William Wilson. The walls are composed of red bricks laid out in Flemish bond pattern and their uneven colors give the building a warm, nostalgic, and relaxed feel. Just like as in most churches of Western countries, strong symbolism is found in the architecture of this church. The Trefoil, for example, is shaped like a clover, which represents the Trinity; the church building it-

self symbolizes Noah's Ark. In 1979, the Architectural Institute of Japan nominated our church building as "a landmark building in the history of modern architecture in Japan."

In 2001, the Church was designated by the national government as "a tangible cultural property" and by the city of Kawagoe as "an important urban building" .

## The Bells

There are two bells mounted in the ivy-clad belfry: the older bell is called "Remembrance," and the newer one is called "Tomorrow." Both are rung during Sunday services, morning and evening prayers, weddings, funerals, and on various other occasions. The sound of the bells console and comfort us and provide us with hope for a better future.

## Church Services

### Holy Communion:

Every Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 AM

### Evening Prayer:

Every Sunday at 6:00 PM

Everyone is welcome to join us in our celebration of God's love for us. Services with Holy Communion are held every Sunday at 10:00 AM. There are ushers at the door to

welcome you and aid you during the service. We worship in an Anglican style, that is, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and kneel for prayer. You may opt to remain seated during the prayer. All baptized persons are invited to receive communion. Those who are not baptized but who would like to be blessed are also invited to approach the altar rail. When doing so, please cross your hands over your chest.

The evening prayer is also held every Sunday at 6:00 PM. Please contact us if you have any queries. Our rector will always be available to speak to you. When you develop a deeper understanding of the faith and are determined to lead a Christian life, you can be baptized. Please speak to our priest about your decision. Baptism is followed by confirmation by the Bishop. In addition to worship and prayer on Sundays, we offer numerous opportunities for service and outreach, fellowship, Bible study, Christian education for youth, and other areas of shared Christian life: a choir, cookery class, concerts, lectures, and an autumn bazaar.

### **The Pipe Organ**

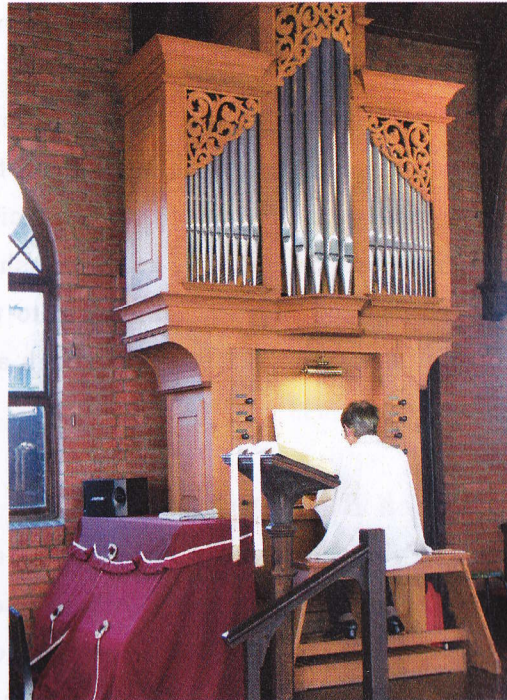
Organ builder: Tetsuo Kusakari

Pipes: A total of 335 pipes

The pipe organ, installed at this church in 1996,

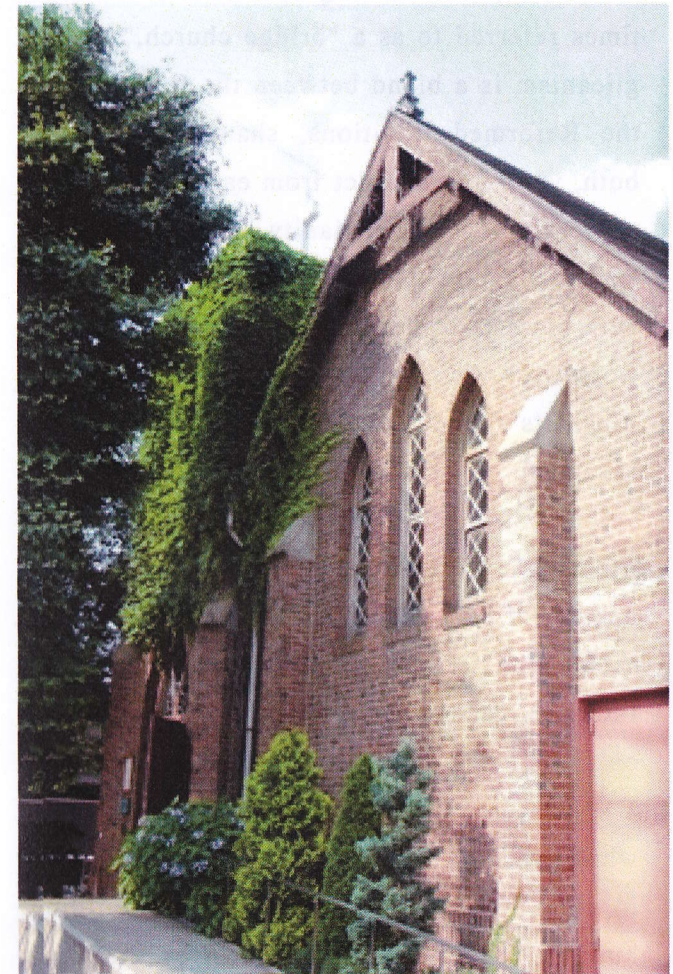
was acquired due to the generosity of several individual donors. This new organ is designed and voiced specifically for this church.

Although primarily intended for regular and special services, the organ is also used for concert performances.



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## **Welcome to Our Church**



**Nippon Sei Ko Kai  
Kawagoe Christ Church**