

St. Andrew's church was built in Wells Street 1844-1847 and moved to Kingsbury in 1933 – stone by stone.



St. Andrew's church, when in Wells Street, was famous for its beautiful fittings, celebrity congregation and music.

The **very best in society flocked to listen**, and the greatest actress of her time, Sarah Bernhardt, was married here in 1882.

St. Andrew's also had its **own choir school**, and excellent musicians. **Composer Charles Gounod** premiered here, and in 1864 it was the **first Anglican church to perform music by a woman** – Alice Mary Smith. This was a radical choice but not unusual for St. Andrew's.

Before 1862 St. Andrew's fine choir sang Early English chants.

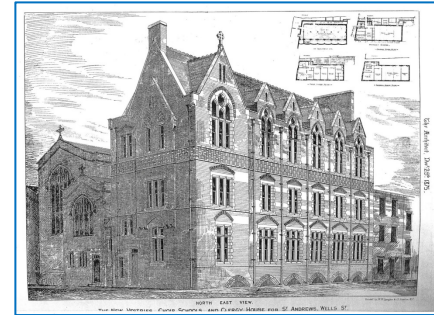
When Rev. Benjamin Webb became vicar and appointed Joseph Barnby as Choir Master, they **radically switched to modern composers**.

St. Andrew's took a leading role in the revival of carols and hymns. At the time, many churches did not like congregations singing.

Father Webb's friend John M. Neale wrote hymns from ancient Middle Eastern sources, including '*Good King Wenceslas*' and '*O come O come Emmanuel*'.

But Webb asked popular composer Arthur Sullivan to write music for new songs.

This **spirit of innovation** continued into the 20th century, when the parish choir was the **first to make a record in 1901**.



New choir school building, 1875.



St Andrew's in Wells Street.



Alice Mary Smith 1839-1884

Wrote overtures, two symphonies, quartets, two operettas, and large-scale cantatas. St. Andrew's choir performed two of her anthems, the first music by a woman composer used in the CE liturgy, and she was only 25 years old:

'By the Waters of Babylon'
'Whoso Hath this World's Goods'