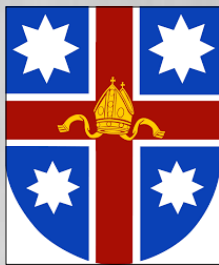
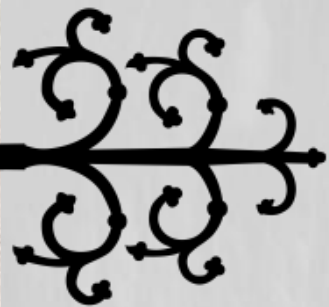


# HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S ALEXANDRA 1867 to 2018



By Maurice Pawsey



**CHURCH  
HISTORY  
SERIES**

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# **HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S ALEXANDRA 1867 to 2018**

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**BY © MAURICE PAWSEY**

Photograph contributors:

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# INTRODUCTION

There have been several attempts at writing a history of the Parish of St. John's, Anglican Church in Alexandra, part of the Diocese of Wangaratta. In part this has been done by Brian Lloyd, in *Alexandra & District*, and this has corroborated material in this history. Parishioner Norma Miller in her *Partners in Mission 1984* also compiled a great deal of information about the Parish of her time to then.

A brief attempt was made by myself, in the 2012 booklet prepared for the Celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation stone of the 1938 Church in Downey Street - the current Church.

With the involvement of numerous history enthusiasts in Alexandra and Allan Layton in particular during the lead-up to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Alexandra, the need to expand on these earlier works became essential.

This work therefore borrows from all of the above, plus exhaustive research by Allan Layton and to a lesser extent by myself into the editions of the *Alexandra Standard* through "TROVE". Finally, reading of interminable Minute Books of the Annual General Meetings and Meetings of Guardians and Vestry Meetings by myself. These records are not complete, or I have not yet been able to be satisfied that I have found them all. But we now have sufficient information, to be reasonably satisfied that we have a sufficiently comprehensive view of the reasons and factors, which have brought the Church to now.

The journey includes some 36 Rectors, a number of Bishops, several Curates, many Guardians, Churchwardens, Vestrymen, Parish Councillors, Ladies Guild members, Mothers Union members, Organists, Choir members, Youth organisations, Men's organisations and Hall Committees etc. and many parishioners.

The Church was originally established on the corner of Webster and Nihil Streets in Alexandra in 1868. Over the years other centres - up to 11 in number - were established in remote areas of the Parish-Kanumbra, Eildon, Marysville, Buxton, Thornton. In each of these centres churches were built. In other centres services were held in halls, private homes or even the Narbethong Hotel. These were at Taggerty, Acheron, Fawcett, Granton, Rubicon and Narbethong. In 1965, the work load became too much to provide services for one clergyman and the Parish was split into two, Alexandra and Marysville / Buxton. In more recent times, Alexandra has become the centre of an experiment - a group leadership plan. Under this the three Parishes of Alexandra, Yea and Marysville / Buxton remain separate parishes with their own Parish Councils, but the Clergy team works together. Alexandra has the Team Rector, the other two have a Parish Vicar and they occasionally exchange or rotate services, with a fourth clergyman available to take extra services or relieve.

Parishes are heavily dependant on the strengths and weaknesses of our priests and the Churchwardens and Parish Council members, most of whom give of their all to the vocation.

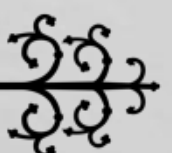
My presentation of this history is largely dependant on my reading and research of the minute books and other publications, and I am very conscious of the events and activities that have not been captured by this history, for which I apologise.

I acknowledge the assistance for Father Paul Wood for his help in reading and editing the last few years of the history, as well as Norma Miller and Joy Welch for their outstanding efforts in proof reading and support.

Maurice Pawsey OAM  
Parish Councillor



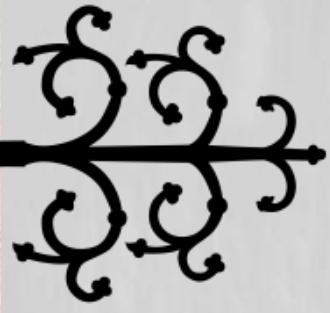
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For the Glory of God





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# CHAPTER ONE

EARLY DAYS IN ALEXANDRA



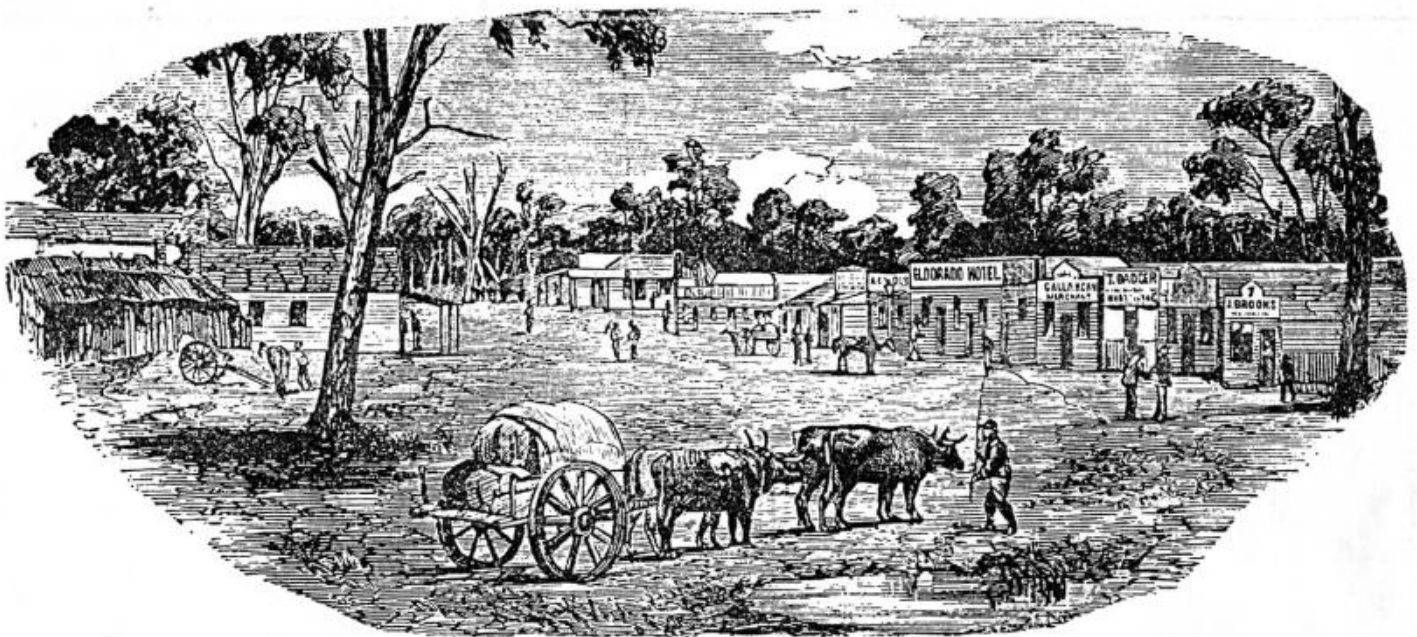


## CHAPTER ONE

The Township of Alexandra began as a mining camp in an extensive pastoral area, settled by squatters, probably around the same time as first settlement in Victoria, in the late 1830's. Gold was discovered in this pastoral area of large stations, in 1866 and 1867 and the settlement sprang up nearby.

There were several basic tracks from Melbourne in the 1850's to the newly established gold fields of Jamieson, Woods Point and Enoch's Point. One track ran via Healesville, Fernshaw, Marysville to Woods Point. The other which interests us, ran via Whittlesea, Kinglake and Yea, crossing the Ultima Thule Creek [U.T. Creek] at a location near the back of the current Alexandra Library, before following the Goulburn river alignment to the Upper Goulburn District. The settlement was first known as the Red Gate Diggings after the gate at the above crossing, in the fence between two of these pastoral holdings.

Note: It is intriguing to wonder about the mindset of our ancestors in naming the rivers in this area - Ultima Thule - U.T. Creek "The end of the Earth" or "The last place on Earth". The Rubicon - loosely "No going back", and the Acheron - which Nigel Sinnott in his book *Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Areas of Victoria*, called "The river of woe".



*Alexandra main street soon after the town began in 1867. The goldfield was one of the last discovered in Victoria.*





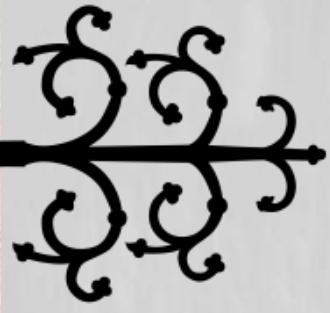
# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER ONE

In 1867, Surveyor John Downey intended to name the town "Eglington" after one of these holdings, but instead it was named in honour of the "Rose of Denmark" Princess Alexandra Caroline Charlotte Louise Julie, wife of Albert, Prince of Wales.

There is much more which could be said about the town and the people who were important in these early days, but many of these people were involved in the Church, so it will be our attempt to bring out these people, as we expand on the history of the Parish.

Brian Lloyd and Murrindindi Historic Register in *Alexandra & District* 2006, quoted one of these Settlers - John Cotton "who bemoaned the failure of the Church to inquire into the spiritual welfare of the settlers and the many volumes of recollections published by itinerant bush clergymen do not mention the Upper Goulburn."



# CHAPTER TWO

THE PARISH OF ALEXANDRA - ESTABLISHED







# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER TWO

Church life began in the parish area 10 years before earliest records we have, which commenced in 1867.

In 1857, the various Protestant denominations formed the Muddy Creek Mission in Yea and Church of England Lay Reader-Mr. Ashe made his headquarters there. He had been sent in January 1857 to preach at various squatter stations on the Upper Goulburn and he had to manage for some time without any Church buildings. Services in Yea were first conducted from a bullock dray and later from a home kitchen.

Courtesy State Library Victoria



By the early 1860`s, the churches were assuming greater outback responsibilities and the Rev. George Watson went to the “rowdy” mining town of Woods Point, very early in that decade and quickly lead a campaign for a Church building. An Anglican Church was built there in 1866. Mr. Watson then moved to Kilmore and was replaced by the Rev. W.H. Cooper.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER TWO

Gold was discovered in the U.T. Creek in 1867 and 1868, causing a settlement to spring up, stretching from McKenzie's Hill, down what is now Grant Street.

From TROVE and the *Alexandra & Yea Standard* of May 28th 1943, we are indebted to a report of a presentation by Mr. C.R. Long of Frankston [whose father had been a member of the Board of Guardians in 1870's] at a Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of St. Johns on Sunday 23rd May 1943. He tells us that - The Bishop of Melbourne - Dr. Charles Perry and Dean H.B. Macartney DD - described as very energetic men, becoming aware of the settlement in 1867, Dean Macartney made a visit to the township, with the intention of establishing a church building. He had with him, Rev. W.H. Cooper who "he left actively employed. He was soon joined by Rev. Andrew Toomath." They commenced services in private homes early in 1867.

They quickly established a building committee, including J.P. Bainbridge [Manager of the Union Bank], Thomas Hall [the leading storekeeper] and Donald McKenzie [the lessee of the Mount Pleasant Run]. Services were conducted "under a large gum tree within a few yards of the site", on the corner of Nihil and Webster Streets.

It is stated that "In 1868 money was plentiful in Alexandra [the name that had been given the place] and the important ceremony of laying the foundation of the church was fixed for January 14th 1868". Mr. Bainbridge "requested Mrs. Donald McKenzie to lay the foundation stone [a piece of timber]. This she did, giving it three taps with the mallet, which had been presented to her by the committee and declaring the foundation "had been well and truly laid". The assemblage dispersed, picking their several ways among the logs and stumps, yet to be removed from what was afterwards gazetted "Webster Street". Note: A photograph of the mallet (Pestle) appears at the end of the chapter, with her name spelt Mackenzie.

The building took only six weeks to build and was officially opened by the Dean of Melbourne the Very Rev. H.B. Macartney, on Sunday 1st March 1868, assisted by Rev. W.H. Cooper and Rev A Toomath.

On Friday 2 September 1938 the *Alexandra Standard* reproduced an article formerly published 70 years earlier in the *Melbourne Church News*. The article gives us an understanding of the opening of the church: "A procession was formed at the school in the following order, First there were 28 aborigines (14 men, 6 lubras, and 8 children) headed by Mr. Donald McKenzie, to whom they are very much attached, and certainly





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER TWO

that was a rare sight. Then came about 70 of the day and Sunday school children led by their teachers. Next about 200 of the people, and after them the trustees, church committee, and Revs. Messrs. Cooper and Toomath".

The *Alexandra Standard* praised the building highly. In the Vestry of St. John's is a copy of the Licence from the Bishop to Rev. Toomath and a dilapidated copy of the Order of Service of the Foundation laying, suggesting that the original intention had been to name the church "The Church of St. John the Evangelist". This has obviously not followed.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

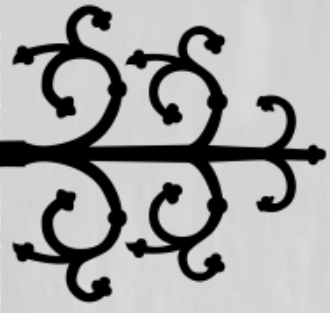
## CHAPTER TWO



**This pestle was presented to Mrs. Donald McKenzie on the occasion of her laying the Foundation Block of St. John's Church on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1868.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church





# CHAPTER THREE

THE CHURCH ON THE WEBSTER STREET SITE





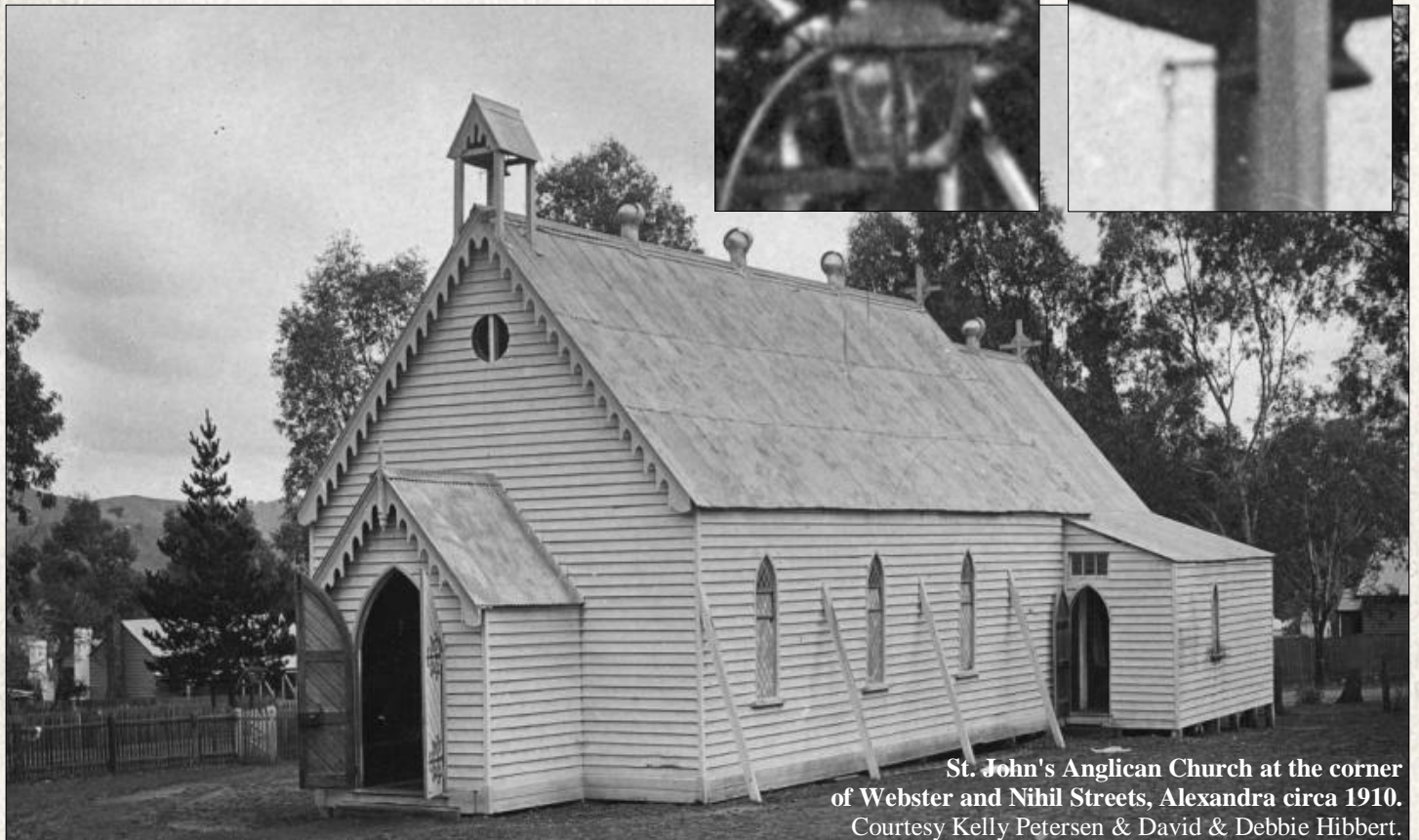
# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER THREE

It is recorded that over the next three years 300 people were baptised, some from families of the gold miners in the district. Services were held at Fawcett, Acheron, Lower Acheron, Upper Thornton, the Rubicon mill, Taggerty hall and private homes. Gradually, small churches were erected across the Parish as parishioners grew in number in those areas. More detail later.

Rev. A Toomah remained at St. John's until 1872 and there is mention of him riding to services from Yea.

In August 1869 The *Standard* carried a report of a meeting chaired by Mr. Frederick Coster, a Solicitor in Alexandra and one of the first members of the Alexandra Roads Board. His proposal to the congregation was that many people wished to see a clergyman appointed to take charge of Alexandra and Godfreys Creek exclusively and a parsonage would be necessary. An approach had been made in regard to a house in Downey Street East, owned by Mr. Bainbridge and others and an offer - seemingly for £150 - had been made. The Bishop had been approached and had promised £75, but it is not clear whether this offer was a loan or grant. The land would also have to be acquired from the Crown [purchase or licence was not clear].



St. John's Anglican Church at the corner of Webster and Nihil Streets, Alexandra circa 1910.  
Courtesy Kelly Petersen & David & Debbie Hibbert.





## CHAPTER THREE

The meeting agreed to proceed, including seeking contributions towards the cost. Another "Guardian" at this time was Joseph Proctor Bainbridge, who was presumably the owner of the land. He was a member of the first building committee in 1868, Manager of the Union Bank, Church Treasurer, a lay reader and Superintendent of the Sunday School. He also served as President of the Hospital Committee.

It is not clear at this time from the newspaper whether they proceeded with the purchase or rented the property, but later reports seem to make it clear that the property was rented, but at a cost which put a serious strain on church finances.

In May 1871 the *Standard* gives a report on the results of a bazaar "to pay down debt on the parsonage", so some commitment had been made by then, presumably rent. Again in November 1872, there is reference to the bazaar paying down debt.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1872, Rev. A. Toomah was farewelled.

Rev. S.B. Scott was the new Rector, later in 1872.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1873 a Concert was held to raise funds for a new harmonium. In April 1873 it was reported that "the new harmonium will be played on Easter Sunday by Mr. Starling".

In April 1873 there is comment on the need for extensions to the Church building, emerging later as the need for a Chancel of 16x15 feet. In November 1873 there is a report in the *Standard* of Tenders to be opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. Note: In an address given by C. R. Long at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on 22/5/1943, he indicated that the Chancel requested by Rev. S.B. Scott, in this paragraph, was provided in 1875.

Rev. John L'Oste arrived on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1875 to replace Rev. Scott. They were clearly in the Rectory in Downey Street as Mrs. L'Oste gave her address in Downey Street, in seeking someone to help in the grounds.

At this stage there is little information about activities in the Parish, but Rev. John L'Oste and Mrs. L'Oste departed in 1878.

Rev. John L'Oste was replaced by Rev. W. Hutchinson in 1878 - who also found time to be a member of the Alexandra Library Committee.

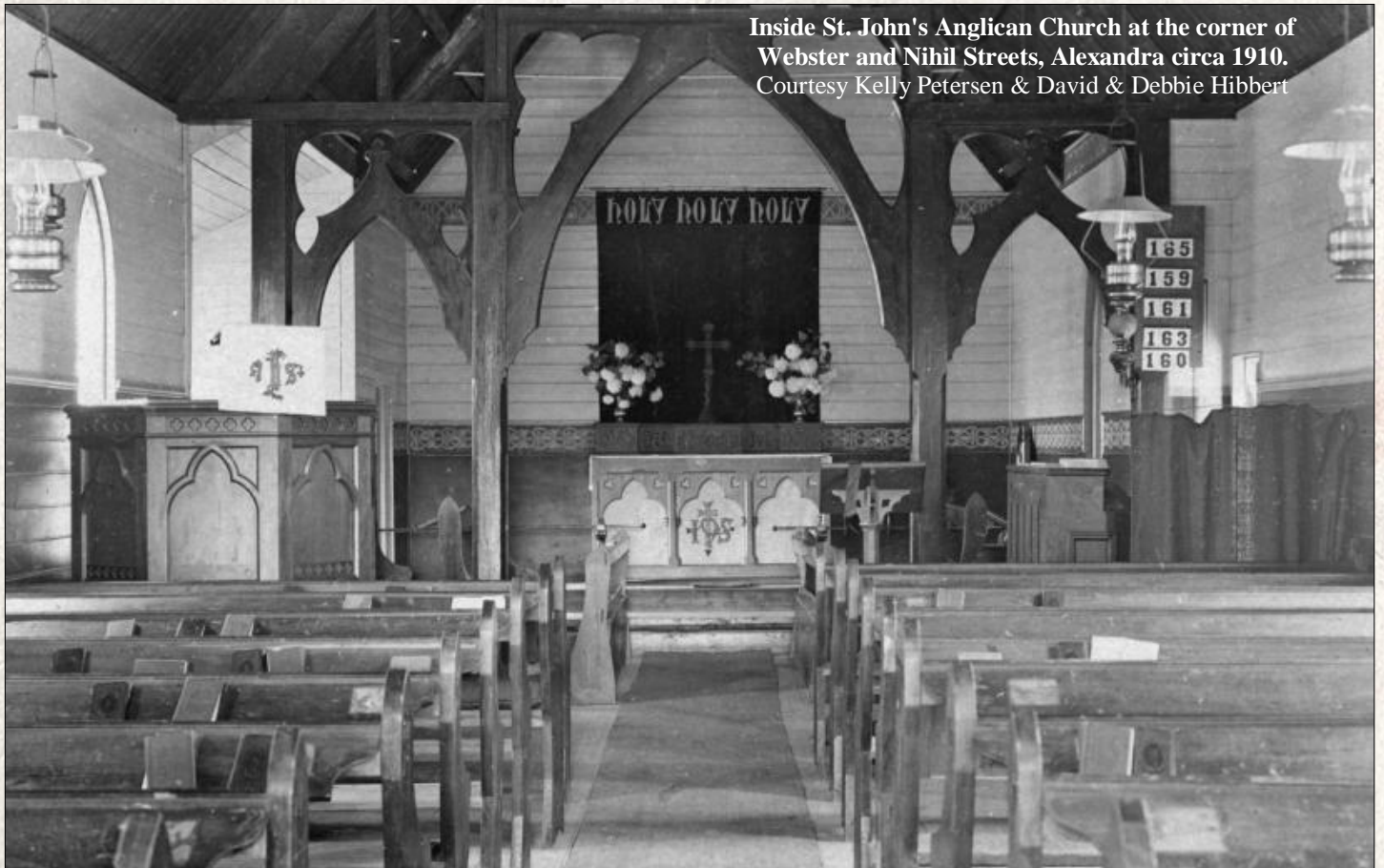
About 1880, Services commenced at Kanumbra and the Church of St. Paul was completed around the end of 1888.



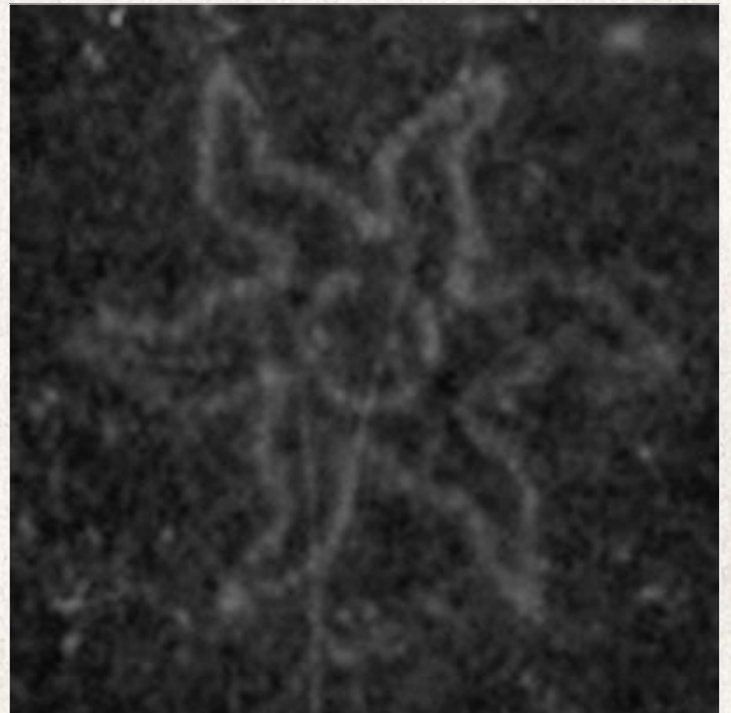
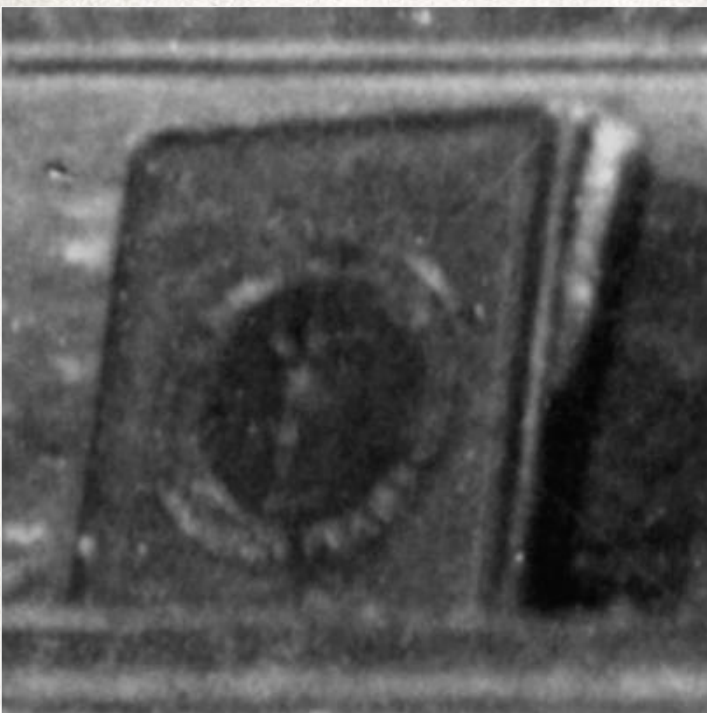


# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER THREE



Inside St. John's Anglican Church at the corner of Webster and Nihil Streets, Alexandra circa 1910.  
Courtesy Kelly Petersen & David & Debbie Hibbert







## CHAPTER THREE

There are several references in the *Standard* during Rev. Hutchinson`s time. The first in 1882 records a Vestry decision to replace the dilapidated carpet in the Aisle. The second was a more meaningful discussion in 1884 on the state of the Church building and the cost of the rent for the parsonage. There was discussion around the possibility of building a new Church [we presume on the Webster Street site], including incorporating the existing nave into a new parsonage and the chancel into a new Church. Agreement was reached to not attempt two buildings at once, but to go ahead with a parsonage and raise funds for a new Church.

His replacement in 1884 was Rev. W. Jennings, about whom we know little.

Then Rev. M.F. Cahill was appointed in 1885.

### **Purchase of the Rectory:**

After Rev. Cahill`s arrival the issue of ownership of the Rectory and land was again raised. At the Fete held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1885, in opening the Fete, the Senior Guardian - Mr. H.W. Alston said that the purpose of the Fete was to purchase the parsonage. There had been many references over the years to the cost burden this rental had placed on the Parish. £30 PA is mentioned by him as the annual cost.

In Brian Lloyd`s history book *Alexandra & District* he states that in 1885 a rectory was purchased [obviously the existing Downey Street site], after £233 was raised by the proceeds of a bazaar. There are no details available in the Minute Books, but the Rectory site and building in Downey Street was purchased in 1885. But as we will see below, the transfer did not go through until 1887.

A copy of the original Title (next page) has been obtained from the Diocese, giving the date of Transfer of Title as 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 1887, "being one acre, two roods, seventeen perches thereabouts".


At the Vestry Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1888: Vestry - Present - Rev. M. Cahill. Members - H.M. Hearle, James Lipscombe, William Hill, Dr. H. Lethbridge, George Hall. These men were leaders in their community, as well as the Church. H.M. Hearle was a Head Teacher of the Common School, William Hill ran a Bakery and General Store, George Hall was a dairy farmer, James Lipscombe was a Dog Inspector and later a Rate Collector and Valuer. He was also remembered as the first discoverer of alluvial gold at Alexandra, having been the first to apply for a claim according to Brian Lloyd in *Alexandra & District*.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Entered in the Register Book  
Vol. *KP 327* Fol. *10*


  
VICTORIA.

## Certificate of Title,


UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE."

*Henry Halland of Charles Street Sydney* is  
now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee-simple, subject to the Encumbrances  
notified hereunder in All that piece of Land, delineated and colored  
red on the Map in the margin, containing one acre two roods and  
seventeen perches or thereabouts being more or less the  
four and five section forty eight Couchman and Smith of  
Alexandria County of Angles.

Dated the twentieth day of May One thousand  
eight hundred and eighty five.

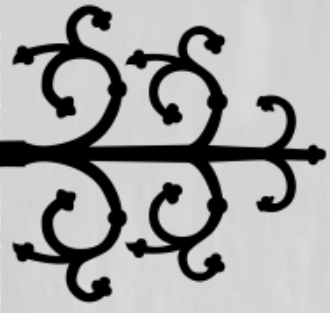


*Assistant* Registrar of Titles.  
ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO.



**Certificate of Title**  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church 2016





# CHAPTER FOUR

THE 50 YEAR DEBATE ON A NEW CHURCH



## CHAPTER FOUR

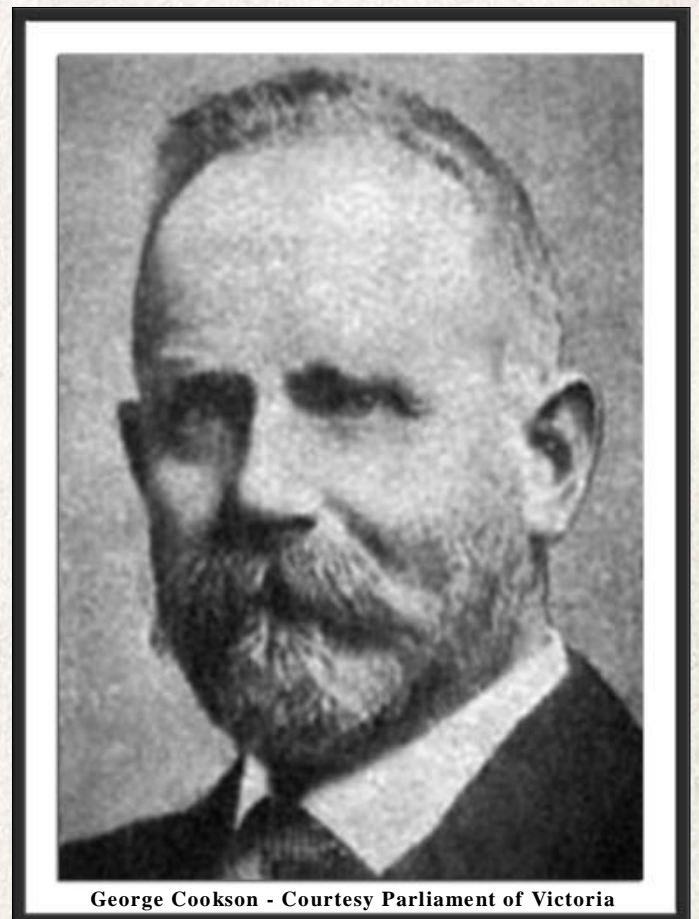
**16<sup>th</sup> August 1888:** Rev. Cahill was in the Chair. At this meeting, Dr. H. Lethbridge was authorised to purchase a new Organ, though the price was not disclosed. There were also some discussions on a new Church, but it is necessary to remember that the existing Church was on the Webster / Nihil Street corner and they had in recent years [1885] purchased a Rectory in Downey Street. A good deal of this meeting is devoted to how they firstly fund the Organ and then a new Church.

**12<sup>th</sup> November 1888:** Vestry - It was reported that Miller Point [Kanumbra] had declined to buy the old organ. The Organ Fund stood at Cr £26.9.7, with a second installment of £30 due on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**January 1889:** The Guardians were George Hall, Dr. H. Lethbridge, Josiah Waymouth, H.M. Hearle, William Hill, S. Maygar and H. Sisley. George Hall was elected Secretary of the Vestry. A Guarantee for £40 was signed with the Union Bank, to guarantee the Organ Payment.

**August 1889:** Report by the Guardians on discussions with the Architects regarding a new Church, thought the cost would be of the order of £1000 and in September a Sketch Plan [for a brick church] was discussed. Regrettably no details are available, but probably they were considering a site at Webster / Nihil corner. In October, they had revised Sketch Plans and elected a Building Committee. Guardian Sisley wrote opposing the idea of a new Church and that he would not be a Guarantor or Surety for such a project.

**December 1889:** The sub-committee reported on steps to reduce the cost of a new Church and £15 was paid to Architect Inskip. George Cookson was added to the Guardians to replace George Hall. Cookson was a Shire Councillor.



George Cookson - Courtesy Parliament of Victoria





## CHAPTER FOUR

**1<sup>st</sup> February 1889:** Annual General Meeting - Vestry - It was reported in the *Alexandra Standard* that a meeting had been held and presided over by Rev. Cahill. Items of interest were that the Incumbent's stipend was £25 and the Church had recently purchased a new Organ for £86 [see earlier report]. In January 1891, again Rev. M.F. Cahill presiding, a report that a brick Chancel was about to be added to the Webster Street Church at a cost of £37.15s. Note: There is a timber Chancel in the photograph on Page 14 - c1910 - so no brick Chancel was ever built. This Chancel was probably built in 1875 with a Vestry extension in 1892. [See 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1892 on the next page]

**January 1891:** Guardians - Hutchinson, Maygar, Dr. H. Lethbridge, George Cookson, William Hill, Waymouth, Harry West, Charles Monkton.

**6<sup>th</sup> February 1891:** Vestry - The *Standard* reported that St. John's Choir to be expanded by the addition of a number of boys. Mr. J.A. Waymouth is to take charge of the entire Choir, which will probably become a surpliced choir. [There is a photograph in the Gallery of this Choir]. After this month the evening service at St. John's will be fully choral and an anthem will be sung each Sunday evening.

**September 1891:** Meeting of Guardians. Discussion on a proposal to hold a Bazaar to raise funds for a new Church.

Rescinding of previous motion. After the above discussion, a proposal to rescind a previous agreement to work towards a new church was agreed, with one in opposition. Then a proposal that the proceeds of the bazaar go to Church Funds.

**October 1891:** At the following meeting Dr. H. Lethbridge - the opponent of the last month's motion resigned as a Guardian.

**December 1891:** Guardians - Discussed their inability to pay the balance of the Architect's fees [Phelps, Inskip & Robertson] of £22.10. Agreed to offer £11, but by January had agreed to pay the whole amount and to continue to look at improvements to the Chancel.

**25<sup>th</sup> January 1892:** Guardians - Hutchinson, Maygar, Monkton, Hill, Waymouth, Alston, Stillman, Lipscombe. It seems that Rev. Cahill had moved on at this time. This group of Guardians were interesting people:





## CHAPTER FOUR

- Waymouth, Josia Henry followed Bainbridge as Manager of the Union Bank, but also managed to be Secretary of the Alexandra Dairy Company.
- Alston, Henry was Dog Inspector, Valuer and Rate Collector.
- Lipscombe, James - lodged the first claim for alluvial gold mining.
- Maygar, Earnest had a property in Spring Creek Rd. His brother L.C Maygar won the first V.C. by a Victorian in the Boer War.

**18<sup>th</sup> March 1892:** The *Standard* reported on a complaint that after Rev. Cahill's Induction at Kilmore, there had been no replacement at Alexandra. For two Sundays a lay reader had discharged the duties of a Minister. There was criticism in the town that a congregation was unable to raise a "paltry" £150 a year.

**April 1892:** Rev. Cahill was replaced by Rev. H.W. Lane. He arrived in April 1892.

**May 1892:** Guardians - Mr. Maygar resigned and was replaced by Mr. Elliott from Kanumbra. Rev. Lane's Stipend was set at £150 pa.

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 1892:** The *Standard* reported on an addition to the building [Webster Street] by a proper Organ Chamber, probably by a "skillion roofed" addition, also on the eastern side of the Chancel, an additional Vestry for use of the Sunday School. It was agreed to seek a loan of £50 from the Diocese and also agreed to accept Mr. Downer's price of £21.5.0 for the eastern Vestry. Note: This is probably the Vestry which appears in the photograph on Page 14, as an addition to the 1875 Chancel. See Pages 15 and 21.

**April 1898:** The *Standard* reported the service times as Matins 11 am, Evensong and Holy Communion 7 pm - Preacher Rev. H.W. Lane. In the same month a report that the Choir had lost three members, Mrs. J.A. Gordon [after a lifetime attendance], Miss E. Kellock and Miss J. Whiting.

**22<sup>nd</sup> April 1898:** The *Standard* carried eulogies for two Parishioners of St. John's, Church Organist Mrs. Waymouth [Nee Hill] and Harry Robinson, who took up the Dry Creek Run in 1870 for three years, and he was described as one of our oldest pioneers [Lloyd, page 20].

**Easter Monday:** A Church Picnic was held on the banks of the Middle Creek, Kanumbra on the property of Mr. H. Fox. A shared picnic between Yarck Wesleyan and Kanumbra Church of England Sunday Schools, at which two meals were provided.



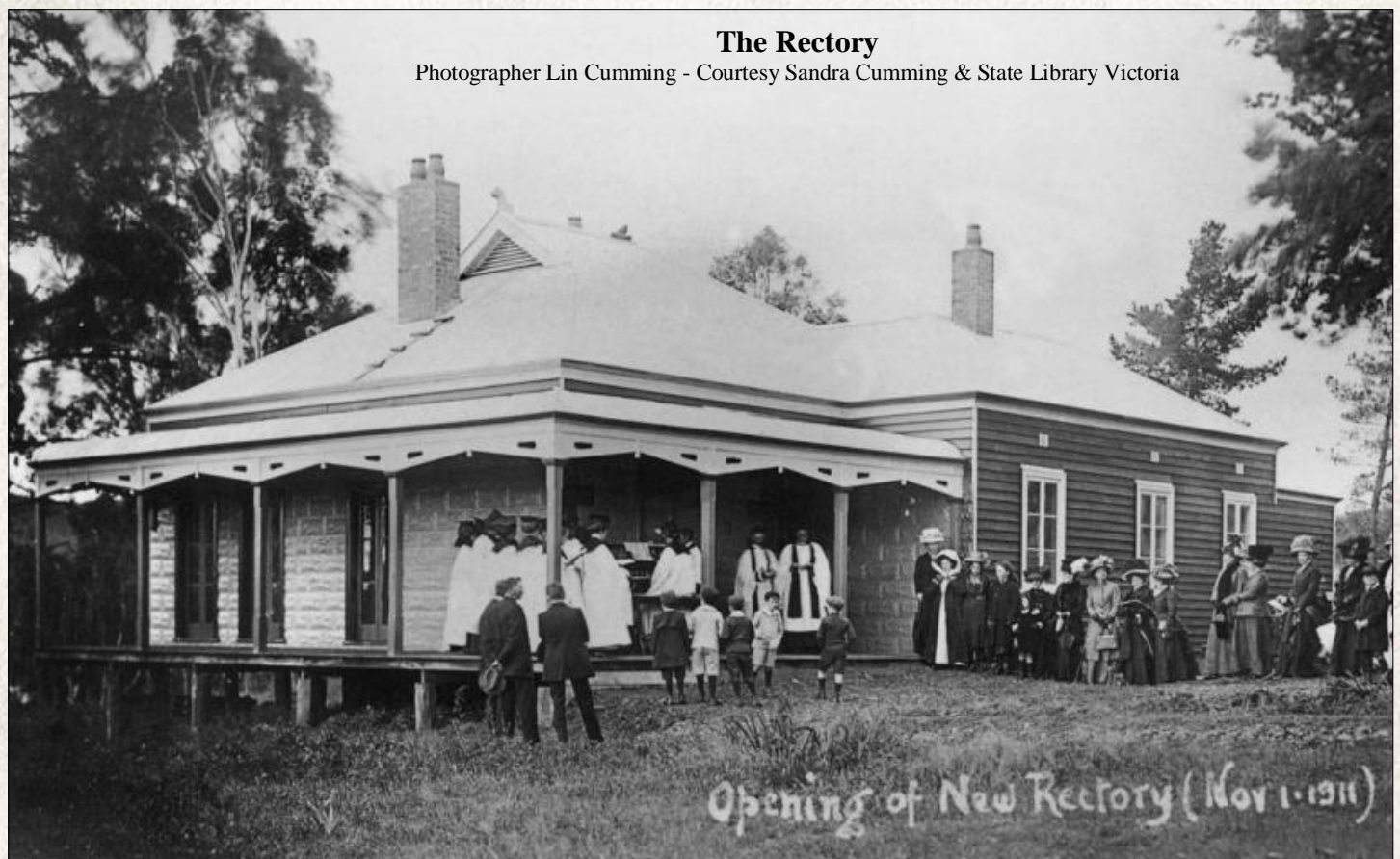
## CHAPTER FOUR

**1899:** Rev. Lane was replaced by Rev. A.W. Rowed in 1899. Seven years for Rev. Lane seems a lengthy period in those days. The *Standard* of 4<sup>th</sup> May 1900 - St. John's Church services - Matins and Holy Communion 11 am, Johnsons 3 pm, Evensong 7 pm, Preacher Rev. Augustine Rowed.

**1901:** Only a year later came Rev. W.H. Bear and in 1901 Rev. E.H. Scott. The outstanding aspect of Rev. Scott's tenure seems to have been his disagreement with the Parish about the Rectory. Brian Lloyd in his book *Alexandra & District* [Chapter 8] gives us this information "The Rectory building was pulled down in the early 1900s, as a solution to a controversy with Rev. Scott. The building to house his successor - Rev. J.A. Peck still serves the Parish".

The new Rectory was built between 1907 and 1910, during the tenure of Rev. Peck and the photograph here shows the opening of the new building in November 1911.

The early 1900s continues the pattern of short term appointments to Alexandra, as







# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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follows:

- 1908 - 1910 - Rev. J.A. Peck
- 1910 - 1914 - Rev. J.A. Watt [into the First World War period]
- 1914 - 1917 - Rev. S.O. Seward followed in the same year.
- 1917 - 1919 - Rev. C. Brammell.
- 1919 - 1921 - Rev. R.A. Scott [third Scott]
- 1921 - 1924 - Rev. E.A. Hunt

**24<sup>th</sup> March 1922:** Annual General Meeting-The *Standard* reported on discussions to provide a new concrete chancel on the Webster Street site, It was deferred for consideration and obviously never proceeded. Vestry- Wardens-Rector's - S. Walker, People's H. Wood, R. Sapsford. Vestrymen - Rector's G. Mansfield, S. Stout. People's -



**Tennis Court on the corner of Downey and Villeneuve Streets, circa 1920**  
Photographer Lin Cumming - Courtesy Sandra Cumming and State Library Victoria





## CHAPTER FOUR

Abomady, Leckie, Pearce, Howell, G.A. Payne. Dr. Gocher.

There is photograph in the gallery of the whole congregation outside the Webster Street Church. The Minister, Rev. E. A. Hunt, is in the background. The Photographer was Jas. Abomady, who was also the vestryman named in this photograph. James was the son of George Abomady, a local store keeper.

At this time (and earlier), there were nine centres in the Alexandra Parish:

- St. John's Alexandra.
- Christ Church Marysville.
- St. Thomas' Buxton.
- St. Paul's Kanumbra.
- Taggerty - using the Taggerty hall.
- St. Alban's Thornton - using the Thornton hall.
- Fawcett - using the Fawcett hall on Spring Creek Road.
- Eildon Weir - St. Paul's- using the Eildon hall.
- Acheron - using the Acheron hall.

Alexandra, Marysville and Kanumbra usually had a service each Sunday, the others usually had one service a month.

To administer all of this and allocate costs, the Church maintained a Central Council, which usually met quarterly. The meeting discussion was basically on how to apportion Stipends, Car Allowance and Car Sinking Fund and there were detailed records kept from 1923 - 1959 which survive today and provide valuable information for this period. An example follows:

**January 1923:** At Thornton [probably in the Thornton hall at this time as the Church building was not established there until 1933]. Chaired by Rector Rev. E.A. Hunt, assisted by Curate W.J. Chesterfield.

Alexandra Delegates:	- Jas. Clark, R.C. Sapsford, Harry Wood.
Buxton:	- John Batchelor, George Lewis.
Marysville:	-W. Elliott, F. Jellicoe.
Kanumbra:	- William Fox, Tim Fox.





## CHAPTER FOUR

Thornton:	- Mr. Martin.
Acheron:	- Anderson and Dobson.
Taggerty:	- Fred Walker, E. Webb.
Eildon Weir:	- Mr. Corrie.
Fawcett:	- Apology.

**June 1923:** Central Council - At the meeting at Taggerty, with Archdeacon Carter in the Chair - Rev. Hunt absent. The decision on contributions made was; Alexandra £155, Marysville £64, Kanumbra £34, Buxton £13.10, Taggerty £13.15, Fawcett £12, Gobur and Acheron £6.15 - Total £300.

**1924-1928:** Rev. S.H. Burrridge.

**January 1925:** Central Council met at Alexandra, with Rev. S.H. Burrridge in the Chair. The meeting was mainly about non-payment of contributions by centres and the purchase of a Parish car.

**13<sup>th</sup> January 1926:** Vestry - Rector Rev. S.H. Burrridge, Gocher, Mayne, Leckie, Enscoe, Payne, Pilcher, Guthridge. This is likely a relative of John William Leckie who was a property owner in Acheron, also served as Shire President, President of the Hospital Committee, was Member for Benambra, and father of Dame Pattie Menzies GBE. Leckie Park in Alexandra was named in his honour. William Mayne owned Mulla Mullane Station.

**In March 1926:** Central Council, with Rev. S.H. Burrridge in the Chair at Taggerty: Alexandra represented by Guthridge, Wood and Pearce. Fawcett by Blackburn and Parsons. Taggerty by Webb and Walker. Buxton, Marysville and Kanumbra, not represented. Eildon, now a very small township had dropped out in 1927, services to be provided when possible, but not by reducing services elsewhere.

**12<sup>th</sup> May 1926:** Mr. Pearce of Clark & Pearce agreed to meet the costs of issue of a Parish Paper.

**9<sup>th</sup> June 1926:** Failure of Marysville to meet its financial commitments, services to be reduced in number, unless an overdraft could be arranged at the bank.

**11<sup>th</sup> October 1926:** It was reported that the Church had insufficient funds to meet its





## CHAPTER FOUR

commitments. Agreed to ask the Ladies Guild to devote the whole proceeds of the forthcoming bazaar.

**8<sup>th</sup> November 1926:** Ladies Guild thanked for £75 - proceeds of the bazaar.

**14<sup>th</sup> March 1927:** Marysville purchased the old organ for £30. At the same meeting a proposal to seek permission from the Bishop to sell the Rectory at Auction, with a view to a new Rectory on the land adjacent to the Church [in Webster Street]. £200 to be set aside for a Parish Hall Fund. Note: Obviously no thought of moving the Church to the Rectory site at this time!

**September 1927:** Vestry - Valuation of Rectory site £1250 - Reserve £1250, expected cost of new Rectory £1000 - on Webster Street Site.

**December 1927:** Vestry - Thanks to Ladies Guild for £50 from the Bazaar.

**May 1928:** Vestry - Legacy of £200 from Giles Estate.

**1928-1931:** Rev. W.A. Williams.

**9<sup>th</sup> July 1928:** Vestry - The State School Committee asked about price of land adjoining the School. It was agreed to meet them on site.

**10<sup>th</sup> September:** Vestry - It was agreed to sell a small parcel of land adjoining the School for £100 to the School Committee. The Vestry received a Report of a meeting of the Central Council on 29<sup>th</sup> July, where the Stipend was raised to £400, and the Rector was required to provide his own car and travelling expenses. Alexandra's quota was raised to £206 PA. 50% of the proceeds from the Church Fete was to go to the Building Fund.

Note: reading these records, one wonders where this new Church was to be built? Probably on the Webster Street Site, because of the above discussion on selling the Rectory site and building on the Webster Street site.

**1931-1935:** Rev. L.G. Ball.

**1932:** Annual General Meeting - Rev. L.G. Ball in the Chair for his first meeting. Churchwardens G.E. Pearce and H. Wood - The Rector reserved his nomination. Vestry -





## CHAPTER FOUR

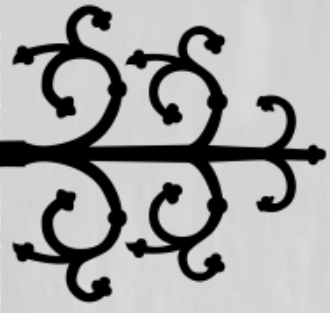
J.T. Guthridge, E.W. Wilcoxian, R.S. Smith. [Gilbert Pearce was part of the Clark & Pearce Mill, Harry Wood later became Shire Secretary].

**By 1933:** Central Council - The Parish was in somewhat of a crisis, with all centres struggling to meet their quota. In May 1933 at Taggerty, with Rev. Ball - the Curate from Eildon in the Chair, the Total allocated in Quotas was £375. At the Meeting-May 1934, it was agreed to write to the Bishop seeking Financial aid.

**13<sup>th</sup> March 1933:** Annual General Meeting - Elections resulted in Rector's Warden - G.A. Payne, People's Wardens - H. Wood and G.E. Pearce. [H. Wood was Shire Secretary -1917 to 1940] Vestry - J.T. Guthridge, Don Baetz, Arthur Potter. [J.T. Guthridge was owner of the *Standard* Newspaper from 1921].

**12<sup>th</sup> March 1934:** Annual General Meeting - The Rector L.G. Ball reserved his nomination. People's Wardens G.E. Pearce and H Wood. Vestry - Arthur Potter, J.T. Guthridge and D. Baetz.





# CHAPTER FIVE

PLANNING THE NEW CHURCH



## CHAPTER FIVE

**1935-1939:** Rev. Douglas Blake - Presided over the construction of the new Church on the Downey Street site and the move [rebuilding] of the old Church building as the Church hall to that site.

**October 1935:** Rev. Blake was welcomed to his first meeting of the Central Council, which was still struggling with the financial crisis and seeking ways to even the load between the parish centres.



**February 1936:** Rev. Blake in the Chair, Building Account £800 with Vestry debt and interest - Total £868. Churchwardens - Guthridge, Wood and Pearce. Vestry G.A. Payne, Carter, Potter, Bunting, Anderson, Williams.

**4 May 1936:** Vestry - Meeting held on this day it was advised that the Vestry was investigating a new Church.

A Building Committee was appointed - Messrs Anderson, Pearce, Carter, Guthridge, Rev. Blake as Chair. To deal with every aspect of the new Church building.

**4<sup>th</sup> August 1936:** Vestry - The Report of the Building Committee was received.

### **New Church Recommendations:**

- That a title for the site of the present Church be applied for immediately.
- That the rectory site be accepted as suitable [for the new Church] and be recommended to the Parishioners.
- That the old Church be moved to the rectory site at an approx. cost of £100 and the old site be offered for sale.
- That a recommendation be made to the parishioners that the new Church be either





## CHAPTER FIVE

brick or concrete.

- That the expenditure for the new building not to exceed £1500, including fittings.
- That an immediate application is made for Title and permission be sought to sell the old site, from the Diocese, also that a Grant be sought.

**14<sup>th</sup> September 1936:** Vestry - A letter was received from Meldrum Architects, that the church should be constructed in concrete, not brick. The Committee agreed.

**6<sup>th</sup> October 1936:** SPECIAL Meeting of Parishioners - A Motion was agreed that read "That this meeting of Parishioners consider it an opportune time to proceed with the building of a new church. To be built on the Rectory site." The Vestry was authorised to proceed with obtaining plans and specifications and tenders to be invited - to be submitted to a further meeting of Parishioners. Further that the present Church be removed to the Rectory site at the earliest convenient date.

**25<sup>th</sup> October 1936:** Extraordinary Meeting of the Vestry in the Church - A motion was carried at this meeting that the School Committee be offered the whole frontage of the Church property in Webster Street for £200, subject to the Vestry being allowed time to remove the present Church.

**16<sup>th</sup> November 1936:** Vestry - It was advised that the School Committee had written advising that the Education Department was prepared to pay £200 for the Church grounds. It was agreed to accept this, subject to a provision of not exceeding 6 months to move buildings.

**October 1936:** Central Council - Rev. Blake in the chair, with Alexandra representatives - Pearce and Wood, Marysville - Dowdle and Couzens, Taggerty - Webb and Walker, Buxton - Fiske, Guthridge [Secretary] and an apology from Kanumbra.

The Council faced a Diocesan requirement of £386 and allocated it to:

Alexandra	£ 200
Marysville	90
Kanumbra	37
Eildon Weir	15
Buxton	17
Taggerty	17





## CHAPTER FIVE

Thornton 10

Fawcett seems to have faded out of the picture.

**18<sup>th</sup> January 1937:** Vestry - Accepted the Architect's proposal of three and one half % Fee for plans for the new Church.

**5<sup>th</sup> April 1937:** Vestry - Mr. Lancier Thompson to accompany the Rector to Melbourne to be present at the opening of Tenders. Mr. Thompson had recently joined the Vestry - he was the Shire Engineer - and had agreed to supervise the construction of the new church.

**5<sup>th</sup> July 1937:** Vestry - It was reported that after earlier discussions with the Architect, the Rector and Mr. Thompson had delivered revised plans to go to the three lowest tenderers for re-pricing. Financing the new Church was discussed, agreed to aim for £400 from Parishioners and seek an Overdraft with seven Guarantors required.

**1<sup>st</sup> August 1937:** Parishioners Meeting - The recommendation to accept the price of Mr. G.A. Payne of £1885 was presented. To this must be added Architects fees, removal cost of the old Church, etc. making a total outlay of £2000. The Rector Rev. Blake explained the financial situation to the meeting, with an Overdraft of £500 arranged and donations promised, there would be about £250 needed to meet all commitments.

Recommendation from the meeting - "That the Building Committee be informed that this Meeting agrees to proceed". The Builder - Mr. G. Payne - offered to erect, free of cost, entrance gates to the new Church in memory of Mrs. G. Payne Snr. Mr. Payne Snr. offered £100 towards the extra cost of a tiled roof for the Church.

### **Foundation Stone:**

The Foundation Stone is to be laid by the Bishop, if possible, if not Rev. Blake. The date was set for 1<sup>st</sup> November 1937 - altered later to 13<sup>th</sup> November 1937 and was carried out by Rev. Douglas Blake - Rector.

**1<sup>st</sup> November 1937:** It was decided that the ceiling in the new Church should be of selected local hardwood.

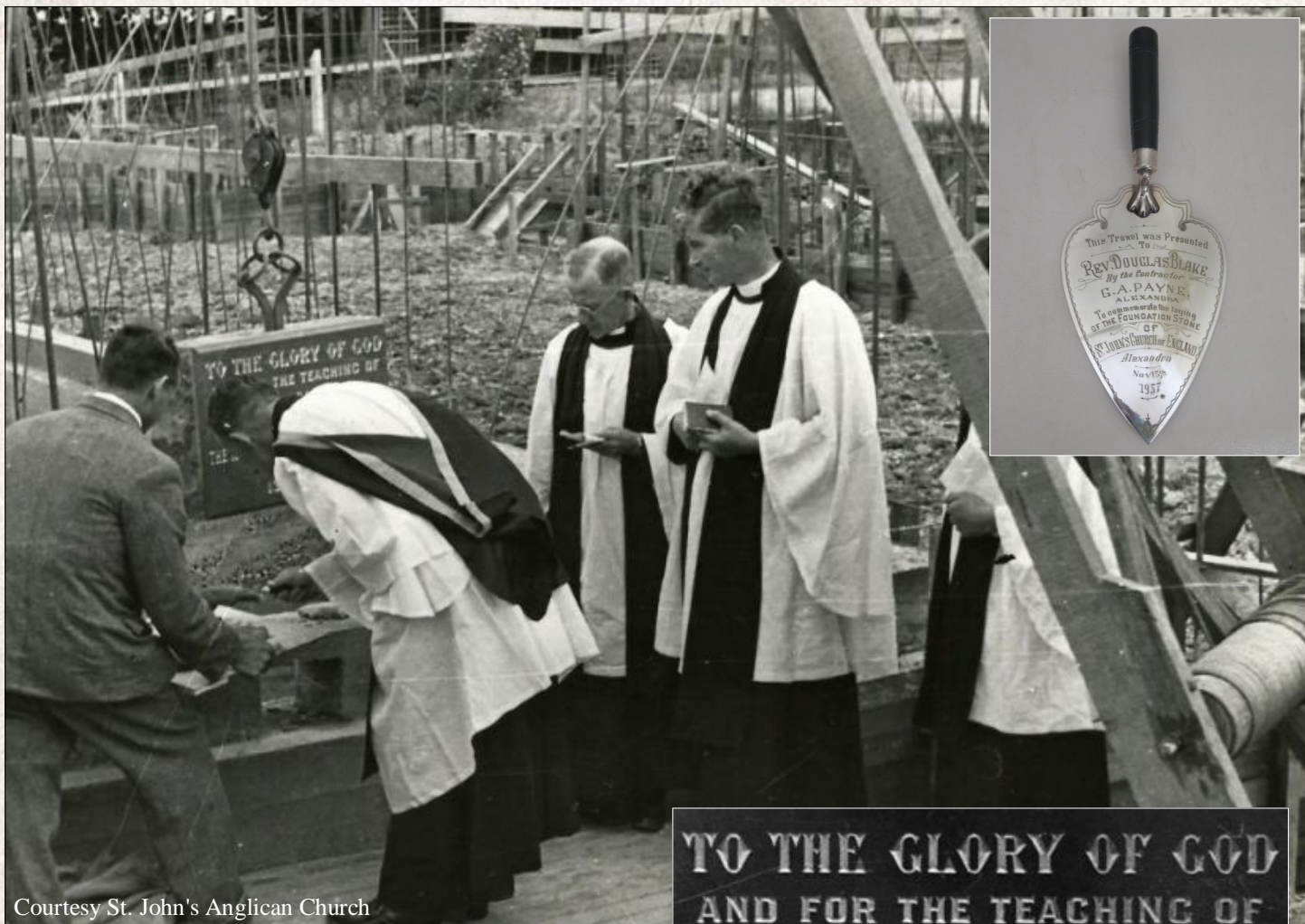
**6<sup>th</sup> December 1937:** Vestry - Received a Report on finances of the new Church, showing an approximate final cost of £2200, including a £500 overdraft. £80 had been





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER FIVE



Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church

contributed by the Ladies Guild. It was advised that £100 would be available from the Memorial Fund for furnishings.

**14<sup>th</sup> March 1938:** Annual General Meeting - Wardens elected - Guthridge, Wood and Pearce. Vestry - Howell, Anderson, Payne, Bunting, Carter and Sapsford. At this meeting Plans were requested for moving the old church to the new site and thanks were expressed to Clarke & Pearce for the donation of the dressed timber for the ceiling of the new church.

**April 1938:** Central Council - at Buxton was again chaired by Rev. Blake, the Council debated selling some of the Rectory land, possibly planning for capital for the

TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND FOR THE TEACHING OF  
THE CATHOLIC FAITH  
THIS STONE WAS LAID BY  
THE REV. DOUGLAS BLAKE TH. SCHOL.  
RECTOR  
13. 11. 1937.







# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER FIVE

proceeding construction of the new Church on the front of that land. At the same meeting, it was discussed how the Council now faced a commitment to the Diocese of £415, to be allocated between the eight centres, presumably including Fawcett.

**May 1938:** Vestry - A tentative date for opening of the new Church on Downey Street was discussed and set for 13<sup>th</sup> August 1938. It was agreed to offer the old Church building in Webster Street to the Education Department for a minimum price of £120. If not accepted, it was decided to continue with the move of the old Church to Downey Street.



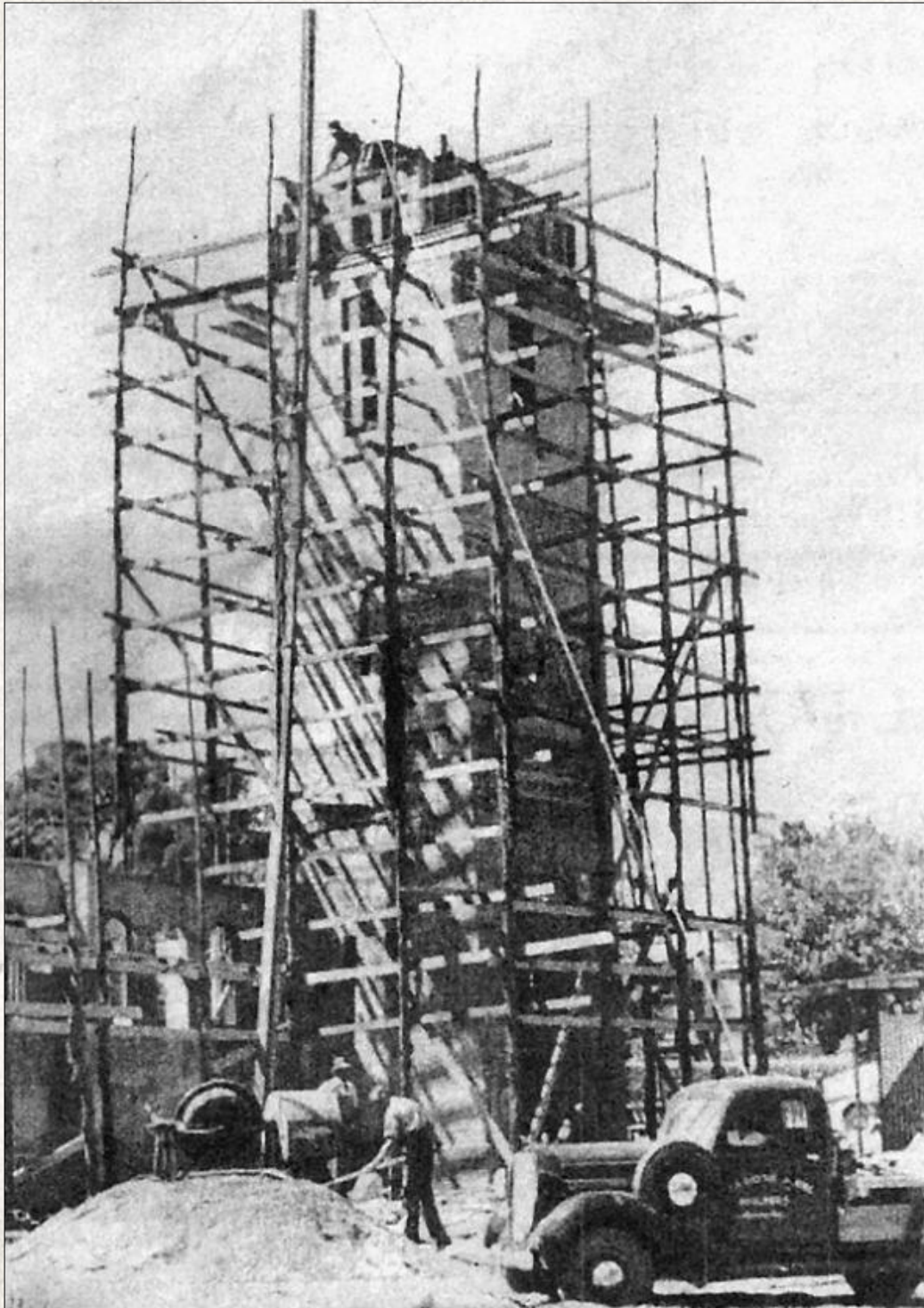
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER FIVE



Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER FIVE



**Trowel presented to the Rev. Douglas Blake by contractor GA Payne and used during the laying of the Foundation Stone in 1937**

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# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER FIVE

Courtesy St. John's  
Anglican Church



Courtesy St. John's  
Anglican Church







# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER FIVE

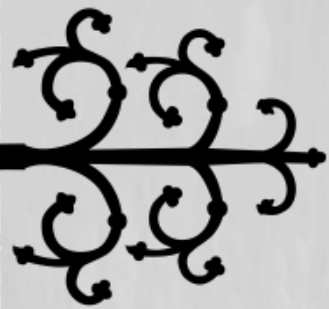


Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church



Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church





# CHAPTER SIX

COMPLETING THE NEW CHURCH AND HALL





## CHAPTER SIX

The Anglican Church moved to its new building on the present site on Downey Street in 1938.

Miles Lewis` Australian Architectural records show sketch designs in 1935 by Architect Louis R. Williams of 100 Queen Street, Melbourne for St. John`s Church. The new church, constructed by George A. Payne & Son, Master Builder, was constructed of reinforced concrete. As early records show, this was partly because obtaining bricks in Alexandra was difficult at that time. The foundation stone was laid on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1937 by the Rector Rev. Douglas Blake. The style was described as “Arts and Crafts Continuing Gothic Norman.”

The Opening of the new Church, by the Bishop of Wangaratta - The Very Reverend J.S. Hart - was on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1938. The actual cost of the new Church [apart from furnishings] was quoted at £2036. Mr. George Payne Snr. donated £100 to have a tiled roof instead of galvanised iron, as previously reported.

It was consecrated in August 1943 by the Right Reverend T.M. Armour, Bishop of Wangaratta. See more details later.

### **The Church hall at Downey Street:**

As outlined earlier, the present Church hall was the original timber church, constructed in 1868 at the corner of Nihil and Webster Streets, Alexandra. This building was dismantled and the components moved to its current site in 1938, rebuilt and enlarged, including a new roof [of 1938 roofing iron - advice of Ken Ackerman], next to the new Church and has been used as the church hall since then. A plaque inside the hall commemorates it as the first church built in 1868. [Perhaps the plaque should record the substantial changes and that it was rebuilt on the new site]. The Shire Heritage Study notes that a



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## CHAPTER SIX

1909 photograph, said to be of the first church, is significantly different and comments that the roof may have been changed when it was moved onto the present site.

Our history records that by the 6<sup>th</sup> of September this work had been done and Mr. Pearce had been asked to prepare to open the new hall on the Downey Street site. As mentioned elsewhere in this history, it is interesting to speculate in what form the old Church arrived on site. Later in this history, we will attempt to show where additions were made, but it does appear that it arrived on site without the present stage, toilets, store room at the northern end or the meeting room and kitchen on the western side. Also it had a totally new roof.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1938, the *Standard* carried a report of the Village Fair organised by the ladies of St. John's Guild, probably to raise funds for the new Church Overdraft. Insurance was tentatively arranged for the new Church at £2000 pounds and hall at £300.

### **The Rectory:**

We believe that the present Rectory was built between 1907 and 1910, and was officially opened in November 1911 [see Chapter Four - Page 22]. From recent research, the earlier building and site appears to have been leased from 1869, at a cost of around £30 PA, at a time when the Rector was being paid £25 PA. It



Photographer Lin Cumming  
Courtesy Sandra Cumming and  
State Library Victoria 2017

is also now clear that the site was purchased in 1885 at a cost of around £250, in the time of Rev. Cahill. After a dispute between the Guardians and Rev. E.H. Scott [1901-1907] the earlier building was demolished and later rebuilt for Rev. J.A. Peck. Brian Lloyd in his book *Alexandra & District* notes that it "continues to serve the parish". Some repairs and repainting were carried out in 1950 at a cost of around £500. It was restored and extended in 1987 at a cost of approximately \$50,000. More details on this later.





## CHAPTER SIX

### DOWNEY STREET

1

#### THE ORIGINAL HALL

The original hall was dismantled and removed from its former site on the corner of Webster and Nihil Streets, and rebuilt at its current Downey Street site to a slightly different design

**MEETING  
ROOM**  
Built 1947-52

**KITCHEN**  
Built 1947-52  
and renovated  
1966

2

**STAGE**  
Built 1946

**STORE**  
Built 1946

**STORE**  
Built 1947-52  
and renovated  
1966

3

The stages of rebuilding and extending the hall - see following images





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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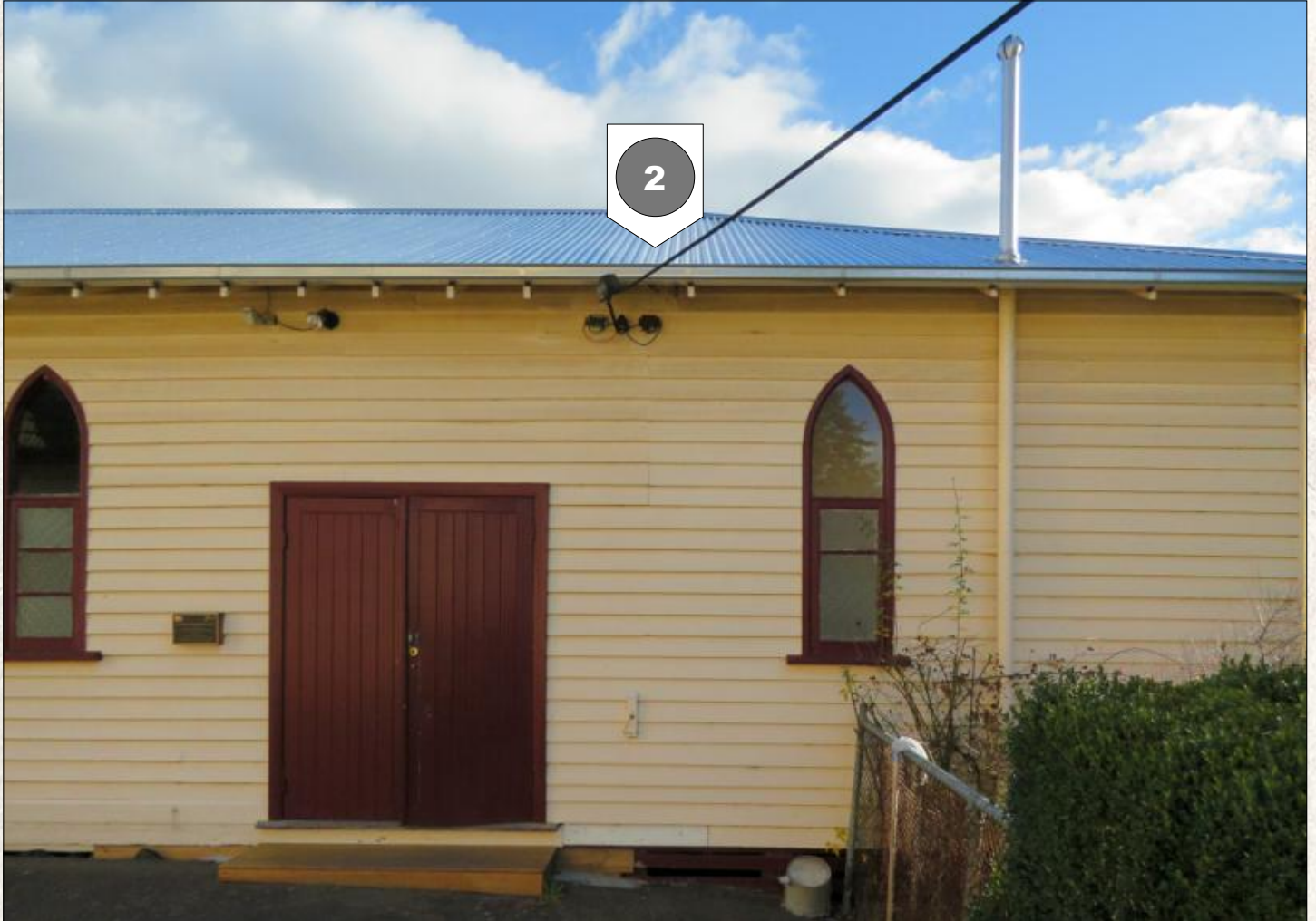
**Signs of the extensions to the old hall are still evident.**  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





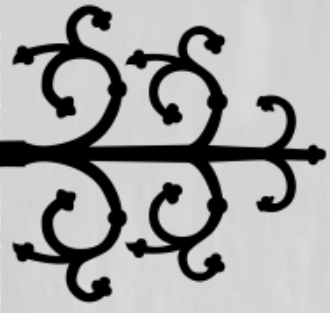
# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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**Signs of the extensions to the old hall are still evident.**  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# CHAPTER SEVEN

THE WIDER PARISH



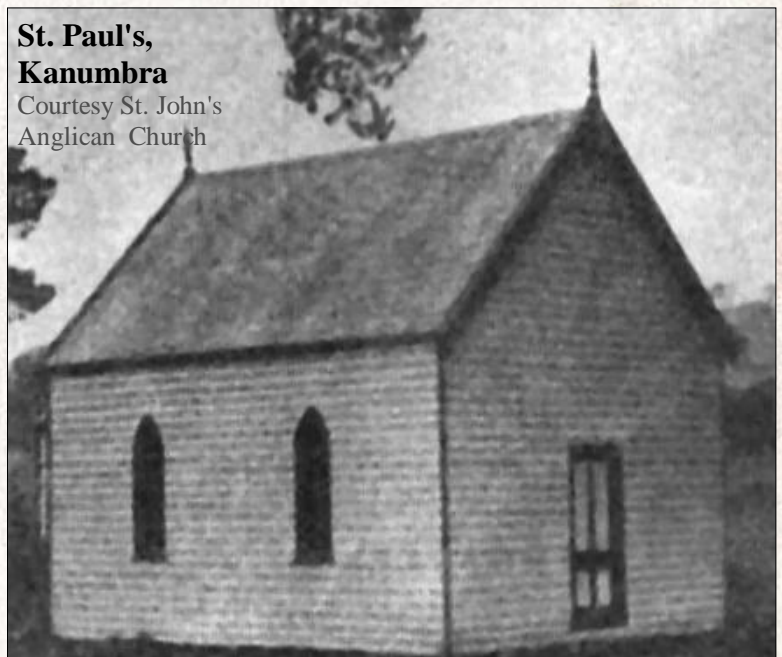


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Key dates for the wider parish are recorded throughout, but Norma Miller's *Partners In Mission 1984* provides much more information about the wider parish.

### **St. Paul's Kanumbra:**

Mr. James Snr. and Mrs. Sarah Fox were married in Coburg in 1856. James Fox Snr. selected allotments at Kanumbra in 1871 and purchased *Lorton Vale* in 1881 when he and Sarah moved to the area. They were the instigators to have a Church built at Kanumbra. Mr. McGuigan, an adjoining land owner, donated the land for the Church around 1873 and services commenced about 1880/81 with the Church building being completed about 1888.



**St. Paul's,  
Kanumbra**  
Courtesy St. John's  
Anglican Church

Mr. McGuigan had a falling out with the Anglican Minister of the time and turned Methodist, and the Methodist Church was built on the same site. A history of the Kanumbra Methodist Church and the Yarck Presbyterian Church, written by Pat McGuigan, tells how there was cooperation between the Anglican and Methodist Churches of Kanumbra, with a joint Sunday School being held after services.

Thomas Fox, son of James, was church Secretary for over 50 years, then his son Eric took over until 1976. Five branches of the Fox family comprised most of the congregation, numbers were good, there were numerous baptisms, but only two weddings and a few funerals. In the early days, services were held only once a month, later once a fortnight.

Linen was crocheted by Elvie Fox and she was organist from 1920 to 1945, then Jean Fox took over. In later years furnishings were donated in memory of Charles, William, Thomas and Timothy Fox and wives.

The "Blessing of the Fleece" was started by Rev. Angus Cooper and held in Eric Fox's woolshed, then alternatively with Roy Fox. [See photograph in the Gallery]





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER SEVEN

Services at Kanumbra eventually ceased and the Church land was sold in May 1987. The furnishings of Kanumbra provided the Chapel at St. John's, with the stained glass window in the Chapel, which was donated by the Ladies Guild as a final distribution of their funds. In the Church, adjacent to the Vestry door, a fine stained glass window remembers Doris, wife of Roy Fox. Roy died in June 2016, after a lifetime of service to the church and the community, particularly the CFA and the Rotary Club of Alexandra. He received an OAM in 2016. Roy's daughter Sharon, also a Rotarian, recently donated to St. John's a large Bible and book of common prayer which once were used in St. Paul's Kanumbra.

### **St. Alban's Thornton: 1930 to 1984**

Only Anglican and Presbyterian services were held in Thornton. These took place in the old Thornton hall until the 1930's.

The former Police Station and cell, a small weatherboard structure, was moved from Eildon to Thornton, to form St. Alban's Church, in 1933. It had been used for that purpose during the construction of the Eildon Dam from 1914 to 1924 [interrupted by the War]. The Thornton people had been saving up and purchased the Eildon building (price not mentioned). See the account in the *Alexandra Standard* of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2003.



**St. Alban's, Thornton**  
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The site was donated by the Sparke family [for a nominal sum of £10]. Mrs. Olivia Sparke died in 1934 and the pews were made and donated in her name. The cross was donated by Mrs. Brightie Weinberg in memory of her mother, Mrs. Stillman of Alexandra and the candlesticks in memory of Peter Rollason, died aged about three.

The Anglican and Presbyterian ladies have always enjoyed a close relationship. The Guild ladies redecorated the interior completely.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER SEVEN

Rev. Fred Morrey (1967-1970) was very popular with the young people of Thornton and for a time there was a number of young people attending Church, including Mary Robb and her four sons who attended regularly. But many young people, like the Robb boys, moved from the district for education and employment. The Church closed in the 1980's, prematurely in the opinion of some parishioners, and the land and building were sold.

### **St. Paul's Eildon:**

The first entry in the Eildon Register of Services was on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1915. Services were held at the Upper Thornton hall, then at Eildon Weir hall until 1925.

In May 1924, a start was made to erect an Anglican Church at Eildon. This was on land allocated by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. The first service was held in the new building in March 1925, by the Rev. Bruce Hall. [See photograph of the Church in the Gallery]

On Palm Sunday 1925, 47 members of the Church community attended the service of Dedication by the Bishop of Wangaratta.

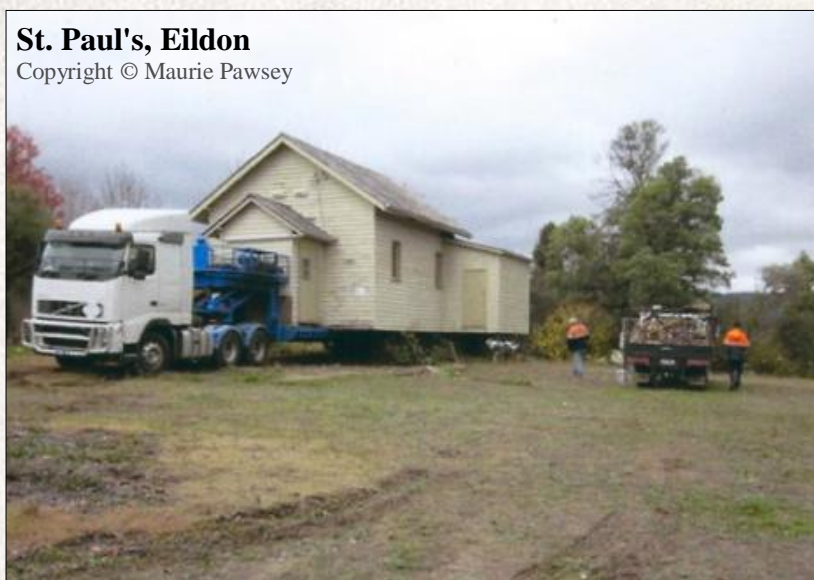
In 1951, when the Big Eildon Project was commenced, the Church was moved to the corner of High and Fifth Streets, in the new Township. The land was later sold to the Church for £100 by State Waters and Water Supply Commission.

In recent years, after the turn of the Century, attendances declined and for a time the Presbyterian and Anglicans conducted joint services. Efforts were made to establish a joint rebuilding or shared accommodation project, but without success.

Both Churches decided to sell their sites and the Eildon community, through the efforts particularly of Anglican Dick McKernan, applied successfully to the Diocese for the St. Paul's building and contents to

**St. Paul's, Eildon**

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## CHAPTER SEVEN

be transferred to the Eildon Museum site, in 2013. This work was completed after a great deal of personal labour largely by Dick McKernan.

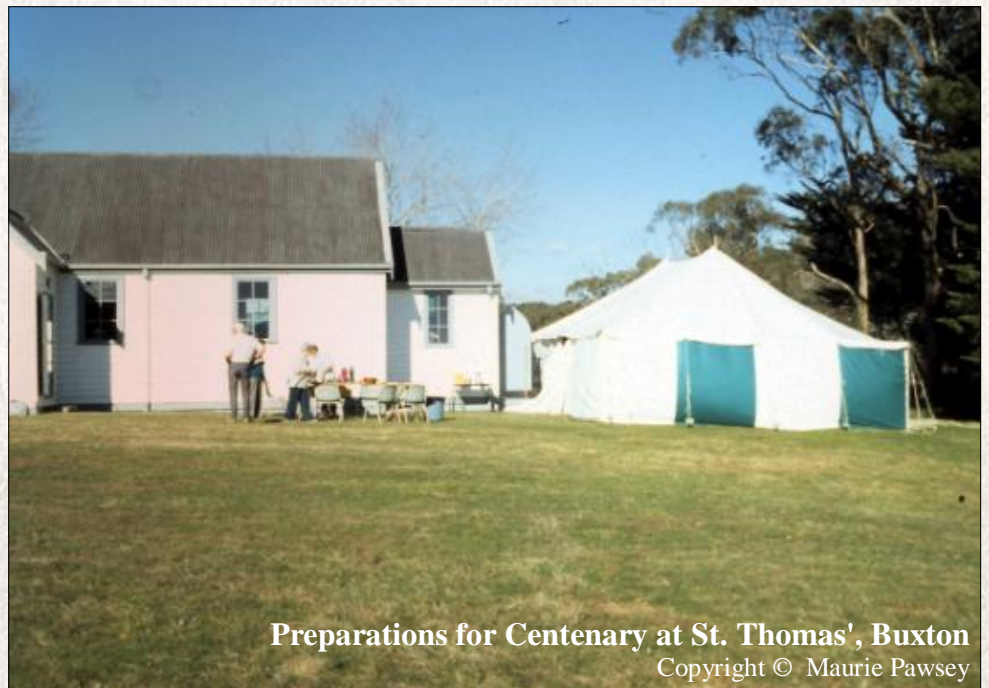
### **Buxton and Marysville:**

The Church of St. Thomas' at Buxton, was dedicated by Dr. Coe, the Archbishop of Melbourne on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1895.

Christ Church, Marysville was built in 1912 and enlarged in 1942 and in 1959 [after being moved down from a higher position on the site] with the Rectory nearby. The timber church was much loved by the Marysville community and the many visitors to the town.

The Marysville and Buxton Parish separated from the Alexandra Parish during the tenure of the Rev. John Clayden 1961-1966, due to the amount of work for one priest in the then Parish and the continued development of the Marysville community and remains a separate parish to date.

The Centenary of the Buxton church was celebrated at a very large service conducted by the Bishop of Wangaratta - the Right Rev. Paul Richardson, in 1995, after extensive renovations to the Church. It was organised by a committee of the total congregation, chaired by the Rector, Father Andrew Schreuder, Verger Ivy Smith, the Duncan, Clement and Pawsey families. Several



Preparations for Centenary at St. Thomas', Buxton  
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very large marquees were needed, the Church continues to be active as part of the Marysville / Buxton Parish. The Church survived the 2009 Bushfires.



## CHAPTER SEVEN

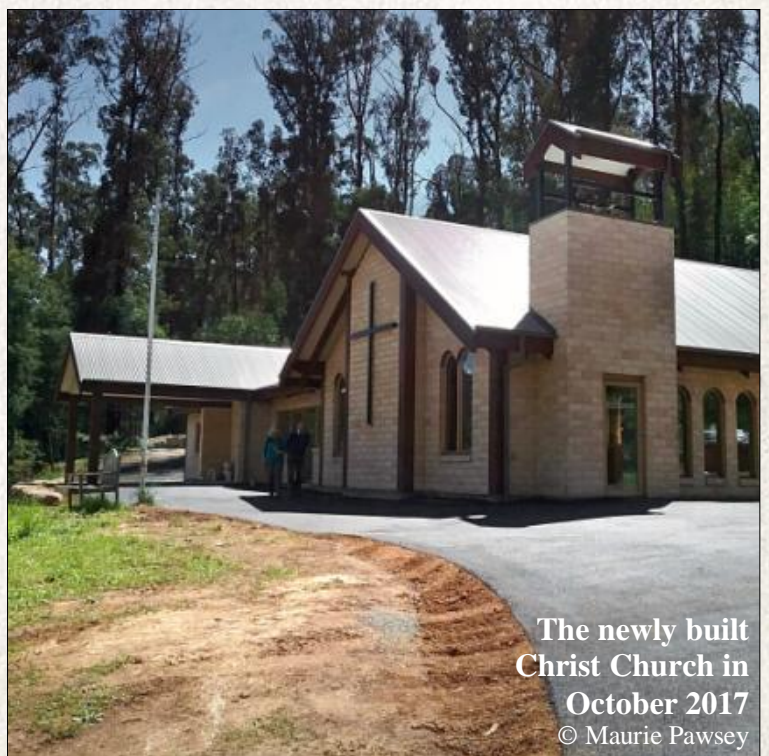
The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christ Church was celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2002, at a service conducted by Rector Father Andrew Schreuder and the Right Rev. David Farrer, Bishop of Wangaratta.

On Black Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Christ Church burnt with most of the township of Marysville, but the Rectory survived, with Father Schreuder's own house. Some 34 of the residents of the town died in the devastating fires and this included several of the congregation. After the fire, most of the displaced Marysville population slept in houses, St. John's hall, on floors etc in Alexandra, after a convoy of some 200 people, including Father Andrew Schreuder, led by several devoted policemen from Woods Point and Marysville, reached Alexandra. Father Andrew felt that there had been some divine intervention, when his house and then his car, parked at the Golf Club, were unharmed, although a large truck alongside the car was burned out.

Services continued in Marysville, in the temporary building provided by the Roman Catholic Church and the Buxton Church, on alternate Sundays. Plans to replace Christ Church building were in progress for some years and after some changes of mind and approach, a new Committee was established in 2014, that included the author of this history. It was chaired by Team Vicar Father John Jessop, and work on a new building commenced in 2016 on the same site. The new church was handed over in October 2017, and dedicated in November 2017, by the Very Rev. Bishop John Parkes, Bishop of Wangaratta.



**Christ Church Marysville,  
before the 2009 fire**  
Copyright © Maurie Pawsey



**The newly built  
Christ Church in  
October 2017**  
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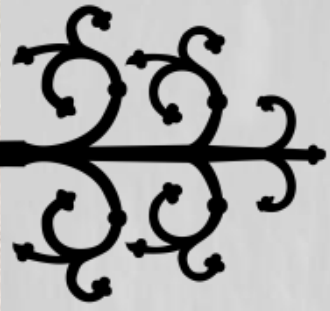
# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER SEVEN

The Church Bell used in the new building was the one first installed in 1915 in a separate wooden structure. When this failed, some years later, a new steel structure was built in its place by David Perry. Given in the name of Alice Ada Taylor, the Bell has now been placed in a tower in the new church.

While the Parish remains separate, a Team ministry was established between Alexandra, Marysville / Buxton and Yea. The Team Rector was Father Paul Wood of Alexandra with a Parish Vicar at Yea, and Marysville / Buxton, with Father Graeme Brown of Alexandra also participating.





# CHAPTER EIGHT

THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S ALEXANDRA FROM 1939







## CHAPTER EIGHT

**20<sup>th</sup> March 1939:** Annual General Meeting - Rev. Douglas Blake was thanked for his leadership during his time leading to the construction of the new Church and successful move of the old Church [rebuilt] to serve as a Parish hall. Wardens - Rector's - Mr. Guthridge. People's - Pearce and Wood. Vestry - Rector's - Barton and Fitzroy. People's - Thompson, Howell, Trennery J, Trennery E, G.A. Payne, Sapsford. The Hall Committee was: C. Kilpatrick, J. Trennery, E. Trennery, Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Deal, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Johnson.

To keep in mind the make-up and involvement of the members in the community - of the Vestry and the Hall Committee - J.T. Guthridge was the owner of the *Standard*, Gilbert Pearce was joint owner of Clark & Pearce-the timber mill, Henry Wood was Shire Secretary, G.A. Payne was a Builder, Jack Trennery was Production Manager at the mill and Herbert Fitzroy was Vice-President of the Alexandra Ambulance Service.

**7<sup>th</sup> April 1939:** The *Standard* reported on the evening service at St. John's. On that night, Rev. Douglas Blake presented Mrs. F.J. Stillman with a bronze fire-screen, in appreciation of her services as organist for a long term of years.

Rev. Blake's replacement in 1939 was Rev. E.A. Leaver. Rector during the war years. One time Secretary of the Australian Board of Missions.

**1<sup>st</sup> August 1939:** Vestry - Rev. Leaver in the Chair. Buxton Church would like the Altar and the prayer desk from the old Church. Agreed.

Financial :	Building Fund	Dr £358
	Church	Cr £22
	Parish hall	Dr £146

**October 1939:** Repair of the Rectory to be placed on the Agenda for the next Central Council, which next month agreed to spend up to £30 on the Rectory.

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 1939:** Lavatories at this time were outside.

**27<sup>th</sup> February 1942:** The *Standard* tells us that Sunday services at St. John's in those times were: Alexandra 8 am and 7 pm, Kanumbra 11 am and Taggerty 2.30 pm. Preacher



## CHAPTER EIGHT

Rev. E.A. Leaver. In the same article, the Parish Annual Meeting was to be held that Sunday in the Parish hall.

**1<sup>st</sup> March 1942:** Annual General Meeting - Rev. Leaver in the Chair. Wardens - Rector's - Guthridge. People's - Pearce and Wood. Vestry - Rector's - Sapsford and Fitzroy. People's - Payne, Dodd, Trennery, Kerr. Ladies Guild and GFS thanked for their support, also Organist Mrs. Gillespie and Choir.

**8<sup>th</sup> May 1942:** Vestry - Dangerous condition of Rectory verandah to be investigated. Secretary Mr. Sapsford resigned [War Service], Mr. Clifton elected as replacement.

**23<sup>rd</sup> May 1943:** A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service for the original Church of 1868 was held, which followed a re-union on the Saturday night, which featured an address by Mr. C.R. Long on the history of the establishment of the Church in 1868.

**8<sup>th</sup> June 1943:** Vestry - Discussion on selling some of the land behind the Rectory - application to the Diocese to be made.

### **Consecration of St. John's:**

The event of Rev. Leaver's time was probably the Consecration of St. John's new Church, now free of debt. On Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1943, the recently elected Bishop Right Reverend T.M. Armour, paid his first official visit to the Alexandra Parish.

On the Saturday night, he was welcomed at a social evening in the Parish hall, with addresses by Rector E.A. Leaver, Church community representative Mr. G Pearce and President of the Shire Councillor Davy. He was presented with a walking stick, made from local timbers.



Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church





## CHAPTER EIGHT

On the Sunday at 11 am, the Church was consecrated and the Order of Service was set out in the *Standard*. In the evening a Confirmation service was held. On the Monday, it was a visit to Marysville and Buxton and on Tuesday meetings of the Ladies Guild and Church Vestry.

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 1943:** Vestry - Thanks to Hall Committee in completing payments on a new piano and in clearing debt on the Hall Account, presumably debt from converting the old Church into a hall.

**21<sup>st</sup> February 1944:** Annual General Meeting - Rector's Warden nomination - Guthridge. People's - Gilbert Pearce and G.A. Payne. Vestry - Rector's - Clifton and Fitzroy. People's - Dodd, Howell, Trennery, Hall, Reg. Payne, P. Armstrong. [A.E. Howell was President of the R.S.L and John W. Hall was Shire Secretary 1941-1952]. Harry Wood was thanked for 40 years of service to the Parish, he was at a time Shire Secretary. [1917-1940]. He had retired from the Parish Council, at this meeting.

A letter was received from the Registrar. It was noted that the Vestry age had been changed to allow 18 to 21 year olds to be members. At the same meeting agreed that a Branch of the CEMS [Church of England Mens Society] should be formed.

**5<sup>th</sup> September 1944:** Vestry - Letter received offering to purchase land for £120 - Deferred.

**5<sup>th</sup> December 1944:** Vestry - Sunday School picnic, 3<sup>rd</sup> February at Taggerty.

**6<sup>th</sup> March 1945:** Annual General Meeting - Wardens - Rector's - J.T. Guthridge - People's - G.A. Payne and G.E. Pearce. Vestry - Rector's - Clifton and Fitzroy. People's - Dodd, Hall, Wilson, Potter, Trennery. Howell, Armstrong, Reg. Payne, H Johnson. Secretary Trennery, Treasurer Clifton.

**25<sup>th</sup> September 1945:** Vestry - Agreed to accept £170 from Mr. Aldous for purchase of land beyond the Rectory- subject to Diocese approval.

**11<sup>th</sup> March 1946:** Annual General Meeting - The Elections resulted in Churchwardens - Rector's Warden - Mr. Guthridge, People's Wardens G.A. Payne and G.E. Pearce. Vestry -





## CHAPTER EIGHT

Rector's appointments - Mr. Clifton and Mr. Fitzroy. People's - A. E. Dodd, Mr. Howell, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Potter, Mr. Trennery and Reg. Payne. Church Secretary Mr. Trennery, Treasurer Mr. Clifton. [Jack Trennery was Production Manager at the Ru oak Mill - Reg. Payne was Group Officer at CFA - A.E. Howell was President of the RSL for a time].

The Balances in the Church Accounts were : General Account £16, Hall Account £34, Church Improvement Account £17.

**25<sup>th</sup> March 1946:** A Special Vestry Meeting - Obviously Rev. Leaver had completed his appointment and departed. Relieving Minister Rev. Hope was in the Chair and the meeting had been called to consider hiring a car [it appeared later for the Curate appointed to Eildon in preparation for the move of the Church to the new Eildon Township] and to advise Central Council of the outcome. At a later meeting in April, it was confirmed that a car had been hired from Mitchell Motors for 9 pence a Mile.

**7<sup>th</sup> May 1946:** Vestry - Rev. Hope still in the Chair, the Hall Committee was seeking approval to accumulate funds to construct a Stage and Cloakroom onto the Parish hall. At this meeting the Induction of Rev. Taylor - new Vicar - was discussed and the installation of an electric hot water service for the Rectory was agreed at a cost of £65. Funds to be found from the impending sale of land behind the Rectory, where it appears some three or four blocks were subdivided and sold, possibly to assist in the cost of building the Church. [See Vestry June 1943 - page 54]

**1946-1956:** - Rev. S. Taylor, who was previously an Air-Force Chaplain. Reported as jovial and outgoing, remembered for his sporting interests and outreach into the community. He first appears in the records as chairing a Vestry Meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1946 and receiving a letter from the Registrar regarding the sale of land, contents not disclosed.

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 1946:** Vestry - Advice was received from Central Council of an increase in Alexandra's quota of the Parish contribution to Stipend and Car Allowance, which was raised to £250 a year.

### **Titles and Land:**

In this period of 1946 to 1956, perusal of the Land Titles suggests that Land Subdivision





## CHAPTER EIGHT

LP 33512 was initiated in 1946 and approved in 1956, subdividing and presumably selling, three blocks at the northern end of the site, two on Perkins Street and one on Villeneuve Street. See attached map at the end of this chapter for more details.

The original site in the 1885 Title was some 67,000 sq ft [one acre 2 roods and 17 perches-thereabouts - as the Title so delightfully records].

After the new Title in 1956, it is now some two thirds of the original, after the three blocks were excised, the current site has roughly 40,700 sq ft. [an acre has 43,560 sq ft].

**17<sup>th</sup> February 1947:** Annual General Meeting - Wardens elected were; Mr. Gutteridge, A.E. Dodd, G.F. Pearce. Vestry - Howell and Wright, FitzRoy, G.A. Payne, Reg. Payne, Hall, Trennery and Whittaker. It is worth noting that John W. Hall was Shire Secretary from 1941 to 1952 and Jack Trennery was Production Manager at Ru oak Timber Mill.

**April 1947:** Vestry - Finance - Church Improvement Fund £125, General Account £38, Parish hall £100. It was agreed that £115 [Quota] be paid to Diocese.

**1<sup>st</sup> December 1947:** Vestry - Plans for extension to Parish hall forwarded to Wangaratta. This Project is described as a Parish Rest Room and the other centres are to be asked to assist in furnishing it.

### **Extensions to Parish Hall:**

From photos available it seems clear that the Parish hall was extended, about this time, by addition of stage and toilets on the northern side and on the western side by the rest room and kitchen. There is a photograph of the Church at the time of the Consecration, showing the hall, clearly without the present meeting room.

Current photographs show where these additions were joined to the original. It is presumed the additions were funded from the sale of the land behind the Rectory, although no reference appears in the minute books of cost or funding. In 1952 there was a motion at Vestry of thanks to those involved in completion of improvements to the Parish hall. [See plan of extensions to the hall on [page 42-44](#)]

**1949:** Annual General Meeting - Wardens - Mr. Dodd, Mr. J. Trennery, G.E. Pearce.





## CHAPTER EIGHT

Vestry - G.A. Payne, H Fitzroy, Reg. Payne, Wright, J.R. Hall, Chapman, Mason, Howell.  
Secretary J. Trennery, Treasurer Wright.

**1949:** Central Council - At Taggerty with Rev. Taylor in the Chair and the following centre representatives: Marysville - Cuzens, Alexandra - Pearce and Hall, Taggerty - Walker, Marysville - Ackerman, Buxton - Robb. The main issue was at Eildon, where the establishment of the new town and construction of the new wall, required a resident Curate.

**January 1950:** Meetings were held in the Parish Rest Room, which we presume is the current Meeting Room.

**June 1951:** Central Council - with Rev. Taylor in the Chair and Archdeacon Chesterfield in attendance, received correspondence from the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission offering four propositions for a site and new Church at Eildon, including shifting the old Church or building a new Church, but in each case, while it would be an Anglican Church, initially, other Churches could use the building, until they established their own buildings. Deferred for further consideration.

**March 1952:** A Curate was appointed for Eildon - Rev. Ball.

**1952:** Central Council - Decided that because the Parish was in arrears to the Diocese, a Levy would be called on all centres, as follows: Alexandra £20, Marysville £12, Narbethong £3, Buxton £4, Taggerty £3, Thornton £5, Kanumbra £5, Eildon £3.

**23<sup>rd</sup> February 1953:** Annual General Meeting - Wardens - G. Pearce, G.A. Payne, J.A. Trennery. Vestry - H. Robb, Stevenson, Whittington, J.W. Hall, Ellis, H. Fitzroy, E. Weeks, L. Thompson, A. Brodger, R.E. Payne. N. Creighton, G. Menhenitt. [Nothing is available about Ellis and Menhenitt, but L. Thompson is assumed to be Lancier Thompson - Shire Engineer - mentioned earlier as supervising the Church construction in 1938, which would fit with John Hall recently retired Shire Secretary]

**March 1953:** Central Council - Received a report that the Anglican Church had been moved to the new Eildon Township and that other Churches were using it for services [Methodists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholic and Lutheran]. It was decided to seek a contribution of one Guinea - £1 .1 shilling, from each church PA, for light and power.





## CHAPTER EIGHT

At this meeting new Quotas were agreed; Alexandra £400, Marysville £250, Narbethong £16, Thornton £50, Buxton £50, Kanumbra £100, Eildon £72. Total £958.

**September 1953:** Central Council - The Rector advised of correspondence from State Rivers & Water Supply Commission, that the Church would be sold the site in the new Eildon town for £100 and that a deposit of £20 had been paid. The Council offered a compromise.

He also advised that in relation to the 1946 sale of Alexandra land behind the Rectory, there were surveying problems and the Title could not be resolved.

Renovations to the Rectory were also discussed and working bees from all centres were requested to reduce the estimated cost of £500.

**1954:** Central Committee - Rev. Taylor, Marysville - Mr. Cuzens, Alexandra - Mr. Fitzroy, Thornton - Mr. Sparke and Mr. Rollason, Eildon - Mrs. Anstey, Buxton - Mrs. Gibbs, Taggerty - Mr. Webb and Mr. Walker, Kanumbra - E. Fox, Narbethong - A. Stanley.

**December 1954:** Central Council - Advised that State Rivers & Water Supply Commission was insisting on £100 for the Eildon Site and the balance had been paid.

**20<sup>th</sup> February 1955:** Annual General Meeting - Rev. Taylor in the Chair. General Account £465, Parish hall £325. Wardens - Reg. Payne, Fitzroy and Trennery. Vestry - G.A. Payne, E. Weeks, H. Hutchenance, A. Brodger, E. Popple, F. Ellis, R. Hall, P. Creighton, R. Grinter, J. Stevenson, E. Ellis, Secretary J. Trennery, Treasurer E. Ellis.

**1956 -1961:** Rev. A. Cooper's notable achievements were seen to be:

- Up to 5 services on Sundays, also services midweek and Saints Days.
- A "Wells" Fundraising and promotion campaign.
- Commencement of the Mothers Union in Alexandra.
- He instituted "Blessing of the Fleece" - see Kanumbra in the Wider Parish section for details. But this was carried out on properties of the Fox family.

Mrs. Thea Cooper, the wife of Rev. Angus Cooper, was a very talented musician. She





## CHAPTER EIGHT

played the organ and introduced new music to what was a very large Choir, especially for evensong. Mrs. Gillespie, the mother of Bob who was a later Vestryman, was also an organist and played at Parish dances which were run by the Ladies Guild to raise funds. The hall was usually full for these dances, probably for the suppers of fresh sandwiches and coffee.

**18<sup>th</sup> March 1956:** Annual General Meeting - Rev. Angus Cooper - Chair. General Fund £585, Parish hall £264, Ladies Guild £215. Wardens Reg. Payne, H. Fitzroy, J. Trennery. Vestry - G.A. Payne, J.W. Hall, Thompson, Noffle, Ellis, Brogden, Scott-Murphy, Weeks, H. Robb, R. Grinter, Hutchenance, B.P. Collier. Brent Collier was a farmer from Eildon, displaced by the Big Eildon project, who moved onto the river flats at Alexandra where the sewerage farm is now, and is a cousin of the author.

**8<sup>th</sup> April 1956:** Vestry discussion on land behind the Rectory, which was sold in 1946 for £170 to a Mr. R.P. Aldous and also land sold to a Mr. King for site and materials. It was now of concern that the payments may never have been made and the Title changes not made. Still investigating. On going debate with Rus. Stillman, boundary on West, over a building overhanging the Church property, it was reported he had removed the offending overhang.

**8<sup>th</sup> July 1956:** Mrs. Gillespie resigned as Organist.

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 1957:** Vestry - General Account £73, Reserve Account £1038

**16<sup>th</sup> February 1958:** Annual General Meeting - Wardens - Rector's - H. Fitzroy - People's G.A. Payne and Stevenson. Vestry - A. Weeks, Robb, Ellis, Hutchenance, C. Youren, Grinter, Scott-Murphy, Collier, Giblett, J.W. Hall, Ward. Rector's appointment - R. James and Peter Miller.

Mr. Payne was thanked for his over 40 years of on-going service. Later Mr. Scott-Murphy resigned - transferred to Queenscliff. Also retirement of Mr. Stevenson as Warden, lead to replacement by Mr. Ellis.

There was discussion on the advantages of a "Wells" Fundraising Campaign. Advice that the Ladies Guild was purchasing Altar Frontals.



## CHAPTER EIGHT

During this period the Anglicans and the Catholic Church each had an Annual Ball, in the Shire Hall, with Supper in the Supper Room, a space which we understand is now part of the UGFM studio area. Sitings had to be provided because of the demand for the "feast" provided.

**March 1958:** Central Council - Rev. A. Cooper - Chair. Marysville - H. Cuzens, R. Ackerman and L. Walker, Alexandra - H. Fitzroy, Reg. Payne and J. Stevenson, Eildon - Mrs. Anstey and Mrs. Mills, Kanumbra - E. Fox and R. Fox, Taggerty - F. Walker and Webb, Buxton - Mrs. Gibbs and L. Burchall, Thornton - W. Rollason.

**May 1958:** Central Council - Agreed on a "Wells" campaign. St. John's Vestry agreed to lend £900 to Central Council as "Wells" deposit, subject to a Marysville loan of the same amount. Later records show that the "Wells" campaign raised £14,508 over three years, but cost £2490.

**October 1958:** Vestry - Rev. Cooper in the Chair. Profit from Anglican Church Ball £153. February 1959 Vestry discussion on the need for a Curate, noting the Stipend of £650.



**22<sup>nd</sup> February 1959:** Annual General Meeting - Warden's - Rector - H. Fitzroy. People's - after Mr. Payne declined, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Giblett were elected. Vestry - Rector's nominations - Mr. Ward and Brent Collier. People's Peter Miller, R. James, G.A. Payne, Mr. Hutchenance, E. Weeks, J.R. Hall, Grinter and Lindsay Lee.





## CHAPTER EIGHT

Report on discussions regarding a porch to the Church Entrance, a proposal from Architect Williams was deferred. A forthcoming Mission was discussed. The plans for the Porch are still held in the Church records. It is seen as a pity that the work did not proceed because the doors face the western weather.

**March 1959:** Central Council - Marysville asked the Central Council for a special allowance of £300 to move the Church closer to the road.

**28<sup>th</sup> February 1960:** Annual General Meeting - Rector's Report - Highlight of the year had been the very successful Mission, initially great enthusiasm, but this had quickly been lost and attendances had declined. Wardens - Rector's - H. Fitzroy, People's - Ellis and Giblett. Vestry - R.E. Payne, Les Perry, R.B. Hall, Peter Miller, C. Youren, Mr. Hutchenance, R.O. James, E. Weeks, Lindsay Lee, D. Ward, B. Collier.

**1960:** Anglican Ball - Attendance 310 and Profit £196.

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 1960:** Vestry - Mr. Ellis retired as Warden and Bob Gillespie was elected to the Vestry to enable a replacement for him.

**1<sup>st</sup> May 1960:** Vestry - Brent Collier was elected as Churchwarden replacing Mr. Ellis.

**5<sup>th</sup> June 1960:** Vestry - Financial - General Account £126, Canvass Account £1304, Improvements Fund £39. Capital Reserve £65.

**September 1960:** Vestry - Noted that Central Council was indebted to both Alexandra and Marysville. But by 2<sup>nd</sup> October the Rector was able to report that Central Council had repaid £500 to each centre, balance to come at a later date.

**19<sup>th</sup> February:** Annual General Meeting - Rector's thanks included Organists Mrs. Giblett and Mrs. Payne and the Choir. Elections: Wardens - Rector's - H. Fitzroy. People's - Brent Collier and R. James. Vestry - J.R. Hall, R. Gillespie, R.J.O. Hall, C. Youren, N. Napier, E. Weeks, Peter Miller, D. Ward, Lindsay Lee, Jim Coles, Armstrong. [R.J.O. Hall was the ANZ Bank Manager]

Hall Committee: Mrs. Johnson, Miss Perkins, Miss E. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie,





## CHAPTER EIGHT

Lindsay Lee, Ian Weeks, Norma Miller. The hall was heavily used at this time, for weekly dances and by the several very strong sporting groups in the parish - Badminton, Table Tennis etc, fielding teams in local district competitions. Also for Secondary College Examinations.

**5<sup>th</sup> March 1961:** Vestry - Rev. Cooper advised that he had been offered and accepted the position at Euroa and Easter would be his last services.

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 1961:** Vestry - Mr. H. Fitzroy in the Chair. No appointment yet. He reported on efforts to obtain a new Rector.

**November 1961:** Vestry - the Induction of Rev. John Clayden was discussed.



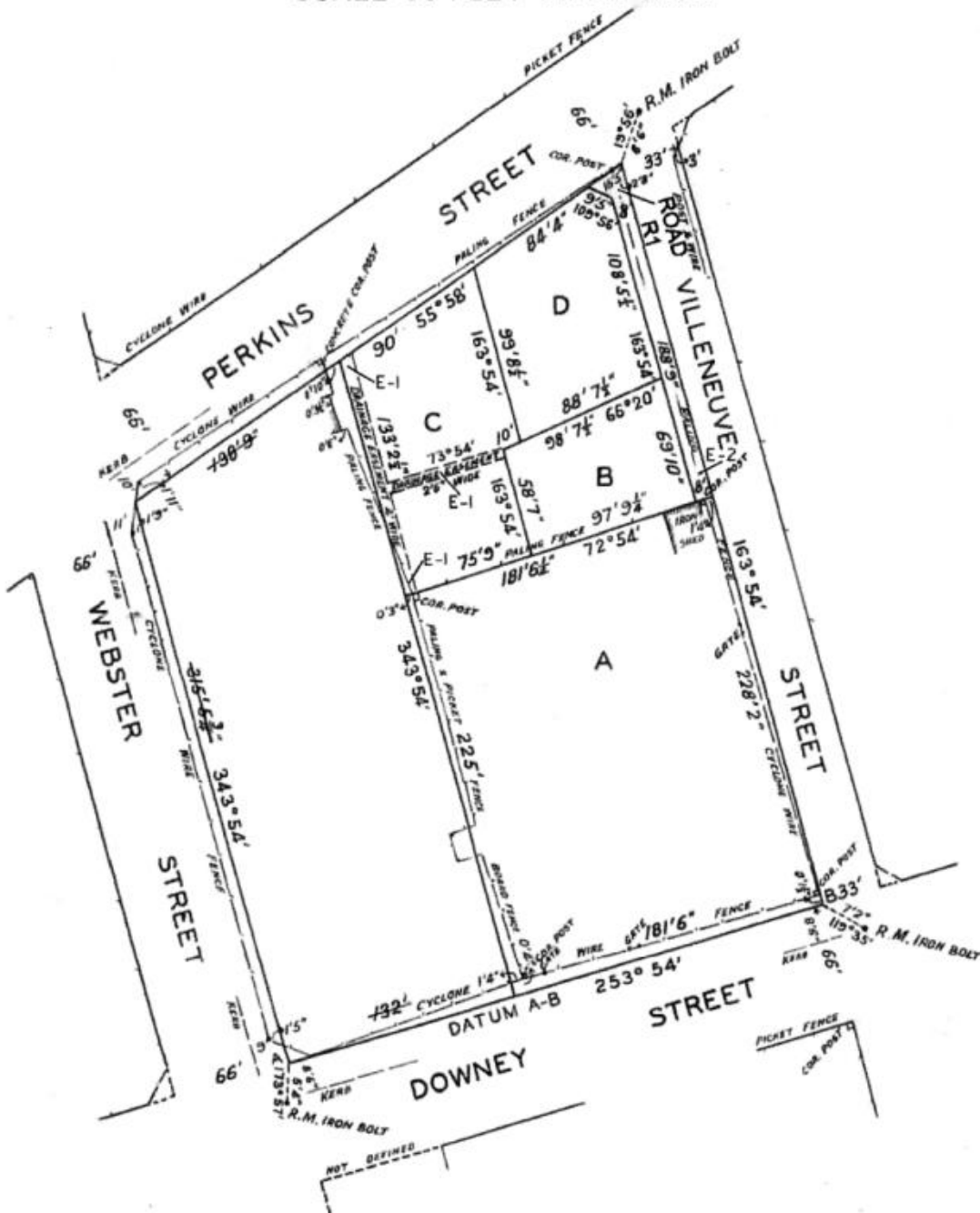
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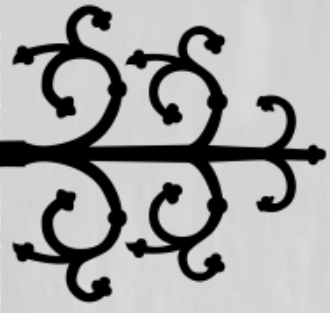
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# CHAPTER NINE

THE MOVE TO TWO PARISHES







## CHAPTER NINE

**Rev. John Clayden 1961-1966:** John was married to Laurel Leaver, the daughter of Rev. E.A. Leaver (1939-1946), who had spent five years of her childhood in the Alexandra Rectory.

### **Notable Achievements:**

- He oversighted the severance of Marysville and Buxton from the Alexandra Parish.
- Extension to the Parish hall, including a Stage, storeroom and Kitchen and Rest Room-now Meeting Room.
- Instituted Family Eucharist, the publication of a special service book and a folk mass, at 9.30 am on Sunday.
- Production of *Together*, an excellent Parish magazine and a Confirmation hand book.
- Active information for Inter-Church Council, camps for servers, starting the Young Anglican Fellowship.
- Initiated the Opportunity Shop in July 1963, initially in the Parish hall. See Chapter TWELVE

**25<sup>th</sup> February 1962:** Annual General Meeting - Rev. Clayden in the Chair. Warden's - Rector's - H.C. Fitzroy. People's - Brent Coller and R. James. Vestry - R. Payne, Peter Miller, Les Perry, R.J. Hall, C. Armstrong, Noel Napier, H. McLinden, Ian Weeks, R. (Bob) Gillespie, C. Youren, Lindsay Lee.

**March-May 1962:** *Together* Magazine - Rev. Clayden had been three months in the Parish. He noted that from his short experience, that Marysville and Alexandra needed a Priest each, to service the two major centres plus six outstations.

The service times were recorded in the Magazine. As an example: -The first Sunday in the month: Alexandra 8 am, Eildon 9.30 am, Kanumbra 11 am, Marysville 11 am Taggerty 2.30 pm, Alexandra 7.30 pm. As the Marysville service was Morning Prayer, we assume a Lay Reader would take the service.

There were variations each week, but:

- Alexandra had two services each Sunday.
- Marysville had a service each Sunday.
- Kanumbra, Thornton, Eildon, Buxton had two services a month.
- Narbethong received a service only on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER NINE

The March-May 1962 issue of *Together* magazine carried news of the other Centres:

**Eildon [St. Paul's]:** Clearly struggling, the Dam had been finished in 1956, so now it was a service and retirees town. Board of Guardians - Mr. Rees, Mr. Spicer, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Spicer, Mrs. Rees, Sister Ottaway.

**Marysville [Christ Church]:** The Rector pointed out that Marysville was almost ready for its own priest, but awaited an available priest and financial capacity. Wardens - Rector's - W. Ackerman. People's - F. May and F. Fiske. Vestry - H. Cuzens - Rector, David Perry. People's - Ralph Ackerman, C. Elliott, Lou Ackerman, Lloyd Gould, Jack Haycraft, A. Johnson.

Lloyd Gould was the Mill owner in Marysville and later in Alexandra. He and his wife Joy were great benefactors in both places.

**Thornton [St. Alban's]:** Hon. Secretary / Treasurer W. (Bill) Rollason. The Ladies Guild was thanked for purchasing the Communion vessels.

**Kanumbra [St. Paul]:** Hon. Secretary / Treasurer - Eric Fox. Guardians - R. Powell, Roy Fox, Mrs. Almond, Mrs. Wright.

**Buxton [St. Thomas]:** Board of Guardians - Hon. Secretary / Treasurer C.M. Gibbs. Wardens - C.M. Gibbs. T.S. Smith, L. Burchall, Mr. Storey, Mr. F. Fiske, Mrs. P. Johns, Mrs. Jones. Mr. Carboon (the head teacher of the Buxton School).

**Taggerty Secretary / Treasurer:** B. Webb.

**December 1962-February 1963:** *Together* Magazine - Report of delegation to the Bishop and a promise of possible separate Priest for Marysville / Buxton, Narbethong and



Lloyd and Joy Gould.  
Courtesy Kellock Lodge.





## CHAPTER NINE

Taggerty within a year. Confirmations - 34 at Alexandra, six at Marysville. "Blessing of the Fleece" - sheep sheared by Graeme Hodson.

**February 1963:** Vestry - Wardens - Noel Napier - Rector's - People's - Brent Collier and R.J.O. Hall [ANZ Bank Manager]. Vestry - H. Fitzroy, C. Youren, Peter Miller. Rector's - I. Weeks, R. Gillespie, C. Armstrong, R. Grinter, M. Giblett, R. James, Lindsay Lee, Ed Weeks.

**June-August 1963:** *Together* Magazine - Featured the Parish Picnic at Marysville.

**March-May 1964:** *Together* Magazine - The Rector refers to the Opening of the Opportunity Shop. Then a possible division of the Parish into two separate Parishes. New Bishop McCall is in full agreement, but he points to the need to remember that the two Parish[s] will have to find funding for two Priests, including accommodation and Travelling Allowances.

Outlines of Objective - Two Parishes:

### ONE

Alexandra, Thornton,  
Eildon & Kanumbra

### TWO

Marysville, Buxton,  
Taggerty & Narbethong

Must be able to guarantee £2000 of annual income from southern end of the Parish.

**September-November 1964:** *Together* Magazine - Sets out the result of the Parish Stewardship Campaign. PARISH Stewardship Program completed and compared with previous programs:

	1958	1961	1964		
	Wells	C.A.S.	Alex	Marysville	TOTAL
Total Families	694	585	342	149	491
Number of Pledges	233	289	227	96	323
3 Year Pledge Total	£14,508	9,191	9759	5479	15, 237
COST	£2,490	1,052	210		





## CHAPTER NINE

Marysville needed a new Rectory, estimated cost £4,000. In Hand £1000. Need to borrow £3,000. Architect Ivan Anderson of Melbourne.

**June-August 1965:** *Together Magazine* - "The Parish Divides". Welcome to Rev. L.H. Jeffery and Mrs. Jeffery - now residing and ministering in Marysville, which has become "The Provisional District of Marysville".

After a year or so, the Bishop will make Marysville / Buxton a separate Parish. Alexandra now includes Eildon / Thornton / Acheron / Cathkin / Yarck / Terip / Kanumbra.

### Services following the change:

Alexandra	Two services each Sunday. Three on 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in a month.
Thornton	Service on 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in any month.
Eildon	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays.
Kanumbra	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays.

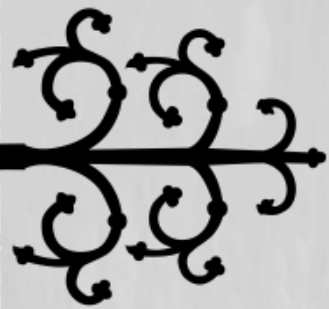
**Thornton:** Vestry - Churchwardens - B. Bass, W. Lowerson, W. Rollason. Vestry Members - D. Sparke, R. Robb, H. Spiers, K. Robb.

**Kanumbra:** Wardens - Eric Fox (also Secretary / Treasurer), Roy Fox, Graham Hodson  
Board Members - Mrs. J. Wright, Mr. J. Fox, Mrs. Almond, Mrs. Morgan.

**September-December 1965:** *Together Magazine* - Report that the Diocese has now agreed that Ladies can be members of Vestries but not Churchwardens. Confirmation fixed for 20<sup>th</sup> November 1965.

**July-October 1966:** *Together Magazine* - Renovations to Kitchen and Store room in the Parish hall at St. John's, completed. Central Council contributed £300 to the project, organised and financed by the Ladies Guild. Rev. John Clayden used his own skills to do much of this work on these alterations. Rev. Clayden was known to the Pawsey family as a young man, in Coburg, where his father, Rev. W. J. B. Clayden, was their Vicar.





# CHAPTER TEN

SEPARATE PARISHES





## CHAPTER TEN

While there does not appear to have been a major announcement, the separation of the Parishes seems to have occurred from this point. So this now becomes a history of Alexandra Parish.

**1967-70:** Rev. Fred Morrey was remembered in the Parish for his simple teaching and celebration of daily Eucharist. He was also remembered for:

- his involvement with youth, particularly training of servers.
- his close involvement with the Minister's Fraternal-commenced earlier in the 1960's



**Confirmation at St. John's in 1968, during the incumbency of Father Fred Morrey**

Rector - Father F. Morrey - Wangaratta Bishop - Theodore McCall

**Back Row:** John Nicholas, Mr. Stickles, Harry Morgan, Desi House, Tony Miller, Phillip Reynolds, Raymond Hewitt, John Clapham, Richards Seers, Stewart Cooper, Ross Miller

**Third Row:** John Smith, Rodney Payne, Stephen Goschnick, Owen Thwaites, John Sephenson, Stephen King, Simon Miller, Greg King, Douglas Robb, Murray Robb, unknown, Prue Thwaites

**Second Row:** Di Robb, Megan Cooper, Sue Coles, Jennifer Stillman, Carol Hart, Sharron Parker, Sue Hart, Judy Luckman, Lyn Phillips, Gaye Parker

**Front Row:** Julie Stephenson, Sally-Anne Cornall, Lyn Luckman, Sally Longton, unknown, Sue Payne, Wendy Davidson, unknown





## CHAPTER TEN

and then the Inter-Church Council, established in 1964. Bishop Rayner commented in the Diocesan paper - The Witness-in February 1970 “ Alexandra must be one of the most ecumenically minded parishes “. This followed from the attendance of the Roman Catholic priest and two nuns, when the Bishop baptised Rev. Fred Morrey`s son Anthony.

- His large number of community group interests, eg. he was an active member of Red Cross during the 1969 fires which ravaged the district.

He left Alexandra for the missionary parish-Mossman, then went to Moe in Diocese of Gippsland.

**1970-1973:** Rev. P. Hutchinson was remembered for his unforgettable, dramatic sermons. Norma Miller says "Who will forget him waving a giant wooden spoon for 'stir-up Sunday'." A quote from him, describing himself as "The Stirrer" who ‘ tilled the soil for his successors to plant and harvest the crops'. He was an Alexandra Rotarian for a short time.

He went to St Kilda, in the Melbourne Diocese.

**1973-1984:** Rev. George Nunan, at this stage and to now, the longest serving priest in the Parish. He came from Broadford Parish, where he also served as Army and Industrial Chaplain.

Notable achievements:

- Kellock Lodge- Aged Care Facility. Rev. George Nunan, with Shire President Kath Cooper and Shire Secretary Gerald Walshe, has been given the largest share of credit with the formation of Kellock Lodge. The main supporters of the Lodge include: the Opportunity Shop, the Rotary Club of Alexandra, the Parish of St. John's and the general Alexandra community. The Opportunity Shop provides strong financial support, probably nearing \$2 million over the 30 year life of the Lodge.
- Social Occasions were important to him-Shared meals, including Passover Meal, Mystery box supper, Wine tasting dinner generating a ‘family’ feeling in the Parish.
- Establishing the Memorial Garden,
- Special ministry to sick and bereaved and interest in healing.

Note: We have more information about this period because of Norma Miller`s great





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

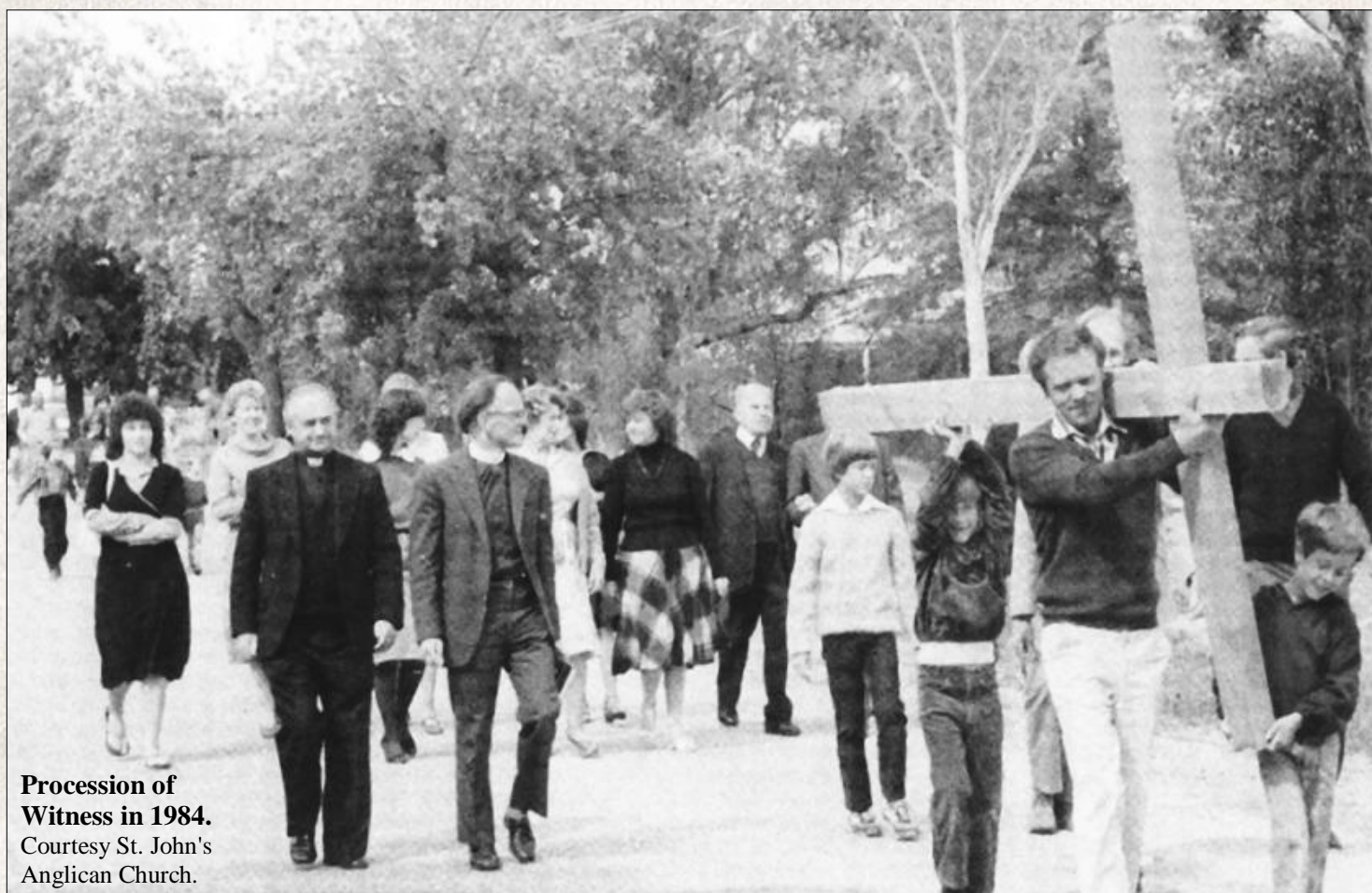
## CHAPTER TEN

Document *Partners in Mission* prepared by her in 1984, towards the end of Rev. George Nunan's Ministry. This document had been written [along with all other Parishes] at the request of the Diocese.

The Memorial Garden was dedicated by Bishop Rayner on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1974, on land between the Church and the Rectory. Mrs. Marjorie Wilmot chose the 24 Standard Roses, donated by parishioners.

In 1974, a Confirmation service was held with 250 attending, with lunch catered for by St Mary's Roman Catholic Ladies.

In 1984, a 'Procession of Witness' moved around the town on Good Friday to each Church, with the "Stations of the Cross" read in each. This then became a regular feature, but has since ceased some years ago.



**Procession of  
Witness in 1984.**  
Courtesy St. John's  
Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER TEN

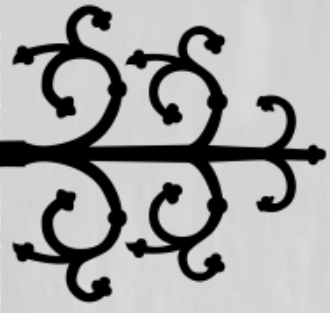
There was an exchange of Priests during Rev. Nunan's period, in 1982/83, an exchange with Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Priest Bill Lunny and wife June, lived in the Rectory and provided services etc for a year, while Rev. George and wife Thea went to Canada in their place.

In 1984, the Churchwardens were: Rector's Warden-Alan Welch, others David Morrison [then also Chair of the Kellock Lodge Planning Committee] and Jim Kinniburgh. The recently retired Rector's Warden-Noel Napier had served four Rectors in this position since 1963. Noel and wife Norma were given a dinner in their honour to recognise their long service to the Church. It is noted that Alan Welch, Jim Kinniburgh and Noel Napier have all been Rotarians.



Courtesy St. John's  
Anglican Church.





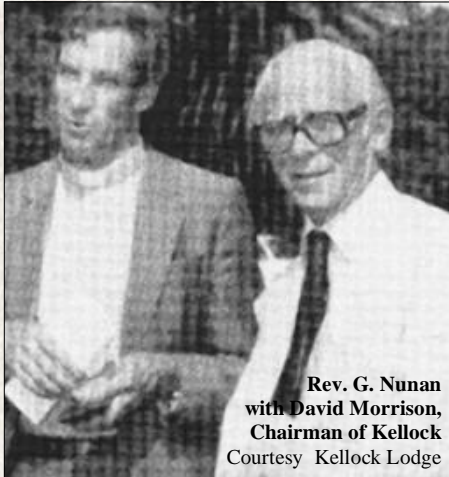
# CHAPTER ELEVEN

KELLOCK LODGE - ALEXANDRA AGED CARE FACILITY





## CHAPTER ELEVEN



Rev. G. Nunan  
with David Morrison,  
Chairman of Kellock  
Courtesy Kellock Lodge

It is generally agreed that Rev. George Nunan, given his experience in Aged Care in his previous Parish, provided the initial thrust for an Aged Care facility in Alexandra, but clearly the support he needed was provided by Shire President Kath Cooper and Shire Secretary Gerald Walshe.

But they also received great support within the Parish. An example of this was when \$5,000 was needed to carry out a "Needs" Survey by Neil Armstrong, a Social planner from the Victorian Council on the Ageing. These funds were provided by a fundraising effort within the Parish led by Joy

Welch and Norma Miller and others. Concerts in the Shire Hall and other fundraisers were held to find the money.

Then of course, there was the need for a site. The Kellock family was well entrenched in Alexandra and in the Parish. The present lectern is a Charles Kellock Memorial, there is a photograph in the Vestry of a Church group, including a Miss Kellock, there are



Volunteers for the Alexandra Opportunity Shop.  
Courtesy Kellock Lodge.





## CHAPTER ELEVEN

references to a Miss Kellock in the Choir in this history. Therefore, it was presumably a simple choice for Councillor Cooper, knowing about the land owned by the Kellock Family, to approach them for the donation of that land. The land was donated to the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta, at that time presumed to be a safe haven. Possible intrusion by the Diocese was not taken into account and the Diocese has never been asked for financial assistance by Kellock Lodge.

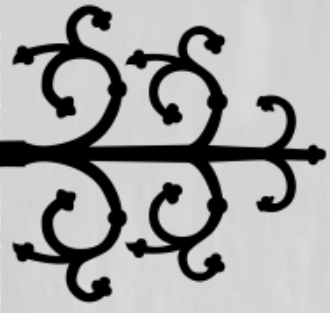
The rest of the story is told in the recent 2014 publication *Kellock Lodge - the first 30 years* written by Authors Julia Foletta and Maurie Pawsey. Kellock Lodge has become a very successful operation of 50 High Care beds and 14 Independent Living Units.

But as mentioned above, the Parish remains deeply involved in Kellock Lodge, one third of the Board of Management have been parish nominees, the three Chairmen to date were / are Anglicans (also Rotarians) and two have been parishioners. Of course the land belongs to the Diocese of Wangaratta, even though funding has been totally gained or provided within Alexandra, significantly by the Alexandra Opportunity Shop.

It should be said that other than Fundraising (see above) and involvement in the Opportunity Shop, neither the Parish or the Diocese has had any significant financial involvement in Kellock Lodge. The Parish at present provides a one day Chaplaincy service to Kellock, through Father Graeme Brown, who is also a board member.

The Kellock family are related to the Maddox family, mentioned later in this factsheet.





# CHAPTER TWELVE

THE OPPORTUNITY SHOPS







## CHAPTER TWELVE

As mentioned under the section on Rev. John Clayden, the first Opportunity Shop was initiated by him and parishioners - Mrs. Koop, Mrs. Hay and other Guild members. It initially started in the Parish hall, then relocated to a building lent by the Wynne family located in O'Briens Lane. Initial proceeds were distributed between Freedom from Hunger and the church Ladies Guild projects. Later proceeds were distributed 10% to ABM [Australian Board of Missions] 50% to Ladies Guild, 40% to Alexandra Community organisations, including the Hospital and Elderly citizens etc.

In 1971 O'Briens Lane was closed, requiring a move to the Church hall, a monthly opening and the eventual closure of the Shop.

In August 1981, now under the auspices of the Inter-Church Council and backed by the Rotary Club, which paid the first six months rent, premises were rented at 99 Grant Street. The shop was staffed by ladies from the Roman Catholic, Uniting and Anglican Churches and run by a Committee with representatives from each. The aim was to raise funds to support the planned aged care facility (Kellock Lodge). Forty ladies offered their services to staff the Roster. Anglican Church representative Muriel Paech worked tirelessly on the Committee for many years.

Later, with a very active and enterprising committee, lead principally by Dorothy Pearson, Elvie Thompson and Chair Pastor Richard Lovett [also a Rotarian], the Op Shop initially moved to larger premises at 52 Grant Street and then, with short term financial assistance from Kellock Lodge, purchased the former SEC premises in Grant Street early in the new century. They have also widened their spread of donations to include many Alexandra organisations, including the Hospital, Darlingford and Red Cross etc. But their principal support continued to be Kellock Lodge and at this time (2016) their contribution has now approached \$2 million since 1981. There has been five capital contributions, with the last being in 2016. Each contribution was around \$100,000, and when combined with their monthly contribution, which was about \$3,000 per month.

Kellock Lodge recognised this effort in 2014, and as it could not award life memberships to all the supporters, it awarded a Life Membership to Dorothy Pearson, on behalf of all, accepting that this was unfair to many, including Elvie Thompson.

In 2014, in the day of Father Geoff Poliness, a major achievement was to open a second Opportunity Shop called the "Redgate Bazaar" in Grant Street. This second shop did not



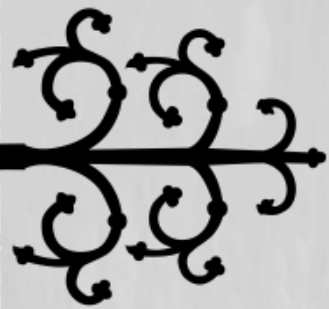


## CHAPTER TWELVE

appear to have impacted on the Alexandra Opportunity Shop adversely, which continued to be run by the Combined Churches under a community based committee. It continued to be a major supporter of Kellock Lodge.

The two are still co-operating and obviously the Redgate Bazaar is designed to financially assist the Parish, but it was also intended to offer a social and counselling impact, with the assistance of the Diocesan office of Anglicare.





# CHAPTER THIRTEEN

OTHER PARISH ACTIVITIES OF THESE TIMES







## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Not just of Rev. Nunan`s time, but in those perhaps less pressurised and happier days, than we now face, there were many activities which we no longer have:

- Sunday School was a regular occurrence. The children entered Church during ‘The Peace’ with their Teachers. Norma Miller tells us that Sunday School had been a regular part of the Church`s Sunday mornings before Rev. Hutchinson, in 1970, preferred the children to be in Church with their parents. But parents in 1972, felt the need for a Sunday School and it was reopened in that year. In 1973, five teachers took classes ranging from Prep. to Form 1, totalling about 30 children. Over the years numbers had been between 30 and 35. Some of the longer term teachers are remembered here: Nola Peters, Thea Nunan, Kath Chanter, Linda Davis, Joy Welch, Diana Weeks, Norma Miller and Sue Phelps.
- St. John's Gymnastic Club was already being run with a committee by October 1909 when Mr. Harry Jennings stood aside as Secretary and the position was filled by Mr. Reginald Sapsford. Regular practice was said to be held on Tuesday nights.
- GFS [Girls Friendly Society] commenced in 1940s and continued until 1971 when the last recorded report was lodged.
- CEBS [Church of England Boys Society] 1956-1966 for boys aged 8 to 14 years. For most of this period leader Norman Miller was assisted by Ian Weeks. In 1962 they were averaging 15 boys a night. They had a cricket team and took part in Diocesan Bush Sports. In 1966, the CEBS joined with the Presbyterian Boys Group to form a combined Churches Boys Group, which faltered after a while. It was resurrected in 1975, but failed again.
- YAF [Young Anglican Fellowship] operated from 1957 to 1967. Leader Ian Weeks, 20 to 25 members in 1962-1963. Had a Girls Basketball team and a football team. In 1963 won the District Sports. There were camps at Airey`s Inlet.
- Youth Club For some years in the 1980`s there was a very popular Youth Club after School hours in the Parish hall, run by Jim Kinniburgh and Ian Fry (a Uniting Church member).
- An adult Choir had been a major feature of worship at St. John's over much of its life.

Organists and Choir leaders are mentioned throughout this history - Mr. Waymouth in 1891, established an adult Choir and the service became fully Choral, Mrs. Waymouth was Organist and died in 1898. In that year, the Choir lost three members - Mrs. J. A. Gordon - after a ‘lifetime’, Miss Kellock and Miss Whiting. At Kanumbra. Mrs. Elvie Fox was organist from 1920 to 1945, succeeded by Mrs. Jean Fox. Mrs. Gillespie at St. John's was thanked in 1942 and resigned in 1956.



## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Alexandra Junior Choir with choir leader Janet Birch.  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



By 1984, there was only the Junior Choir. This was formed in 1975, by Janet Birch with great co-operation from Rector George Nunan. She insisted that they should be robed and it was clearly a very serious operation, as it should be.

Joy Welch was the Choir “Mother” to prepare them for Church, seriously an onerous activity to have them all robed, hair done, shoes clean, cassocks straightened. Joy tells us it was a “warming sight” to see them all ready for Church. If any were brave enough to sing solo, they received a medal. Janet supplied her own organ, instead of the old organ and after her departure, the need for an organ became imperative. [See Chapter Fourteen] In the 1987, publication “Jubilation” there is a Parish Profile of St. John’s Choir. Excerpts from the article follow:

- Four generations of the Weeks` family have sung in the Choir.





## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- The late Miss Eileen Perkins scarcely missed a Sunday in over 50 years.
- The beautiful voice of Mrs. Rose Smyth [Collis] who sang for many years in the Choir and solos at weddings.
- Organists remembered are: Mrs. Hazel Gillespie, Mrs. Stillman, Mr. Tom Barton, Mrs. Thea Cooper, Mrs. Elvie Giblett, Mrs. Marion Kinniburgh, Mrs. Val Lethbridge, Mrs. Jean Weedon, Mrs. Diana Weeks, Mrs. Josie Parsons.
- Mrs. Janet Birch and her youth Choir and her own organ provided a musical treat at each service.
- St. John's Ladies Guild Norma Miller [1984] notes that the Guild had been in operation for over 40 years, it may be longer, because we note that the Guild met with Bishop Armour in 1943 [so it may have commenced in conjunction with the new Church in 1938- in fact the record of 1938 shows the Ladies Guild providing a meal].

Norma believes that it has had up to 18 members, but in 1984 was down to eight. In 1984 many members had served for a long time, an example was Mrs. Koop who served as Treasurer for over 40 years.

Norma points to their aims: which included financial support for the Parish, being the organising and responsible group for Parish functions and events [Sunday School Picnics, Communion Breakfasts, Confirmation meals], rosters for cleaning and maintenance, support mission, communication - cards to sick and bereaved etc.

In 1984, they were expressing the need for younger members to take over. For some years there was a new group called Friends of St. John's, started in Father Barry John's tenure early 1990's. They had raised funds, sent birthday and bereavement cards, offered pastoral visiting, did church cleaning and generally gave assistance to the Priest. They ran a monthly lunch for some time, providing a meal and social contact for those living alone. It was entitled "Lunch with friends" and this group, which probably served for 20 years, ceased in 2014. The last leader was Marida Pawsey, who handed over its financial assets to the Church Treasurer [Joy Welch - now OAM].

The Mothers Union was established in 1957 by the Rev. and Mrs. Thea Cooper. The need was not seen to be fundraising, but a group of women meeting for worship, teaching in the faith, sharing and supporting one another. Over the years they formed the nucleus for Lenten discussion groups, provided Sunday School teachers, Bible study groups etc. Many were also Guild members. Rev. John Clayden started the now traditional 'cup of tea' after church and this became the role of the Mothers Union.



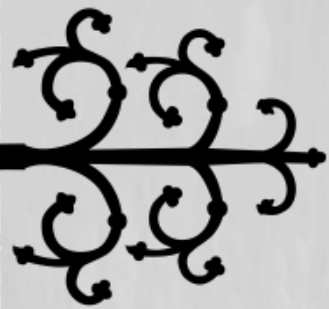


# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

By 1984, the numbers had declined and Rev. George Nunan had appointed Mrs. Joy Welch as the new Branch President in the hope of a revitalised group. Regretfully, good for a time, but like other Church groups it is now in recess. There are still ladies in the Parish who remain members of the Mothers Union [we think the term is “Lone” members]





# CHAPTER FOURTEEN

A PIPE ORGAN





## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

For many years the church relied on a Harmonium, purchased in 1873. Then in 1889 a new organ was purchased, mentioned elsewhere in this history. As also mentioned, Janet Birch used her own organ until the Junior Choir finished up.

Father Richard Waddell, in about 1990, knew of the owner of a small pipe organ, she was moving to a smaller house and was prepared to lend the organ to the church, giving the church time to decide whether they wanted to purchase it or return it.

In 1996, the Church decided to purchase the organ and embarked on a fundraising exercise for this purpose. Renowed organist Sergio de Pieri apparently knew the organ and undertook an annual organ recital to raise funds, sometimes bringing beautiful soprano Raffaella de Benori, who entranced the audiences with her voice.

Other means to raise the funds were followed and included a successful concert with the Welch Choir, which filled St. John's to capacity on a beautiful Spring afternoon. After generous donations by parishioners, the amount required was raised and the Organ was purchased in 2005 for \$20,000. To celebrate the purchase, Sergio performed in the Church and then cooked and served an Italian feast to 70 people.



Organist Sergio de Pieri.  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

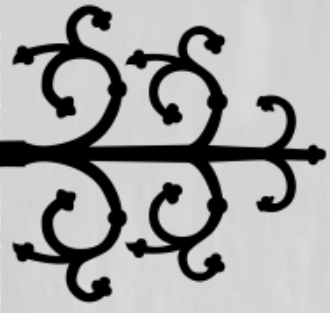
In recent years the Church has received an electronic organ, donated by Taggerty resident Cath Bushell, in memory of her late husband Leslie. This is placed at the rear of the Church and is played regularly, particularly by Josie Parsons, one of the three regular organists, including Diana Weeks and Val Lethbridge.



**The Church organ  
purchased in 1996.**

Copyright ©  
Maurie Pawsey





# CHAPTER FIFTEEN

REFLECTIONS ON DECISION MAKING







## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Here we present some extracts from a special edition of “Jubilation”. One of these was:

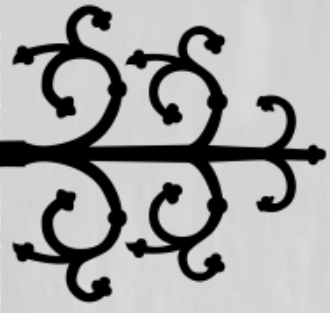
- There is an interesting article - Heading "Glimpses of the Past" giving details of the original site of the Church on the corner of Webster and Nihil Streets. This was Gazetted in an Order of the State - 27<sup>th</sup> June 1869 reserving permanently the site for the Church of one acre, 3 roods and 23 perches.

Which raises a series of interesting questions:

- why did it buy the Rectory site on Downey Street in 1885, when there was clearly land on the Webster Street site, to build a Rectory there. Perhaps because of lack of capital, so they rented until 1885.
- there had been discussions for years about a new Church, which had been on and off throughout the period 1870`s into the 1900`s.
- in 1891 they commissioned an Architect to start on plans for a new church - it is presumed on the Webster Street site then after controversy on Vestry, rescind the motion to proceed with a new church and have trouble paying the Architect`s fees.
- in 1927 there is a Vestry Minute that they should seek Diocesan approval to sell the Rectory and land and build a new Rectory on the Webster street land and later a new Church on that site. Obviously no thought of building a Church on the Downey Street site then.
- 1928 at Vestry, it was determined that the proceeds of the Church fete should go to the building fund. There is no mention of where a new church would be built, but clearly it would be on the Webster street site, because of the previous 1927 decision - although that had not succeeded.
- 1936 Suddenly the Vestry is investigating a new Church on the Downey Street site and seeking the Title for the Webster site, to sell it. On 4<sup>th</sup> August 1936, the recommendation to the congregation is to sell the Webster street site, build a new church on the Downey Street site, allowance £1500 and move the old church building to Downey Street to use as a hall. The minutes give no mention of their reasons, unfortunately.

A Building Committee was formed, fundraising started and the project proceeded through 1937 and 1938. So we are left to wonder what factors determined these decisions to build or not to build, buy the Rectory site, then consider selling it and rebuilding on the Webster Street site, decisions to build then withdraw, 1927 try again and suddenly, with no hints in the minutes, 1936 the final decision. The minute books do not help much as they do not record discussions only decisions. We are left to speculate and wonder what they were thinking.





# CHAPTER SIXTEEN

RECENT TIMES







# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

**1985-1987:** Rev. Tim Cohen, during his time the Church celebrated the Jubilee [50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary] of the laying of the Foundation Stone for St. John's, after the Church moved from Webster Street to Downey Street.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 1987:** Bishop Beal-Bishop of Wangaratta with Rev. Tim Cohen and Archdeacon Douglas Blake OBE [the Vicar when the Church was built and Consecrated] giving the Address, lead a service of Celebration in the Church. Photographs in the Gallery relate to this event. One shows the clergy group at this service and a second shows a very large group at the former church site located on the corner of Webster and Nihil Streets, before processing to the new site in Downey Street.



Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.

**Back:** Ed Weeks, Reg. Payne, Jock Lowerson, Ian Weeks, David FitzRoy,

**Third Row:** Charlie Uren, Jack Stevenson, David Page, Bill Rollason, Cliff Armstrong, Borrie Robb, Fred Maden, unknown

**Second Row:** Bruce Bass, Bob Ross, unknown, Bob Gillespie, Eric Fox, Roy Fox

**Front:** Hugh Mills, Rev. John Clayden, Noel Napier, Norma Napier





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

A Special Edition of *The Jubilation* - an adaptation of the Church newsletter, was published for the occasion - Editor June Cookson [now a renowned author and a current parishioner], including letters from the Bishop, Archdeacon Blake, Rector Tim Cohen, Rev. George Nunan, Rev. E.A. Leaver, Noel Napier [Churchwarden], Dorothy Fitzroy. Amongst the articles and photographs is a photo of the Fundraising Committee in 1962 or 1963 - contemporary people shown include Ian Weeks, David Fitzroy, Bob Gillespie, Bill Rollason, Roy Fox [recently deceased], Noel Napier [Deceased several years ago].

A profile of the Parish Choir is given. Mentioned -four generations of the Weeks family have sung there, 50 years of organists are mentioned -names listed include Mrs. Hazel Gillespie, Mrs. Stillman, Mr. Tom Barton, Thea Cooper, Mrs. Elvie Giblett, Mrs. Janet Birch, Mrs. Marion Kinniburgh. Mrs. Val Lethbridge and Mrs. Jean Weedon [also of Kanumbra].

Rector's Warden Alan Welch gave a summary of maintenance and renovations to the buildings over the 50 years, particularly of the recent extensions to the Rectory, at a cost of \$50,000. Following an upgrade of Diocesan requirements for Rectories, there was a lengthy discussion on whether to demolish and rebuild the Rectory. After a vote conducted by Warden Alan Welch, it was decided to renovate and extend the building.

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Other articles in 'Jubilation' include: stories from Kanumbra, Eildon, Thornton, Marysville and Buxton, an article from Mrs. Pellarine, who was appointed Head Teacher of the Alexandra Common School No 912 on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1867. The building was erected in Webster Street, near the Anglican church of St. John. In 1871, the members of the School Committee were-a lawyer Villeneuve Smith, the Church of England clergyman - Rev. J Toomath, John Whitelaw [*Alexandra Times*] and a Mr. White. Also an article from Bill Rollason Chairman of Kellock Lodge.

Father Tim Cohen left late in 1987 under a cloud.

**1988-1990:** Rev. Richard Waddell, other than his involvement in the loan of the pipe organ, we know little about these two years.

**1991-1996:** Father Barry Johns was a keen member of the Kellock Lodge Board. The Wardens were Jim Kinniburgh, Brian Slader, Joy Welch. Parish Council members - Dick McKernan, Anne Sanderson, Susan Ingham, G. Stephan, G. Jenkins, A. Phillips, M. Reddrop, Marion Thorneycroft, Diana Weeks.

The Cattle Fund Raising Program. In 1991, Parishioners Peter Miller and Alan Welch initiated this program, where parishioners were invited to either donate a beast to be sold or sell a beast to the parish and agist free until it reached prime sale condition or agist free a beast provided by the church. We have a report for the 1995/96 year showing sales of \$6,566, a balance of \$165, plus investments of \$5,000.



A 1992 Christmas re-enactment of Joseph with Mary on a donkey, featured Alan Welch and Liz Webb.

Father Barry Johns became a Canon in 1995.

1995 Parish Council -Wardens - Bryan Slader, Jim Kinniburgh, Beryl Moore. Parish Councillors - Diana Weeks, Harry Purchase,





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Joy Welch, Marion Thorneycroft, Linda Davis, Kath Chanter, Norma Miller.

Services at this time: Eildon 8 am, Alexandra 9.30 am, Thornton 11.30 am. Jim Kinniburgh as a Lay Reader used to often take the 8 am service at Eildon.

**1996-2000:** Father Chris St. John was also a keen member of the Kellock Board. A Rotarian. Moved to Beechworth and then Diocese of the Murray. He loved all things Celtic and introduced a monthly Celtic Mass. He also had a keen interest in Music. Police Chaplain.



In November 1997 a 60 year Anniversary of the laying of the Church Foundation Stone was celebrated at a Eucharist at St. John's. It was conducted by Father Chris St. John and attended by Rev. Tim Cohen, Mrs. Thea Cooper (wife of the late Archdeacon Rev. Angus Cooper), Mrs. Joy Welch, Mrs. Ros St. John, Canon Bruce Reddrop and a large congregation.

**2001-2004:** Father Ian Crooks had a strong interest in Counselling, operated a Retreat part time. Some interchange of ideas with Marysville during his time. Introduced Team Ministry for the congregation, hampered by too much minute taking and procedures, moved to Gippsland.

**2005-2011:** Father Paul Dalzell was interested in community affairs. He arranged a seven year lease between the Shire and the Diocese for a Community Kitchen and Garden at St. John's. Made significant changes in the Church fittings, including furniture for





## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

immersion baptism and a new platform for an extended Chancel. St. John's High Tea started in his period.

He held a part time appointment for a while as Diocesan Evangelism Officer.

Parish Council - Wardens - Linda Davis, Maurice Pawsey, Michael Thornton. Members - Sue Phelps, Diana Weeks, Val Lethbridge, Beryl Moore, Dick McKernan, Graeme Brown, Elaine Furniss, Helen Brooks. Others during Father Dalzell's time include Wendy Edwards, Lorraine Eastaugh, Judy Hines and Jim Kinniburgh.

During this period, as already mentioned in "the Wider Parish" Chapter, attendances at Eildon declined (as the town declined) for all Churches. The Anglican and Presbyterians shared services for a time and worked on the possibility of finding a new joint location, but no agreement could be reached and both sites were sold in 2013.

Attendances at Alexandra also declined in this period. He was offered a position in the Anglican Diocese of Europe at Montreaux, Switzerland, which he accepted.

**2012-2014:** Father Geoff Poliness came out from retirement, as a bishop's appointment, to attempt to restore attendances and involve the community. He succeeded to a degree, certainly he made his mark in the community and numbers had increased significantly. Ill health reduced his term.

His major achievement, apart from the above, was to open a second Opportunity Shop in 2014 - the "Redgate Bazaar" in Grant Street, with considerable support from Alan and Joy Welch. It is a major gain that it does not seem to have impacted significantly on the Alexandra Opportunity Shop, still run by the Combined Churches and a community based Committee and a major supporter of Kellock Lodge. The two Shops are co-operating. Obviously the Redgate is designed to financially assist the Parish, but it was also intended to offer a social and counselling impact, with the assistance of the Diocesan office of Anglicare.

**The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of St. John's in Downey Street:** Father Geoff initiated this Anniversary over the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> November and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012, soon after his arrival. The Foundation Stone was laid on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1937 and the Church was consecrated in 1943 by Bishop Armour. An historical brochure was prepared for the event.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

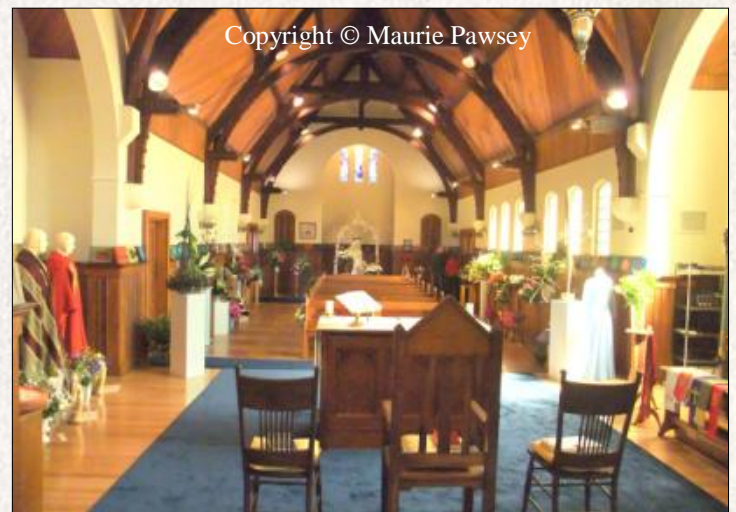
## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

From an article in the *Advocate* in November 2012, it was noted that many changes had been made in the Church, since Father Geoff's arrival and that Bishop John Parkes and Mrs. Parkes would be present over the weekend. This would include an Historical display, a "Back to St. John's Dinner" and a Celebratory Mass on Sunday morning.

Other Community involvements started in his time, largely by Joy Welch and Linda Davis, included:

- Christmas Tree Festival, supported by many community organisations and businesses.
- The Flower Festival, now run in conjunction with Alexandra and District Open Gardens Scheme.
- St. John's High Tea a continuing success.

Parish Council-Wardens - Linda Davis, Maurice Pawsey, Sue Phelps. Members - Joy Welch, Val Lethbridge, Sean Flynn, Graeme Brown, Helen Brookes, Ian Davis, Dick



McKernan, Beryl Moore.

**2015:** Father Paul Wood was once Rector at Mansfield. He and his wife Michelle are both counsellors and they live a reflective monastic lifestyle on a small property near Mansfield. He agreed to come to Alexandra on a four day a week basis and to head a new experiment in Parish management. He headed as Team Rector a new Team group of Parishes - Alexandra, Yea, Marysville / Buxton. While those parishes remain independent, they are headed by Team Vicars - Father Thomas Leslie at Yea, Father John Jessop at Marysville / Buxton, with Father Graeme Brown assisting all. Michelle Wood is an Ordinand candidate and is also completing her PhD. She was ordained in 2017.



## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Father Paul, working with the Schools and Alexandra Library, organised a very successful "Festival of Light" for the Winter Solstice in June. Starting from St. John's with hot soup, with about 150 people gathering in the Church for a blessing of the light, which was followed by a lantern lit procession to the Library, with talks on Light organised by the Library staff.

Other involvement with the community consisted in the Christmas Tree Festival, commenced by the Parish and now organised by a Community group, as well as the Flower Festival, run by the parish, in conjunction with the Open Gardens Weekend. Also the Parish High Tea, which attracts many community members.

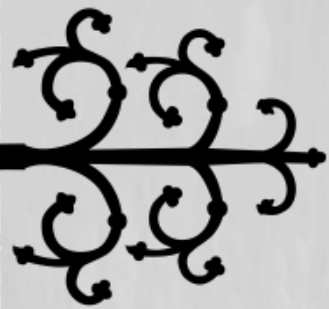
In 2016, Church Secretary / Treasurer Joy Welch gained a well deserved OAM as did long serving Kanumbra Guardian and office bearer Roy Fox, who died in June 2016 aged 98. Joy and Roy were both Paul Harris Fellows - a Rotary Award. Roy also had a Sapphire Pin to his Award. Roy had been the only surviving Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Alexandra, still in the Club.

Parish Council - Warden's - Rector - Linda Davis - People's - Sue Phelps and Helen Brooks. Members - Joy Welch [Secretary / Treasurer], Patsy Robertson, Sean Flynn, Ian Davis, Maurice Pawsey, Dick McKernan. Others Ian Weeks and Jennifer Catlin.



At the end of 2017 Father Paul Wood announced his retirement and a farewell service took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. Father Graeme Brown who was an existing member of the group leaders was appointed Locum in the short term.





# CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

LIST OF PRIESTS







# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

<b>1867</b>	W. Cooper	Assisted Toomath in establishing the church
<b>1867-1872</b>	A. Toomath	First Priest
<b>1872-1875</b>	S.B. Scott	
<b>1875-1878</b>	J.W.H. L'Oste	
<b>1878-1883</b>	W. Hutchinson	
<b>1884-1885</b>	W. Jennings	
<b>1885-1892</b>	M.F. Cahill	Purchased Downey Street building
<b>1892-1898</b>	H.W. Lane	
<b>1899-1900</b>	A.W. Rowed	
<b>1900-1901</b>	W.H. Bear	
<b>1901-1907</b>	E.H. Scott	Rectory demolished by Vestry after dispute
<b>1908-1910</b>	J.A. Peck	
<b>1910-1914</b>	J.L. Watt	
<b>1914-1917</b>	S.O. Seward	
<b>1917-1919</b>	C. Brammell	
<b>1919-1921</b>	R.A. Scott	
<b>1921-1924</b>	E.A. Hunt	
<b>1924-1928</b>	S.H. Burridge	
<b>1928-1931</b>	W.A. Williams	
<b>1931-1935</b>	L.G. Ball	
<b>1935-1939</b>	D. Blake	Instrumental in building current church
<b>1939-1946</b>	E.A. Leaver	Once Secretary of Australian Board of Missions
<b>1946- 1956</b>	S. Taylor	



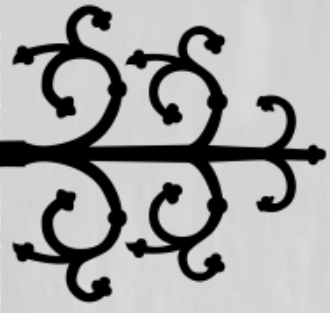


# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

<b>1956-1960</b>	E.A. Cooper	Started Mother's Union
<b>1961-1966</b>	W.J. Clayden	Instrumental in separating the Parishes
<b>1967-1970</b>	F.A. Morrey	
<b>1970-1973</b>	P. Hutchinson	Rotarian and involved in the Library Committee
<b>1973-1985</b>	G. Nunan	Longest serving Priest, Started Kellock Lodge
<b>1985-1987</b>	T. Cohen	
<b>1988-1990</b>	R. Waddell	
<b>1991-1996</b>	B. Johns	
<b>1996-2000</b>	C. St. John	Rotarian and Police Chaplain
<b>2001-2004</b>	I. Crooks	
<b>2005-2011</b>	P. Dalzell	
<b>2012-2014</b>	G. Poliness	
<b>2015-2018</b>	P.D. Wood	
<b>2018-</b>	G. Brown	Locum 2018





# CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

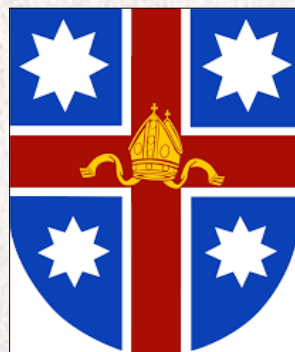




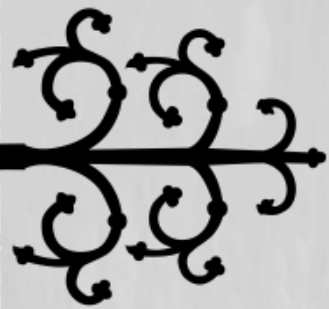
## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Father Paul Wood offered these views on the future of St. John's Alexandra:

The role of the churches within society has changed significantly over the last 30 years and traditional churches can no longer assume a place in our modern culture in the way it used to. Attendances are low across the board and this means we need to rethink how we offer the beauty of Christian Spirituality to the world. The deep truths of humanity and God, life and death, remain the same, and the challenge of traditional churches is to connect to the community in new relevant ways. St. John's must rise to this challenge or fade into history once the current generation has passed away.







# PHOTO GALLERY

RELATED PHOTOGRAPHS

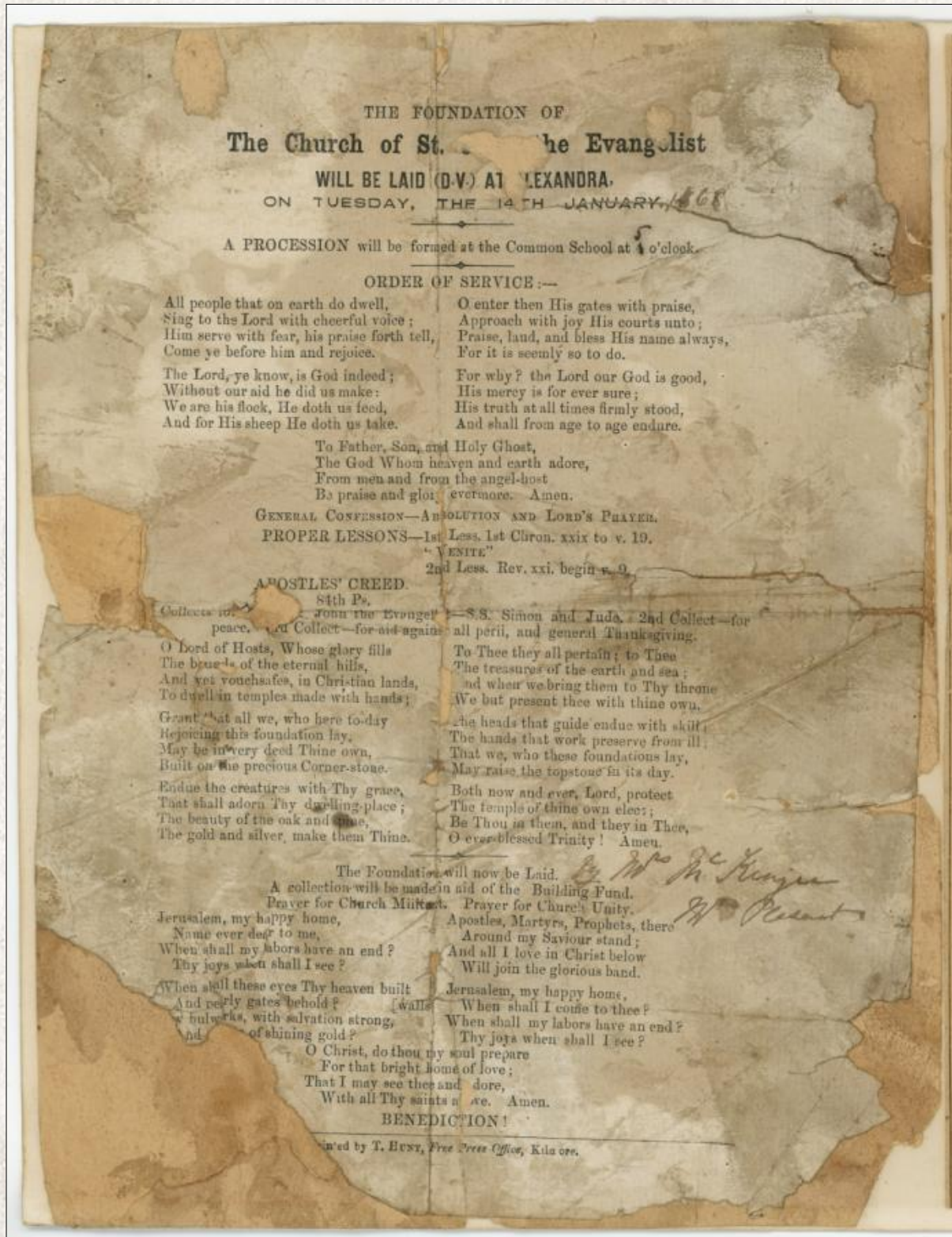






# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



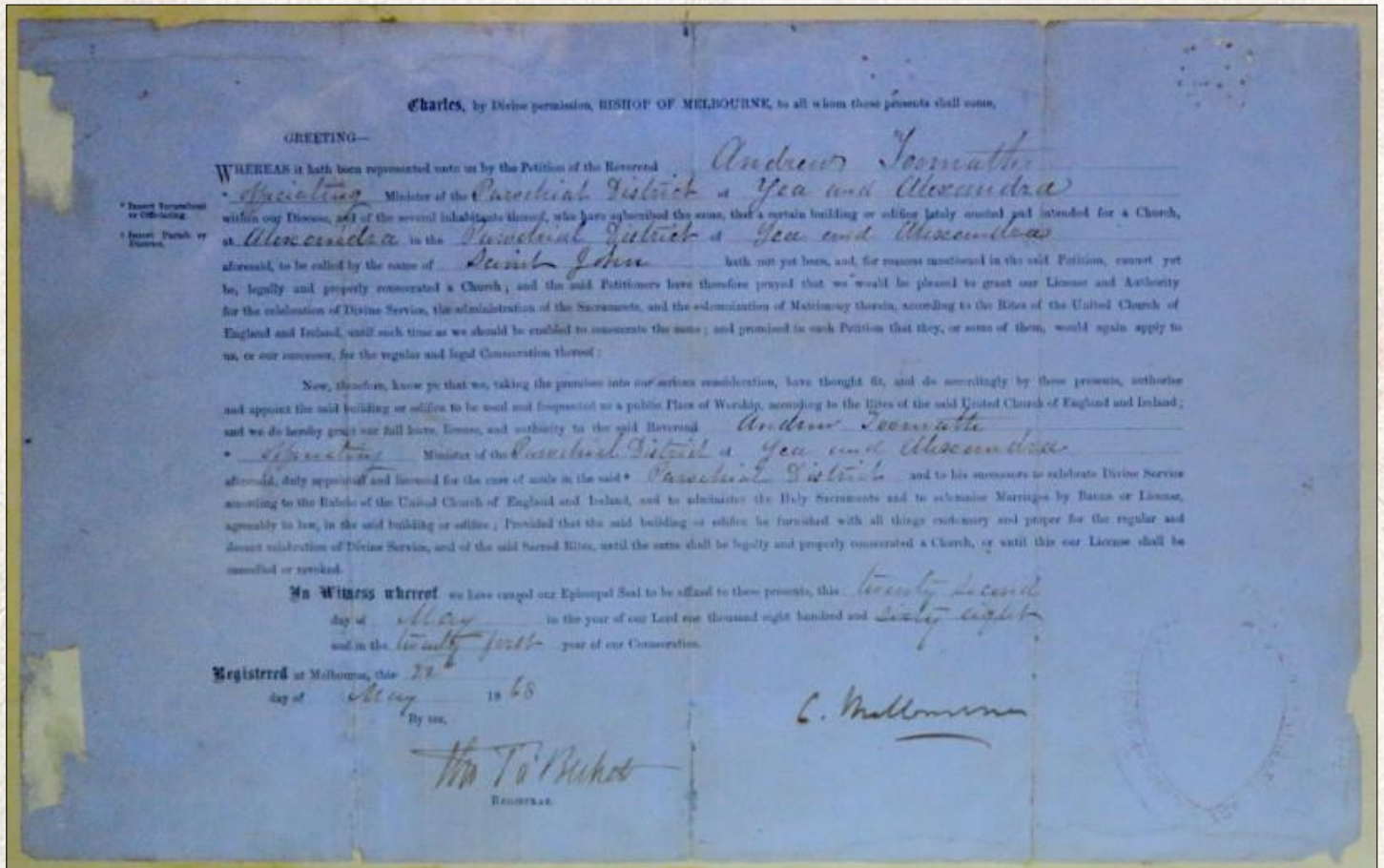
**The Order of Service for the Foundation of the Church of St. John The Evangelist,  
dated the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1868.**  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



Licence from the Bishop of Melbourne to the first Rector of St. John's Alexandra,  
Rev. Andrew Toomath, dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1868.

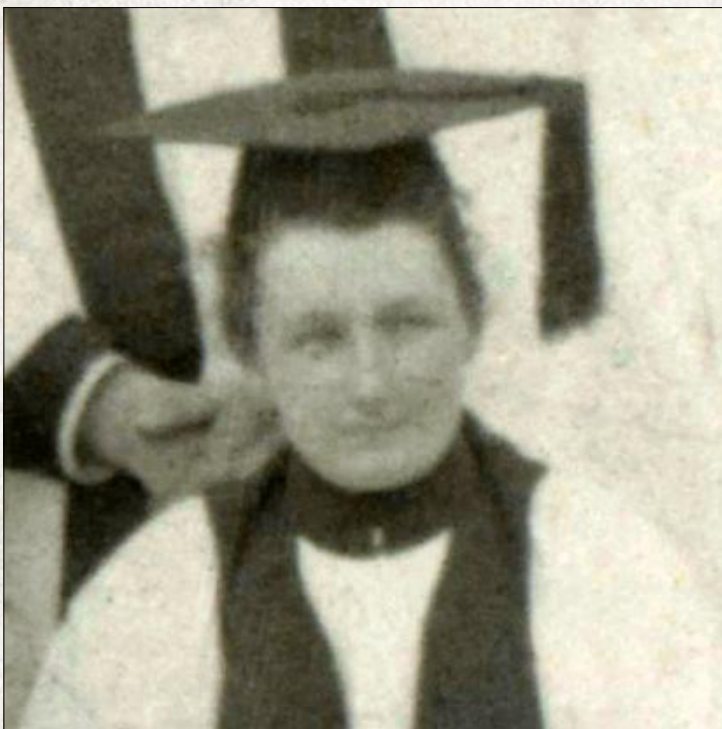
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**The First Robe Choir of St. John's Church of England, Alexandra in late October 1894.  
Rev. H.W. Lane, Rector (1892-1898).**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.

Photographers Messrs Martin & Cawston, who had been at Alexandra for the fortnight commencing 20 October.

Front Row:

Miss Mary Hill, Mrs. G.A. Gordon, Miss Kellock,  
Miss Cookson, Mrs. Lethbridge.

Back Row:

Dr. Lethbridge, Miss. B. Cookson, Miss Waymouth,  
Mr. Welstead, Mr. G.A. Gordon, Rev. H.W. Lane,  
Mr. E. Bough, Miss M. Mager, Miss B. Hamea,  
Miss S. Hill, Mr. Waymouth

(Left) Miss Kellock.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



The St. John's Anglican Church font was presented to the Church in memory of the late Mrs. J. H. Waymouth (nee) Sarah Hill by her loving friends. She had served as chorister and organist for the church at the time of the presentation in May 1898.

Copyright © Allan Layton.

PRESENTED TO  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
IN MEMORY OF THE LATE  
MRS J. H. WAYMOUTH  
† NEE SARA HILL †  
20 YEARS CHORISTER  
AND ORGANIST OF  
THIS CHURCH  
BY HER LOVING FRIENDS  
MAY 1898.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**St. John's Anglican Church circa 1910.**

**This photograph was gifted to St. John's Church by "Mr. & Mrs. George Sapsford and son Harry", upon him leaving for war service in 1943 aged 46.**

While it was possible that Harry was leaving for the war, during the Vestry meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1942, records state that "Mr. Sapsford resigned [War Service], Mr. Clifton elected as replacement."

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.







# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**Joseph Proctor  
Bainbridge.**

Guardian from 1869 for some years, Church Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendant, President of the Hospital Committee and Manager of the Union Bank at Alexandra.



**Henry Alston.**

Senior Guardian in 1885 to 1892, also Shire Dog Inspector, Valuer and Rate Collector.



**Jack Haycraft.**

Vestryman at Marysville, member of the Central Council and prominent Marysville citizen.



**Brent Coller.**

Elected to the Vestry in 1956 and a Churchwarden from 1960 to 1963. He was a farmer at Eildon who later moved to Alexandra and farmed the property located along the Goulburn River between Riversdale and Binns McCraes Road, now the



**Herbert FitzRoy.**

Churchwarden in 1960 to 1963, Shire Councillor and Shire President in 1963. He served on the Hospital Committee for 20 years and was involved in numerous other organisations in Alexandra.



**Father Angus Cooper.**

Rector from 1956 to 1961.

**A few of the people mentioned in this text.**

All photographs courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**St. John's Church of England Sunday School Picnic  
at Alexandra in 1939.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.  
Photographer Herbert Valance.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**View of St. Paul's Kanumbra Church c1950s**

Courtesy of the Fox Family



**Another view of St. Paul's Kanumbra Church c1950s**

Courtesy of the Fox Family



**Inside St. Paul's Kanumbra c1950s**

Courtesy of the Fox Family





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**Inside St. Paul's Kanumbra-Sanctuary,  
Pulpit and Organ.**

Courtesy of the Fox Family



**St. Paul's Kanumbra Organ c1950s**

Courtesy of the Fox Family





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**1987 Jubilee Service, 50 years from Laying of St. John's Foundation Stone. The crowd collecting at the Webster Street site to process to St. John's in Downey Street.**  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



**The Clergy at the 1987 Service**  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.

Left-Right

- Rev. George Edwards (Marysville)
- Rev. Terry Innes (Uniting Church)
- Archdeacon Douglas Blake- (a former Rector)
- Pastor Roy Dunn (Life Centre Church)
- Tim Cohen
- Archdeacon Angus Cooper (former Rector)
- Father Leo Griffin (St Mary's)



**A group of former parishioners at the 75th Anniversary Dinner in 2012**

(L-R) Norma Miller, Roy Fox, Betty Robb, Ann Cleland [Barton], Bob Gillespie and his sisters.  
Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**Father Barry Johns at the 1991 Harvest Festival service at St. John's Alexandra.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



**The 2015 ordination of Father Graeme Brown at the Wangaratta Cathedral, with Bishop John Parkes.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



**A lunch after the Ordination of Father Graeme Brown held at St. John's Alexandra.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**St. Johns 75th Anniversary Lunch in 2013.**  
Copyright © Maurie Pawsey.



**St. Johns 75th Anniversary Dinner in 2013.**  
Copyright © Maurie Pawsey.



**Alan Welch and Marida Pawsey. Having a cup of tea after a service in 2015.**  
Copyright © Maurie Pawsey.





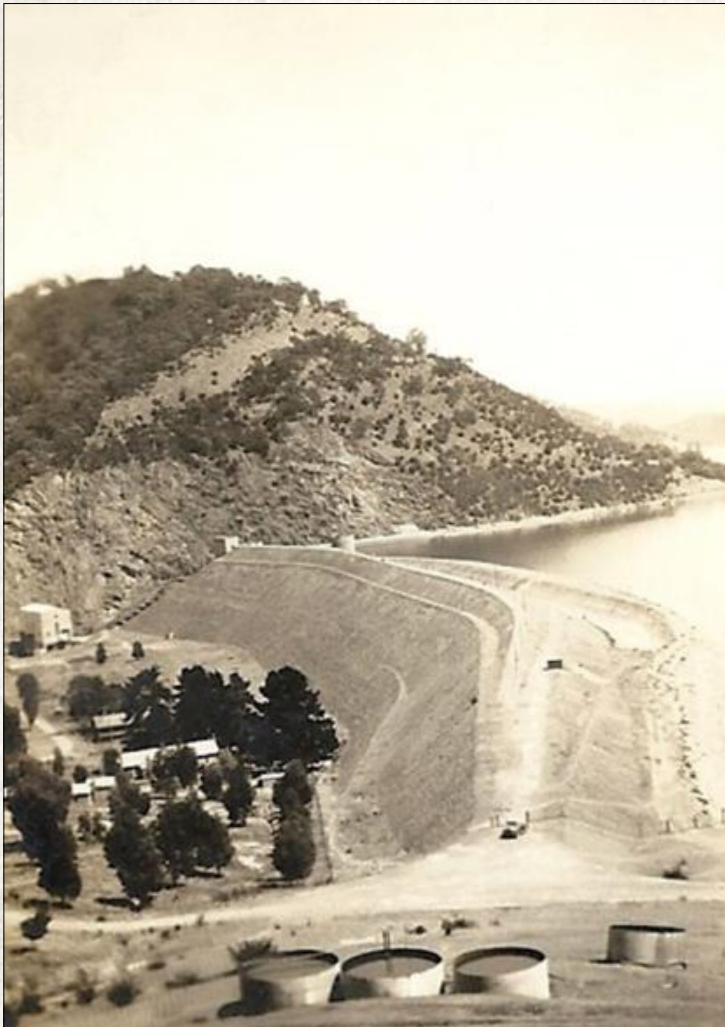
# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**St. Johns 75th Anniversary Service and the Induction of Father Geoff Poliness.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



**The Eildon Church beneath the old Sugarloaf Weir wall and in the old township, in the 1920s.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**A Confirmation Service at Eildon circa 1970.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



**A celebration of 30 years of Mother's Union in 1985.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



**Blessing of the Fleece at Roy Fox's shearing shed in November 1988.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.





# ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GALLERY



**Taken in the time of Father John Clayden,  
looking north to the Rectory.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



**Taken in the time of Father John Clayden,  
looking south after an unusual snow storm in  
Alexandra.**

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.

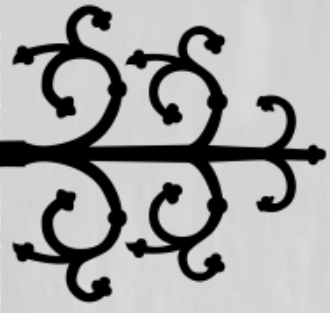


**Buxton Centenary Committee Meeting  
outside the Church, the morning before  
the Service in 1995.**

(L-R) Rev. Andrew Schreuder, Marida Pawsey,  
Ivy Smith, Julie Cross [Foletta],  
Clem Clement, Helen Clement, Moira Smith.

Copyright © Maurie Pawsey 2018.





# MEMORIES

A PLACE FOR SIGNIFICANT MEMORIES

DAISY WEEKS

JOSIAH WAYMOUTH

JOSEPH PROCTOR BAINBRIDGE

LUCY MADDOX

KEY CHURCH DATES





# REMEMBERING

## Daisy Weeks



Courtesy Allan & Patricia Weeks and Marie Dacre

Daisy Ellen Rebecca Reynolds was born in March 1885 and married William Edwin Weeks in 1906 and they farmed potatoes in the Tolmie district. In 1919 they moved with their four children: Eddie [Edwin] -1907, Mabel -1909, Sydney - 1911, Mary - 1914, to Acheron.

At Acheron they operated a dairy farm as share farmers with the Rennie family, several years later purchasing *Riversdale* near the Riversdale Bridge over the Goulburn River, Alexandra. Several family partnerships operated the dairy farm over ensuing years, starting with 1. William Edwin Weeks – circa 1930 onwards, 2. Daisy, Eddie & Syd Weeks – circa 1940 onwards, 3. Daisy & Eddie Weeks & Sons [Allan & Ian]- 1950 onwards, 4. Eddie Weeks & Sons [Allan, Ian & Clinton (Allan's Son)] - 1960's, 5. Ian & Diana Weeks who ceased dairying 2007.

Daisy was a dedicated member of St. John's Anglican Church in Alexandra. She was very active in the Choir as were her daughters in law Millie (50yrs choir member), Violet, and grandsons Allan & Ian, also the great grandchildren from Allan &

Pat's as well as Ian & Diana's families served in the choir as well as some being altar servers.

Outside the Church she was active in the Country Women's Association and was State President of the women's section of the United Country Party. She was also very involved with the Red Cross, being Superintendent for the Alexandra Region, during the 1939 bushfires & World War II. Other activities included being a member of the Committee of Management of the Alexandra & District Ambulance Service for its first two years, was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace in 1941, she was a supporter of the Snob's Creek Water Scheme for Alexandra and in 1955, she was invited to an Afternoon Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to meet Queen Elizabeth.

In 1956 Daisy was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1956, this followed in the family with her grandson Allan Weeks receiving the OAM for community service in the Ambulance & Hospital fields and her great grandson Peter Weeks receiving the OAM for community service through UGFM & SES during Marysville fires.

She became the first female Shire President of the Alexandra Shire in 1945-46 (At the time only the second woman to be a Shire President in the State). Daisy died at Riversdale in June 1964 at the age of 79 and was buried in the Alexandra Cemetery.

Edwin became the first member of the family to become a Member of the Parish Council in February 1953 and continued in that role until 1963, son Allan was a Council member in the early 1950's as was his son Ian who joined him on the Council in 1962. Ian also took a very active part in the CEBS [Church of England Boys Society] from 1956 – 1958 as Assistant Leader then leader to 1971, and also as leader of the YAF [Young Anglican Fellowship] from 1957 to 1967.

Diana, Ian's wife is a regular Organist, she has been a Sunday School Teacher and has been Parish Councillor in the 1990s and recently, as has Ian. Both Ian & Diana are Synod representatives.

The Weeks family has played a rich and diverse role in the history of St. John's.



# REMEMBERING

## Josiah Waymouth

Courtesy St. John's Anglican Church.



Josiah Henry Waymouth was previously Manager of the Colonial bank, Wangaratta, where he was also honorary Treasurer to the Borough Council and sang in the choir at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. He was later Manager of the Union Bank at Smythesdale, and a Vestry member of Christ Church, Ballarat. In 1881 he travelled to Alexandra with his wife Susan and five children, and served as Manager of the Union bank.

Mr Waymouth is first found in the sketchy Church records of those days as a Guardian in 1889 and he continued as a member until the late 1890s, when there is a significant gap in church records. The *Alexandra Standard* newspaper reported as late as 1902 that he was still a Guardian at the church.

He is mentioned in 1891, as Choir master, when the Church accepted his proposal to have the Choir robed and to enrol boys in the Choir. There is a photograph of the Choir -Robed- in October 1894 in which Josiah appears, his wife having passed away only weeks before.

He was Treasurer of the Mechanics Institute & Library, the Upper Goulburn Pastoral & Agricultural Association, and a member of the Amateur Dramatic Society. Later he was to be a Director of the Alexandra Dairy Co., President of the Hospital committee and a Commissioner of the Waterworks Trust.

In 1897 Josiah married Sara Hill, who had been organist, choir member and Sunday School teacher for over 20 years. Twelve months later Sara sadly passed away, having delivered their daughter Sarah just one week earlier. A baptismal font in her honour was presented by parishioners, and it was in use for over one hundred years. The first infant baptism in the font was Josiah and Sarah's baby, who was christened Sarah after her mother.

Josiah was Sunday School Superintendent and a lay reader at St. John's. Just weeks after losing his wife Sara he conducted Sunday services for a distraught Rev. Lane, who had lost his daughter only days before. He was President of the local branch of the British & Foreign Bible Society. He was also Precentor (of music) for St Andrew's Presbyterian church and delivered an emotional eulogy for their Rev. Thomas Swift after Rev. Swift had personally requested Josiah speak on his behalf, some months before his passing.

In 1904 Josiah was to marry again. He had two more children at Alexandra before retiring to East Malvern in 1907, where he had 2 more. He passed away in 1918, aged 74 years. He was survived by 3rd wife Catherine and 9 children ranging in age from 47 to 7 years!



# REMEMBERING

## Joseph Proctor Bainbridge



Joseph Bainbridge was born in London and was about 27 when he came to Alexandra in April 1867. He may have spent some time in Yea, because he married Marion Jane Miller of Murrindindi Station, shortly after arriving in Alexandra. She was recorded by Brian Lloyd in his book *Alexandra & District 2006* as being a gentle, cultured lady. They were to have five children in Alexandra and two more when they eventually moved to Hawthorn.

Bainbridge came to open a Branch of the Union Bank, as the Manager. He had visited the Redgate diggings earlier in 1867, buying gold and presumably looking into the possibilities of establishing a Branch. He is suggested, again by Lloyd, to have started the Branch in a room at Vining's Alexandra Hotel, but quickly moved along Grant Street, but in November 1872, the building burnt down. A new brick building was erected in 1873.

Lloyd again records that the threat of Ned Kelly, meant that special police had the Branch under protection. The sitting room of the residence became a sleeping compartment for them. In 1868, he [with Gerard Pendlebury] purchased a block of four acres on Spring Creek, where a crushing machine was erected.

For St. John's he was involved from the beginning, he was appointed by Rev. Andrew Toomath to the Church Building Committee in 1867, with Donald McKenzie and Thomas Hall. At the Laying of the Foundation Block, it is recorded that it was Joseph Bainbridge who invited Mrs. McKenzie to lay the Foundation Stone [actually a block of timber]. Joseph Bainbridge was a Guardian - probably until he was promoted by the Bank to Collins Street, Melbourne in 1881, a Lay reader, also Church Treasurer and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Bainbridge is recorded as a seriously minded man - a Justice of the Peace - blessed with patience and sound judgement. He was said to be a genial companion on the cricket field.

In the community he was very active-President of the Hospital Committee. Lloyd, tells us that in 1877, a Mechanics Institute & Library Committee was formed and the Church was well represented, Joseph Bainbridge was Vice-President and Rev. W Hutchinson was a member.

Lloyd records that in January 1867 - [there has to be a question about the date, which seems too early], a petition was prepared for a School under the auspices of the Church of England. The Committee included Donald McKenzie, Rev. Toomath, and Joseph Bainbridge. Similarly, Joseph Bainbridge is credited with being "largely instrumental in establishing" the first Eildon School, in January 1875. His memory is perpetrated still in the Bainbridge House at the Secondary College.

Bainbridge, as mentioned above, moved to Melbourne in 1881. He died in 1916, aged 76.



# REMEMBERING

## Lucy Maddox

In the early days of Alexandra, street lighting was rudimentary and it was not uncommon for people to carry lamps when venturing out at night. This photograph, in the archives of St. John's Anglican church, shows an early church member by the name of Lucy Maddox who became known as the Lady with the Lamp. She walked to 'Evensong' and back home with her lamp every week. Evensong was the name given to the Sunday Evening Church Service where singing made up an important part of worship, hence the term 'Evensong'.

Lucy was born in 1861, the daughter of Mary Ann Bough and Thomas Maddox. Her mother's sister was Lacy Ann Bough who married John Charles Kellock. They were the grandparents of the Kellock family members who later donated land for Kellock Lodge in Alexandra. Lucy was a respected member of St. John's, Anglican Church and a loyal leader of their Sunday School program for over 44 years. To our knowledge, Lucy was the longest servicing Sunday School Teacher to serve at Alexandra. In 1922 she was awarded the Diocesan Long Service Certificate in recognition of her 27 years, then in 1939 Bishop J. S. Hart presented her with a framed certificate recognising her long service. Notably, when work on the new church commenced, it was Lucy who was afforded the opportunity to turn the first sod on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 1937. She was subsequently awarded a special spade by local contractor and St. John's Anglican Church member



In recognition of the service and life of Miss Lucy Maddox, a Sanctuary Lamp was installed at St. John's Church on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1949. The lamp was dedicated to Lucy by the Bishop of Wangaratta.



In Anglican Churches, Sanctuary Lamps are hung in the Sanctuary or Chancel and the light burns continuously to recognise the presence of God. In most Anglican Churches, this is where the Aumbrey Cabinet is kept which holds the Holy Communion elements, already consecrated for use for hospital or bed ridden members of the congregation are kept.

A reading Rest donated by Lucy in 1926 is inscribed:

*"Presented by Miss L. Maddox as a thanks-offering in acknowledgment of God's faithfulness during her many years association with St. John's Church of England"*

Lucy died at Cheltenham on 25 September 1947.





# MEMORIES

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## Key Church Dates

c1857	Muddy Creek Mission established in Yea. Church of England Lay-Reader Mr. Ashe was based there.
c1867/68	Discovery of Gold in Alexandra and establishment of Red Gate Diggings.
c1867	Visit of Dean of Melbourne-Dean Macartney and establishment of a Building Committee
c1867	First marriage was between Mr. & Mrs. Menzie conducted by Rev Toomath.
1868 January 14th	Laying of Foundation Stone of new Church by Mrs. McKenzie.
1868 March 1st	Official Opening of first Church by Dean Macartney.
1868 May	Issue of Licence by Bishop of Melbourne to Rev. A Toomath
1869 August	Renting of house for Rectory after Meeting chaired by Frederick Coster.
c1875	Extension to Church of a timber Chancel
c1888	Services commence in new Church at Kanumbra.
c1885	the Rectory in Downey Street purchased
c1891	Move to a Robed Choir-Mr. J A Waymouth Choir master.
1895 May	St Thomas` Buxton opened.
c1901	Disagreement with Rev. E. A. Scott-resulted in demolition of Rectory and opening of new Rectory in 1911
c1912	Christ Church Marysville constructed.
c1922	At this time there were 9 Centres in the Parish where services were conducted.
c1925	First service at St Paul`s Eildon, under the first Dam wall.
c1933	Investigations into a new Church on Downey street site-Rev Douglas Blake initiating.



# MEMORIES

## Key Church Dates

1937 August	Parishioners agree to accept price for a new Church.
1937 November 13th	Foundation Stone laid by Rev. Blake and First Sod turned by Miss Lucy Maddox who served for over 40 years as a Sunday School Teacher.
13 August 1938	New Church opened by Bishop Hart of Wangaratta.
1938 September	Old Church at Webster st. dismantled and rebuilt as Church Hall at Downey St.
1943 May	Service for 75th Anniversary of original Church in Webster Street.
1943 September	Consecration of St. Johns-now free of debt, by Bishop Armour.
1945 September	Land behind Rectory –down to Perkins Street- sold.
1946 May	Extensions to Church Hall-Stage & Toilets and later meeting Room and Kitchen.
1953 March	Eildon Church moved into new township, after new dam constructed
c1956	Rev. Angus Cooper- achievements –a “Wells” fundraising campaign and “Blessing of the Fleece” on the Fox properties at Kanumbra.
c1957	Mothers Union established in Alexandra.
c1958	Retirement of G.A. Payne after 40 years as Churchwarden & Vestryman.
1961 November	Induction of Rev. John Clayden- started Opportunity Shop and separation of Marysville/Buxton.
1962 December	Publication of ‘Together’ magazine commenced.
1964 September	Results of Parish Fundraising campaign published- very successful.
c1967	Separation of Marysville/ Buxton as a new Parish.
c1968	A Confirmation group of 40 by Bishop McCall and Rev. F Morrey
c1973	Induction of Rev. George Nunan- still the longest serving Priest at Alexandra. Achievements-starting Kellock Lodge Aged Care facility and re-establishing the Opportunity Shop.





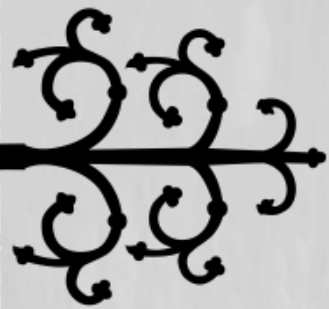
# MEMORIES

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## Key Church Dates

c1984	Issue of "Partners in Mission" Editor Norma Miller. Also "Procession of Witness" at Easter, with all Churches.
c1987	Service for Jubilee -50th Anniversary of Laying of St. John's Foundation Stone, including procession from Webster street site. Special issue of "Jubilation" for the occasion-Editor June Cookson.
c1987	Extension to Rectory- lead by Churchwarden Alan Welch.
c1995	Service for Centenary of Buxton Church.
c1996	Purchase of Pipe Organ after Appeal lead by Sergio de Pieri.
c1997	60th Anniversary of Laying of Foundation Stone of St. John's.
c2002	90th Anniversary of Christ Church Marysville- Rev Andrew Schreuder.
2009 February	Black Saturday- Marysville Church destroyed by wildfire with death of 34 Marysville residents
c2012	Father Geoff Poliness inducted at a Service for 75 th Anniversary of Laying of Foundation Stone. By Bishop John Parkes –of Wangaratta. He instigated a second Opportunity Shop-"Redgate Bazaar".
c2015	Team Ministry established involving Alexandra/ Yea/ Marysville-Buxton.
c2016	OAM Award for Treasurer Joy Welch.
2017 November	Opening of rebuilt Church –Christ Church Marysville.
2018 January	Father Paul Wood retired, Father Graeme Brown appointed as Locum.
2018	Release of this Free eBook.





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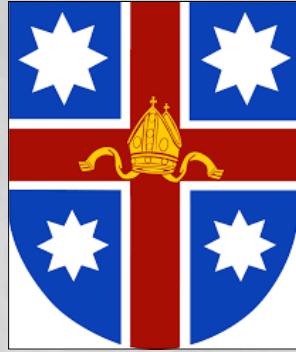
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