



## SANCTUARY

From a cloth hall (built around 1595) to a place of worship in 1771, this historic building has been through several stages of metamorphosis. The most significant changes were in the years of 1827-1829 when the interior was drastically altered and the Neo-Gothic exterior was erected making it the first Neo-Gothic building in the Netherlands.

Enduring the Napoleonic Wars, the Two World Wars and the effects of age, this building continues to share its rich history.

## FOR MORE HISTORICAL INFORMATION

visit our website:

[christchurch.nl](http://christchurch.nl)



## CHRIST CHURCH AMSTERDAM

AT HISTORIC GROENBURGWAL

**National Monument**  
**Registered: 28 April 1970**



## REMBRANDT

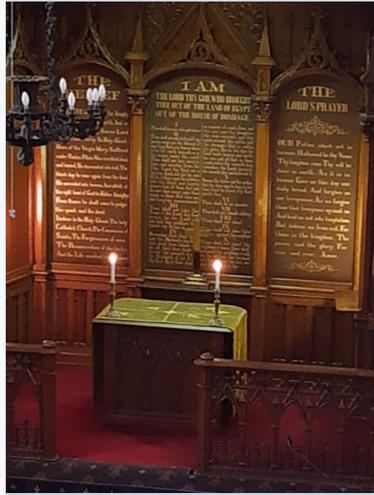
The "Sampling Officials" (Syndics of the Drapers' Guild, De Staalmeesters) commissioned Rembrandt to paint their picture in 1661. The masterpiece was completed in 1662 and hung over the fireplace in the assembly hall of this building until 1771. When the church was granted the hall as a meeting place, "De Staalmeesters" was moved to the city hall at Dam Square and then afterwards found its home at the Rijksmuseum. The secretary in the background (man standing in the middle without a hat) lived in the house of the complex until his death in 1701.

## JOHN 8:32 WINDOW

In remembrance of those who served under King William III in the War of Independence from King Louis XIV of France.



Unveiled by  
HM Queen Wilhelmina  
28 November 1929



## THE REREDOS

The boards behind the Communion Table with The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments and The Lord's Prayer are originally from 1698 and brought to Groenburgwal when the congregation moved in 1771 and redecorated in 1880.

The Royal Coat of Arms was placed above the Reredos in 1830 when the organ was moved to its existing location in 1829. The crest was a token of loyalty to the Sovereign of the United Kingdom, King George IV, Head of the Church of England.

This Coat of Arms shocked Hans Christian Andersen when he visited three consecutive Sundays. He wrote in his diary, "A lion and a unicorn might make an entering Egyptian think that this was a place of zoolatry (animal worship)."

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense: "Shame on him who thinks evil of it"  
Dieu Et Mon Droit: "God and my right"

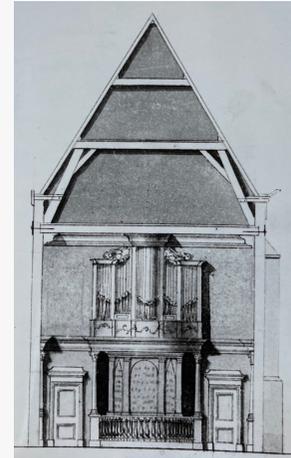
The pews were added in the 1827-1829 renovations and were "rented" by congregants. The closer to the front, the higher the rent.

Famous city architect, Hendrick de Keyser lived and worked on these premises until his death in 1621.



Built in 1773 by Hendrick Blötz, the original organ was moved from the Moravian Church on the Herengracht to Groenburgwal. The annual cost of repairs prompted the church to replace the organ. Leonard van de Brink, repairer and builder of organs, created a new organ in 1829 in the 18th century style using parts from the Blötz organ.

## ORGAN



## ST. WILLIBROD WINDOW

In remembrance of two Anglo-Saxon missionaries who came to the Netherlands to share their faith.

Unveiled by Sir Maurice Jenks,  
Sheriff of London 26 April 1931

