

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
ST ALBAN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
FIVE DOCK

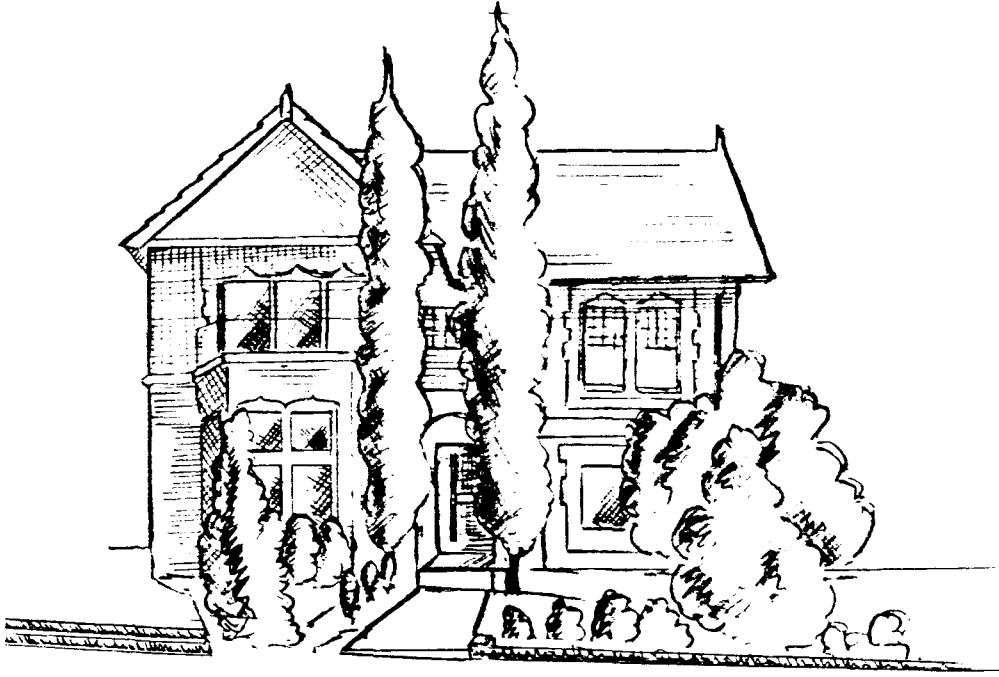


By
Joan Francis

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ST ALBAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
FIVE DOCK



THE RECTORY

Sketch of church and rectory by courtesy of Richard J. Cruikshank.

ERRATA

- p.11 line 6 - "as should read "and"
- p.33 line 4 - "Ashfiled" should read "Ashfield"
- p.38 line 36 - "f" omitted
- p.40 line 1 - add "In September, 1942, Church representatives and
the Diocesan architect inspected the rectory and"
- p.42 line 21 - delete "and Quiet hour in 1955" and add "in 1966"
after "Miss Cook's Bible class"
- p.42 line 25 - after "The Quiet Hour" add "was begun in 1955 and"
- p.42 line 42-"accomodation" should read "accommodation"
- p.53 line 38, p.68 lines 35,36 - delete "e" in "Locke"
- p.54 line 16 - add "and Moore Theological College" after "Institute"
- p.58 line 18 - "Mrs. and Mrs. Watman" should read "Mr. and Mrs.
Watman"
- p.58 line 30 - add "The church amplification system was given in
memory of Miss Hoare's brother John Vivian Hoare,
called home on 15th November, 1970."
- p.60 line 37 - "1922" should read "1962"
- p.61 line 4 - "1962" should read "1922"
- p.62 line 11 - "F.J. Packer" should read "F.G. Packer"
- p.63 second photograph - "Rev. D. Gray" should read "Rev. R.Gray"

A brief history of

**St Alban's Anglican Church
Five Dock**

1859-1984

by

Joan Francis
A.L.A.A., Th.C (Hons.)

Sydney 1984

*'Behold I stand at the door and knock: if
any man hear my voice and open the
door, I will come in'*
Revelation 3:23 (KJV).

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**THE HISTORY OF
ST ALBAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
FIVE DOCK**

The history of Five Dock, and therefore of St Alban's, begins in the early days of British settlement in Australia.

The waters and foreshores of Drummoyne municipality were surveyed in 1788 as far as Iron Cove, Drummoyne, Five Dock Bay and Hen and Chicken Bay by Captain John Hunter of HMS 'Sirius', only a few months after the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove. In the 1790s the area was known as 'the eastern section of the District of Concord'. Part of it was subdivided to form the district of 'York Place', and 'farms' were granted to members of the New South Wales Corps by Major Francis Grose in 1794.

Toward the end of the eighteenth century, many of the farmers found themselves in financial difficulties and their land grants were cancelled. In January 1806 Governor King granted 600 hectares of land (the present Five Dock-Abbotsford-Russell Lea-Drummoyne district) to John Harris, an energetic Irishman, military surgeon, magistrate and one of the principal landholders of early New South Wales.

Although Harris does not appear to have lived on his estate he built a house there and advertised in the *Sydney Gazette* warning trespassers to stay away from his property, which became known as 'Five Dock Farm'. The name 'Five Dock' or 'Five Docks' refers to the five 'docks' or bays on the eastern point of Five Dock Bay. Two of the 'docks' were used in 1881 for the foundations of the old Gladesville Bridge; the others can still be seen on the Five Dock side of the new bridge.

The farm was heavily timbered, with small streams flowing through it, and remained practically untouched until 1831, when a route to the Northern Districts and Wisemans Ferry was opened by building a road which branched off the Parramatta Road 10 km from Sydney—known as the Northern Road (now Great North Road). This route had been surveyed by Sir Thomas Mitchell in 1827. Vehicles crossed the Parramatta River by punt at the river's narrowest point: Abbotsford Point to Punt Road Bedlam Point (now Gladesville).

In 1828 Joseph Nettleton, a former convict, leased the Five Dock estate from Harris. He had worked as an overseer on the construction of the Parramatta Road and later owned the Wellington Inn on Parramatta Road, next to the Longbottom (Concord) Government farm.

Two years before his death in 1838 Harris sold Five Dock Farm to Samuel Lyons, a businessman who had been convicted of theft in 1814 and transported to the colony of New South Wales for life. After being pardoned in 1825 he soon became a wealthy, prominent citizen.

Suburban development was beginning around Sydney, and the next year 'Mr Lyons' extensive and valuable estate on the Parramatta River' was sold at auction by Mr W. Hibblewaite, auctioneer, in 133 lots varying in size from one to twenty-five hectares. Lyons, at his own expense, formed the earliest roads, including Blackwall Point Road, Lyons Road, Kings Road and Iron Cove Road (now Barnstaple Road). Most of the lots sold at the auction were bought by wealthy businessmen seeking a quiet rural retreat. Later, a number of market gardens were established.

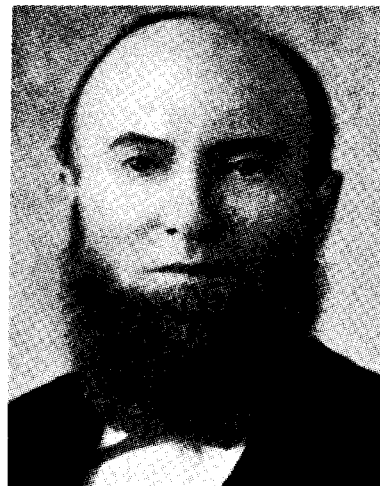
Lot no. 130 with 'its very considerable water frontage' on both Iron Cove and Iron Creek and its 'remarkable tongue of land' (now called Vault or Rodd Point) was part of twenty-two hectares bought by solicitor Brent Clements Rodd, whose family was associated with St Alban's for many years. On this grant Rodd built 'Barnstaple Manor', which was sold after World War 1 and the land subdivided into the 'Rodd Point' estate. The house stood near Brisbane Avenue, facing toward Vault Point, where the family built a mausoleum carved out of a huge rock. On the vault was a cross, cut by convicts from a single piece of sandstone, which was removed in 1903 to Rookwood cemetery. In 1975 the cross was returned to its original site by Five Dock Rotary Club, whose president, Mr Claude Bennie, was associated with St Alban's for many years.

The names of Rodd's family of eight sons and four daughters were given to many of Five Dock's streets (Barnstaple, Brent, Burnell, Clements, Janet, Lenore, Rodd, Trevanion and Undine).

Another family connected with early St Alban's was the Burton-Bradley family, who owned 'Llewellyn' which stood at the intersection of Ingham Avenue and Lyons Road on the land now occupied by an industrial estate.

The early church in Australia

Australia had been settled for almost seventy-five years before the parish of St Alban was founded. The position of religion in the new colony was difficult; there were few clergy, great distances to cover, and scattered congregations. The Rev. Richard Johnson, who



MR W. M. BOOTH
First headmaster of St Alban's School



REV. T. H. WILKINSON
—who built the first church at Five Dock



THE ORIGINAL CHURCH WITH ADDITIONS



REV. W. LUMSDAINE

The first Rector



REV. STANLEY BEST

Rector at the time of the Silver Jubilee 1909



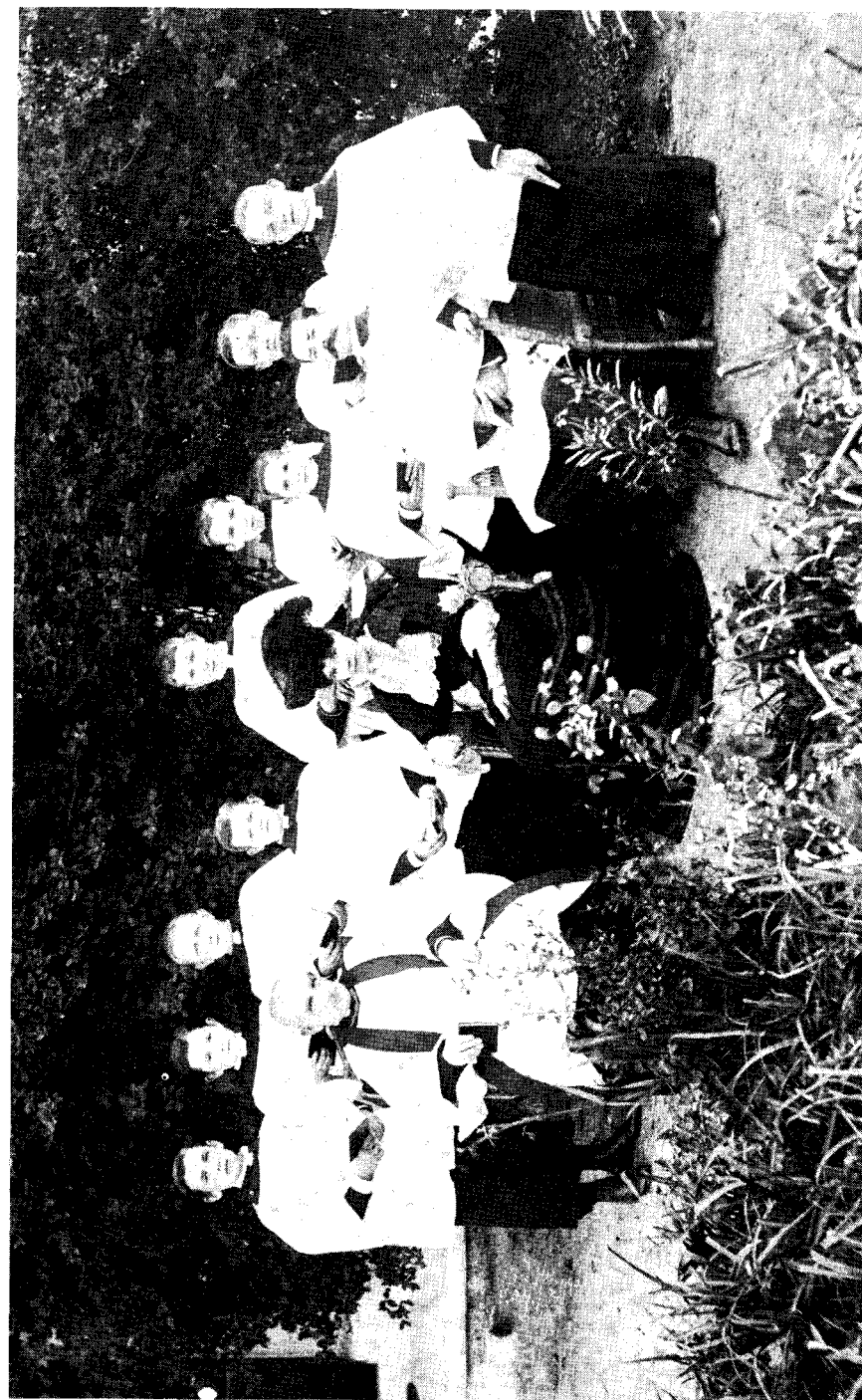
REV. JOHN BOARDMAN

Rector at time of building the present Church

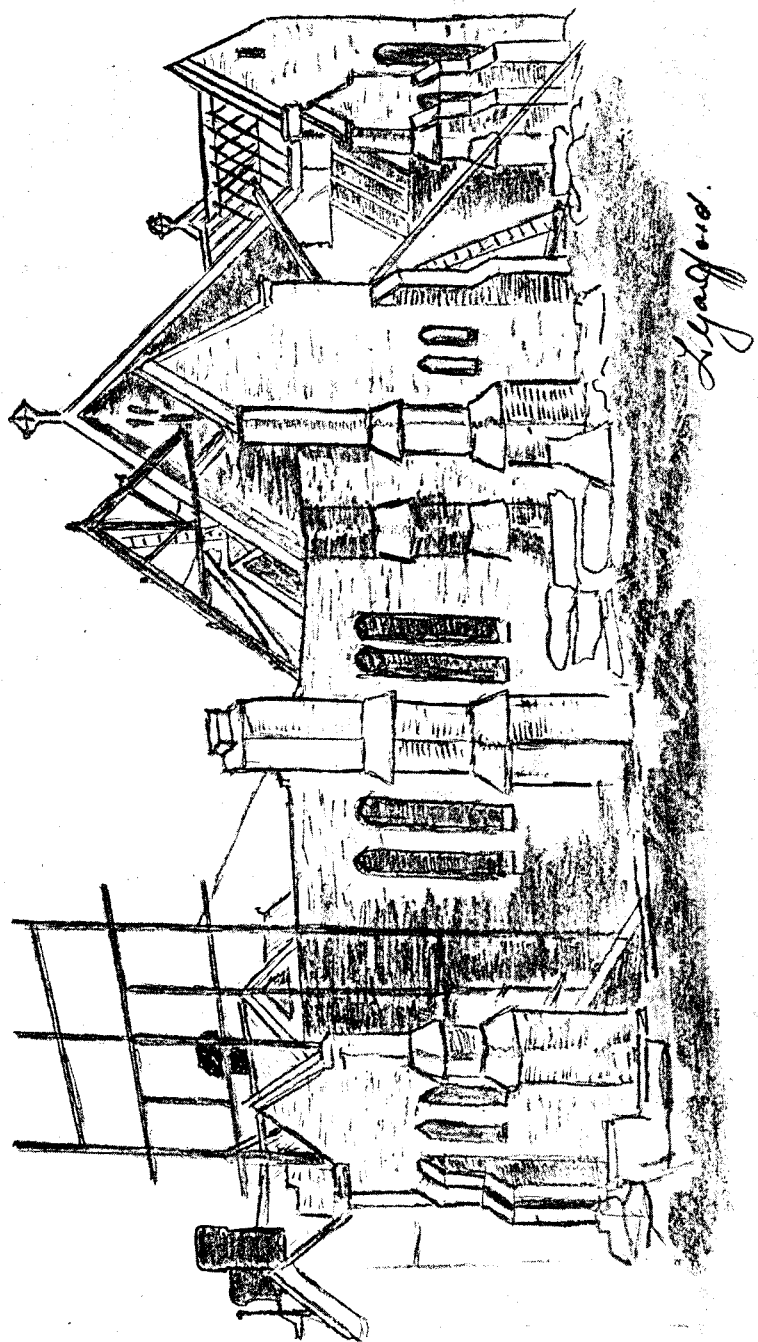


REV. W. T. PRICE

Rector at the time of building the parish hall



CHOIR IN FRONT OF RECTORY (c1907)
(Courtesy of Mr Allan Hales)



NEW CHURCH DEMOLISHED IN A VIOLENT STORM
(Courtesy of Mrs L. Gayford)

came to Australia with the First Fleet as Australia's first clergyman, met with indifference and lack of support and was compelled to build the first church at his own expense. For almost all of the first fifty years the nearest Bishop was Bishop Heber of Calcutta, and Australia was an Archdeaconry in his Diocese. He did not visit Australia, and it was not until 1836 that Archdeacon William Grant Broughton, Archdeacon of Australia, was made Bishop of Australia. Broughton recruited clergy, travelled widely through his diocese and established many new churches for the growing, but scattered, population.

St Alban's was originally included in St Phillip's Parish. On 23rd June 1802 Governor Philip Gidley King divided the colony of New South Wales into two parishes. The order stated that:

'In all spiritual, judicial and parochial matters the districts of Sydney, Petersham, Bullanaming (Cook's River), Concord and Liberty Plains (Auburn) be comprised within a parish to be henceforth named "St Phillip" in honour of the first governor of the territory, and that the districts of Parramatta, Banks' Town, Prospect Hill, Toongabbie, Seven Hills, Castle Hill, Eastern Farms, Field of Mars, Northern Boundaries Ponds and Kissing Point be comprised within a parish to be henceforth named "St John's" in honour of the late Governor, Captain John Hunter'.

Governor Macquarie later altered the spelling to 'Philip' to conform with the saint's name. It was usual in those days to commemorate if possible a saint and a governor by means of the one name.

Early church services for the Five Dock district

The earliest church services for the few scattered settlers of the district were held at Ashfield Park House, the home of Joseph Underwood, a wealthy merchant and sealing master, and his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Surgeon John Harris. After their marriage in 1819 they moved to a 'newly-built spacious, colonial mansion' on their estate. This house, which stood for over one hundred years, was situated between Parramatta Road and what is now Bay Street Croydon on the eastern side of Byron Street. The northern section of Byron Street which is out of alignment with the rest of the street was once a lane or driveway leading from Parramatta Road to the main gateway of the house.

Entries in the Register of St Peter's Cook's River show that cottage services were held at Ashfield Park in 1839, six years after the death of Joseph Underwood.

At this time the district between Cook's River and Parramatta still represented one parish. In 1840 however, a new parish was formed which extended from Balmain to Strathfield, and from Enfield to the Parramatta River, with Ashfield as its church centre.

The district was placed under the control of the Rev Joseph Kidd Walpole, who had arrived in the colony in 1837. His task of ministering to his scattered congregation was made more difficult by the fact that there was not yet a church in the district.

Two years earlier, Elizabeth Underwood had announced that she had reserved land on her estate 'for the building of an Episcopalian Church' and in the *Australian* of 28th August 1838, the Lord Bishop of Australia announced that he would immediately erect a temporary place of worship on the land set aside for the building of the church. The temporary building never eventuated.

In February 1840 Rev. Kidd Walpole announced that the excavations for the foundation stone of the Church of St John the Baptist had commenced, and appealed for funds from property owners in the district. Seven months later the foundation stone was laid by the Lord Bishop of Australia, the Right Rev. William Grant Broughton. The church was licensed on 1st October 1843 and consecrated on 19th August 1845.

St John's became the 'mother church' of the district, and the first rectors of St John's—Revs. J. Kidd Walpole, W. Stone and Frederick Wilkinson—were responsible for the spiritual well-being of the residents of the Five Dock district. Five Dock still formed part of the larger parish of St Philip, and later, when Five Dock had no permanent minister, curates from St Philip's acted as locum tenens.

Early records of baptisms and marriages show several from the Five Dock Farm, and members of several families connected with Five Dock in early years are buried in St John's cemetery (including John Croker and his family).

Rev. Thomas H. Wilkinson

The Rev. Wilkinson was the nephew of Rev. Frederick Wilkinson, and was one of the first students ordained in the clergy training centre at St James' Sydney in September 1846. He served for six years in the Parish of Ashfield.

During this time the population of the district grew so rapidly that there was need for churches at both Five Dock and Concord. Several 'townships' had been laid out in the Five Dock district: Bourke Town, Maidavale, Ferry Gardens and Gipps Town. (From *Wells geographical dictionary or gazetteer of the Australian colonies 1848*.)

Extensive mangrove swamps lined the foreshores of Hen and Chicken Bay and glimpses of the bay could be seen through the trees by travellers on the Parramatta Road. The Ship Inn at the intersection of Great North Road and Parramatta Road provided a 'halfway' stop for coach travellers on their journey to Parramatta.

Two things helped to bring about this increase in population. Firstly, Edward Hargreaves' discovery of gold led to many Sydney people leaving for the diggings, to be joined by increasing numbers of newcomers first from other States and then from overseas. Many of these people stayed in New South Wales and the colony prospered.

Secondly, the opening of the railway from Sydney to Parramatta in 1855 meant that the slow, dusty journey to Parramatta by road was no longer necessary and villages quickly arose at the new stations at Ashfield and Burwood, which were two of the four stations originally opened. (The others were Newtown and Homebush.) From the stations settlement gradually spread to the surrounding areas.

There were 88 families resident in the Five Dock Peninsula and 64 children were of school age when the first church school was opened.

The church land at Five Dock was donated by Mr William Wright, a wealthy merchant born at Colchester, England in 1803, who came to Australia to take charge of the Sydney branch of his firm in 1838. After his retirement in 1854 he built Drummoyne House in Wrights Road (now demolished for a high-rise flat complex) and made it one of the most beautiful homes in the district. Only a plaque marking the site of the old home and stone landing steps at Wrights Point still remain. Mr Wright was not only a generous benefactor of St Alban's, but also donated land for a Methodist chapel to be erected in Lyons Road Five Dock, on the site of the present Christian Broadcasting Association buildings.

The foundation stone of the first Five Dock church was laid by the Right Rev. Dr Frederick Barker, Bishop of Sydney, on Friday 17th September 1858. Referring to the event, the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 16th September 1858 reported that:

'The increased power and extended usefulness of the Anglican Church within the last four years are very noticeable. The zealous efforts of the Bishop of Sydney to place churches in neglected localities show a result highly favourable to his episcopate'.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* 20th September 1858 described the opening ceremony in these words: 'At the laying of the foundation stone the Bishop was accompanied by the Rev. F. Wilkinson and Mr W. G. Cuthbert, Diocesan Inspector of Schools. The Rev. F. Wilkinson read four appropriate collects. Psalms 8 and 27 were afterwards read and the lesson was taken from 2 Timothy chapter 3, verses 14-17, and read by Mr Cuthbert. Mr Wright presented the trowel to the Bishop, who laid the stone and afterwards addressed the spectators in an impressive and eloquent manner, alluding to the importance of early religious instruction and expressing how much pleasure it gave him to be present on this occasion. A large and

respectable audience assembled to testify their interest in the success of the undertaking. A hymn was sung and the benediction pronounced. A collection was taken up and yielded the sum of £ 56 10s 0d'.

The builder of this first church was Thomas Rex, a quarryman, and it is believed that the stone was taken from the quarry at the junction of Great North Road and Lyons Road which had supplied stone to the colony as early as 1832. Thomas Rex was still living in the area in 1870, when his name appears in the 1870 Sands Directory as a resident of Five Dock. His name also appears as a petitioner and ratepayer in the Government Gazette of 28th October 1870 concerning the incorporation of a municipality of Five Dock.

The church building was intended to act as both Mission Church and Parochial School, and was divided into two parts, one section being used as the master's residence. The building, which measured fifteen metres by seven metres, was opened for worship by Bishop Barker on St Alban's Day 17th June 1859.

The school was established under a 'dual education' system similar to that of the Irish National Education System. In 1848 the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Charles Fitzroy, announced the establishment of a Board of National Education and a Denominational School Board. The first of these was given the task of establishing and maintaining a school system that would bring children together for a general literary education which while Christian in spirit was undenominational. Financial support was given to church schools by the Denominational Education Board. The school was under the control of the Trustees of St Alban's until 1861, when it became a public non-vested school under the Board of National Education. It remained the only school in Five Dock until 1876, when the new public school building and teacher's residence was built in Henry Street.

The first schoolmaster was Mr William Booth, and his successor was Mr Peter McCormick who, using the pen-name 'Amicus', wrote the words and claimed to have composed the music for *Advance Australia Fair*.

Attendance at the school varied from 27 to 60. There was no compulsory school attendance so many children received little or no education. The children paid fees ranging from 1d to 1s according to their parents' means, and payment of fees remained in state-supported schools until the 1870s.

The books studied were the readers used in the Irish National System. The main subjects were: the singing of the alphabet, and times-table. When the pupil was successful at these subjects he would pass into the higher class known as 'The Third Reader'. After the National System of education came into operation each

classroom displayed on a wall the General Lesson, which set out Christian principles of love, tolerance and understanding and stated that 'Christians should endeavour, as the Apostle Paul commanded them, to 'live peacefully with all men'.

The new church was named in honour of St Alban, the first Christian in Britain whose name is recorded as one of the most famous British martyrs. According to St Bede, the early British historian, St Alban was a layman of the Roman city of Verulamium who gave shelter to a Christian priest fleeing from his persecutors during the Emperor Diocletian's religious persecutions in 304 A.D.

While the priest lay hidden, Alban learned of the Christian faith and was converted. When the soldiers came to arrest the fugitive, Alban, dressed in the priest's cloak, gave himself up, was condemned to death, and martyred on the hill where the Abbey Church of St Alban now stands.

There was still need for a further church in the district, and the following year Bishop Barker laid the foundation stone of St Luke's Concord (formerly called the Burwood Church). Concord itself was originally called 'Longbottom' after the Longbottom stockade set up by Governor Phillip as a guard post on the way to Parramatta. *Bottom* is an old English word for low-lying swampy land, and the name was later given to the Government Farm established in the area.

Rev. William Lumsdaine

In 1860, a month after his ordination as priest, the Rev. W. Lumsdaine was licensed as 'Minister in the United Parishes of Ashfield, Enfield and Burwood'. He was a Moore College student and had formerly been a Presbyterian minister.

In 1863 Mr Lumsdaine's stipend was £300, £150 being from a Government grant. On 22nd December 1864 the Lord Bishop of Sydney wrote to the churchwardens of St Luke's concerning a fair remuneration for a clergyman and asking them to augment Mr Lumsdaine's stipend for 1864 by a contribution of £50. After giving the matter careful thought, the wardens stated that they fully agreed with the Bishop that the amount of stipend hitherto received by Mr Lumsdaine had not been sufficient to maintain him and his family in the position they should occupy and they considered £300 and a parsonage the minimum scale of remuneration a clergyman in Mr Lumsdaine's position should receive. They were of the opinion that a fair and just division of charges on each parish toward the salary should be as follows:

Government stipend	£150
Contributions from Ashfield	£100
Contributions from Burwood	£100

Contributions from Enfield £ 30
Contributions from Five Dock £ 30

or, should it be deemed expedient to exclude either Enfield or Five Dock, the deficiency should be made up in equal proportions between Ashfield and Burwood.

It was recorded in 1865 that Mr Lumsdaine's stipend was £ 410, to which Five Dock contributed £ 30. (In pre-decimal currency \$1 was 10s, \$2 was £ 1, 10c was 1s, 5c was 6d).

Like his predecessor, Mr Lumsdaine also had four churches in his charge. In April 1865 Mr Lumsdaine read a letter from himself addressed to the churchwardens of the several parishes under his ministerial charge asking their consideration of a proposition contained in that letter for providing for a curate. The proposition being favourably entertained by the meeting, the churchwardens present were to engage on behalf of the parish to take steps for providing the necessary funds.

The minutes of the vestry meeting held at St Luke's, Concord on 1st March 1866 record that all present at the meeting agreed that a division of Mr Lumsdaine's charge was desirable. Present at the meeting were Rev. W. Lumsdaine in the chair, Mr King and Mr Croker of Ashfield, Mr Ashdown and Mr Howson of Enfield, Mr Wynne, Mr Webb and Mr Coles of Burwood. Two days later Mr Coles the secretary of the meeting sent a letter to the Lord Bishop confirming the resolution passed at the meeting. The original intention was to divide the Parish into Ashfield and Five Dock and Enfield and Concord, but this decision was later altered, and in 1866 Mr Lumsdaine became the first rector of the newly formed Parish of St Luke's Burwood-Concord with Five Dock.

The first financial statement for St Alban's appears in 1862, when an account shows that from Easter 1861 to Easter 1862, the sum of £ 307 10s 9d was received.

The parishioners connected with the Five Dock church erected a chancel at the east end of the church at a cost of £ 160. A font was erected by Mrs Luke of Five Dock and a communion service donated by Mrs Wilkinson of Ashfield. A reading desk was presented by the Rev. T. H. Wilkinson.

The licence for the consecration of the Church of St Alban was issued on the 13th August 1866, during the incumbency of Rev. Lumsdaine. The original licence, missing for many years and found in 1922 among the papers of the late Canon Innes-O'Reilly, is now in the vestry of the church.

The first baptism was held on the 17th June 1866, and was that of Mary Amelia Dugsdale, daughter of Edward Dugsdale, labourer, and his wife Alice. The Rev. Lumsdaine performed the ceremony.

Among other early baptisms are listed such well-known names of district pioneers as Flippance, Budd, Dening, Burton-Bradley and Heming.

The first wedding in the church was the double wedding of John Pye, 28, gentleman, of Parramatta, and Emily Jane Read, 21, spinster, of Five Dock (formerly of Bathurst); and Emily's brother, Richard Ryan Read, 25, and Eliza Mary White, of the Lachlan, daughter of Robert White, squatter. The Rev. Cave-Brown-Cave of Ashfield performed the ceremony in the 'school church of St Alban'.

The first confirmation was held on 21st May 1869, with confirmees from 'Five Dock with Burwood' as the candidates.

A meeting was held at the parochial schoolroom Concord on 16th November 1866 for the purpose of electing lay representatives of the Parish of Concord, comprising the districts of Burwood and Five Dock. Present were Rev. Lumsdaine, Charles Campbell, Captain Fox, Mr Samede, Mr J. P. Luke, Mr J. Watts and Mr N. Coles. Mr Benjamin Samede and Mr Luke were elected.

Mr Lumsdaine bought a house in Croydon called Rockleigh and lived there from 1869 till 1879, the period in which he was rector of Concord-Burwood. He resigned in 1879, and in 1885 was rector of Christ Church Gladesville.

In August 1866 the debt on the building was liquidated by Mr Wright, who had foregone an amount of £ 270 and transferred the land to the Bishop of Sydney.

As the population grew the Parish of Burwood-Concord with Five Dock was divided further with the opening of St Paul's Burwood Heights on 23rd March 1872.

In 1870 Five Dock district was included for the first time in the suburban section of Sands Sydney Directory. The names of early St Alban's worshippers such as Thomas Baker, John Croker, W. S. Friend, William Preston and B. C. Rodd were included as residents. Five Dock in the 1870s had not more than a dozen houses along the North Road. Waratahs and native currants abounded and wooded scrub and open paddocks dominated much of the suburb. Sometimes, one of the grand homes of the district could be seen in the distance, set in park-like surroundings. Mr Russell Barton's home Russell Lea had a herd of deer roaming in the grounds.

On 7th January 1875 Five Dock railway station was opened, and in August 1876 its name was changed to Croydon to avoid confusion with the suburb of Five Dock. Residents living near the Parramatta Road could now walk to the new railway station to journey to the city by steam train.

Miss Jessie Nobbs, who came to live in Five Dock in 1875 with

her grandparents, widowed mother, sister and brother, described Five Dock:

'[My Grandparents] started a mixed business at the corner of Parramatta and Harris Roads . . . The butcher's nearby was an open shop with the meat exposed to heat, dust and flies. Water was obtained from wells. There were a few market gardens and two or three dairies, also stone quarries. The transport (public) was by horse-drawn bus from Parramatta to Sydney along Parramatta Road; by train from the nearest station, which was Croydon, or by a small ferry, the *Nautilus*, from a jetty at the foot of what is now James Street. Passengers had to change into a larger ferry at Gladesville'.

From 1881 ferries called regularly at Bedlam Ferry wharf (Abbotsford) en route to Parramatta and the city and by 1885 an extensive service was operating. The ferry service gradually decreased as the bus and tram services were extended and the new Gladesville Bridge joining Drummoyne and Gladesville improved the flow of traffic to the north.

In 1871 Five Dock, with a population of over 500, was proclaimed a municipality.

Rev. William Shatfield Newton 1880-1884

The Rev. W. S. Newton took charge of Five Dock Parish after he was granted a general licence in 1878. A Bible presented to St Alban's in 1926 by his daughter Mrs George Hall of Drummoyne is inscribed: 'in memory of the second rector of St Alban's Five Dock', and although there is no record of Mr Newton being officially inducted into the parish he ministered regularly to the people of the district. His daughter recalled that he would walk across the fields each Sunday from Croydon to Five Dock to conduct services.

The Rev. Newton held a Cambridge M.A. degree and was educated at the College School Croydon (England) and Christ's College Cambridge. He was ordained deacon in 1860 and priest in 1861 by the Bishop of Llandaff (Wales) and previously held the positions of curate Chepstow (Monmouthshire) 1862-1865, curate Brierley Hill (Staffordshire) 1865-67, curate Macleay River (NSW) 1871-73, curate Gulgong 1875.

In 1878 he established the Croydon Collegiate School, also known as 'Rugby House' and 'The Grammar School', offering a classical education for both day pupils and boarders. The school enrolment was usually 30 boys and it had a good scholastic reputation. The school building later became part of the Presbyterian Ladies' College, and was situated on the eastern side of Meta Street where the PLC Primary school now stands. The building was demolished

in 1963. The Rev. Newton apparently believed in a sound education for girls as well as boys, for his daughter Joan attended PLC Sydney which had already become known as one of the leading girl's schools.

In 1873 the Rev. Newton's name appears as being present at an ordination of priests at Mudgee on the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of the consecration of St John's Mudgee. An ordination in a country town was very unusual in those days and the event considered worthy of recording.

In 1884 Mr Newton left Five Dock and later became rector of Wilberforce.

The Rev. John T. Marriott, M.A., Ph.D., graduate of Giessen University Germany, was rector of Concord-Burwood during 1880-1882. The Rev. W. Cuthbert and Rev. (later Canon) A. Innes-O'Reilly acted as locum tenens of Five Dock after Mr Newton left. Each stayed only a short time.

In 1881 access to the Drummoyne area was improved by the opening of a two-lane bridge from Drummoyne to Gladesville, and in 1882 the Iron Cove Bridge was opened, providing a direct access route to the Northern Districts from the City and eliminating the need for the punt crossing at Abbotsford.

The Parish of Five Dock was growing rapidly and on Monday 15th September 1884 a vestry meeting was held in the schoolroom of St Luke's Concord. Canon Moreton, rector of St Luke's Concord with Five Dock, reported that subscriptions in aid of a mission room at Five Dock East had been solicited and that Mr Wright of Drummoyne had presented a gift of £50 and a loan of £100 toward building the room. This is the first reference to any church proposed for Drummoyne.

The Rev. J. Howell-Price 1885-1887

The services held by the rector of Five Dock with Concord were no longer enough for the growing district. It was felt that a resident minister was needed, and plans were made for the erection of a minister's residence on the church land. An application was made to the Church Society in December 1884 for a grant of £100 toward the building costs. In April 1885 the Church Society gave £50 toward the cost of the parsonage and in November, a further £25 toward the rector's stipend.

On October 10th 1885 Mrs Barry, wife of the Primate, unveiled a plaque on the north wall of the present St Alban's rectory. It was a fine, sultry day and a large crowd gathered to hear Dr Barry deliver the address.

The rectory is an attractive two-storeyed building of terracotta

coloured handmade sandstock bricks. The brickmaker's fingerprints are still visible where he handled the bricks while they were still wet. The front of the double-fronted building has a portico, a bay window with a small verandah over it and French doors opening on to the small verandah from one of the upstairs rooms. It has nine rooms, a scullery and kitchen, and access to the top floor is by a curved cedar staircase (now painted). The joinery in the building is also cedar. The original curved iron sheltering the front verandah has been removed and the verandah itself tiled in terracotta quarry tiles. Dampness problems were caused by the fact that the inside walls were hollow about one foot from the skirting boards, allowing dampness to come up the stone wall and into the building. The walls were probably constructed this way to allow for air circulation. Originally the building had timber slat ceilings, many of which have been replaced. The original slate roof has been replaced by tiles. The old well discovered under the kitchen by Mrs Langshaw provided water for the house—this well has now been filled in.

The Rev. J. Howell-Price was appointed Rector and was probably the first resident Church of England minister in Five Dock. He had been a divinity student of the Congregational training school, Camden College, at Newtown. He was ordained deacon in 1870 and Priest in 1880 by the Bishop of Bathurst and had served at St John's Warren 1879-1881, St James 1881 and St Thomas' O'Connell-Oberon 1881-84. He was appointed curate-in-charge of St Alban's Five Dock with Burwood on 30th July 1885, although when he attended the laying of the foundation stone of the proposed enlargement of Christ Church Gladesville in April 1885, he was referred to in an account of the proceedings as 'J. Price, rector of Five Dock'.

By 1885 there were 200 Church of England churches and 110 licensed clergy in the Diocese of Sydney, while the professed number of Church of England members in the Diocese was estimated at 150 000.

Plans were drawn up for a branch church for the Five Dock district and in 1885 the Mission Hall at Five Dock East was opened with three grants of £10 each, on 4th August, 1st September and 26th October, made by the Church Society (now the Home Mission Society). This mission hall afterwards became Birkenhead Church of England and is now St Bede's Drummyne.

The 1880s were a period of considerable church expansion. The *Australian Churchman* 8th January 1886 described the church growth in these words:

'The last year has been one of marked activity and progress and the chronicle of events must be gratifying to all well-wishers. New churches have been opened, corner stones have been laid, new parishes have been formed and the demand made by the

growth of population well met. Missions in the city and suburban parishes were held in the months of June and September, with very satisfactory results. In all cases parochial life seems to have been quickened. The stream of church progress in the diocese is gradually accumulating in its various sources and it is hoped that 1887 will see it flowing on in its force like a mighty river, carrying all opponents before it'.

In December 1885 the Committee of the Church Society voted to give St Alban's £98 6s 8d stipend and other grants in addition to the money already given. In return Five Dock gave offertories of £5 0s 6d to the Church Society.

In 1886-87 the wardens at Five Dock were: people's wardens J. F. Smith and Henry Deane and minister's warden E. Millett. These are the first available names for wardens for the parish of Five Dock.

The Diocesan Synod held in July-August 1886 was very concerned with the question of pew rents, and a number of letters presenting both points of view appeared in the diocesan press. The matters of divorce and consumption of alcohol were also debated at some length both at the Synod and in the local church papers.

The Rev. Richard Kemp 1887-1888

The Rev. Howell-Price was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Kemp. The Rev. Kemp had been educated at St Paul's College and Sydney University, where he graduated as Master of Arts in 1873. He was ordained deacon in 1874 and priest in 1875 and served as curate at St Stephen's Newtown 1875, curate of St Simon and St Jude Bowral with Wingecarribee from 1876.

St Alban's baptismal register shows that on 17th August 1888 Wilfred Foxton Kemp, the infant son of Richard Edgar Kemp and his wife Honoria Elizabeth, was baptised by his father at St Alban's. Unfortunately, Rev. Kemp became ill (he was reported in 1885 as being seriously ill with 'an affection of the spine') and, according to *The Acts and Proclamations of the Bishop of Sydney* 1889, on 9th January 1889 he was 'superannuated because of bodily infirmity'. He later recovered his health and practised law.

For part of 1888 the Rev. Hugh Dunlop was locum tenens. He came from Port Macquarie, where he had been serving for the previous two years. From 1879-1883 he was rector of Christ Church Bong Bong (Bowral) with All Saint's Sutton Forrest and in 1883 was rector of St Peter's Richmond.

Rev. William Whitcombe 1889-1892

The next permanent minister was Rev. W. Whitcombe, who was inducted as rector of Five Dock with Drummoyne. He had been trained at Moore College Liverpool (Moore College was located at Liverpool from 1856 to 1889 before opening at Newtown in 1891) and was made deacon in 1875 and priest in 1876 by the Bishop of Bathurst while he (Mr Whitcombe) was incumbent of Brewarrina. From 1875-1879 he was curate of Rylstone; 1879-83 at Christ Church St Lawrence; 1883-85 curate of St James King Street; 1885-88 locum tenens at Kapunda, a mining community in South Australia.

In 1890 additions were made to the original small weatherboard buildings at Drummoyne to cope with the growing congregation there. Drummoyne, which had previously only been a very small settlement, rapidly overtook Five Dock in population growth and in 1890 Drummoyne municipality was separated from Five Dock.

Access to Drummoyne improved. Parramatta steamers called in at the government wharf, and council wharves were at Cary Street Birkenhead and Thompson Street Drummoyne. The Ryde and Gladesville (horse) omnibuses ran along Victoria Road. As transport improved the district prospered. Thomas Henley, later Drummoyne's mayor, arrived from England in 1883 and soon established himself as a builder and contractor, building houses in Drummoyne, especially in the area near St Bede's Church. These homes were soon occupied and Drummoyne developed into a prosperous, middle-class suburb.

Five Dock however was still 'a quiet, rural-looking district' according to the *Echo* 28th August 1890, where 'there is no rest, stir and not much traffic. The roads are through large estates, many of them covered with a dense growth of forest timber. Here and there are large market gardens and in some places maize, wheat and other cereals are cultivated'. Thick mangrove swamps lined the waterfront. Complaints were received from residents of Five Dock about the dust and noise from herds of cattle being driven twice a week through the suburban streets on their way to the abattoirs at Glebe Island. Gibbs and Shallard's *Guide to Sydney* 1888 informed travellers that public transport to the area cost 9d cash, or tickets costing 2d for each section (a saving of 1d a section) could be purchased in half-dozen or dozen lots in shops adjacent to the various lines but were not available on the trams. The tram for Five Dock left Clarence Street twice a day.

Changes however were taking place. In 1890 steam-tram motor transport was extended from Leichhardt Town Hall along the present bus route, terminating at the intersection of Great North Road and Lyons Road, although passengers had to change at Leichhardt.

The district, once only accessible to those who had their own carriages, or did not need to travel often to the city or who could use the wharves where ferries called every hour, was now opened to closer settlement. The quiet rural features of the municipality would soon disappear.

Rev. John Elkin 1892-1907

The Rev. Elkin was educated at Moore College, graduating in 1875 and ordained as priest by the Bishop of Sydney in 1876. His previous appointments were: 1876-1882 rector of Broughton (Berry) with Kangaroo Valley; 1882-85 rector of Lithgow with Wallerawang; 1885-92 rector of St Paul's Lithgow. He exchanged pulpits with the Rev. Whitcombe.

While Drummoyne prospered, the suburb of Five Dock still remained a quiet retreat. One writer said that 'spiritual life in these parts has been dead for some time'.

In 1898 services were held at 8.00 a.m., 11.00 a.m. and 7.15 p.m., with Sunday school held at 3.00 p.m. An average of 30 pupils attended Sunday school, and the collections averaged 5½d each Sunday. Services were often cancelled because bad weather and poor roads made it impossible for people to attend church.

On 21st October 1898 16 candidates were presented to the Bishop for confirmation. They were Valentine Oscar (14), Harold Bradley (16), Martha Gray (15), Mildred Denning (16), Ruth Viles (18) and Nellie Ferns (14), from Five Dock Parish and Edith Harris (17), Nellie Bennett (19), Florrie Huason (15), Nellie Speakman (18), Nellie Dowsett (17), Mabel Smith (16), George MacKenzie (14), Arthur Burbeck (17) and Frederick Dowsett (16) from Drummoyne Parish.

In 1900 a proposal was put forward to separate the Drummoyne Church from the church at Five Dock. Many parishioners thought this to be unwise as attendance at services were often as low as six and it was felt that the population could not support two clergymen. (At the turn of the century the population of Drummoyne was 3524 and Five Dock only 1676.)

St Bede's Drummoyne was separated in October 1900 and placed in the charge of the Venerable Archdeacon Langley as part of St Philip's Sydney. The Rev. T. D. Reynolds was placed in charge of St Bede's as curate on 1st January 1901 and in April 1902 made minister when Drummoyne was pronounced a separate parochial district.

Access to the city from Drummoyne was improved by the opening of the electric tram service in 1902.

The total offerings in 1901 were:

Drummoyne	£	s	d
Offertories	18	2	0
Sunday school		13	6½
Church Society (subsidy)		3	5
Total	18	18	11½

Five Dock

Offertories	41	6	10
Sunday School	1	6	10½
Church Society		14	7
Total	43	8	3½

Another source of revenue was pew rents, which were abolished by Synod from 1st April 1918 after many complaints from clergy and parishioners, although pew rents were still charged by St Alban's until the new church was built.

The early churches used this means to obtain secure revenue for the maintenance of the church. However, many parishioners rented pews and then failed to pay their rents. As late as 1918 Mr Croker, the rector's warden, appealed in the *Parish Paper* for parishioners to pay their rents before Easter.

In some instances churchwardens, who were then responsible for the debt on the parish, employed collectors to obtain rents owing. In 1901 the Five Dock wardens resolved to appoint collectors to gather in pew rents, subscriptions and donations to church funds without delay and if necessary, commission should be paid to them in proportion to the results obtained. This was not as severe an action as that taken in some parishes where, forgetting the biblical injunction about brother going to court with brother, wardens threatened to sue all seat holders owing rents.

It appears to have been part of a social code and standing to have one's name on a seat in the church, and so there was little room for visitors, strangers and the poor. Galleries and extra seats were installed in some churches when more revenue was needed.

Early church collections were taken at the door and not by passing round the offertory plate.

In 1905 a proposal was put forward for a new parish hall and plans were drawn up by the Diocesan Authority.

The Rev. Elkin, like his predecessor Rev. Kemp, was 'superannuated on the grounds of bodily infirmity' on 26th November 1906.

Rev. Stanley Grant Best 1907-1913

The Rev. Best graduated from Moore College in 1895. He was made deacon in 1897 by the Bishop of Bathurst and priest in 1899 at Goulburn. He was curate of St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn 1897-1901, minor canon St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn 1900-1903, curate Lake Bathurst (Goulburn) 1901-1903, curate St John's Balmain North 1903-1904, locum tenens St Anne's Ryde 1904-1905.

The coming of the Rev. Stanley Best gave St Alban's a new lease of life. He was a man of energy and ability and completely reorganised the church and its finances, while much needed renovations and repairs were made to the church building. Parish organisations were formed to cater for various groups of parishioners such as the youth of the church.

At Easter 1907 Mr Best started the *Parish Paper* and printed annual reports so that parishioners could be kept informed of church activities and also as a means of witnessing in the parish.

The original windows were removed from the church in 1908 and replaced by leadlight windows, presented by Mr J. H. Lukas, Mrs Hearne, Mr R. S. Ferns, Mr Taylor, Mr Thompson, Mrs Baird, Mr T. Rodd and the Sunday school, as part of the renovations carried out for the 50th anniversary of the church.

Among the gifts presented to mark the occasion were: a brass alms dish presented by Mr Preston, brass vases from Mrs Winfield, a lectern fall from Mrs Arthur Friend, a large prayer book from Masters W. and R. Friend; a retable (a shelf above the back of the altar) from Miss E. Croker, book rest from Mr McDicken and a green frontal (the covering for the front of the Holy table) from Mrs Deering. A lectern fall is still used in some Anglican churches. It is a cloth, often richly decorated, which is draped over the lectern. The colour of the covering denotes the season of the Church's calendar. The cloth is purple in Advent and Lent, gold and white on feast days, green on ordinary Sundays, and red on the feast days of apostles and martyrs.

The jubilee celebrations for the church were marked by a special program of services organised by a committee of four: Mr Lloyd Brown, Rev. Best, Miss West and Miss Smith. As well as special church services a musical program was arranged, prizes were given for children competing in the musical and a large marquee was erected in the grounds, where refreshments were served after the entertainment.

The Mother's Union was formed in 1909. A tennis club was established, and played for many years on courts on the land at the corner of Henry Street and Great North Road.

Mr Best formed St Alban's choir, which presented many items,

and the musical accompaniment added life and beauty to the services. Mrs Kilpin and Mrs Whitlock joined the choir after their arrival in Five Dock and remained faithful members for over 40 years. Organists who gave many years of service include Miss P. Newman, Miss C. Cooper, Mr L. Badman and Mr T. Hoare.

The need for a place for various groups to meet was met by building a concrete parish hall, which was opened by Archbishop Sumarez-Smith, Archbishop of Sydney, on 5th September 1907, from plans which had been drawn up by the Diocesan Authority in 1905.

The financial burden of the church was eased in 1909 when a church debt of £300 was liquidated when Mr Friend purchased church land on the corner of Henry Street and North Road.

However, the church was pressed by church authorities to pay off debts accumulated during Mr Elkin's incumbancy. On 28th September 1910 Mr Best wrote to the Diocesan Registrar:

'In reference to arrears accumulated during the rectorship of Rev. John Elkin, my wardens are of the opinion that as an Act of Grace this amount should have been written off . . . As you are only too well aware, during the time the arrears were accumulating, church matters here were in a deplorable condition. No proper statements of accounts were published. Very often no wardens and at times those holding office were not duly qualified. Church property was allowed to get into a bad state of repair and nearly £100 had to be expended to put it into somewhat decent repair. £500 had to be found in order that Mr Elkin might receive his pension . . .

'This [writing off of arrears] can be done without in any way creating a precedent, as I trust no other parish has been in so unfortunate and deplorable plight that Five Dock was, and that through no fault of its own'.

The problems that Mr Best had found concerning churchwardens were not peculiar to Five Dock. Some years before there were complaints that:

'... the work of the church is hindered by a class of people common in every part of Australia, who have no interest in church matters. Many have never attended church but are full of miserable pride and think it adds to their dignity in holding office as trustees, churchwardens and so forth.

'It may be well to mention a few facts concerning Australian churchwardens, for they are quite unlike their brethren at home ... In this land churchwardens arrive one minute before the service, think it below their dignity to attend to the seating of the people, permit badly-behaved persons to hold loud conversations in the



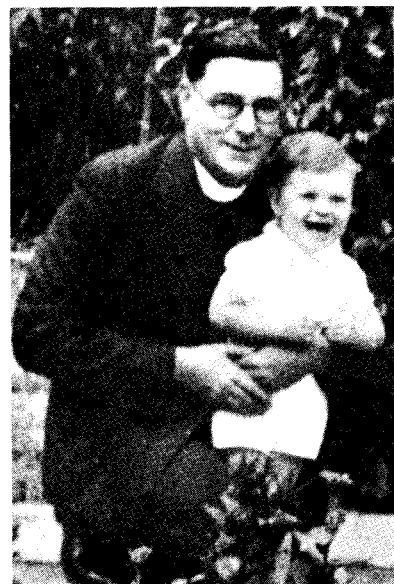
CHOIR AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW CHURCH



ST ALBAN'S CHOIR 1938
(Courtesy Mr R. Barrington)



BARNSTAPLE MANOR, FIVE DOCK
(Courtesy Mr E. Keys)



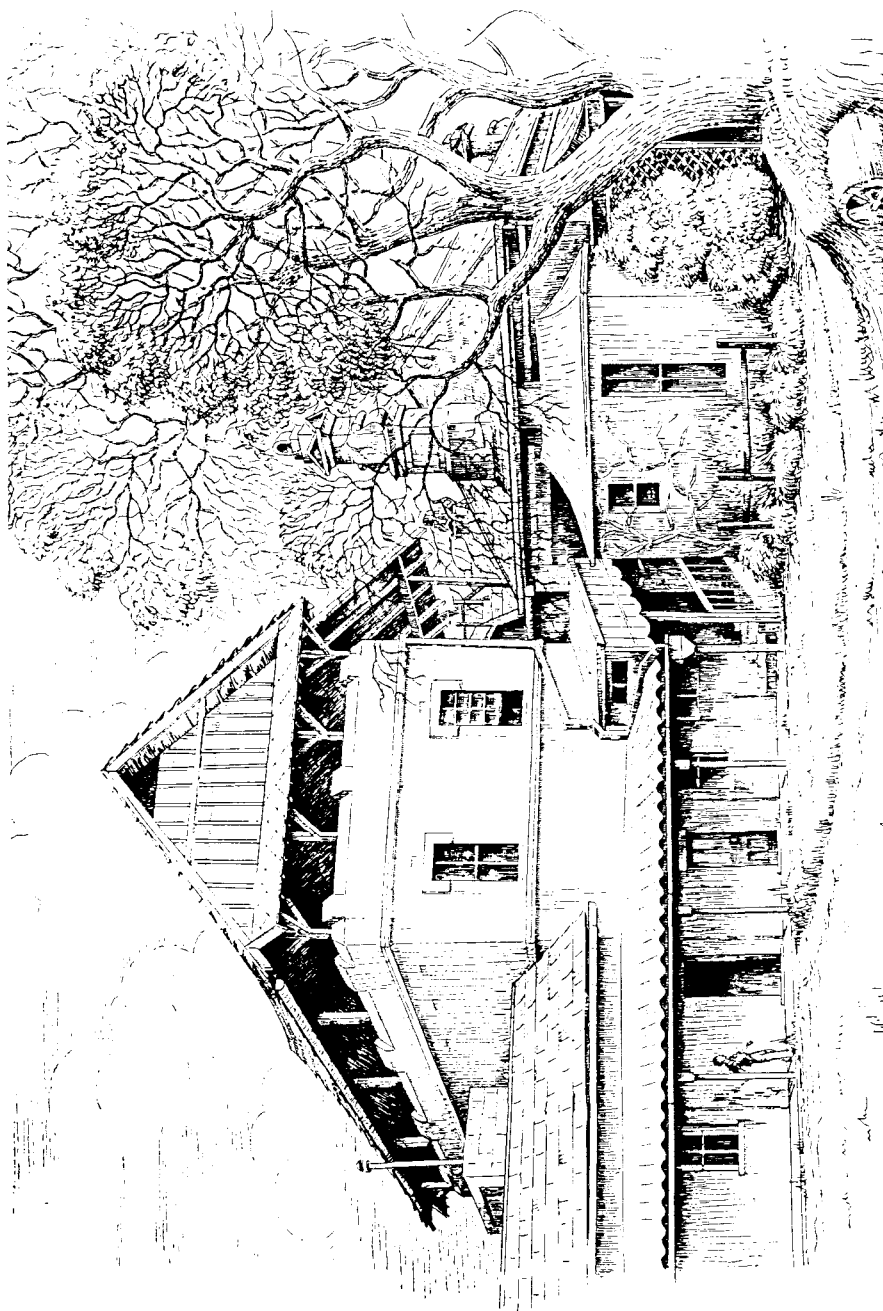
REV. L EDMONDSON and JOHN



MRS A. G. FRIEND



IRON COVE CREEK, RODD POINT ABOUT 1920
(Courtesy of Mr E. Keys)



'MORETON' — MRS FRIEND'S HOME
(Courtesy Mr F. Needham)

porch, or to laugh and talk in church, but they are careful to take the plate round twice on Sundays. If they were not appointed churchwardens, it is more than probably that their seats would be quickly vacant for they delight in holding office. Too frequently they badly manage things financial and have no interest in the church.'

Commenting on this letter, the editor of the *Church Review* blamed the state of affairs on 'Protestantism' and 'the secular education of the young', and claimed that Australia needed a 'revival' to change it for the better.

The congregation did their best to raise funds. Generous donations were given; tennis parties, concerts, bazaars, village fairs, sales of work and social gatherings were held and the proceeds helped reduce the church debt. Expenditure was controlled and inefficient workmen sacked. The parish hall was let to various organisations, bringing in extra revenue.

When Mr Best arrived in Five Dock the parish had a debt of £ 850, no parish hall was available, the church and rectory were in a bad state of repair, the church attendance was poor and there were no parish organisations.

When he left in 1913 the parish was flourishing both financially and spiritually. A block of land facing East Street at the rear of the school hall had been purchased for £35; the new parish hall was a centre for church activities; the Sunday school had grown to 226; a communicants guild was formed; Sunday school pupils were very successful in Religious Knowledge examinations; and by Easter 1912, both the church and hall needed extending because of increased attendances. Church offertories rose in two years by 350% and pew rents by 100%.

Rev. John Boardman 1913-1927

In 1913 the Rev. Stanley Best exchanged parishes with Rev. John Boardman, rector of St Peter's Richmond 1908-1913. Educated at St Paul's College and University of Sydney, Mr Boardman was made deacon in 1896 and priest in 1898 by the Archbishop of Sydney. From 1896-1900 he was curate of St Paul's Sydney; military chaplain to the Boer War Forces 1900-1902; curate St Stephen's Walthamstow (London) 1903-1904; curate St Mary's West Hampstead (London) 1904-1905; assistant minister St Paul's Sydney 1906-1907, rector St Luke's Berry 1907-1908; and chaplain in the AIF 1918. As a result of this war service he suffered ill-health for many years but despite this continued to expand the church's service to the rapidly increasing population of the district.

Most of the large estates had been subdivided by the end of the

First World War and young couples occupied the houses which were built on the new subdivisions.

The rectory building caused problems. In April 1914 £50 was spent on freeing it from white ants and £14 4s 4d on kerbing and guttering the street in front of the property (Great North Road).

The 'new church' fund started by Mr Best now had £100 in hand and £300 in promises of gifts.

The financial situation however was a cause for concern. Expenses were rising: the organist's salary was 15s per week, the vergers cost 10s per week, and the blower (who worked the hand bellows operating the organ) was paid 7s 6d per week. Cost-of-living expenses were also proving difficult for the rector to manage. Mr Boardman complained to the wardens that he could not live on his stipend of £225 a year and that it cost him £50 extra to meet the ordinary expenses of his home. He could not afford a holiday; nor did he think that the congregation would wish him to go into debt to meet his living expenses.

Mr Boardman's argument was successful and his salary was raised to £275 a year.

The first parish council was elected on 12th April 1915 and consisted of Messrs Thurston, Gyte and H. E. Whitlock. The rector nominated Mr W. A. Cambourne; the people's wardens were Mr Beer and Mr Tippet, and Mr Croker was also churchwarden.

In 1915 the school hall was renovated. The old school bell (which stood until 1969 in the corner of the church grounds near the Commonwealth Bank fence in East Street) was the cause of some complaints. Mr Hall asked if something could be done to abate the nuisance caused by the squeaking of the bell when being rung.

A cleaner, Mrs Stowson, was appointed in 1916. Her duties as outlined in her contract were to sweep and dust the church and school every weekend; keep the brasswork clean and bright; scrub the stone steps and vestry; and when necessary sweep the asphalt paths. She was to scrub out the church and school before Easter and Christmas and at other times if necessary. The rate of 17s per calendar month was agreed upon, although 5s extra was to be paid if warranted by extra duties.

Mr Boardman was always closely involved with Army activities. In 1916, he wrote a letter to his parishioners describing the importance of Anzac Day and the events which led to it being proclaimed a national day:

'This Easter has been different to any former ones, for we had scarcely finished the solemn services before we were commemorating Anzac Day, a day and a word that were unknown or unthought of last Easter and yet a name that will last as long as

Australia continues'.

Many of the congregation lost relatives and friends during the Great War, and joined with Mr Boardman in holding the Anzac services, not only in the church, but also in the public service held in Five Dock Park.

Mr Boardman was also concerned about the abuse of alcohol.

The Combined Protestant Churches and Temperance Societies of Abbotsford and Five Dock had two meetings in the Parish about the referendum on the closing of hotels, and it was decided to engage an expert canvasser, Mrs Morgan, to visit every house in the district (except the hotel) and to induce all to vote for the continuance of six o'clock closing, which had been introduced as a 'temporary' measure at the outbreak of World War I.

Although drinking was popular, it was not encouraged. Every Australian (man, woman and child) was drinking an annual total of 12 gallons of beer a year, most of it in bars, and ninety per cent of it between five and six in the evening. Hordes of men descended on the hotels at 'knock-off' time, determined to put away as much beer as possible before closing time. They then usually returned home in a drunken state.

Mrs Morgan and her co-workers in the Temperance Society must have been very persuasive. The vote, helped by strong support from women who wanted their husbands home from hotels at a reasonable hour, was strongly against extending hotel hours.

In 1916 the Sunday school superintendent announced that the first St Alban's Sunday school picnic would be held in Five Dock Park. Donations of food, drinks and prizes were received and the scholars thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Previously, St Alban's and St Bede's held a joint annual picnic. Later, picnics were held in Putney Park, the children travelling by ferry from Abbotsford wharf. After World War II Nielsen Park was the site of Sunday school picnics, but because of the difficulty of bringing boats to the wharf there the picnics were transferred to Parsley Bay. Teams of teachers and parents cut sandwiches, organised games, distributed sweets and apples and provided afternoon tea for the pupils. By the 1950s two ferries were needed to transport the children and their parents and friends who attended. The ferries would arrive back at Abbotsford at 6 o'clock with their happy, weary load.

By 1917 the new church building fund had £187 6s 6d in hand. In September three sites for the new church at Abbotsford were considered by the 'sites committee': two in Great North Road and one in Blackwall Point Road. In October the Rural Dean inspected the sites, and recommended purchasing the 100-foot-wide site at the corner of Melrose Crescent and Blackwall Point Road at a cost of £2 per square foot. The sites committee wondered if it would be

advisable to purchase this site in view of the development in the immediate vicinity and Mr Chapple (the acting rector) was asked to interview the firm who purchased the adjoining land (Friend's—later sold to Lysaght's) and if possible find out their intentions in regard to building operations and whether these would affect the church site. Blackwall Point Road on the Five Dock side was then large market gardens, while the bay came to where Lysaght's offices and car park now are. Hampden Road was still a bush road.

On 19th March 1918 a meeting of parishioners was called at Mrs Moore's tea-rooms, 438 Great North Road, to consider ways and means to erect a church school at Abbotsford. Mr Chapple, in the chair, briefly spoke of the necessity for providing for services at Abbotsford, especially in regard to the Sunday school; the school at Five Dock was filled to overflowing and a large number of Church of England children residing at Abbotsford had no means of attending Sunday school. A site in Blackwall Point Road had been purchased, and interest only was to be paid on the purchase money for the first three years, and after that easy instalments. The sum of £23 15s 0d was already in hand. This sum soon grew to £60. Captain Ghest (whose home stood at Chiswick Point) gave £5 5s 0d, Mr Jennens £5, Mr Tytherleigh £2 2s 0d, Mr Bulteau £1 and Mr Gray £1.

In September 1918 a proposal was put forward to establish a Sunday school at Abbotsford, and Mr Ernest Graham was appointed as a lay-reader and catechist for the Abbotsford district. He was a kindly white-headed man who called regularly at the homes of parishioners and always had a text or small book for the children in the home.

The purchase of land for the school was approved by church authorities under the following conditions:

1. Three or more representative parishioners be appointed to guarantee payment of the principal and interest on cost at a rate of 4% per annum.
2. That they undertake to begin erection of a building on the site within two months.
3. That they undertake on behalf of the parish to repay the principal within a term to be mutually agreed upon. The guarantors were Messrs Beer, Whitlock, Gyte and Chapple.

By the end of 1918 Mr Beer reported that no definite decision had been made toward the erection of the building, and some people were of the opinion that the time was not opportune. Mr Ray, the contractor, undertook to erect the building for not more than £500 exclusive of seating, painting and fencing.

The account for the new church at Abbotsford grew steadily, but the site was finally decided to be unsuitable and it was sold on 21st December 1928 to Mr C. Gow for £450.

When Synod abolished the system of 'pew rents' the revenue lost had to be obtained elsewhere. In 1919 paid advertisements were placed in the *Parish Paper* and in 1918 Mr H. E. Whitlock became instigator and secretary of an 'envelope system' of collecting offertory money. The Rev. Brown from Canada (where the system was supposedly originated) came to St Alban's and explained its operation to the parish council, and declared it to be the only practical solution of church finance collection. It had been, he said, first started in 1910, and from a small beginning soon began to be widely used in Canada. Under this system (which is still used today) each parishioner was issued with a numbered set of envelopes, one for each Sunday and one for special days, such as Christmas and Easter. The parishioner put his weekly offering in the correct envelope each week whether he attended church or not, and put his outstanding envelopes in the church collection when he next attended church. The amount of money he gave was known only to himself and the envelope secretary.

Mr Brown was in error, however. In 1885 it was reported that:

'A new custom has been introduced in St Mary's Balmain with regard to the offertory. Every member of the congregation is supplied with a very small envelope (about 2 inches [50 mm] square), bearing the name of the church and a number. The number in the top corner corresponds to a number previously given to each member. In the envelope is to be placed the offering itself, being afterwards placed in the plate, which is handed round as usual. It is stated that the reason of this innovation is to enable the poor to place in the offertory that which they have hitherto been ashamed to give through the publicity of the plate.'

The Rev. Mervyn Archdall, incumbent of St Mary's, replied that a similar system was already in use in England and denied that 'Every member received an envelope' or that it was to 'enable the poor to give what they had hitherto been ashamed to give through the publicity of the plate'. He said there was perfect freedom in the matter and the aim was simply to induce those, especially those who do not give at all or but irregularly through simple want of thought, to present a weekly envelope.

As in the case of the abolition of pew rents, it appeared that a certain amount of snobbery prevented the system of envelope giving to become more widespread in the colony.

As the congregation had grown and communion assumed more importance, Holy Communion was first celebrated on the fifth Sunday of the month in March 1919.

In 1919 Messrs John and William Croker put forward a proposal for the building of a new church at Five Dock to replace the old building which had served for so many years, and to make it a

memorial to those who died in the war and a thank offering for those who had returned. Mr A. G. Friend owned land at the corner of Henry Street and Great North Road (then still known as North Road and formerly owned by the church as part of William Wright's original gift), which he sold back to them for the new church.

Some parishioners were not happy with the proposed site and wished to keep the old stone church as a parish hall. Finally the old church was deconsecrated and used as a parish hall and the new St Alban's was built behind the old structure on the original block of land.

The church was commenced in August 1922—the foundation stone laid by the Most Rev. John Charles Wright, Archbishop of Sydney, on 17th March 1923—and was built from brick and stone cut from local quarries. One of the stonemasons was Mr John Hando and the flooring was installed by Mr Bert Hando.

On the 27th November 1923 a violent southerly wind blew down the west wall of the church causing £500 damage. A special vestry meeting was called on the 6th December to consider the damage done to the new church by the storm. The rector explained that one of the principals was fastened to the wall but no other shoring that he knew of was used. The wall was green and the winds caught it at its weakest point. There had been no possible room for props as the crane was necessary to lift the principals and no blame whatever was attached to the builders Mr Nixon or Mr Lightfoot. (The 'principals' are the main beams which support the rafters.) The church had to pay for the damage and an appeal was made to the people of Sydney for financial help.

The new church was dedicated by the Venerable Archdeacon D'Arcy Irvine, Vicar General of the Diocese, on 20th September 1924. Among the gifts given to the new church were three magnificent stained-glass windows donated by Mr W. R. Croker in memory of his father and uncle, William and John Croker; a handsome pulpit and seating from the Church of St Simon and St Jude Surry Hills; and a soldier's memorial board listing the names of parishioners who served in the Great War, given by Mr Cambourn. A sealed glass tube was placed beneath the foundation stone, and on a paper sealed into the tube was written by Mrs Lukas the history of the old church and the reason for building the new.

A vestry meeting was called to confirm or otherwise the motion that all seats in the new church should be free. Although Synod disapproved of charging pew rents many people still felt it was a good way to raise funds for the church. Finally, after much discussion, it was decided not to charge pew rents in the new church and all seats were free.

In October 1923 the Croker family left the district to move to

Roseville after a long family connection with Five Dock and St Alban's Church. Mr John Croker, storekeeper, was appointed Postmaster at Five Dock on 1st June 1863. His sureties were signed by William Lumsdaine, clergyman of Ashfield Park Five Dock [sic], and William Croker, gardener of Five Dock 1st May 1863. Mr Lumsdaine gave Mr Croker a reference describing him as 'A longstanding resident of Five Dock', and the original petition for the Five Dock Post Office was submitted by the Rev. T. H. Wilkinson, Minister of Ashfield, on 20th April 1857. He too spoke highly of Mr Croker. Mr Croker conducted the Post Office from premises at the intersection of Parramatta Road and Great North Road for many years and was also a member of the first Five Dock Council.

In 1920 'Croker's Paddock', which covered the area between Henley Marine Drive and the Five Dock side of Murralong Avenue between Great North Road and Ramsay Road, was subdivided and sold for housing.

A fund was opened to make a presentation to Mr and Mrs Croker as a tribute for many years of valuable service to the church. Mr Whitlock suggested a presentation of a pair of silver plaques, mounted on an ebony base, with an engraving of the old church on one and the new church on the other and the dates that each was opened. The dates when the Croker family first arrived and when Mr Croker left the district were also engraved on the plaques. They were inscribed as follows: 'Presented to Mr and Mrs Croker by the parishioners of St Alban's Five Dock in grateful recognition of their services, 1847-1923'. They were presented at a social gathering and afternoon tea in January 1924, although for several years afterwards Mr Croker continued to serve as a member of the Parish Council and was generous in his financial help to the parish.

Throughout 1924 there was a series of entertainments each month to raise money for the new church. St Andrew's Quartette gave a concert in the Regal Theatre; the operetta *Sherwood Queen* raised the sum of £23 1s 8d; and a Queen competition was held, the winner being the St Alban's candidate Miss Ida Crawford (Mrs Ida Anderson).

When the new church was opened a ten-day revival and spiritual healing mission was conducted by Rev. H. S. Begbie, Rector of St Stephen's Chatswood. £25 was donated for the purpose of purchasing new hymn books; the donor's wish being that the *Hymnal Companion* be used instead of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. With this gift 236 small prayer books and *Hymnal Companions*, and 25 large hymn books for the choir, were purchased.

Miss Dorothy Bate, the daughter of Ann (nee Nobbs) and George Bate, recalled that:

'It may not be known by many people that prior to the building of the Parish Hall and two shops in the early thirties, there were two

When I left the village
32
Mrs
(Lukas)

tennis courts on the North Road-Henry Street corner, with tall trees growing on the North Road frontage. A tennis club was in existence there before the turn of the century, and during my time as a member, from about 1923 until the courts were no longer able to be used, many fund-raising tournaments were held.

'The original Parish Hall was built of concrete in 1907 and stood on the site of the present church. It was demolished in 1922. I can remember attending Sunday school and tea meetings held there, also the laying of the foundation stone of the church in 1923, and the consternation when the west wall of the church, under construction, was blown down in a storm.

'The old church was used as a hall until after the completion of the present one in 1934. A large, energetic band of workers took part in fund-raising functions to pay off the debt—three-day bazaars, concerts, Queen competitions, street stalls, and social evenings, with a special mention for the collectors who visited parishioners' homes.

'Then there was St Alban's War Effort in connection with the Church of England National Emergency Fund (CENEF).'

Miss Bate, who was born in Five Dock and lived there almost all her life, had extensive historical records and interests, belonged to the Home Mission Society Auxiliary, CENEF committee, was Quiet Hour treasurer, and pianist in the kindergarten Sunday school, and friend of Mrs Wilma Spencer (nee Price).

The Ladies' Home Mission Union branch in Five Dock was one of the earliest formed in NSW. It was commenced about the beginning of 1914, and among the foundation members were Mrs A. G. Friend, Mrs Cambourn and Mrs and Miss Nobbs. At first meetings were held in the small hall at the back of the old church, but when the hall was demolished to make way for the new building meetings were held in Moreton, the home of Mrs A. G. Friend, in Lyons Road West, near James Street. Mrs Friend and her husband were staunch supporters and benefactors of St Alban's until Mrs Friend's death in 1949. Mrs Friend was a life vice-president of the Mothers' Union of the Diocese of Sydney in 1946.

Her home was situated on a large property known as 'Friend's Estate', sited in the area now bounded by James Street, Lyons Road West and Hen and Chicken Bay. It was noted for the huge Moreton Bay fig trees screening it on the Lyons West frontage, and its open-air ballroom. The property and the home known as Moreton were acquired by the Housing Commission of New South Wales on 3rd December 1948. The home was subsequently leased by the Carpet Manufacturers Pty Ltd for accommodation for migrant English weavers employed by the company. It was demolished and the property redeveloped by H. H. Denning (Builder) and the Housing Commission during the 1960s.

Rev. W. T. Price 1927-1942

Mr Price, a very learned man, was rector of St Peter's Darlinghurst before exchanging parishes with Mr Boardman. He was trained at Moore College in 1907, received Oxford and Cambridge preliminaries in 1907 and was ordained priest in 1908 by the Archbishop of Sydney. He was inducted into St Alban's Parish by Arch-deacon W. A. Charlton on 4th February 1927.

Although radio was popular at the time and the moving picture cinemas were proving a new source of entertainment for the people, the church still provided popular social programs for its parishioners. Fetes, musicals, operettas, tennis parties and balls were popular. At one such function debutantes were presented to Lady Game, wife of the Governor-General of NSW, at the St Alban's Younger Set Ball in June 1934 held in the Majestic Hall. The wife of the Dean of Sydney, Mrs A. E. Talbot, was Matron of Honour, and proceeds were in aid of the 'New Hall Fund'. Among the debutantes were Misses F. Holmes-Richardson, Grace McWhinney, Wilma Price, Eileen Dansie, N. Pye, J. Munro, M. Oliver, Phyllis Howells and Beryl Lethbridge.

Mrs Price founded the Girls' Physical Culture Club, which under various names continued to function for over fifty years. Miss Dorothy Bate, Miss Eileen Andrews, Mary Ross (Mrs Smith), Edna Ross (Mrs Keys), Win Finlay (Mrs Depoff), Pat Bull, Margaret Breaden, Merta Davis (Mrs Callahan) and Wilma and Beryl Price were among the members of the original girls' club when it commenced in 1929 under the auspices of Patricia Page Physical Culture. Miss Lil Newman was the first teacher, followed by Miss Joan Beck, who taught for many years. Mrs Mendelsohn made the uniforms at her children's wear shop in Great North Road. Mr Finlay, who kept a music shop in the premises on the Abbotsford side of the Majestic Hall, was the pianist.

On arriving at Five Dock Mr Price commenced a program of extensions and building in the parish and expanded the work which had been commenced by Mr Boardman. Unfortunately however there was disagreement among the congregation over matters concerning finances and the running of the church.

The first step was the erection of a new parish hall to replace the old stone building which had been demolished when the church was built. As there was no hall, Sunday school classes were held in the sunroom of the rectory and in a marquee erected in front of the present church where the flagpole now stands. The brick hall and two shops were erected on the site originally intended for the new church. One shop was tenanted by Mr Finlay, the other was a sports store owned by Mr Barrington (Senior), who had come to Five Dock with his family in 1925 and who was a dedicated worker for the church.

A small hall, used for the kindergarten Sunday school, was built above the shops. The hall was formerly known as the Majestic Hall, but the name was later changed to St Alban's Parish Hall in 1949.

The cost of the hall was just under £4000. The laying of the foundation stone was performed by Sir Kelso King, son of the Rev. George King former rector of St Peter's Cooks River 1863-1872, with the Venerable Archdeacon Martin presiding, on 18th February 1933. The choice of Sir Kelso King, a former prominent businessman and lay canon of St Andrew's Cathedral, provided a link between St Alban's and the first 'Mother Church' of the district, St Peter's.

Russell Lea and Abbotsford were then provided with small branch halls. The site in Blackwall Point Road was sold and a weatherboard hall and land at 366-368 Great North Road bought by the church authorities from Stewarts. Behind the hall was an old stone cottage, originally let to tenants but later used as a residence for the catechist or rector. Mr Ernest Graham was sent to Abbotsford as catechist and remained there until his death in 1940.

Mr Reg Wallis and his wife were brought over by Mr Price from All Souls' Leichhardt to establish a Sunday school at Russell Lea. A five-room house in Lyons Road near Mons Street was rented at 15s per week in February 1934 and used as a Sunday school until the new church was opened. The Sunday school attendance was 25 when first started and 260 when Mr Wallis was transferred to Abbotsford. Later he went to St Alban's as Sunday school superintendent and appointed catechist, continuing in that position until he moved to Maroubra in 1966.

In July 1934 the rector raised the question of buying land on the corner of Lyons Road and Lithgow Street Russell Lea owned by Tooth and Co., brewers, on which to erect the proposed new church and school hall. The Archbishop granted permission to purchase the land for £650, a deposit of £150 to be paid immediately, and the balance over a period of five years at 5% interest.

A contract for sale was drawn up, and the rector and his three churchwardens Mr Langsworth, Mr Carlisle and Mr Upton became trustees. A meeting of Russell Lea parishioners was held at the cottage in Lyons Road on Tuesday 24th July at 3 p.m. Although there was heavy rain falling twenty-three persons attended. The minute book states:

'This is the first meeting of parishioners ever held in this part of the parish and the following is a list of their names: Mr and Mrs Rochester, Mr Wheaton, Mr Reece, Mr Linsell, Mrs McNeight, Mrs Starkey, Mrs Keith, Mrs Lindsay, Mrs Rogers (wife of the warden who lived in the house next to the Russell Lea church), Mrs Van Treight, Mrs Seily, Mrs Delandro, Mrs Booth, Mrs Brett, Mrs Price (of Russell Lea), Mrs Hindley, Mrs Walker, Mrs Fontaine, Mrs Cheers, Mrs Thirlway, Mrs Ganders. The rector explain-

ed that the churchwardens had purchased a block of land on the corner of Lyons Road and Lithgow Street from Tooth and Co. for £650 and intended to erect a school hall costing approximately £800'.

There was then no money in hand, but a loan of £1000 had been made and also various small loans amounting to £130.

Plans were being prepared by Mr Osborn, a local architect, and it was hoped to have the building opened before the end of the year. Those present formed themselves into a committee to raise funds, with Mrs McKnight as Honorary Secretary and Mrs Starkey Honorary Treasurer.

A tender from Mr W. Strahan (Croydon) was accepted for £1240. The stone was laid by the Rt Rev. S. J. Kirby on 13th October 1934, and the building opened by the Archbishop of Sydney on a hot night on 20th December 1935 as a memorial to two staunch workers Miss Clement and Miss Miller.

On Sunday 13th September 1936 a week of special services was held to mark the 75th anniversary of the church. The program arranged included a combined clubs concert, a social with birthday cake, a tea meeting and concert, children's party, flower show and social and thanksgiving services.

The tenth anniversary of the rector's coming to Five Dock was celebrated on 21st February 1937 and the event marked by the holding of a social and presentation arranged by Mr and Mrs Whitlock with the help of the ladies of the parish.

Improvements were made to the interior of the church: the matting in the aisle was replaced with carpet; the church seating was rearranged in its present form; and the old organ was replaced with the present pipe organ, from St Matthew's Manly. The new organ was considered one of the best in Sydney.

A 'Day of Witness' held in the parish on Ascension Day (18th May) 1939 proved to be a time of spiritual uplift and blessing. Holy Communion was administered by the Archbishop, who preached an inspiring sermon from the text: 'Ye shall be witnesses unto me' (Acts 1:8).

A service for women was held in the afternoon. The Rev. J. Bidwell, Rural Dean, gave an address on witnessing for Christ, taking as an illustration the woman at the well at Samaria.

At 7:30 p.m. a procession of witness of about 200 people headed by a robed choir marched through the main street of Five Dock and then returned to the Parish Hall, where a devotional service was conducted by the rector. The special speaker, Rev. Canon R. B. S. Hammond, dealt with the Christian duty of people to witness for Christ, especially in everyday life.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, CENEFF was formed under the leadership of Mrs Coombes. It provided money to assist in the building of huts at Ingleburn and other army camps. Socks, balaclavas, mittens and jumpers were knitted for the soldiers. Meetings were held in the upstairs hall. Many of the women of the parish worked each Saturday at St Andrew's Hut in George Street. Miss Dorothy Roberts worked at the CENEFF Club situated above Woolworths in Darlington Road, Kings Cross. Others working at the Saturday Club were Mrs Roberts, Miss Bate, Miss and Mrs Andrews, Mrs Amor and Mrs Langford.

In 1929 or 1930 Mr Reg. Barrington was interviewed by the Rev. Price to see if he would be a suitable chorister. (It was quite an honour to be selected for the choir). He was successful, and also given the job of pumping the organ for a fee of 3d each Sunday.

Mrs Dulcie Barrington, Reg's mother, became secretary of the Bible Society, a position which she held for over twenty-five years. When she retired she was one of the longest-serving Executive Secretaries.

'During the 1930s and 1940s St Alban's was remembered for a group of men and women who were at the forefront of everything—people like Syd Williams, Mr Breaden, Horace Fleming, Mr Barrington and Herb Whitlock. They were not afraid to take their coats off and get on with the job. They showed the way for a lot of younger men who modelled their lives on their examples'—Statement by Mr Reg Barrington.

Mr Price resigned from the parish in 1942, having accomplished an extensive building program but having encountered increasing financial and other difficulties. It must be remembered however that much of his ministry was in the depression years when finance was difficult to obtain, and when, in the worst years, 28% of the nation's breadwinners were out of work, subsisting on the dole.

Rev. Leslie George Edmondson 1942-1948

The Rev. Edmondson graduated from Moore College in 1920. He was ordained deacon in 1920 and priest in the same year by the Archbishop of Sydney. He was in charge of St Thomas' Rozelle from 1941-1942 before coming to St Alban's on a stipend of £425 with a house provided.

Mr Edmondson had a very friendly personality and was gifted with a glorious voice, and encouraged choral work in the church. Margaret Drake, Neil Williams, Neville Grave and the Milgate sisters were some of the singers who gave concerts and sang in the choir at this time.

The depression years had a serious effect on the finances of the parish. In 1942 the Diocesan Church Authorities, at the request of Mr Edmondson and the churchwardens, brought the whole of the finances of the Parish under one heading, which resulted in the church being indebted to the Church of England Property Trust for the sum of £7922. This matter then came under the jurisdiction of the Standing Committee of Synod, forcing commitments to be made by the Church Council under more stringent conditions. Mr Tom Breaden was appointed as treasurer by the Archbishop in Council to put the parish back on a sound financial footing (St Alban's Five Dock Ordinance no. 6 1942).

Although St Alban's lost some of its rights, such as the power to elect its own rector and Synod representation, the financial burden was eased.

This was helped by separating the Abbotsford and Russell Lea areas from St Alban's into the provisional district of Abbotsford-Russell Lea (now St Andrew's Abbotsford). The Rev. Rex Meyer, formerly curate at St Alban's, was appointed as curate-in-charge of the new church. The parish boundaries were now established as they are today.

With many of the men of the parish serving overseas, war work played an important part in parish life. Mr Edmondson continued the work started by Mr Price in organising working bees for the CENEFF Emergency Fund.

Mr Reg Barrington took charge of the Sunday school in 1946 when there were eighty pupils. When he left in 1949 the attendance had grown to three hundred. During the war years, lack of teachers had forced the Sunday school to curtail its activities, and instead of Sunday school a Children's Church Service was held each Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

One of the organisations founded by Mr Edmondson was the Women's Guild and Fellowship. Mrs Scott-Orr, who was Honorary Secretary for 17 years, and who with her husband Dr Scott-Orr was a tireless church worker for many years, remembered that:

'In 1942 the Rev. L. G. Edmondson, finding a debt of £11 000, inaugurated the Women's Guild. The 12 members undertook to pay £115 a year to help reduce the debt. They paid 15 instalments. Mr Edmondson fell ill, retired and died in 1951. The next rector, Rev. Fox, increased the Guild, with Mrs Fox as President. Under their untiring leadership the debt on the church building was paid.

'On 30th September 1954 the Rev. Basil Williams was inducted. The debt on the hall and rectory was £4000. By prayer and direct giving the spiritual life was built up and preparations made for the Billy Graham Crusade. In seventeen years the Guild banked £4500'.

condemned the building as 'unsafe and unhealthy for human habitation'. Repairs and renovations to church property were badly needed. However, St Alban's had a debt to the diocese and it was not possible to alter the terms of the agreement under which the money was advanced. The renovations therefore had to be paid from revenue.

Money from fund raising activities and general income made the renovations possible. However, the balcony and front verandah of the old building were removed and not replaced, and this eventually caused problems with dampness and weather penetration.

Little by little, the church debt was reduced. Synod representation was granted to the parish in 1945.

Unfortunately, Mr Edmondson became ill after several years in the parish and the Rev. J. F. Chapple, who had been Acting Rector in 1917-1918, was again appointed to the position in 1948, after the rector's resignation.

After a long illness, Mr Edmondson died in 1951, and a chair was placed in the sanctuary as a memorial to him.

Mr Thomas Cambourn, who had served the church well for many years died in 1948. He had been headmaster of Mortlake School prior to his retirement, and conducted the Bible Class at Five Dock for many years. He was a familiar figure at church, where he always sat in the front pew directly in front of the pulpit. He wore a rose in his buttonhole and carried a walking stick. He not only generously supported St Alban's but also donated the money to erect the entrance porch at St Andrew's Cathedral.

Rev. Norman Fox 1949-1954

Rev. Fox completed his training at Moore Theological College in 1926, where he was Barker Scholar. He was ordained priest in 1927 by the Archbishop of Sydney. He was then curate St Philip's Auburn 1926-1928; curate St Andrew's Summer Hill 1929-1932; rector St John's Shoalhaven 1932-1937; rector St Michael's Sydney 1937-1947; rector St Andrew's Lismore 1947-1949.

He was an excellent preacher and organiser. He built up parish life and was very interested in work with young people, establishing a number of youth organisations such as the Girls' Friendly Society and the Church of England Boys' Society. Mrs Fox was the first President of the GFS, Valda Scott (Mrs Lowe) the Secretary, and Norma Howell and Lorna Huxtable the leaders.

Mr Reg Dodds, a policeman, came from CEBS Haberfield to help start CEBS and became the first Branch Governor of the Five Dock CEBS.

A Young Wives' Group was formed in 1950 with Mrs Fox as President. Early members were: Mrs Greening, Mrs Marsh, Mrs Whitlock and Mrs Keys. Mrs Fox was an excellent hostess, and her culinary contributions were much appreciated. Mrs Fox and Mrs Standen became firm friends—a friendship which lasted until Mrs Fox's death.

For twenty-five years very little had been done toward maintaining the church building and grounds. This situation was soon remedied. Committees were established to see to the repair of the church, rectory and hall, and grounds. The committees met regularly and many church improvement programmes were undertaken.

Under the guidance of the rector and Mr Tom Lloyd, the approaches to the church and rectory were redesigned and laid out almost in the form they are today. The beautiful semicircular rose garden has been maintained since Mr Lloyd's death by Mr Tom Hoare. The garden won several prizes in the Petersham Rural Deanery garden competition during the 1950s.

This work, and the stone wall dedicated as a tribute to the past and present women workers of the parish, cost almost £900. The wall was unveiled in 1951 by Matron Shaw of Crown Street Women's Hospital. Miss Friend donated a garden seat and chairs.

After the war there was a housing shortage, and many young couples and their families came to share their parents' homes until they were able to afford their own accommodation. Youth groups and the Sunday school, under the leadership of such people as Miss Hoare, Mr Wallis and Mr Barrington, flourished.

Once again the rectory needed extensive repairs and the church roof required major attention. In 1950 the rectory and parish hall renovations cost £250. The guttering and downpipes of the church had deteriorated to such an extent that two years later they were replaced at a cost of over £500. The next task, in 1953, was to install a new lighting system in the church at a cost of £260. At the same time the beautiful maple swinging doors were installed as a memorial to the late acting rector the Rev J. F. Chapple and Mrs Chapple.

Shortly before Mr Fox resigned to take up the parish of St Martin Killara he had the debt on the church transferred to the parish hall, which made it possible for the church to be consecrated. (The Anglican Church takes the view that a church truly belongs to God only when all debts on it have been paid, and therefore it cannot be consecrated while any debts on it remain unpaid.) The consecration was performed at a service conducted by the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr H. W. K. Mowll, on Sunday 25th July 1954.

Rev. Basil Williams 1954-1960

A New Zealander, the Rev. B. H. Williams, was inducted as rector on 30th September 1954. After working as a tutor and lecturer at Moore Theological College, Mr Williams served with the Inter-Varsity Fellowship of Australia and became the General Secretary of the Children's Special Service Mission and the Scripture Union of NSW.

The remainder of the debt on the parish was liquidated by the sale of a property at Homebush which had been left to the parish by the late Mrs E. Mary Cambourn. In addition to this gift, the Sunday school benefited by a bequest of £1000 from her husband, the late Mr T. E. Cambourn. The interest from this gift must be used each year for prizes and the Sunday school picnic.

Now that old debts were paid St Alban's was able to extend the giving of the parish, and has continued to support overseas missionaries (the first being Mr and Mrs Lin Teh Fu, two Chinese missionaries in Lampang, North Borneo). Mr Williams and the rectors who followed him encouraged parishioners to strongly support 'beyond-the-parish giving' as part of missionary outreach.

Miss Margaret Freda Cook was invited to commence a Bible Class and Quiet Hour in 1955. Miss Cook, who held the position of Women's Convention Leader and Chairman of the Australian Council of Christian National Evangelism Commission, conducted the class until she moved from the district ten years later. The Quiet Hour still continues as a valuable opportunity for prayer, reflection and fellowship. Among the first members of the Quiet Hour were Mrs Gibbins, Mrs Rushton, Mrs Ross, Miss Nobbs and Mrs Langford.

The choir, under the leadership of Mr L. Badman, continued to flourish. Special cantatas such as *The Messiah* at Christmas and *Olivet to Calvary* at Easter were arranged. On these occasions regular choir members were joined by choristers from other churches, providing times of fellowship as well as musical training.

The Sunday school grew to such an extent that the church, both halls, the church grounds and the front room of the rectory were used for classes.

The owners of no. 1A Henry Street wished to sell their property, and the rector and churchwardens decided that the property, which joined on to the side of the rectory and the back of the parish hall, on land formerly owned by the church, should be purchased with two aims in mind:

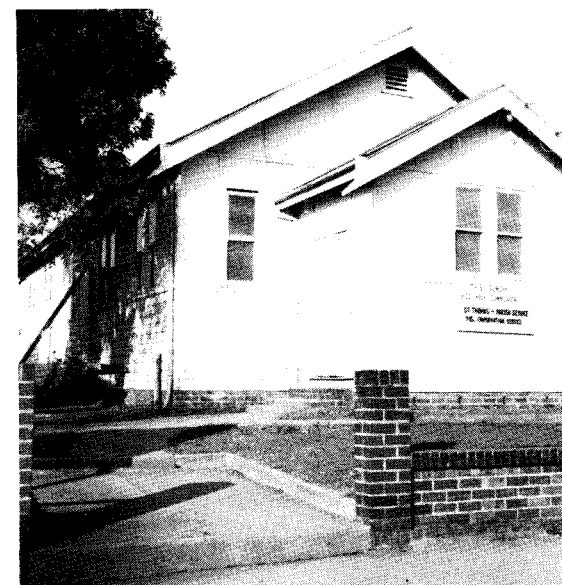
1. It was to provide additional accommodation for the Sunday school.
2. It could provide in the future a possible home for a curate or vergier.



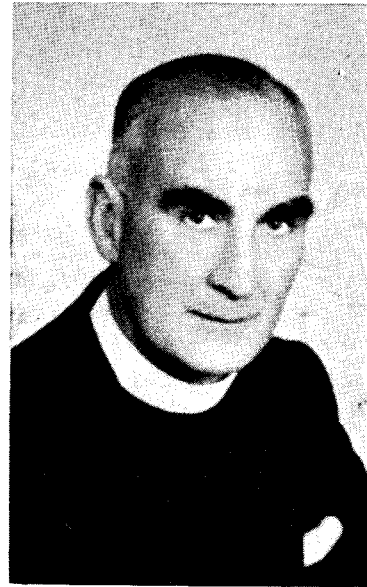
CENEF SATURDAY CLUB
(Courtesy Miss D. Langford)



REV. NORMAN FOX
Rector at the time of the consecration
of the church

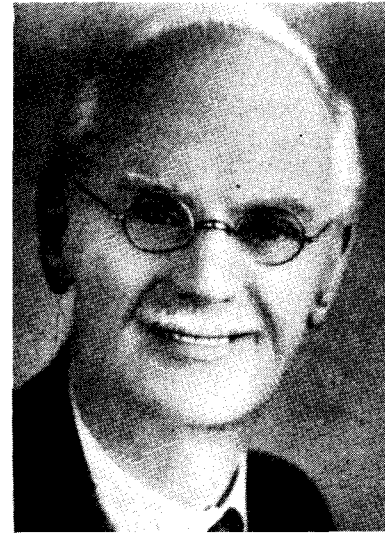


ST JOHN'S ABBOTSFORD
(Courtesy Mr F. Bowman)



REV. BASIL WILLIAMS
Rector at the time of the centenary

Crowning of Dianne Elbourne as Sunday School Queen, 1949 by the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr Reg Barrington.
(Courtesy Mr R. Barrington)

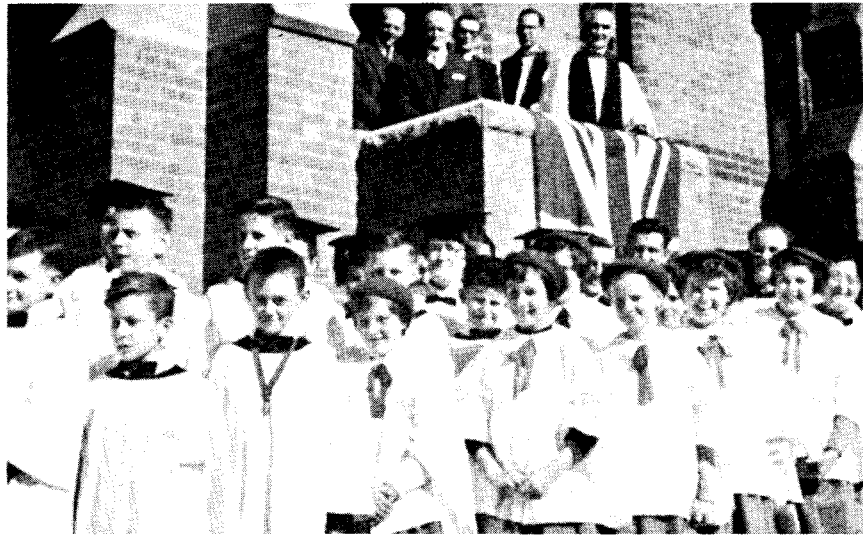


MR and MRS T. E. CAMBOURN
Benefactors of the Sunday School

OPENING OF ST ALBAN'S COTTAGE 1959
(Courtesy Miss D. Langford)



PARISH COUNCIL AND SIDESMEN
Centenary year 1959



ST ALBAN'S CHOIR 1959



INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH SHOWING CROKER WINDOWS

The five-room brick cottage, standing on land 9m by 30m, was bought at a cost of £3100. It was dedicated as 'St Alban's Cottage' by Bishop Marcus L. Loane, and officially opened by Miss J. H. Nobbs on Sunday 12th July 1959.

Gifts and loans of money from parishioners made the purchase possible.

Mr Williams commenced the practice of presenting Christmas carols each year in the grounds of St Alban's. In recent years the Police Band have attended, and their music has greatly added to the evening's enjoyment.

The first Sunday in August is celebrated as Education Sunday. Special services are arranged, and pupils and teachers of district schools are invited to attend and thus maintain the links between the church and school which commenced with the first St Alban's.

Mr Williams wished to maintain fellowship with the English Cathedral Church of St Alban. Accordingly, in October 1958 he approached the dean of the Cathedral Abbey of St Alban England to obtain a piece of stone from the Abbey church to install in St Alban's Five Dock as part of the centenary celebrations. The tile was sent in December and accompanied by a letter from Mr Barrett, Foreman Clerk of Works at St Albans, giving the history of the tile:

It was made during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. It was part firstly of the Roman city of Verulamium for about 250-300 years. When the Romans left, the city disintegrated, and in the 11th century (1077) Paul of Caen came and the monastery of St Alban was commenced.

The clay and pigment of which the tiles were made were found locally. Pieces of charcoal, no doubt from the burning tiles, were found in the joints between the tiles in the walls.

This particular piece of tile was first part of a floor, because there is a certain smoothness in its bed. On the rougher bed is a little of the bedding material.

Mr Barrett concluded: 'Look at it, Sir, and think that it was made not all those many years after Christ was on the earth'.

The tile was installed on the arch on the left hand side of the choir stalls near the lectern and unveiled by the Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Hugh Gough, on 11th October 1959.

1959 was not only St Alban's centenary year—it was also the year of the Billy Graham Crusade. Thousands of people packed the showground every night of the Crusade to hear Mr Graham preach. Special Crusade choirs were formed; our singing took on a new dimension with the bright Crusade hymns; buses took crowds of Christians and non-Christians to hear the message of salvation. Thousands came forward and made a decision for Christ; some fell

by the wayside, but many made a firm commitment and, helped by support teams, grew in faith and provided a fresh impetus to church life.

Meanwhile preparations were made for the centenary celebrations of the church. A concert evening was arranged, and Miss Merle Morrow and Mrs Pat Bennie produced a play depicting scenes from St Alban's parish life at the time of the building of the rectory. Les Worland was in charge of costume design and stage scenery.

One of the highlights of the evening was the performance of Mr Greening, who played the part of the Rev. Howell-Price, the first resident rector. Mrs Greening played the bishop's wife.

The crowded service at 11 a.m. on 4th October 1959 took the form of a centennial family service and was attended by His Excellency the Governor of NSW Sir Eric Woodward and Lady Woodward. The processional hymn was 'All things bright and beautiful' and the lesson was read by the Governor from St Matthew 7:21-29. The centenary sermon was given by the Rev. Norman Fox, who took as his text Hebrews 13:8, 'Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day and for ever'.

Twelve months later the parishioners joined in a Centenary Anniversary Reminiscences Evening, which took the form of a social and film entertainment held in the parish hall. Slides were shown by Mr Claude Bennie one of the churchwardens, Mr Badman the organist and Mr Grenenger.

Rev. Basil Williams came from St Michael's Wollongong to be guest speaker at the church service, and took as the text for his address Philippians 3:11-13. The theme of it was: 'We are not perfect in thinking we have attained perfection. Think not of which we have apprehended but reach forth unto those things which are before. Press ever forward'.

Mr W. T. Price unveiled a tablet on the organ to commemorate the memory of the late Mr R. H. Wilson, whose legacy was used for the organ restoration.

Mr Slarke, Mr Badman and the Maintenance Committee had been responsible for arranging this work and also general renovations and repairs to the church, including renovating the pulpit and installing a new protective grille for the Croker windows.

During the period between Mr William's departure from St Alban's to become rector of St Michael's Wollongong and the arrival of the new minister Mr Langshaw, Rev. Ray Flateau acted as locum tenens. His wife Edith and two sons were on furlough from mission service, and although their stay in the parish was short they exercised a strong influence on the missionary outreach of the church which has continued ever since.

Rev. Donald Edward Langshaw 1960-1965

The Rev. Langshaw was trained at Moore College Sydney in 1944, and gained his Th.L. (2nd class honours) in the same year. He was ordained deacon in 1945 and priest in the same year by the Archbishop of Sydney. He had previously served at St Matthew's Manly, Mascot, Harris Park and Naremburn before coming to St Alban's.

Mr Langshaw, who had a young family (his son Brian later married Helen Whitlock, daughter of one of the churchwardens), was interested in work with young people. He strengthened and encouraged youth groups, and in 1961 established a very successful Pathfinders group led by the catechist Mr Brian Watt and assisted by Mrs Langshaw and Mrs James. It catered for the 14-18-year age group and aimed to prepare and train them for useful service for Christ and the church; promote earnest Christian life among the members and provide opportunities for mutual acquaintance and fellowship.

Mr Langshaw, a keen cricketer, formed sports clubs to provide social and spiritual contact with the young people of the parish.

In 1961 a Crusade with the Rev. Leighton Ford of the Billy Graham Team as leader was well attended by parishioners. Increased church attendances and enthusiasm followed.

Mrs Francee Mitchell and the Torchbearers for Legacy have for more than twenty years arranged an Anzac Service and Field of Remembrance at the church. Representatives of various district and church organisations attend, and after the church service place crosses on the dedicated area in front of the flagpole in memory of those who served in all wars. After the official ceremony, parishioners and members of the public are invited to place crosses in the field in memory of friends and relatives who lost their lives in the conflicts. For many years the crosses were made by Mr Harry Phippen, who died on 6th January 1984 after a long illness. He had been willing and able to do many maintenance tasks in the church, rectory and grounds until ill-health forced him to leave his home. For many years the church bus was garaged at his home in Edelholme Road, where he also kept his 'bottle depot', collecting and storing bottles to sell and raise money for church activities and improvements.

In 1962 the death occurred of Mr Thomas Slarke of Wareemba Street, whose wide experience in building matters had enabled him to advise on many difficult jobs about the church property. Later in the same year Mr Standen died. He had been gardener for many years and was a man of highest principles whose word was his bond. The church grounds are a testimony to his memory, for he took over the care and planning of the gardens when Mr Fox was rector and kept them in order until his death.

In June 1962 the rector initiated a Stewardship Teaching Mission—'Operation Lift'—which planned to strengthen the ties among Anglican homes and families.

By 1962 the Sunday school enrolment was 450 and there were 50 teachers. The rector and parish council felt that a meeting centre other than the St Alban's parish hall was needed, and decided to erect what is now the St Alban's Parish Centre with the long-term aim of a covered walkway to the church from the centre and the rearrangement of the church porch.

In June 1964 a tender of £9581 was accepted for the renovation of the rectory and erection of the hall and choir vestry, and a bank loan of £7000 was approved. Work proceeded quickly, and by July the lean-to additions to the rectory had been pulled down, the centre's foundations completed and the brickwork commenced.

The Parish Centre was opened and dedicated by Bishop Clive Kerle on 31st October 1964. In it was erected a plaque in honour of the memory of the late Mr Cambourn, who through the Cambourn endowment remains a constant benefactor of the Sunday school.

The Parish Council also considered the possibility of using St Alban's Cottage, in cooperation with the Church of England Immigration Department, to bring out a family from England. Mr Brian and Mrs Vera Procter and family were selected and remained in the cottage until their move to Carlingford some years later.

Two discoveries reminded us of the church's early history. Mrs Langshaw discovered an old well in the kitchen while the rectory renovations were in progress. This well was once the rectory's water supply.

Mr Tom Lloyd, a former churchwarden, located a stone from the foundations of the original St Alban's Church in the church grounds. He had the responsibility of the sale of the stone when the church was demolished, and was able very quickly to locate where the foundations were left in the ground and eventually covered by lawns and gardens. The old stone was placed in the church porch in 1979.

In 1964-65 there were changes in church administration. Mr Langshaw resigned in May 1965 to become rector of All Souls' Leichhardt, while Mr Badman who had been organist for six years also resigned.

Mr Breaden did not seek re-election as churchwarden. He had seen active service in World War 1, winning the Meritorious Services Medal. For more than 40 years he attended St Alban's, 20 of them as churchwarden and treasurer, and now felt it was time for others to take over the work. During the difficult depression and post-depression days Mr Breaden, as Archbishop's Warden, had helped

St Alban's through its serious financial crisis to its sound present-day position. He was a man of deep faith, prayer and piety, with a great vision of the wider work of the church. After his retirement from active leadership Mr Breaden continued his interest in St Alban's affairs until he moved to the Church of England Retirement Village at Dapto in 1968.

Mr Herbert Edward Whitlock, who with his wife Annie and family was among those with the longest association with the church, died suddenly. For more than fifty years he attended and took an active interest in the worship at St Alban's. On three separate occasions he was a churchwarden, and always had a close interest and detailed knowledge of church affairs. For many years he came to church in time to help the children cross the busy Great North Road after Sunday school. His life had revolved round his church and his home.

His involvement with church affairs at St Alban's was continued by his son Owen (rector's warden since 1967) and Owen's son-in-law Brian Langshaw, who was responsible for maintenance for several years and also served as churchwarden until his transfer to Canberra.

Rev. Roy Francis Gray 1965-1973

Mr Gray graduated from Moore College and was ordained deacon in 1947 and priest in 1948 by the Archbishop of Sydney. As well as serving at Hammondville, Cooks River, Hurstville and Wollongong, Mr Gray had a long association with the CMF (Citizens' Military Forces) as part-time chaplain. A first class cricketer and surfer, he was also active in Rotary and civic groups and welfare organisations. He was inducted into St Alban's on 16th December 1965 by the Venerable Archdeacon R. G. Fillingham, Archdeacon of Parramatta.

In 1966 St Alban's Sports Union was formed to encourage sport among the younger people of the parish. Gymnasium, cricket, soccer and basketball teams were formed. Under the leadership of Mr Claude Bennie, Mr John Muddle and others who gave their time and talents, teams were formed to compete in church competitions, and many families with little or no church affiliation were brought into the fellowship of the church.

In 1967 Mrs Audrey Coleman left a bequest of \$500 to St Alban's. In her memory, and to help the aged members of the Quiet Hour and Parkview Hospital, 300 large-type copies of *Book of Common Prayer* and hymn books were purchased by the Parish Council for use at these services.

In the same year the church lost a staunch supporter in the per-

son of Mrs Ellen Jane Breaden, who was the wife of Mr Arthur Breaden, former churchwarden. She was one of the oldest members of St Alban's Mothers' Union and Ladies' Guild. After her marriage she and her husband moved to Five Dock, where for many years they made an outstanding contribution to church affairs.

The first church bus, a Commer, was purchased and dedicated in October 1966. It aimed to provide transport for those who lived a reasonable distance from the Sunday School and church and were unable to provide their own transport. The bus was used for social excursions and parish activities as well as providing transport for Sunday school scholars and older parishioners who found it difficult to attend functions if transport was not arranged.

When St Andrew's Abbotsford was opened the Parish Council donated money for a communion table for the new church, in recognition that this area had once been part of St Alban's Parish.

Operation Outreach 1967 was organised to bring as many fringe members of the church as possible onto neutral ground, and through the warmth of friendship and fellowship to encourage them to join more actively in the work, worship and outreach of the church.

Invitations were sent out to a Parish Evening marking the 108th anniversary of the church. Special guests included Mr Neil Williams (a former parishioner) and Miss Helen Zerephos from Channel 10, Mr Kevin Stumbles, Sun Aria winner, and the compere, Mr Willie Fennell. A film was shown of St Alban's and its work; supper was provided and special entertainment was organised for children.

The church participated in the 1968 Graham Crusade. A 'Crusade Cabinet' was formed, with contact men responsible for various areas: counselling, prayer, music, publicity, Operation Andrew, youth, visitation, reservation and finance. The Crusade was church-centred to begin and end with the local church, while the Crusade itself was held from 20th to 28th April.

From February 1968, Sunday school commenced at 9.30 a.m. to coincide with the church services, and a Family Service was held monthly.

In 1969 a 'Back to St Alban's Week' in aid of the Restoration Fund was held in August. This took the form of a concert followed by a supper. Anniversary services were conducted by Archbishop Loane and Bishop Hulme-Moir.

Mr and Mrs Garrick David, both science graduates, came to live in 1A Henry Street. They were appointed as Youth Directors of St Alban's, to co-ordinate and organise youth work and to train leaders among the young people.

A link with the old church was broken when the old brass school

bell, which had rung for services for over 100 years, was sold in 1969. The church organ underwent a major overhaul and extensive repairs were begun on the church and rectory. The restoration and renovation of the organ cost £1300. Mr William Brown, the architect who designed the Parish Centre, supervised further restoration work on the church, including restoration of the stone work, cleaning and sealing of exterior stone, repairing of stained glass windows, rectifying damp penetration, cleaning internal brickwork in the rectory and eliminating the problem of water penetration.

In 1969 the Synod voted on three steps of great historical importance to the church in Australia:

On 1st January 1962 the Church of England had become the Church of England in Australia. By the 1969 Synod, all but three of the Australian dioceses (Willochra, New Guinea and the Northern Territory) had voted to change the name of the Church of England in Australia to 'The Anglican Church of Australia'. All dioceses in Australia had to consent by ordinance to change the name, and the decision to do so was finally ratified in 1981. In common with many other parishes we adopted a new notice board and a new name.

Synod voted overwhelmingly to make all communicant members of the church 18 years and over eligible for election to Parish Council. (Previously only those 21 years and over were eligible.)

Licensed laymen were also allowed in certain circumstances to participate in the administration of Holy Communion. Some members of Synod felt that this was out of keeping with the spirit and history of the Church of England and that the sanctuary should be, as it had been, the place for the celebrant priest alone.

In 1970 several changes were made to church services. The rector experimented with reading Evening Prayer at 5.00 p.m. and holding a youth service at 7.15 p.m. The traditional 11.00 a.m. service was moved forward to 9.30 a.m. to coincide with Sunday school.

Mr Gray was appointed Rural Dean of Petersham. So that members of the congregation would be better informed about church history and doctrine, he started a series of studies designed to prepare parishioners for the Theological Certificate of Moore College. At least three parishioners completed the six-year course. They were Mrs Nola McGuire, who had commenced the studies when Mr Langshaw was rector, Miss Dorothy Locke and Mrs Joan Francis.

By 1970, 35% of total offerings was given to missions; \$4500 was spent on buildings and maintenance; \$2800 was raised and spent by the Sports Union on the youth of the parish. There were 60 members of the Gym Club, four soccer teams, five cricket teams, six basketball teams, six physical culture classes with 80 members, and tennis clubs. The bus and organ funds were showing credit balances;

the original overdraft for the rectory and Parish Centre had been liquidated, and a new loan for \$12 500 was taken out. New carpet was donated by the Ladies' Guild in 1971 and laid in the church.

On 19th June 1970, Mrs Irene Claire Jones of 42 Kings Road Five Dock died, and six days later her husband Alfred Ernest also died suddenly. Mr Jones had served in the RAN in the 1914-1918 War and had been a Past Master in the St John's Masonic Lodge Glebe.

His home was willed to the church; it was later sold and in 1975 the monies used to purchase 1B Henry Street, known as the Jones Memorial Cottage. This property, like 1A Henry Street, was part of the original church grant, and it was purchased as a site for possible church development in future years.

Mr Gray's ministry came to an end when he resigned in 1973 to become rector of St Andrew's Cronulla.

Rev. William Frank Hayward 1973-

Trained at NZ Bible Institute, Mr Hayward was ordained deacon and priest in 1952 by the Archbishop of Sydney. After serving at Corrimal, Riverstone, Berowra and Belfield, he came to St Alban's on 1st June 1973.

Over the years there had been a steady drift of young people from the district as they married and established homes in new areas. Parishioners with many faithful years of service to the church died or moved to smaller homes and units elsewhere. High-rise development took the place of older homes, and the flats were often occupied by people who did not stay long in the area. As the older residents moved out their place was taken by people from other countries with different religious beliefs. The early settlers came mainly from England and Scotland, but many of today's settlers come from southern European countries. Thirty-five per cent of Drummoyne's population was born outside Australia. Anglican congregations declined and many formerly active groups were closed.

Mr Hayward has played an active part in the Temperance Alliance and has shown a great concern for the quality of family life. He has always stressed the need and importance of belonging 'to a real, live, worshipping congregation in church every Sunday and in our homes every day' (Rector's annual report 1974). Bible study and GEM groups have played an important part in his ministry.

In 1975 new carpet for the rectory entrance and staircase was purchased with monies raised by the Ladies' Guild, and the Parish Council installed venetian blinds.

Bequests from estates of former parishioners, including Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Goodall, Dr and Mrs Scott-Orr, Miss Eileen Andrews and Mr Burton-Bradley, enabled church and hall renovations to be

carried out and the grounds maintained.

To further the link between our name church in England the church took out a life membership in the Friends of St Alban's Abbey to mark the occasion of the 900th Anniversary of the Abbey.

A new Toyota Commuter bus seating up to 14 people was bought for Sunday school pupils, to provide enjoyment for parishioners whenever possible and to generally assist in the furthering of God's work. This was dedicated on 4th May 1978, replacing the old bus which had served so many years. It is used for Sunday school, church outings and for members of the GFS group (reformed in 1980).

In March 1978 a further significant change was made in church services. It was resolved to adopt the *Australian Prayer Book* for trial use. While some parishioners felt it lacked the beauty and dignity of the *Book of Common Prayer*, it was decided that the church must move with the times, and a revised version was necessary if the church was to remain relevant in modern society. The church officers decided against the introduction of the *Australian Hymn Book* as it was considered that a full choir was needed to do justice to the hymns and the choir was now re-formed only on special occasions.

On Sunday 17th June 1979 the church was packed for a special service of public worship to mark 120 years of parish life in Five Dock. A specially-formed choir led the congregation in worship. The first lesson was read by Mr Owen Whitlock from the lectern Bible originally given by Mr and Mrs H. Whitlock and family. The New Testament lesson from Ephesians 2:13-22 was read by His Excellency Sir Roden Cutler, Governor of New South Wales.

The address was given by the Dean of Sydney, Very Rev. Lance Shilton, on the theme 'Why doesn't the church mind its own business?' A specially printed order of service which could be kept as a souvenir was used, and the June issue of the Parish Paper contained a special insert noting main events in the life of the parish over the past 120 years.

An anniversary tea for past and present parishioners and their friends concluded the celebrations.

Further improvements were made to the church and rectory when the outside of the porchway was bricked up; two new doors were placed at the main entrance and a ramp, path and handrail provided from the south-western door of the church. This was the second stage of the plan to improve facilities at the East Street church entrance (the first stage being the erection of the Parish Centre). The Quiet Hour donated quarry tiles for the rectory porch and the labour was paid for by the church.

The history of St Alban's is made up of the efforts of hundreds of people who have given of their time and talents to further God's work. We are still a young nation, and the attaining of the 125th Anniversary of a church is worthy of note. It was faith in the power of the message of Jesus Christ which moved the pioneer settlers of Five Dock to establish the beautiful rectory and church which now stand as a testimony to their witness. Many of the names of these workers are now unknown, but we give thanks to them for their foresight and for their work in the Lord's service. Miss Annie Pratt and her work with the Young People's Union, Mrs Burrows, the Edgecombe family, Mrs Guppy, Guild secretary 1962-1979, and others, have all helped to make St Alban's history. We give thanks for the lives and work of all of those who have worked so well in the parish over the past one hundred and twenty-five years.

They have brought their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows to God, and to those of us who follow them a sense of time past remains to comfort us in trouble and to uplift us in joy, as we too kneel before the Lord in His holy place.

MEMORIALS IN THE CHURCH

In rector's vestry

Stained-glass window depicting St Alban, presented by Rev. John Boardman 1924.

Two chairs in memory of Mrs Esther Mary Ross, given by her daughter Mrs Keys.

Three chairs from Miss Esme Hoare, dedicated 24th November 1974.

Vestry panelling in memory of Caroline Wylie, a gift of her family 29th November 1971.

Clock, which previously hung above the church entrance for many years and was moved in 1974.

Reflex horns at the east and west sides of the church are in loving memory of Sydney Fred Hoare and the gift of Mrs and Miss Esme Hoare. Those at the south and north sides are the gift of the Women's Guild.

The amplifier and fittings are in loving memory of the late Mrs Annie Isabella Brunning.

The vestry cupboard is the gift of the Physical Culture Club. (The previous three gifts were dedicated on 31st January 1954.)

Sanctuary

Communion rail in memory of Bertie Ewan Berman AIF, killed in France 4th February 1917. A gift of his parents and brothers.

Holy table and panelling in memory of Doris Lillian Andrews who died 18th March 1936. Given by Mrs Andrews and sister Eileen. Dedicated by Rev. W. T. Price 16th March 1941. North and south wall panelling dedicated 26th September 1956.

Prayer book rests in memory of Clarence, Rex and Ray Tytherleigh. A gift of their parents and brothers. Dedicated 20th September 1924.

A *Book of Common Prayer* 1662 version, in memory of William Albert and Margaret Arabella Wallis, presented by their son Reginald Wallis Christmas 1956. Mr Wallis also gave the Australian Prayer Book, presented 26th November 1978.

A lectern light in memory of Arthur and Doreen Donnelly, dedicated 13th September 1959. Presented by their daughter and son-in-law Pat and Claude Bennie.

Two offertory plates—one in memory of William Preston born 1820 died 1891; one in memory of Amy Kenny and Mary Ezzy, parishioners 1917–1951. Dedicated 17th September 1954.

Two chairs—one in memory of Fanny Louise Pittock, called home 2nd April 1950, the gift of members of her home circle; one in memory of the late Rev. L. G. Edmondson, former rector of the parish.

Memorial vases to the memory of Private Roy Milne and Mrs and Mrs Watman, the gift of the Watman family. Dedicated 10th December 1968 by Rev. N. Fox.

The three Croker windows behind the communion table (the east windows) in memory of John Croker and William Croker. They depict St Peter, Christ the Good Shepherd and St John.

Communion table frontal in memory of Joshua Alexander Forrester died 2nd May 1918 at Hazebrouck France. Presented by his mother Mrs J. Sonnerdale.

A prayer book in memory of William and Doris May Colville, presented by their family Mr and Mrs Barry Hurran 6th May 1980.

Public address system. The amplifier was presented by Mr Badman, and Mr Wells gave the two speakers.

In the south vestry

'St George' stained-glass window presented by the Rodd family.

Three silver-plated vases donated by Mr J. Darks.

Good News Bible in memory of George Edward James called home 1st April 1981, and in appreciation of the warm fellowship and interest of the people of this church shown to the family over many years. Presented by Mrs Eileen James and family (formerly of Rickard Street Five Dock) 4th October 1981.

Choir stalls

In memory of Mrs A. Whitlock

In memory of William Parker

In memory of Leslie Parker

In memory of Martin Gibbons

In memory of Thomas Lasbury.

Frontals

A gift from Miss E. Hoare in memory of her baby niece Margaret.

A gift from Miss E. Hoare in memory of her mother.

Pews

A gift from Mrs G. E. M. Jackson.

In memory of Jessie Lloyd.

In memory of Charles and Mary Anne Hedges.

In memory of Roy David Hedges.

In memory of Lillian Agnes Andrews.

A gift from St Alban's Girls' Physical Culture Club.

In memory of Leslie Bolton Tod and Aubrey Wilfred Tod.

In memory of Clarice May Howard.

In memory of Alice Delforce.

In memory of Frank Broadley Howard.

A gift from Edith Hedges.

In memory of Ivy Dolan.

A gift from Jessie H. Nobbs.

In memory of Doris Emily Hedges.

In memory of Amy Carlion Hedges.

In memory of Ethel Violet Hedges.

A gift from Mr and Mrs T. A. H. Breaden.

In memory of Thomas Henry Slarke.

A gift from St Alban's Girls' Physical Culture Club.

A gift from parishioners, 104th anniversary of parish.

In memory of Norman Ewart and Phillis McConville.

In memory of Alfred Frederick Tafe.

A gift from parishioners.

A gift from Dr Ralph Noble and Dr A. R. Scott-Orr.
In memory of Emily Binah Gibson.
In memory of Annie Wickham Bate.
In memory of Mr Albert James and Mrs Victoria Haberfield.

In the body of the church, clockwise from the pulpit

Lectern in pulpit:

In loving memory of Charles E. Bailey AIF, presented by his parents, brother and sister.

Pulpit reading light:

In loving memory of Claude William and Hilda Enid Bennie, presented by their family. Dedicated 24th October 1982.

Psalm board:

A gift of the confirmees 1957.

Hymn board:

In memory of Robert Stubbs who died 13th January 1926.

Pulpit Bible:

In memory of Miss Hoare's nephew who died as a result of a road accident.

On the south wall are:

A stone tablet:

In loving memory of Ernest Graham, catechist of this parish for nine years. Diocesan lay reader since 1914. Passed to his rest 17th June 1940. From his wife and daughters.

A marble tablet giving the names of the rectors of St Alban's. Money for this tablet was raised by Mrs Anderson.

A stained glass window showing St Michael:

In memory of the men and women of the services, World War II 1939-1945.

Next, there is a series of windows depicting scenes from the life of Christ:

'The Angel Gabriel visiting Mary':

In memory of Thomas Edward Cambourn died 22nd August 1948 and E. Mary Cambourn died 3rd July 1949. Benefactors of the Sunday school.

Across the entrance to the baptistry is a window depicting Christ blessing the children:

In memory of Sylvia Whitford, who died 25th August 1922. A gift from her family.

In the baptistry are two windows: 'Suffer the little children to come unto me':

In memory of Francis Fairlain who died aged 69 on 22nd December 1962. A gift of his wife and family.

The baptistry was remodelled in memory of Doris Edith O'Neill as part of her bequest to the church, and two chairs given by her sister Miss Enid Orr in loving memory of their parents Mr and Mrs William Orr and brother Herbert. These were dedicated on 27th March 1977.

On the wall to the right of the baptistry

'Joseph, Mary and Christ in the stable':

In memory of Emily Binah Gibson died 11th October 1953. Given by her husband Stuart and son Arthur.

'They found him in the Temple'

In memory of Albert Brooke Andrews, died 19th January 1925 and Lillian Agnes Andrews died 14th February 1962. From their daughter Eileen.

'The Holy Spirit descended on Him'

In memory of Sarai Jane, beloved wife of W. T. Price, mother of Wilma, Max, John, and Beryl. Died 6th May 1955.

'Love thy neighbour as thyself'

In appreciation of the ministry of W. T. Price died 31st December 1962.

A marble tablet:

To the memory of Barnstaple Robertson Rodd fifth son of B. C. Rodd, whose much regretted death (supposed to have been caused by a fall from his horse) took place at his home Embarn Five Dock on 17th July 1881. Presented by his wife and family.

The church lighting:

In memory of Peter Barnwell Sunday school scholar who died aged 10 after a heart operation. Dedicated by Rev. Roy Gray 4th August 1968.

The clock:

In memory of Sylvia and Norman Gilbert, presented 5th May 1974.

Two bookcases:

In memory of Mabel Annie Wells, given by her friends. Dedicated August 1957.

Two side tables:

In memory of Vivian James Vinter former churchwarden and dedicated church worker. A gift of his wife and family.

The maple doors:

In memory of Rev. and Mrs J. F. Chapple.

Twelve prayer books and a large-print edition:

In memory of Mr and Mrs Colville, given by their family Mr and Mrs Barry Hurran on 4th May 1980.

Renovations to the porch were carried out:

In memory of Mary Robinson, a gift of her family. Dedicated 28th September 1980.

Vinyl tiles in the porch:

In memory of Mrs Packer's father Mr Reid, the gift of Mr and Mrs F. J. Packer.

The windows in the porch and above the maple doors were formerly in the old church. Those in the porch were presented by the Sunday school scholars in 1909.

'Except ye come as little children':

In memory of Annie Maria and Thomas Francis Todd. Erected by their daughters in 1962.

A second window was given by one of their daughters Mrs Burns in memory of her husband.

'This is my beloved Son, hear Him':

In memory of Robert Wallace Burns died 19th January 1958 aged 65. Dedicated 1962.

Set into the brick porchway at the entrance to the church is an historic stone measuring 12 inches by 6 inches by 3 inches with an inscribed plaque, unveiled by the Rev. Donald Langshaw on 30th September 1979. This stone discovered by Mr Langshaw and a former churchwarden, Mr Thomas Lloyd, was part of the foundations of the original mission church dating back to 1859.

A maple bookcase, handcrafted by David Francis and presented by the Fortier-Wrench-Stubbs family. Dedicated 21st November 1982. It contains the Fortier-Wrench-Stubbs family tree 1880-1980, a Bible presented by Mr and Mrs H. S. Whitlock and family on 5th February 1952; a Bible presented in memory of Rev. W. S. Newton second rector of the Parish 1878-1884. Presented by Mrs George Hall, daughter of W. S. Newton on 10th March 1925.

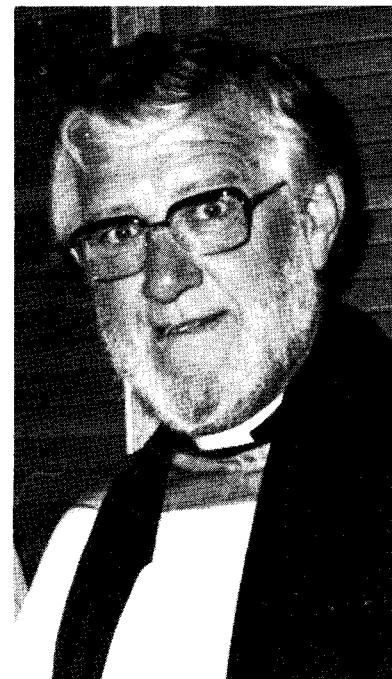
A copy of one of the St James' version of the Bible: presented in memory of Mrs Annie Wells by her family is also in the bookcase.

'While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us':

A testimony to God.

'Behold, I stand at the door and knock'

In memory of Sidney Fred Hoare, died 15th July 1953 and Ann Hoare, died 3rd August 1958.



REV. D. LANGSHAW

Responsible for building parish centre
(Courtesy Rev. D. Langshaw)

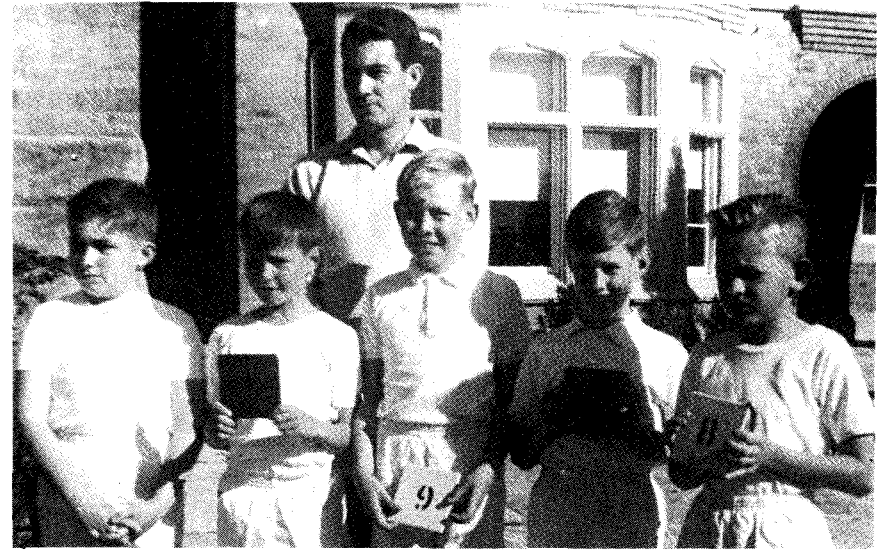


REV. D. GRAY AND MEMBERS OF UNDER 11 SOCCER TEAM

(Courtesy Mr C. Bennie)



ST ALBAN'S KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND TEACHERS
(Courtesy Mr C. Bennie)



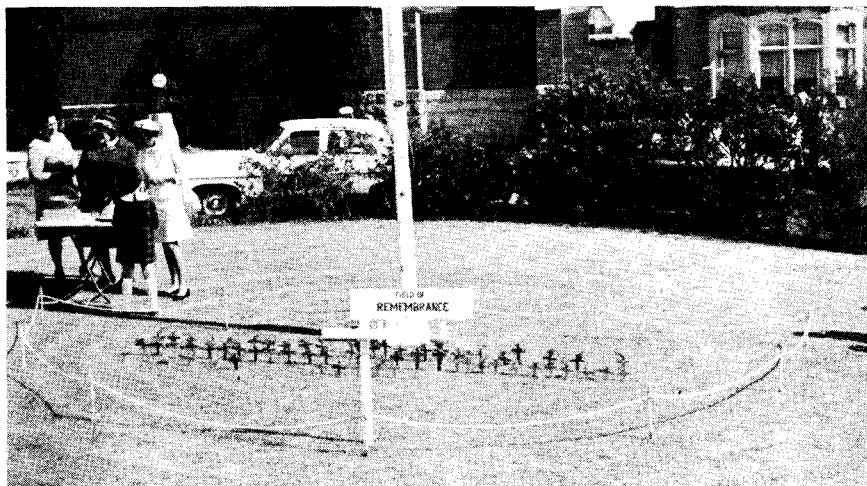
MR JOHN MUDDLE AND GYM TEAM 1968
(Courtesy Mr C. Bennie)



**SENIOR GIRLS' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WITH TEACHERS
MRS EVERINGHAM AND MRS FRANCIS**
(Courtesy Mr C. Bennie)



MRS PAT BENNIE AND INFANTS PHYSICAL CULTURE TEAM 1969
(Courtesy Mr C. Bennie)



ST ALBAN'S FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE
(Courtesy Mrs F. Mitchell)



REV. W. F. HAYWARD
Rector at time of 125th Anniversary
(Courtesy Mr Hayward)



SIR RODEN AND LADY CUTLER
ATTENDING 120TH ANNIVERSARY

'The Ascension':

In memory of Arthur Gilbert Friend born 10th April 1864 died 25th October 1941 and his wife Lucy Celia Friend born 27th July 1865 died 10th November 1949.

'St Andrew':

In memory of Lieutenant Joseph Kerman killed in action 20th October 1917 at Zonebecke. Presented by his parents, wife and brother. *MCMM. "Thy will be done"*

'St Barnabas':

In memory of John Seymour Denning, died 4th July 1920. A gift from his wife and family.

A marble tablet:

In memory of Frederick Albert Roy Smith AIF accidentally killed at Port Moresby Papua New Guinea 8th July 1942. A gift of his family.

A maple honour roll:

Presented by Thomas E. Cambourn on 25th April 1925 in honour of his wife Annie Wilhemina who died 17th August 1918.

A small organ:

The gift of Miss Phyllis Newman, organist for many years.

Two large pedestal fans:

Given by Mrs Whitford and family in memory of Mrs Whitford's son George.

St George & the Cousin killed in WW1 presented by his sister Mrs Budd. 36th Bn.

Outside the church

The Bowe memorial light:

In memory of Allen Henry Bowe, who died on October 1974. The memorial was dedicated on 8th February 1976 in the form of a floodlight to the Croker memorial windows, in the Sanctuary. This project had always been an ambition of Mr Bowe's in his lifetime.

The Worland memorial gates:

In memory of Roy Worland and his grandson Robert Cleaverly, a gift of the Worland family.

The front wall:

In memory of the women of the parish.

Garden seat:

In memory of Lillian L. Dixon 1893-1982
'Come unto me and rest' is the text on the memorial plate.

Inside the parish centre

A plaque:

Acknowledging the generous gifts of Mr Cambourn to the Sunday school.

The piano:

Donated by Mrs and Miss Gilbert.

Two pictures:

One the gift of the Bennie family and the other given by the Russell family.

A clock:

In memory of George Henry Scott who died 27th December 1955, given by his wife Florence and daughter Joan.

The original clock was accidentally damaged, and the present one is a replacement.

The Jim Cox memorial library:

In memory of Vivian Henry George (Jim) Cox, who died on 28th April 1977.

A parish council representative, he and his wife Ros were deeply committed to the work of the Wycliffe Bible Translators at the centre in Connecticut Avenue Five Dock. Because Mr Cox loved books it was decided a library was a suitable memorial. The room was formerly the choir room in the Parish Centre and the family carpeted and furnished it and provided a nucleus of books so that the room became a spot for rest and meditation.

Those who have entered full-time into work for the Lord include:

Rev. Robert Simpson and Mrs Elaine Simpson (nee Haberfield)

Archdeacon Matthew Burrows, Barraba

Rev. Geoffrey Feltham, St Alban's Epping

Miss Lorna Phillips. Deaconess CMS Oenpelli NT

Miss Judith Morley (Mrs Sexton)

Miss Wendy Hill (Mrs Croker) formerly BCA Ceduna

Miss Norma Howell

Miss Diana Elbourne (wife of the Rev. Hugh Voss)

Mr Rodney Leyshon

Miss Dorothy Locke (wife of Rev. Reg Piper)

Miss Helen Locke

List of churchwardens 1906-

1906	J. Trevillion		T. Wootten
1907	W. J. Myler	W. Croker	T. Wootten
1908-10	F. Taylor	W. Croker	T. Wootten
1911	F. Taylor	W. Croker	T. Lloyd
1912	F. Taylor	W. Croker	W. Myler
1913-15	W. L. Beer	W. Croker	W. Myler
1916-17	W. L. Beer	W. Croker	W. J. Tippet
1918-19	T. E. Cambourn	W. Croker	H. E. Whitlock
1920	T. E. Cambourn	J. E. Anderson	H. E. Whitlock
1921	W. E. Wensor	E. H. Fisk	W. Birdsall
1922	H. C. Bagor	E. H. Fisk	F. Power
1923	W. E. Wensor	W. R. Croker	F. C. Collins
1924	T. W. Packer	W. O. Colechin	E. E. Parker
1925	T. Lloyd	R. Carlisle	E. E. Parker
1926	T. Lloyd	C. Williams	Mr McDicken
1927 to 1932	No record		
1933	W. E. Wensor	J. L. Giles	F. Langsworth
1934-35	R. Carlisle	F. M. Upton	F. Langsworth
1936-37	H. E. Whitlock	F. M. Upton	F. Langsworth
1938-40	B. Rogers	R. Wallis	J. Price
1941-42	B. Rogers	D. Davis	E. Windows
1943-45	H. E. Whitlock	T. A. H. Breaden	T. Lasbury
1946	W. L. E. Anderson	T. A. H. Breaden	T. Lloyd
1947	A. F. Heidtman	T. A. H. Breaden	T. Lloyd
1948-51	S. J. Grave	T. A. H. Breaden	T. Lloyd
1952	H. Lloyd-Owen	T. A. H. Breaden	R. Wallis
1953	T. Lloyd	T. A. H. Breaden	R. Wallis
1954-59	V. J. Vinter	T. A. H. Breaden	R. Wallis
1960	V. J. Vinter	T. A. H. Breaden	R. Wallis
1961	C. V. Bennie	T. A. H. Breaden	R. Wallis
1962-64	C. V. Bennie	T. A. H. Breaden	T. Hoare
1965-66	C. V. Bennie	J. Wells	T. Hoare
1967-68	C. V. Bennie	J. Wells	O. E. Whitlock
1969-75	A. Bowe	F. G. Packer	O. E. Whitlock
1976-78	B. Langshaw	F. G. Packer	O. E. Whitlock
1979	G. C. Davidson	F. G. Packer	O. E. Whitlock
1980	G. W. Louis	F. G. Packer	O. E. Whitlock
1981-82	G. C. Collins	F. G. Packer	O. E. Whitlock
1983-84	B. Southwell	F. G. Packer	O. E. Whitlock

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