

Vicars thoughts



st. aidan's
parkdale

St Aidan's Parkdale 100 year Celebration 1923 - 2023



THE FIRST VICAR
THE REV. P. B. HAYMAN

ST. AIDAN'S PARKDALE INCUMBENTS

1923 – 1926 PARISH VACANT

1926 – 1929 PHILIP HAYMAN

1929 – 1930 WILLIAM PATTISON

1930 – 1930 FRANCIS SLADE

1930 – 1934 PERCY EDWARDS

1934 – 1951 CHARLES CLARK

1951 – 1956 FRANCIS CUTTRISS

1956 – 1961 STANLEY MOSS

1961 – 1964 JOHN BISHOP

1964 – 1970 PETER HARRADENCE

1970 - 1974 JOHN STEWART [now BISHOP JOHN STEWART]

1974 – 1979 ERNEST HORTH

1979 – 1986 GRAEME WINTERTON

1987 – 1989 JOHN SWIFT

1989 – 1997 GEOFFREY MILTON

1997 – 2007 IAN BATTERSBY

2008 – 2011 CHRISTINE ROSEN

2012– 2017 ALEX KORNACZEWSKI

2018– 2023 DANIEL GEBERT

2023 – PHIL HURWOOD

***31st AUGUST, 1972, St. AIDAN'S DAY,
ARCHBISHOP FRANK WOODS
CONSECRATED THE NEW CHURCH**

1923 – 1926 PARISH VACANT

1926 – 1929 Rev. PHILIP HAYMAN



**THE FIRST VICAR
THE REV. P. B. HAYMAN**

1929 – 1930 Rev. WILLIAM PATTISON

1930 Rev. FRANCIS SLADE

1930 – 1934 Rev. PERCY EDWARDS

1934 – 1951 Rev. CHARLES CLARK

1951 – 1956 Rev. FRANCIS CUTTRISS



First Families at St. Aidan's 1950's & 1960's

Compiled by Faye Harrop (Irvine):

Families at St. Aidan's, Parkers Road, Parkdale: Bainbridge, Beesley, Davies, Irvine, Maggs, McNeillage, Preston, Reynolds.

1950's: Sunday School at St. Aidan's Church, Parker's Road, Parkdale.

Children were grouped according to their grades at Primary School. Classes were held in the wooden hall situated behind the Church.

Grade 5 teacher was Mrs James.

Grade 6 teacher was Mrs Lilley.

Both ladies were sisters who lived on the corner of Warrigal Road and beach road. Both were quietly spoken, kind teachers towards their well-behaved pupils.

After prayers & songs, classes moved to their separate areas with their teachers. Grade 6 went to the Vestry, where they recited the Collect for the Day, which they had learnt during the week.

Sunday School Picnics

Children travelled by a van to Healesville Reservoir, parents would drive themselves to the venue.

Lunch (sandwiches) were prepared by members of the Ladies Guild and handed to children in a brown paper bag.

Children were allowed to swim in the dam.

Zoo Picnic

Tickets were given to the children for Elephant rides and Merry Go Round rides.

1960's

Directive from the Diocese that St. Aidan's Church was to move from Parkers Road, Parkdale to build a Church at East Parkdale as this was a burgeoning area.

1961

Faye Irvine was asked to move from Sunday School teacher at St. Aidan's, Parkers Road, to start a Sunday School for the children who lived in East Parkdale.

Photos of Sunday School, 1961, 11 Ellen Street, Parkdale, Mr & Mrs Kelly

1. Faye Harrop per Muriel James;
Gary Norton, Diane James, Sheryl Quinn, Pat Fox, Geoffrey Cadwallader
Rosemary James, Judy-Anne Norton, Alan Cadwallader, Kent Straker

2. Gary Quinn, Leon Doussett, Debbie Seares, Ray James, Sue Cadwallader, Donald Ozelins
3. Gary Quinn, Leon Doussett,..... Debbie Seaves, Ray James, Sue Cawallader, Donald Ozolins, Sally Vinning.

First Families:

Cadwallader (Rev. Alan Cadwallader), Doussett, Fox, Irvine, James, Norton, Ozolins, Quinn, Sears, Straker

Mr and Mrs Keely offered their garage at 11 Ellen Street as the place for St. Aidan's Church Sunday School to be held.

Eventually, when the hall was built on the corner of McSwain and Robert Street, Parkdale, Graham Smith, from Spotswood, who had settled at Parkdale with his wife Joan and their three children, Bronwyn, Nigel and Warren, took on the responsibility of Sunday School teacher.

Favourite song for the Sunday School children was 'Build on the Rock', particularly when the loud clap (shock) was changed to silent clap. Everyone laughed if someone hadn't paid attention.

1950's and 1960's:

Special Services for St. Aidan's were held at St. Augustine's Church of England at Mentone, as St. Aidan's Church was a wooden hall.

Confirmation at St. Augustine's Church of England, Mentone

21st August 1951

Faye Irvine examined and presented by Rev. Frank L. Cuttriss Confirmed by Bishop J. McKie
McKie

12th September 1958

Enid hart, Jean Irvine, Muriel James, Mavis Quinn prepared and presented by
Rev, Stanley C. Moss, Vicar Confirmed by Bishop J. McKie

Marriage:

Thursday 6th October 1966

Faye Irvine and Gary Harrop

Marriage Service conducted by Rev. P. Harradence, Vicar of St. Aidan's Church
Rev. J. Bishop, Vicar of St. Augustine's Church

Rev. P. Harradence now retired & living at Somerville

1956 – 1961 Rev. STANLEY MOSS



THE REV. STANLEY MOSS 1957



**Mrs Bainbridge, Rev Stan Moss,
Rev Graeme Winterton**



**Rev Stan Moss, Rev Graeme Winterton
with parishioners**

Rev MADDICK, Locum between Rev. Moss and Rev. Bishop



**REV. A.V. MADDICK AND THE
CONGREGATION AT 11 ELLEN ST.**

1961 – 1964 Rev. JOHN BISHOP

1964 – 1970 Rev. PETER HARRADENCE



THE REV. PETER HARRADENCE 1963



AT THE DEDICATION OF THE VICARAGE 1966

1964 – 1970 PETER HARRADENCE with Bishop Frank Woods

REMINISCENCES FROM REV. PETER HARRADENCE:

In 1964 after St. Aidan's Church Parkdale was created as a Parish in its own right (not just a branch of St. Augustine's, Mentone parish). Peter Harradence, a very immature Anglican Priest, came as Pastor. Thankfully, the Church Council (Vestry) was able to cope with him and Mrs Betty Crawford and Mrs Muriel James were able to help him considerably.

The property in Roberts Street in East Parkdale had a large Besser brick hall used on Sundays by the Sunday School led by Graeme Smith and a small builders hut with very limited space for Sunday Worship. Despite the crowded conditions, the congregation coped very well. Once a month a Combined Service was held in the hall. It also was home to the Girls' Friendly Society led by Betty Drummond and the Church of England Boys' Society guided by her husband Bob. The latter group was particularly keen on basketball.

In the 1960's it was still in the period of large Sunday Schools and Children's Activities where parents sent their children even though they were non – church goers.

The Anglican Church in Australia was still using the 1662 Prayer Book, singing Traditional Hymns and the service was almost entirely conducted by the Vicar. Worship Services were at 8.00am, 11 am and 7 pm – rather predictable and unexciting.

The Evening Service was relatively poorly attended, although the Drummond family with their five boys boosted numbers both nights. The youngest often slept during the Sermon, once waking up and saying quite audible, "Is he still going?"

At first, I was living in a rented house in Keilor Avenue, but, after a couple of years, a Vicarage was constructed on the Church Grounds. Surprisingly, that the house was to become important in the growth of the Parish.

One year, there was a Confirmation Group with several keen young folk. Often Confirmation was seen as a Graduation from Sunday School, into nothingness. I was anxious to retain these folk. They were encouraged to attend the 8.00am Communion Service and then troop down the hill to the Vicarage for Breakfast (porridge and toast) followed by a Bible Discussion Group led by Betty Drummond. Amongst the youth were Alan Cadwallader, Les Fox, Michelle Brown (later to become Grey) and Graeme Prowd.

As more and more people purchased televisions, the Traditional Anglican Evensong became rather poorly attended. One night, Bruce Grey was the only one attending beside myself. He was rather a rough larrikin and I decided that he would find it embarrassing if we went through the Prayer Book Service, so I invited him down the Vicarage for a cuppa and a chat instead. (These days it would be most unacceptable). During our chat, Bruce yielded his life to Christ. He later went to Ridley Theological College and was ordained.

Bob Drummond suggested to the older C.E.B.S. Basketball players that they have a once a month Church Parade at the Evening Service. Because the boys were coming, very quickly the girls decided they wanted to attend and it soon became every Sunday Evening. Because there were virtually no older members attending that service, I decided to experiment with a more relaxed form of worship. I bought some L.P. records of Contemporary Christian Songs, taped them and we sang along, the most popular disk was, "Joy is Like the Rain", contemporary songs by the Medical Ministry Sisters in the U.S.A. The best loved track being, "I cannot come".

Based on Christ's Parable about people who had been invited to a magnificent feast, but later excused themselves, from attending:

"I cannot come."

I cannot come to the Banquet

Don't bother me now:

I have married a wife; I have purchased a cow,

I have fields and commitments that cost a pretty sum;

Pray have me excused, I cannot come.

Some of the youth took delight in transposing the words, "wife" and "cow" in the Chorus.

Elaine Kilfoyle said that my wearing of traditional Anglican Robes, acted against the informality of the service, so I decided to discontinue using them at this service. These days, it is very common (particularly amongst Evangelicals) not to robe for Worship, but, in the 1960's, it was a bold move. I was becoming somewhat adventurous. In similar vein, Peter Crawford and Ken Cahill said that the ancient English language of the 1662 Prayer Book was antiquated. I invited them to rewrite in Contemporary English and with twentieth Century thought. Both accepted the challenge and their respective updates were "run off" and used.

For a short period, we also had a group on "unchurched" young people turn up for this service. One night, arriving late, they made quite a racket outside the church, while I was leading in prayer. Suddenly, one of them, looking through the window called loudly, "Shut up, he's praying!" I think that the Lord had a good chuckle at that!

At one stage, I began having dialogue sermons, when I invited the congregation to question any comment I made. Sometimes, I preached my entire prepared Address, without interruption, but, on other occasions, particularly if Alan Cadwallader was present, I only got to proclaim one or two sentences, before the flood-gates opened.

After the service, many of the youth marched down the hill to the Vicarage, for supper, and "frightened the life" out of my radiogram, as they played some of their Rock Records at full blast!

Four of the original young people, later went on to study at Ridley Theological College, to prepare for Ordination in the Anglican Church: Peter Crawford, Alan Cadwallader, Ken Cahill and Bruce Grey, who was to marry Michelle Brown and cause her to become "grey".

Change was also affecting the Morning Services. The Anglican Church published a revised Communion service for trial use, before eventually publishing a completely revised, "An Australian Prayer Book", which came after I had left St. Aidan's. I also tried a very Contemporary Rock-style Hymn at the 8.00am service on Easter Day and quickly learnt that such music was most unacceptable!

When I announced that I had accepted an appointment to the parish of St. Mark's, Niddrie, I pointed out to the youth that in the interim period, before the arrival of a new Vicar, the parish would be led by a Locum, a retired older man who would be unfamiliar with our informal Evening Service. I said, "If you want to continue what we had started, then you will probably need to lead the worship and the singing and tell the Locum when it was time for him to preach!! They took up the challenge and the interim period was a time for them to grow spiritually and in leadership skills.

I felt that I had contributed as much as I could to the parish and that a new pastor with different talents was needed. When the Reverend John Stewart was inducted to St. Aidan's, he encouraged the youth and the Evening Service began to attract large numbers.

Unfortunately, when the leaders moved on to different areas, the exciting Contemporary Worship collapsed. Quite a few years later when I visited St. Aidan's, I found the Evening Service was now held at 5.00pm and was the 1662 service of Evensong, attended by a small congregation of older adults.

My six years at St. Aidan's, was a time for me to grow in maturity and I became far more flexible and am very grateful to the parish for their patience with me. I also rejoice in many fine people whose love for the Lord continued as they served Him at Parkdale or elsewhere.

REV. PETER HARRADENCE

Reminiscences Rev Dr. PETER CRAWFORD (parishioner)

St. Aidan's Parkdale: some reminiscences

ST. AIDAN'S AT PARKERS ROAD

Through the 1950's the church was part of the Mentone parish. Following the war resources were limited. The buildings were of poor quality. The services were formal with a low level of participation and poor singing. Strength came from the older members including Mrs James and Mrs Lilley who lived on the southern corner of Warrigal Rd. and Beach Rd. and who had a role of encouragement. There were also the Vales, the Bainbridges and Mrs Roberg whose sincerity shone through in her Sunday School teaching. And then there were the young families who joined including the Bryants, Beasleys, Crawfords, Davies, Listers, Stubbs, and others.

The curates lived on site but seemed to be preoccupied with surviving. I remember one who could not afford the medical care his daughter needed. The parishioners were sympathetic but what could they do when no one had any spare money. There was a small CEBS group and also a kindergarten on site led by Carol Asche. Betty Crawford somehow gathered together books for a lending library for the local community; which became the predecessor of the library on the other side of the railway line.

A highlight was the annual picnic when everyone would pile into Tonks' removal vans sitting along the walls. Venues included Emerald Lake where there were games, races and lunch. One year the driver got drunk at lunchtime. The men consulted and one who had driven trucks in the war was given the job of driving everyone home safely.

Another incident that left an impression was when young Geoff Cadwallader lost an eye in an accident. The prayers of the church had a novel immediacy and reality.

THE MOVE

St Columba's Chapel consisted of two builders site sheds joined together. It was meant to be a temporary meeting place but continued to give valued use for many years after the new St Aidan's was built. Early on the Secretary, Betty Crawford, who had earlier served as Stan Moss's secretary at St Augustine's, got into trouble with the Diocesan Registrar because the chapel had not conformed to all the Diocesan building regulations. Her attitude was that now it was in situ they could not do anything.

In 1964 Peter Harradence was appointed as the first Vicar. His first sermon was on the body of Christ using a flannel board and set out a clear view of what a church could become.

One of the powerful ministries was the Sunday School led by the dynamic Graham Smith who led the vigorous chorus singing and the team of young teachers. He regularly visited each of the teachers to make sure they had the lessons under their belt.

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT 1969 TO 1972

Peter Harradence's work as an evangelist supported by people like Graham Smith and Betty Drummond created fertile ground for a movement of God's Spirit. The catalyst was the visit of Billy Graham to Melbourne in March 1969. Transport was arranged and invitations were given. One of those who accepted was a university student who had stopped attending St Aidan's because he felt that it wasn't providing the spiritual answers he was looking for. That night Peter Crawford heard God speaking to him and he went forward. The follow up process for enquirers was well organised by the Graham organisation and St Aidan's. The next week Betty Drummond led an initial Bible study at the vicarage for a group of young people who had responded. Betty asked Peter if he believed in God to which he replied "No, I know Him". By the end of that year a weekly youth service was using the chapel in the evenings. On Boxing Day Len Kemp took Peter Crawford to the 10 day CMS League of Youth camp at the Belgrave Heights convention. New networks were being forged. One mark of the emerging vigour was that there was passionate prayer for a revival amongst young people.

Things started to move in early 1970. In May the first youth Bible Study attracted 15 people. In June Peter Harradence could see the limitations of the Book of Common Prayer evening service and challenged the youth to modernise the language. Ken Cahill and Peter Crawford responded. That was a strategic move and gave the youth a greater sense of responsibility and ownership. Peter Harradence also began to recruit young preachers from the group. On June 21 the chapel was packed with young people. One feature was the emerging music team using guitars.

In early July the first camp was held at Blairgowrie. The team of leaders was growing and included Bruce Grey, Michelle Brown, Ken Cahill, Peter Crawford, Sue Day, Rob Mauger, Rob Kilfoyle, Alan Cadwallader, and Graeme Prowd. More teenagers were getting involved, many of whom came from non-Christian homes. There was no formal structure or committee as things were rapidly evolving. However there was a deep sense of unity and a passion to lead as many teenagers to Christ as possible. Outings to the snow, to Gembrook, and car rallies were organised. Nor was their sense of responsibility limited to youth, but they were also regularly visiting and singing at an old people's home and trying to win their parents as well.

The driving passion of these young people was the gospel of Christ. They had an understanding of the human condition and accepted that no amount of human effort could overcome sin. God in His love had done what was needed by sending His Son, who by His death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin and now graciously offers every person forgiveness, reconciliation with God, eternal life, and a new purpose in life. Experiencing God's goodness for themselves they felt deeply grateful, had a sense of compassion for those who were missing out, and wanted to be obedient to Jesus' command to make disciples.

When John and Janine Stewart arrived they slotted in well. John preached with power and they exercised great hospitality in the vicarage even though they had two little boys. In November a new prayer circle developed and there were occasional outdoor services and progressive dinners. Their social responsibility widened to include painting a needy parishioner's house, doing gardening, joining the Walk Against Want, raising money to support a hospital in Tanzania, and so on.

The 1970-1971 League of Youth camp had a strong Parkdale contingent. Twelve were converted that week and as a sign of total dedication Bruce Grey and Michelle Brown offered themselves for missionary service. David Osterlund was converted, extending St Aidan's influence from Frankston to Black Rock and Port Melbourne. As the youth group began to emerge as a youth movement external mentors were influential including David Boan, Norm Allchin, and Harrie Scott Simmons bringing respectively great gifts in scholarship, evangelism, and personal work and cross-cultural mission experience.

Bruce Grey, Ken Cahill and Peter Crawford were regularly preaching. Many were now serving on Scripture Union camp and mission teams where they led many young people from around Victoria to Christ. Following Peter Crawford's call to the ordained ministry, Bruce Grey, Ken Cahill and Alan Cadwallader and then later Stuart Gardiner followed. Interestingly the Crawfords were three doors from the Greys who were three doors from the Cadwalladers. Frequently there were visits for prayer, mutual counsel and planning. Each week a good number would go into the Cathedral basement for the League of Youth Bible studies with a hundred or more other young Christians from around Melbourne.

The level of activity took a lot of planning and preparation. Much of that was generated from a group who were studying at Monash University and travelled together each day. Parents were getting worried by the level of passion. For example, Betty Crawford told Peter he would have a nervous breakdown if he maintained the pace, for he was spending several hours every night on the youth work as well as studying for two degrees and doing an honours stream in law.

In February the Caulfield parish youth group joined us and became another extension to our work. Betty Drummond started a junior youth group which started with 24. A surf day, a dance and a leaders retreat followed.

New leaders included Jill Stokes and Tony Johnson. Intuitively the team of leaders were constantly deferring to each other to ensure that the person with the appropriate spiritual gifts was the one who did the work; and there was a strong sense that the Holy Spirit was in charge and therefore only God should get the praise.

In May there was a large and well organised camp at Point Lonsdale at which Geoff Evans was the speaker. Five were converted including Rhonda Wells. By now what was happening was attracting a lot of notice, and invitations were coming in, particularly for Peter Crawford, to speak at churches and youth groups elsewhere, like the large Doncaster parish.

On June 13 about 100 were at the youth service. Norm Allchin the Diocesan evangelist spoke and ten responded saying they wanted to follow Christ for the rest of their lives, no matter what the cost. Those new Christians were trained to have a time of Bible reading and prayer each day. Many were careful to memorise key scriptures on matters like assurance of salvation, forgiveness and victory over temptation.

The weekly youth services were now seeing substantial offerings as people were giving at least 10% of their income to the Lord. In fact those offertories were now a significant part of the parish income. John Stewart's preaching brought great blessing. Typical of his sermons was one based on Ezekiel 47 where the ever-widening river flows from the temple of God. John's challenge was for us to stop paddling around in petty puddles of personal preferences and deeply and irrevocably plunge into the depths of God. John's constant emphasis on the love of God laid the basis for a healthy spirituality.

The basketball teams led by Tom Veale were another form of outreach. Similarly Bruce Grey and Peter Crawford briefly led a group for apprentice jockeys from the Mentone and Mordialloc racecourses.

In July there was another important development. John Shelton from Bentleigh parish led a bush walk. Somehow a cheer developed where someone would spontaneously call out "give me a J" to which everyone would shout "J" then "e", "s", "u", "s". Or alternatively someone would shout out "attitude check" to which the response was "praise the Lord". The effect of this was that inhibitions were broken down and most became fearless in talking about Christ and their relationship with Him. As a result there was a lot of street evangelism wherever there were crowds, at the beach, shopping centres or ten pin bowling places.

To give an idea of the influence of St Aidan's, from 23 August there was the first National Evangelical Anglican Congress inspired by John Stott's work in England. About 600 delegates, lay and ordained, came from all over Australia to Monash University. John Stewart and some of the youth attended. Before long Peter Crawford was on the platform being quizzed. The following Sunday evening Peter organised for the great English evangelist Michael Green to do some evangelism in the city. The civic leaders refused permission to use the City Square so Peter hired PA equipment. More than 2,000 young people packed the Cathedral. The atmosphere was electric; St Aidan's youth led a spontaneous dance around the aisles. After the service while many were being counselled Peter set Michael up on the Cathedral steps on the corner of Flinders Street and Swanston Street. As Michael preached such a large crowd gathered that for a time traffic was stopped on Flinders Street to the bewilderment of the police.

Interestingly, the national movement of evangelicals became EFAC, the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion [Australia] of which Peter Crawford became the organising secretary, and over many years organised biennial conferences, and the second NEAC, charged with the delicate task of enhancing unity and cooperation, especially during times of stress over issues like the ordination of women. An evangelical is a classic Anglican who takes as his or her authority the written word of God, as Christ did, rather than the authority of the church or the authority of one's own reason or experience.

In September 1971 the young people were using every medium for the gospel. Apart from their spoken message music was very important; those who were gifted were writing new songs in an outburst of creativity. In a time when signage was limited they developed signs for the outside and inside of their cars. They also developed clothing, especially tee shirts with screen-printed slogans. In fact David Osterlund who worked in a Christian bookstore in the city began commercial production and sales were strong. That month the first edition of

their own evangelistic publication was printed. Named "Salt Shaker" it was ably edited by Michelle Brown. In November the print run was 1,100. They were letter-boxed by hand to every home in the parish, and in time much further afield. Other briefer tracts were produced in quantity.

Other speaking engagements followed to places like St Michael's North Dandenong with the Primate, Carey Grammar, Mentone Girls High, Mentone Grammar, Croydon High and so on. At Monash University there was also a deliberate witness. For example, Peter Crawford would hire a megaphone some lunchtimes and take Alan Cadwallader who would sing to draw a crowd then give his testimony before Peter preached.

On Sunday nights a new format developed. After the service John and Janine would open up the vicarage and large numbers would go there for the "afterglow" meeting. After singing and a time of prayer one or two of the leaders would spontaneously speak. Often the message was built on an exposure of environmental, political or social issues, with a personal commitment to God proposed as His strategy of changing the world one person, one family and one community at a time. Then another would call on people to respond and lead in prayer. It was effective. For example, on 17 October nine were converted. The next Sunday another one. The following week there were four, and on the Monday two more. No wonder there were frequent prayer meetings and Bible studies.

And so it continued with outreach in Frankston in November as well as groups being taken to Youth For Christ rallies in the city.

On December 13 Norm Allchin spoke on freedom before 280 young people. That week there was a good deal of evangelism at Southland shopping centre. The following Sunday there were 60 at the Afterglow.

1972 opened with the sudden death of Graham Smith which had a great impact on the whole parish.

As the youth movement matured the old chapel became a youth centre. Outreach programmes extended to Parkdale High School and Beaumaris High School as well as to the youth groups at Niddrie church and St Nicholas' Mordialloc.

In February Bruce Grey was accepted as an ordination candidate for Melbourne Diocese. By now several were going to the Ridley Fellowship meetings at Ridley College aimed at those interested in full time ministry. This brought Dr Leon Morris into a place of influence amongst the youth group leaders.

On 13 February David Binns spoke to well over 100 young people. At the same time David Boan was teaching several New Testament Greek. The leaders were studying Evangelism Explosion from Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Florida, as well as what was happening in the Jesus People movement in California. They saw themselves as part of a new move by God's Spirit around the world.

February finished with a surf day and the conversion of four more teenagers. The company secretary of GJ Coles, John Bishop, began training quite a group in personal evangelism using the materials from Campus Crusade known as the Lay Institute For Evangelism.

March was no less frantic. The first Sunday there were over 100 at the youth service. The next Sunday over 150 came to hear Clive Stebbins of Youth For Christ and 4 made the decision to follow Christ. The March edition of Salt Shaker had a run of 3,000 copies, as well as 3,000 other broadsheets used in local evangelism.

On 9 May Quenton Santos, one of the new Christians going to Mordialloc High School died after an asthma attack- the effect of that was profound. It made all the young people aware of the fragility of life and deepened the sense of urgency to reach every person with news of what Jesus had done to provide eternal life. That Sunday more than 200 teenagers gathered to worship God. The next Friday Bruce Grey, Peter Crawford with Tony Johnson and Dawn McWilliams led a camp for St Mary's Caulfield. The Holy Spirit moved in power. There were 31 campers of whom 6 were already followers of Jesus. Twenty-two prayed to ask the Lord Jesus into their lives. That left three. On the Sunday night back at St Mary's each of those three surrendered to Christ. The next day one of their friends became a Christian. Caulfield parish was transformed as Ian Cox carefully nurtured the growing youth group.

May also saw further outreach to Mordialloc and Edithvale youth groups and a camp at Toolangi led by David Boan which deepened the knowledge and understanding of the campers. One of the members, Steve Budden, was diagnosed with cancer. His response and attitudes through his last few months were a bright example of what a difference Christ can make. When later another lovely young Christian girl, Peta Hope, died suddenly of natural causes the group responded with another outpouring of love.

Whenever God's Spirit moves you can expect to see a reaction from the other side. And so it was at St Aidan's. A group of young locals nicknamed the ungodly by John Stewart, tried to disrupt the evening services each week.

August brought a major camp at Mt Evelyn led by Norm Allchin with over 90 teenagers. Several became Christians that weekend. On 31 August the new church building was consecrated which was a great time of celebration. The next few weeks saw further outreach at Niddrie, at the Doveton Reformed church, and at Monash EU.

The evening services continued to attract large numbers. On November 5 John Smith and the God Squad arrived. There was so much traffic coming to St Aidan's that lots of cars followed just to see what was happening. For a time there was gridlock in the surrounding streets. When the service started 328 crammed into the church with scores more gathered outside at each open window and doorway trying to see and hear what was happening. To add to the excitement the ungodly tried their best to disrupt it all.

December saw more conversions. Salt Shaker ran to 6,000 copies which were hand delivered to homes within a wide radius of St Aidan's. The CMS League of Youth camp at Belgrave Heights was led by St Aidan's members showing how far things had developed over the last three years.

1973 began with the farewell to Bruce Grey as he entered Ridley College to study for the ordained ministry, and Peter Crawford who moved to Canberra to work for the Federal Treasury.

Looking back on an extraordinary period in the life of St Aidan's how can we assess it? We can see that Peter Harradence sowed the seeds that others harvested. The youth movement had weaknesses of immaturity, a lack of structure and inadequate follow up of new converts. Also there were times that too much was expected of those who were new to the faith, especially those whose family background was alien to belief. On the other hand the strengths were in the zeal for evangelism, the reliance on the Bible and prayer, and daily experiencing what God was doing. Faith was developed as the members saw answers to prayer and sensed God's guidance. Power came from a philosophy of every member doing ministry, and from the flexibility that allowed spontaneity. Perhaps the best measure is that many parents became active church members in their turn. And so many of those teenagers, now middle-aged, and their spiritual descendants continue to serve Christ across the nation. Several became full-time Christian workers. These include those who entered the ordained ministry and their wives; Bruce and Michelle Grey, Peter and Karen Crawford, Alan and Robyn Cadwallader, Ken Cahill, and Stuart and Gail Gardiner. These alone have had a disproportionate influence on the Anglican Church of Australia, as well as of course John and Janine Stewart.

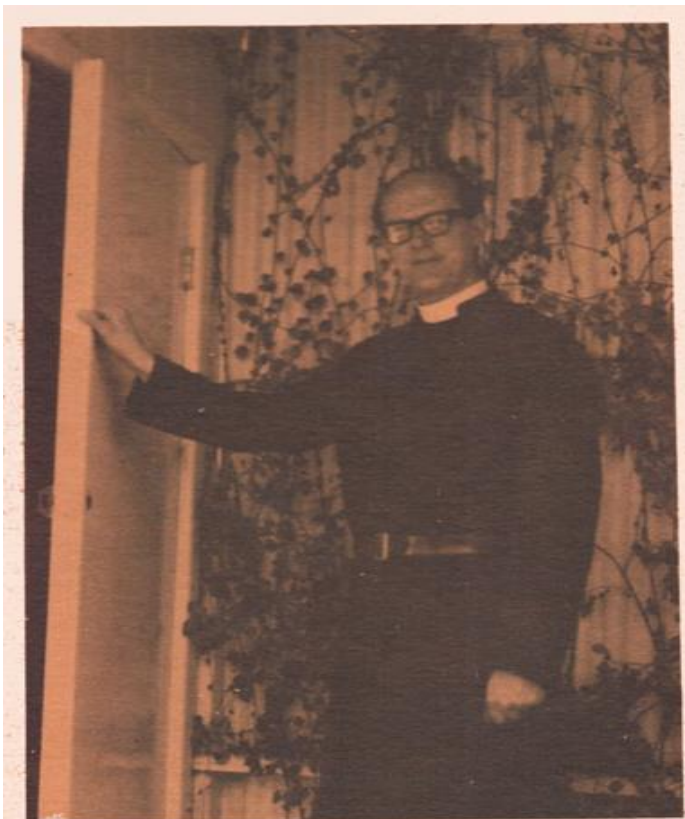
Was it a genuine revival? Yes, because it had all the hallmarks of a movement of God's Spirit in drawing people to Jesus, changed lives with outcomes of holiness, sacrifice, evangelism and fruitfulness. Whoever the human contributors were all the credit goes to God. And well might we pray that, God willing, where His Holy Spirit has moved before may He move again.

Rev Dr. PETER CRAWFORD



Rev John Stewart and Rev Peter Harradence

1970 – 1974 Rev. JOHN STEWART [now BISHOP JOHN STEWART]



The Rev. John Stewart, Th.L.

**CLOSING CHAPEL DOOR AFTER
LAST SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL**

**Some Memories of St Aidan's Parkdale
by Bishop John Stewart**

I was Inducted as Vicar of St Aidan's Parkdale on 22 April 1970. I succeeded the Reverend Peter Harradence who was the first full-time Vicar of the Parish following its separation from St Augustine's Mentone in February 1963.

Only two months earlier Janine and I had embarked on the "Fairstar" to return to Australia after two years on the staff of the Team Ministry at St John's Crawley in Sussex. I had spent five weeks at sea serving as Chaplain to several hundred English migrants, and on arrival in Melbourne I contacted Archbishop Frank Woods asking if he would consider me for a parish appointment in the Diocese of Melbourne.

Following a long lunch with his chaplain, Michael Challen, the Archbishop offered me the Parish of St Aidan's Parkdale on

7th April 1970. Fifteen days later he Inducted me as Vicar of the Parish.

The speed with which these events unfolded put the Parish in a spin. St Aidan's had been vacant for some months and during that time had been cared for by the Reverend Ray Rickards, who if he had wanted a Parish appointment, would have been grabbed by the parishioners. So when it was announced on the Sunday that on Wednesday week the Archbishop would be here with the Archdeacon to install a young priest from England whom no-one had heard of, it was with some apprehension that the parishioners hurriedly got the Vicarage and the Parish Hall ready for the Induction. Although Janine and I quickly felt welcomed and accepted by the parishioners, it was a challenge to begin ministry in a parish whose people had not been consulted about my appointment and would have preferred to have had the Locum as the new Vicar.

My first service at St Aidan's on 26 April 1970 was in the "Chapel". The Chapel on the corner of McSwain Street and Robert Street Parkdale was a converted Builders Hut enabling about 60 people to worship on Sunday, except on the first Sunday of the month when about 75 adults and children would gather in the Hall for a Family Service.

Apart from the cold in winter, and the heat in summer, a friendly intimate atmosphere for worship was enjoyed by the congregation. The main problem was the exterior appearance of the Chapel, for it looked like a temporary portable hut parked on the block, and its size severely limited growth and expansion, for it was off-putting for some people looking for a "real Church".

I preached on a quote from the Gospel for the day "Loving what God commands". The attendance register shows there were 29 people at 8 am, 51 at 10 am, and 36 at 7 pm. I remember thinking the congregation was very encouraging in their comments as we shook hands at the door.

The Youth Service

The Evening Service was an unconventional one. The teenage Youth Group met every Sunday at 7 pm for an informal service during which they sang to tape-recorded gospel songs, such as "The Old Rugged Cross", with Peter Harradence preaching the sermon in casual clothes. After the service the congregation was invited to the Vicarage for coffee and discussion of the sermon.

After Peter Harradence was farewelled, the Evening Service continued. The Locum did not attend so the youth began to take the service themselves under the watchful eye of Graham Smith. The principal youth leaders, in their late teens, were Alan Cadwallader, Ken Cahill, Peter Crawford, and Bruce Grey, all of whom were to go on to Ordination in the Diocese of Melbourne.

I was to learn later that the Youth were very apprehensive that the new Vicar would not be happy with the informal service and would want to re-introduce traditional Evening Prayer. However I was delighted to discover such a committed and enthusiastic group of young people and was very happy to preach the sermon and "do the notices" whilst encouraging the youth who were mature enough to be free to do their own thing. Janine invited everyone back to the Vicarage for tea and buns.

My aim for my part in the service was to inform, challenge and inspire, keeping the message simple with as much humour and entertainment as I could include.

The service had been growing during the vacancy but it started to "take off" as word got around that "Sunday night in Parkdale" was a very acceptable gathering for parents to allow their daughters to attend. Consequently carloads came from Frankston, Mordialloc, Beaumaris, Port Melbourne etc., and the attendance grew quite rapidly.

In general I felt I had the support of my fellow clergy but some Vicars who were of the "old school" got together to express their strong opposition to me after they began to lose their young people to the "very doubtful goings on" at 7 pm in Parkdale on a Sunday night. When Alan Cadwallader and several others began to play guitars in the service and Paul Leeson arrived to play the organ, and a group of singers was able to lift the roof with "He came from the glory" the atmosphere in the Church was quite unique in the Diocese.

Parkdale was the first evening service in the Diocese to feature guitars and free-wheeling worship, which was very appealing to young people. Most parishes developing a youth program built it around the youth attending a formal service of Evening Prayer. On the other hand St Aidan's Youth Service enjoyed the Bishop's blessing because it filled a gap on a Sunday evening rather than replacing an established traditional service.

Later the new Church was partially designed to cater for the Youth Group, who moved the pews to the side and sat on the carpeted floor. With subdued lighting from the large backlit wooden cross behind the carpenter's bench which was the Communion Table, the worship in the Church could vary from quiet meditative prayer to arm waving dancing and singing, to the backing of guitars, keyboard and drums.

Generally speaking the older parishioners who worshipped at the Morning Service were delighted to learn that their small Parish was growing a vibrant Youth Group. On one occasion I received a complaint from the Ladies Guild that the Youth Group had broken into the Guild cupboard, used their coffee, and didn't thoroughly wash the cups after Sunday night. I tactfully reminded the ladies that the Evening Service was now more than twice the size of the Morning Service, the Collection provided half the income of the Parish, and on hearing of their complaints, the Youth Group had purchased a cupboard full of cups and a basket of tea and coffee, and sent it all with a bunch of flowers for the Ladies Guild to use in their catering. The Guild Members became very strong supporters of St Aidan's Youth Group.

I was often asked what were the key factors that brought about the growth of the youth ministry at St Aidan's Parkdale.

One factor was unique. It was led by the youth. The few parishes with a youth ministry in the Diocese were very clergy centred. A typical Parish had a model which was standard at that time. The Parish employed a Curate whose responsibility it was to run a Youth Program on Sunday afternoon, followed by a traditional formal Evensong. When I arrived at St Aidan's I found a Sunday Evening Youth Service run by senior members of the Youth Group and I was literally invited to attend their service and preach. This was a model that was obviously working and throughout my time at St Aidan's I was very comfortable in encouraging this understanding. It was not the Vicar's service; it was the Youth Service and the youth organised it and ran it.

Essential to this model was the quality of the leadership of the youth in the Parish. In their late teens, they had all been converted under the ministry of Peter Harradence and were well on the way to a very informed and mature Christian faith. Some of them went on to become clergy and clergy wives, so my role was to trust this lay leadership and support them in their ministry. However in the monthly meeting of clergy of the Evangelical Fellowship several of my traditional clergy brethren were unhappy with this model and warned me of the danger of letting the youth "get out of hand".

It was during this time that the National Evangelical Anglican Conference was held at Monash University. Quite a number of our senior youth enrolled, and became fans of Michael Green from England, who was the Bible Study Leader, and who told me he was delighted at the quality of the young people from Parkdale he had met at the Conference. After one of his outstanding addresses the Parkdale youth stood and gave a rousing "Jesus Cheer" to Michael's delight.

On the way out of the Auditorium I was walking with Bishop Marcus Loane from Sydney, Alan Kerr and Kevin Curnow from Melbourne and I overheard Marcus say, "I hope that rabble didn't upset Michael." I beamed with pride as Kevin Curnow pointed out that a few weeks earlier "that rabble" had nearly 400 young people at their Evening Service.

Kevin was referring to the much talked about visit to St Aidan's of John Smith from the God Squad. The youth had invited John to lead a service one evening at St Aidan's. Just short of 400 young people turned up to a service which lasted two and a half hours, and as the Parish Treasurer was often to say, he had never seen a collection like it. My role had been to pray like mad and to introduce John Smith with as much humour as I could bring to mind.

The reason for my fervent supplication was that the service was advertised to start at 7 pm, but at 7:15 there was no sign of the God Squad. I stood outside the Church looking down the

road with 390 young people sitting inside filled with expectation. I was starting to conclude I would have to take up a collection, cancel the service, and flee to Manangatang, when in the distance I started to hear a dull roar. The roar got louder and louder until it became deafening. Around the corner emerged 30 motor bikes with their lights on high beam and their engines revving as they pulled up to the car park. Leather clad bikies and their partners dismounted clutching helmets and guitars, and formed up behind John Smith who was in his God Squad colours and carrying a huge Bible. He slowly led his squad into the Church. It was one of the most awesome ecclesiastical processions I have ever seen, and I would regard the service that followed as making one of the strongest impacts on a congregation I have experienced. I think hundreds of young people were touched that night.

My own life was certainly deeply touched. Before the Squad left some hours later, the bikes with engines roaring and lights on high beam and exhaust smoke billowing into the night sky, formed a circle on the Car Park. John Smith and I stood in the blinding spotlight at the centre of the circle and we said a prayer as we humbly thanked God for an unforgettable experience of the movement of the Holy Spirit. 45 years later I met John Smith at the Clunes Booktown where he was selling his autobiography. He could still remember that night when the God Squad came to Parkdale, and considered it one of the highlights of his ministry.

The comments I received from clergy colleagues were generally very supportive and the Diocese through Bishop Ged Muston acknowledged that the two Confirmations he took at St Aidan's were among the largest and most vibrant during his time in the Southern Region. The detractors (the clergy who had lost their Youth Group to Parkdale) referred to the shallowness of the theology. In an address at the Regional Conference I had light-heartedly referred to one of the youth leaders who had read widely of the Jesus Movement in America and had access to his father's car on Sunday evening. He had placed a notice on the passenger side of the car "If you hear the sound of a trumpet, then take the wheel brother, for the driver will rise in the air for an appointment with Jesus." This notice was still in the car on Monday morning when his father picked up a colleague for work! This incident was used by some to belittle "Parkdale theology". In actual fact it reflected a lively theological understanding mature enough to be expressed in humour.

Unlike the critics, I was not concerned about the conservative Biblical understanding and expression of the young people regularly attending Bible studies and Discussion groups in the Parish. Of more concern was the well-being of the very large numbers of young people gathering at St Aidan's on Sundays and during the week. Fortunately we never had a serious incident during my time at St Aidan's although there was one occasion when I had to call the Police.

We were blessed at St Aidan's in having a policeman and his wife regularly attending the Morning Service. They were very supportive of the Youth Ministry. He had often told me if I ever had any trouble to give him a call. One night when a group of unruly outsiders began to frighten the girls and the situation looked like getting out of hand I rang the policeman, who said "I'll be right round." I watched as he unobtrusively circled the grounds in his unmarked car and then drove off. Then suddenly out of the darkness emerged a police car with siren wailing, horn blaring, lights blazing, driving onto the grounds. It screamed to a halt beside the Church. With torch in one hand, and the other pointing in the air the driver called out, "Stand still or I'll shoot." Everyone, including the Vicar, froze, while the policeman gathered the leaders of the disruption, told them to leave the property and warned them of the consequences if they caused any trouble again. It was an awesome demonstration of police crowd control. In thanking him I said, "Would you have fired a shot if anyone had moved?" He said "I didn't have a gun."

A large regular gathering of teenagers inevitably attracts interest and from time to time a group of outsiders would try to disrupt the service, or intrude into the "afterglow" over coffee. The youth were not so naïve that they thought they could convert these people who were openly scornful of the Christian faith. Those who were seriously enjoying a contemporary worshipping atmosphere dictated the nature and tone of the service as they far outnumbered those who occasionally attended to disrupt. Consequently we rarely had to deal with an unpleasant incident on a Sunday night.

An important aspect of the youth scene was the fellowship expressed around Bible studies, Discussion groups, and Prayer meetings, rather than organised social occasions. In fact there was only one social occasion I can remember. The Youth organised a dance in the Hall, which, when I looked in, was jam-packed with teenagers, mainly from outside the Parish. A rock band was belting out deafening music and I thought the wooden floor of the Hall would collapse. At midnight I took a walk around the Parish and I could still hear the music a mile away as I talked with people who were out in their front garden and joined them in wondering where the dreadful noise was coming from. It was obviously not the best conditions for "witnessing", and I was glad when the Youth decided to stick with a more productive outreach model such as "love thy neighbour".

Such a strong focus by so many on the Christian faith and its spiritual expression meant that those who were only interested in fun and games did not find much to attract them to St Aidan's "Holy Huddle". On the other hand those interested in the worship and service of God found a very attractive context in which to explore their serious enquiry. This was a contrast to some parishes seeking to develop a youth ministry and led to much discussion in the Diocese on the theme, "Do you develop a youth program by going strongly spiritual, or strongly social, or try to do both?" For my part after six years in the ministry I had become convinced that the focus on commitment to Jesus and following his way of discipleship was to establish the Rock on which everything else could be built. Fortunately I was delighted that the Youth Leadership held a similar view.

The New Church

The vision for a permanent Church for St Aidan's began over a cup of coffee one Saturday afternoon in 1971 during a Church working bee. John Beasley, Jack Kilfoyle, Ron Lister, Bob Drummond and I were resting having just set up the Hall for the Family Service the next day. The Vestry had asked the Wardens to suggest how a designated worship area could be set aside in the Hall to save the heavy burden of shifting items from the Chapel to the Hall for Sunday services. John Beasley said to me, "If you could find me \$10,000 I could build an extension out from the kitchen which would make a permanent space for worship."

Bob Drummond was immediately enthusiastic and outlined how it could be done using volunteer labour within a \$10,000 budget. Jack Kilfoyle, the Treasurer, felt it would need a well organised and supported Building Appeal but it was not impossible.

I felt a strong sense that God was saying to us, "Go for it." So the recommendation to the Vestry was that space in the Hall was not an option, but we should investigate the possibility of a modest Hall extension.

A few days later I received a phone call from Mr and Mrs Rowland, a retired Presbyterian couple, who had recently begun to worship with us. They asked me to come for afternoon tea and as I was leaving their house they said they had heard that a new Church might be built at St Aidan's and would I accept their cheque for \$1,000 towards it.

I was totally overwhelmed and needed another cup of tea. Before we had even discussed or decided to build or opened an Appeal, the Parish had just received what was a huge donation in those days from a Presbyterian couple who had only just joined our congregation. In my personal prayers I had been praying that God would give me clear leading as I contemplated the huge step of faith involved in leading a small congregation to commit to a large building project. I saw Mr and Mrs Rowland's donation as a clear sign from God that we should trust Him to provide and move forward in faith.

Later Mrs James and Mrs Lilley also made very generous donations. One of the factors which led me to say at the Consecration, "St Aidan's Parkdale was built by the parishioners."

And so we opened a Building Appeal and began the search for an Architect and Builder. Central to the concept was the conviction that the new Church should be a modest building, adequate for our needs, which would not saddle future parishioners with a huge debt. Much of the preparatory work, such as the digging of the foundation trenches, could be done at Parish Working Bees, and Bob Drummond from his long experience in the Building Industry offered to supervise such work.

And so at the first Working Bee most of the Parish, including many of the youth group, turned out bringing their picks and shovels and ready to start digging. The fellowship around the barbecues in such volunteer activity created a wonderful spinoff for St Aidan's, for by the time the Church was consecrated we all felt it was "our Church".

Bob Drummond as an unpaid Supervisor was an essential part of the building process. I was devastated when I received a phone call from Betty Drummond telling me Bob had fallen off a roof at a building site where he was working and badly fractured his right arm. He would be off work for eight weeks. As it happened those weeks he was off work were the crucial weeks in the building process and during this time Bob, with his arm in a sling, was able to appear each day at the site and supervise the bricklayers, electricians, painters etc as the tradesmen went about their work.

The first hurdle to be overcome as the vision began to unfold was to get approval from the Diocese to build a Church. Bishop Bob Dann and Archdeacon Harvey Brown gave us encouragement, but said it was essential to have an architect and recommended Blythe Johnson, who had designed several new buildings in the Diocese such as St Mark's Niddrie. Niddrie was essentially a huge square carpeted lounge room 40 feet by 40 feet allowing for seating to be arranged in various configurations depending on the service or meeting taking place. We were very impressed when we visited Niddrie and agreed this was the model we should adopt. The only problem was the cost of Blythe Johnson's design and supervision. It was completely beyond our budget.

At this time the Vestry had a very important meeting. Do we engage an architect to give us his vision of what a Church at Parkdale should look like, or do we engage an architect to give us our vision of a Church in Parkdale which would be within our means to achieve. At the time this was a radical departure from Diocesan practice.

Bob Drummond knew an architect whose speciality was designing factories and we asked him if he could take a factory design and make it look like a Church. He came up with a concept of the "lounge room model," lifting one end of the roof to give a Church profile from the outside, and an interior with a feature wall behind the Communion Table with coloured glass in the windows, all within our modest budget.

St Aidan's Parkdale was not a "cheap Church" as some suggested. Wedged between Mentone and Mordialloc it would always be a small Parish, so another large red brick building was inappropriate. It was in effect a modest building for a modest Parish where a modest congregation (and a modest Vicar) could live out the Gospel without the burden of a building debt and maintenance.

On 31st August 1972, St Aidan's Day, Archbishop Frank Woods Consecrated the new church. The date was originally set for Bishop Muston to Dedicate the Church, but in the twenty months since the Annual Meeting agreed to build the Church, the total cost of \$23,000 had been fully met. With the building paid for and the Parish viable and debt free, the Church and congregation were able to be "given to God" in a service of Consecration. The Archbishop noted in his sermon, it was the first time in his experience that a Church was able to be consecrated at its opening, and was not passing to a future generation the burden to pay for it.

The Archbishop also noted three features of the newly completed building. The wall to wall carpet had an arresting design featuring bright golden autumn colouring, a marked contrast to the traditional dull blue fleur de lis. This was chosen by the Building Committee to emphasise the aim of the Parish to provide a warm welcoming space which would enhance the vibrant and intimate atmosphere of worship in the "lounge room" model of Church design.

The dominant back-lit empty wooden Cross on the feature wall proclaimed that the death and resurrection of Jesus was at the heart of the Gospel preached at St Aidan's. The Communion Table in the form of a carpenter's bench, made from carefully chosen Tasmanian timber by Ron Lister and Norm Funnell, was a reminder of the parish prayer used regularly before each sermon.

Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth,
who through wood and nails wrought our redemption;
Wield well your tools in this your Workshop,
that we who come to you rough hewn,
may be fashioned into instruments
for the fulfilling of your purpose.

Bishop John Stewart

1970 – 1974 John & Janine Stewart at St. Aidan's (by Margaret Carter)

These are my memories of John & Janine Stewart, they may be wrong in some aspects, please forgive my mistakes.

John & Janine were returning to Australia after serving in parishes in England hoping to get a parish in SA, their Home State. On arrival in SA, the bishop said he had nothing for them, but the parish of St. Aidan's, in Parkdale in Melbourne was vacant if they went onto Melbourne. What else could they do. They had no home. St Aidan's was quite a surprise to them. There was a vicarage at the bottom of the block, then a newly built hall and at the top of the block a Mission Hut which was the chapel-church. A beautifully printed pew slip didn't fit the picture. How come? Norm Funnell, a printer was a parishioner and printed the Pew Slip just as today, we have Andrew Readman printing our Pew Slip and everything for the Centenary Celebrations.

John found that he had a vibrant church with quite a big Youth Group started by Peter Harradence. The Youth group used the hall for meetings, basketball, and dances. With John & Janine's skill & hospitality the Youth Group grew to be the largest in Melbourne with youth coming as far away as Frankston & Port Melbourne and to the east. John preached very simply – no jargon, no high theological discussions, more like the preaching of Jesus, using examples from everyday life to drive home his point, mostly stories against himself. He could have you near to tears and the next minute laughing. It was very seldom that you didn't laugh at a point told against himself to get the message across in his sermons. His cup of tea and a bun after the service was legendary.

Wendy, a friend of mine visiting from Newcastle, the daughter of a Church of England priest said to me after the service, "That young man is going to go a long way."

John regularly visited anyone who called. I remember calling one night to have what I thought as a simple question answered & he said he would be right over. I didn't think it was necessary, but he came. After an hour discussing the question, he said he had to go as they had visitors and he had promised Janine he would be home for supper. That was John caring for his flock.

From that Youth Group 4 of our youth were ordained. Peter Crawford, Bruce Grey, Allan Cadwallader, Ken Cahill and Stuart Gardiner.

It was during John & Janine's time that the church was built with kitchen & toilets. Previous to that the toilets had been outside between the hall and the vicarage back yard fence. At the time, we didn't have a supervisor for the building & no money to pay one. Bob Drummond, a plumber, and parishioner had an accident falling off a roof & broke his wrist. He became the building supervisor doing a good job. I have heard that he said to God that he had "got the message".

The Church was opened and consecrated free of debt with a legacy from "the little old ladies" 1928 – 1971 – Mrs May Lilley and Mrs Lillian James, a great bonus on 31-8-1972.

John and Janine's two sons were born while they were at St. Aidan's. John took a great interest in his boys, visiting with Janine for their visits to the Infant Welfare Centre, a family man at heart.

In 1974, St. Luke's Frankton was looking for a new vicar, & I guess vestry thought was Parkdale had their youth, they would try to acquire John & Janine and get their youth back. They were successful and we lost some of our youth to Frankston.

One day, visit friends in Frankston, I deliberately went to St. Luke's to hear John. He was preaching on James 3, the small ships rudder and the small tongue. Partial quoting, "The

tongue is a small part of the body, but, it makes great boasts with the tongue we praise our Lord and Father and with it, we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praising and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can fresh and salt water flow from the same spring?"

John was saying one morning, a knock came on the vicarage door at Parkdale and there stood a woman like a galleon in full sail, she was big! Ah, I know who that is judgemental on my part and wrong. Before the woman spoke, John said, "You'll be looking for Weight Watchers, they are meeting in the downstairs Meeting Room, of the hall just over there." "No, Vicar, I have come about a Baptism." This was the sort of point John used in his sermons to drive home a point. I can remember quite a few more of them, impressing me deeply with biblical points.

From 1974 – 1997 John was at Frankston. 1979 – 1984, John was CMS State Director. At the very young age of 44, in 1984, John was elected a Bishop of the Western Region in the Diocese of Melbourne, my Wendy's prophesy coming true.

God bless all who read this, Margaret Carter

1974 – 1979 Rev. ERNEST HORTH



ST AIDAN'S PARKDALE.

The Horth family arrived at Parkdale August 1974 after six years in an Army Chaplaincy context. This would be the first parish Ernest served as Vicar. It was quite a challenge to follow in the footsteps of people such as Peter Harradence and John Stewart, plus to come into a parish that had gained quite a lot of media exposure through the 'Jesus Movement'. John Stewart and I had shared in training at Ridley College, so I knew of John's capabilities and his amazing capacity for humour. It worried me that I was so different to John and maybe that might create some difficulties for parishioners. We did experience some moments of tension with differences of opinion, but from my perspective, I think these were worked through prayerfully and humbly with positive results. As I reflect on our four years, they were a very special time in which we

saw the Lord bind us together as one body in Christ, both older members and the younger. The Chapel was of strategic importance to the younger members because as they gathered there, they found security and direction from their youthful leadership. Older members of the parish were keen to see us all witnessing, worshipping and working together, something that under the Holy Spirit's guidance was achieved to a major degree.

The love and mutual concern were very evident within the congregations. If someone was in trouble there was a support procedure that cared, provided whatever it could, encouraged and walked the walk with the person in need. This helped bind us together more in mutual love and understanding.

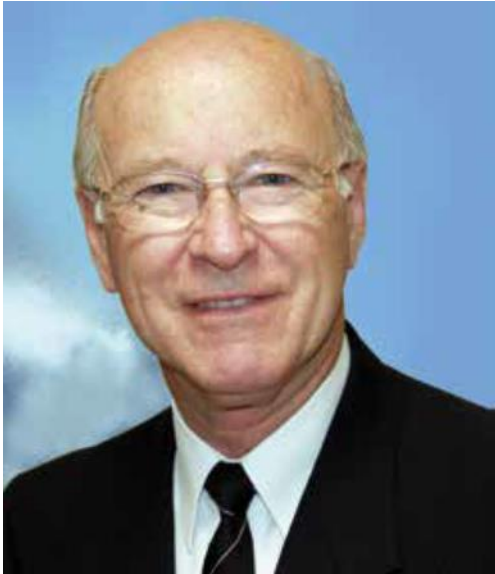
I gained much from the privileged relationships gained through pastoral care. This included hospital visitation, outreach into aged care situations, ministry through Religious Instruction in the School and pastoral care of parishioners in need. The Family Service once a month was a more informal outreach to welcome new parishioners and have families worshipping together.

A few of the highlights I remember included the Study Groups, the teaching ministry of the Reverend David Boan in 1975, plus the Lenten Studies each year. The Tidal River camping experience in January 1975 was a great time together, and the Parish Picnics grew to be a bonding together of the whole congregation associated with St Aidan's. Confirmation Services were always a time of deep spiritual joy when individuals committed their lives to be

followers of Jesus. The Fete brought people together as a creative body to help support the small Parish with extra financial resources but also provide a more relaxed environment in which people could meet and talk, introducing some to future membership commitment. For my family we had four happy and memorable years at St Aidan's with some friendships maintaining to this present day. I thank God for His help and guidance, plus the people He introduced me to that became so much a part of my daily pilgrimage. Thank you for the love and prayerful support in both the good and the more difficult times together. The Lord's Name be praised.

Ernest Horth.

1979 – 1986 Rev. GRAEME WINTERTON



Rev. Graeme Winterton:

Taken from "The Beacon":

ST. AIDAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN:

Parishioners will recall that a Special General Meeting held last year, it was decided to proceed with establishment of the Memorial Garden. With the change of Vicar, this idea was temporarily shelved, however, as Graeme Winterton wholehearted agreed with the concept of the Memorial Garden, the Vestry proceeded with the proposal. We have let a contract with a Landscape Gardener and the work should commence in October. The garden will be laid in the triangle of land beneath the cross. The vestry believes

that this new facility will be appreciated by Parishioners.

The Beacon: June 1979: The Vicar Writes: Let me say how thrilled I am to find a good number of parishioners involved in study and prayer groups. The history of the church reveals that God is able to bless his people in a special way when they take the trouble to spend time in prayer and the study of scripture, I should hope that this movement may continue to grow with the parish in the future.

The Beacon: September 1979: Church Seating, Heating

It was decided to re-arrange the church seating to a configuration more in keeping with the shape of the church.

The altar was moved forward, and pews are now positioned around the altar. This arrangement gives move room for communion, family services and Sunday night Youth Services.



The long-awaited gas heater was finally connected during July. The delay was caused by the inability of the Gas and Fuel Corporation to provide a gas service to the church because of enormous increase in the sales of gas heaters.

The new Gas heater makes use of the existing ducting, so the heating effect is the same as St. Aidan's parishioners have always had.

The loudspeaker has been moved to an acoustically better position in the centre of the church. This new position has also eliminated the annoying feedback.

Other changes are the addition of a clock and a new notice board by courtesy of the Vicar. The bell is now rung 15 minutes before the service starts. This is more in keeping with the tradition of bellringing.

The Beacon: September 1979, No. 159: Rev. Graeme Winterton:

From the Vicar: It is becoming obvious that God is leading the Parish into a new dimension and the era of Ministry, I have been overjoyed that a number of parishioners are discovering something more of the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and that quite a few people have approached me looking for the opportunities for service, Another indication of God's leading is to be seen in the outcome of the Vestry Conference held last month, It was decided that the parish should seek to direct its ministry within a threefold framework of Outreach, Pastoral Care and Personal Fellowship. **Church Seating:** It was decided to re-arrange the church seating to a configuration more in keeping with the shape of the church. The Altar has been moved forward and pews are now positioned in a semicircle around the altar. The arrangement gives more room for Communion, Family Services and Sunday night Youth Services.

It also makes worshippers look at each other's faces rather than at the back of their heads. We hope this will make Parishioners more aware of the corporate nature of worship.

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December, 1979: Graeme Winterton; Parish Directory: MEMORIAL GARDEN:

The Memorial Garden is now complete. It was dedicated by the Vicar – Rev. Graeme Winterton during the Morning Service on Remembrance Day, 11th November 1979. It has been set apart as a Special Area for the Interment of the Ashes of deceased persons from the Parish. The addition of the Memorial Garden in the Parish grounds brings back to the Ancient Custom of every church with its own Churchyard for the Burial of the people of that Community. This is another step forward in the History of our Parish and its contribution to

the life of Parkdale. The work was carried out by Mr Chris Bryant, who also landscaped the Car Park Area at the same time. The Garden needs to be carefully maintained, and the Vestry is considering the possibility of drawing up a Garden and Lawns Roster for that purpose.

June, 1980:

It has been decided to close the Chapel, other than for use by the Sunday School (Thelma Benton's class) on Sunday mornings. All youth activities will now be confined to the Parish Hall.

The area close to the Chapel, which the last Annual General Meeting of the parish decided should be developed into a car park, is in course of construction. The cost of red gum sleepers for garden surrounds together with the native trees and shrubs, was much greater than first anticipated. The vestry is now investigating a suitable material for surfacing the area which is anticipated to completed at an early date.

October 1981:

New Hymn Book

The Parish has decided to purchase copies of the New Australian Hymn Book. The strict application of Copyright laws prevents us from duplicating hymns or music from any source and has caused the Vestry to make this decision earlier than expected. A fund has been opened, and we are asking towards the cost of nooks which we can obtain at the discounted price of \$7.00 each.



Rev, Graeme Winterton, Bill Glover, John Beasley

1987 – 1989 Rev. JOHN SWIFT



Memories of St. Aidan's Parkdale. (Rev. John Swift.)

St Aidan's Parkdale has a special place in my heart and memories. It was my first parish. I was Vicar of the Parish of Parkdale from 1987 - 1989.

My memories are of a very supportive congregation who were keen to help their newly appointed young Vicar find his feet in parish ministry (I had just returned from serving as a Defence Force Chaplain in Townsville). This was especially true of the Vicar's Warden, Mr John Beasley who I recall had served in that position for twenty-five years on my arrival into the parish. Those who remember John will no doubt remember his odd sense of humour. Both John and his wife Elizabeth (whose father had also been an Anglican Priest) were very kind in supporting our family during our time at St Aidan's as indeed were many congregational members.

I recall we had a lively Bible Study group which used to meet in Ivy St at the home of Mike and Alison McFadden. This was during what I look back on as 'The Yoga Saga'. As I recall it we made front page news in the Mordialloc Chelsea Leader for my refusal as President of the Neighbourhood House to allow yoga to be practised at the back of the worship area in the church building. Then on the following Saturday we were mentioned on ABC National News and on page 3 of The Sun newspaper with a cartoon showing an aged and balding (I was 40 with all my hair!) angry vicar looking down at a nude man standing on his head and looking up at the vicar saying "Come on vicar, turn the other cheek!"

The music ministry was led by Mrs Lois Deighton-Smith playing the organ and Mrs Phyl Dryden who played piano and doubled as the choir director. Perhaps my clearest memory of involvement with the choir is one which involved our then four year old daughter who had seated herself at the piano just before the Christmas Choir was to begin its practice. Phyl asked her to hop down from the piano stool so we could begin. To everyone's surprise our four year old said "No, my Dad is the boss here and I want to play the piano!" Well, Phil went red in the face and glared at young Meagan (now in her mid-

thirties with a family of her own), who quickly got the message and was gone in a flash leaving a somewhat embarrassed Vicar to join the choir singing "God rest ye merry gentlemen!"

During our time at St Aidan's the Vicar's study was situated under the parish hall and often I would be there Saturdays putting the finishing touches to my Sunday sermon. I recall how on several occasions the church bell would start ringing. As the bell could not be reached without the appropriate pole, I could not work out why or how it was ringing. I determined to find out so the next Saturday evening I waited and suddenly a couple of young lads appeared, placed a long bench seat from alongside the church up against the bell tower and began running up the bench in an attempt to pull the short bell rope which started the bell ringing loudly. Gotcha! I thought, but alas they were too quick for me and disappeared into the night. The good news - it never happened again and Saturday nights were quieter.

Parish dinners I recall were very popular in the parish with many people in attendance at the various homes of those who hosted the nights. They were good times shared together.

I will always remember and be grateful for the privilege of leading the worship services at St Aidan's but particularly the Holy Communion Services during my time there as the parish priest. Over the last thirty years I have celebrated Holy Communion in many different places but none has moved me more than when celebrating at the simple carpenter's bench built by the parishioners to be used as the Holy Table for God's people at St Aidan's.

May our Lord continue to bless all who worship Him at St Aidan's.

Rev. John Swift.

1989 – 1997 Rev. GEOFFREY MILTON



St Aidan's Parkdale – some memories 1989-97 – Rev Geoff Milton (19-10-21)

- Vicarage:

- Our young son Robert loved to dig in the sandy soil of the backyard until the hole was deeper than he was..
- Our two beagles Copper and Addie digging right under the shed in an attempt to escape -as beagles do
- Cooling down in an inflatable swimming pool in the carport on very hot days
- playing with the boys and them climbing trees in the Robert Street church garden which was like a huge extra backyard for us
- complaints from the neighbours about the church bell ringing at 8am on Sunday mornings
- happy sounds of children playing at Parktone Primary School across the road
- many casseroles delivered to Ann and myself when our children were born

-

Services

- Monthly family services with all-age activities. I can remember Archbishop Keith Rayner speaking at one and then we made cardboard chariots based on the Bible story of Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8)
- Christmas carol services with the choir led by Phyl Dryden and Lois Deighton-Smith - usually on really hot nights in a packed church
- One year after the final verse of "Feliz Navidad" I made a little joke that it would be good to dance to in a conga line and the choir took that as an instruction and to my surprise did a conga line dance down the length of the church with everyone else joining in
- Youth band playing in services – Tim and Catherine, Elizabeth McLennan and others (Ben Wells? Stanton Brown?)
- Outdoor baptism of baby Michael Milton and adult Janet Oakley in the inflatable swimming pool set up near the door to the Church Office below the memorial garden. We tried to take the chill off the water by setting up a big electric urn nearby for hot water! Baptism was done by Bishop John Wilson, then Bishop of Southern Region, a great encourager
- Evangelistic services with Rev Peter Crawford, old boy of St Aidan's, and others
- annual "Civic Services" with the local mayor and councillors invited – invitations arranged by Ian Lyons who was mayor one year
- starting a regular Children's Talk at the 10am service led by people like Dawn McKay and Diana Smith and Brita Glover
- encouraging a monthly seeker style outreach called "Community Night Church" on Sunday evenings planned by people like George and Margot Dixon and Greg and Sandra Douglas and Jo Nowill, Tess and Phil Grey, Les Fox
- fortnightly youth service
- Sermon series on books of the Bible and topics such as Old Testament overview
- Musicians: Phyl Dryden and Lois Deighton-Smith and Ros van Es and Les Fox - and Ian Godsil at 8am

Other Gospel ministries

- Home fellowship groups led by Betty Crawford, Friederike Druitt, Mike McFadden and Alison McFadden etc.
- Sunday school and crèche led by Muriel James, Joan Goodes and many others
- Friday night junior and senior youth groups (led by George Dixon and others)
- Sunday night Youth Bible study. I well remember the youth group asking me very pointedly to run "Christianity Explained" for them, which I was very happy to do.
- Church camps including those at Shiloh Ranch in Grantville
- numerous Christianity Explained courses in people's homes and one at the primary school where we had to learn to turn off the burglar alarm so the security guards did not turn up midsession
- Men's Dinners at local restaurants including Joe's Pizza at Mentone where we booked the whole restaurant for a meal and Gospel talk but Joe the proprietor could not resist squeezing in a few extras who came for a meal and received a free Gospel "dessert"
- Mid week men's lunches downstairs in the lower hall. John Beesley and Graham Dryden and Michael Druitt were regular members
- organising with the local primary school principal a combined church and school outdoor Christmas concert with gospel talk and St Aidan's choir items
- running a training course in evangelism including on the job training in door-to-door evangelism.
- enjoying the ministry and training of theological students in their placements. These included Craig and Merle Broman and Mike Flynn and Georgina Magill
- a monthly Sunday night prayer and praise meeting to pray for the growth of the church with people like Friederike Druitt and Tony McLennan with occasional charismatic influence from members of Dingley Anglican Church

- Weekly Christian Religious Education classes at Parktone Primary school. The principal and staff were very encouraging of Christian ministry in this way.
- a one week parish mission with Rev Adrian Lane and students from Ridley College. I think it was called the "Good News Festival"
- John McClennan preaching sermons regularly at the age of 18 and 19.
- the arrival of Grace Thampiyappa and daughter Dilinie as refugees from Sri Lanka and how we prayed for them and sought help from the local MP and the Archbishop who urged the Immigration Department to allow them to stay. Then after much praying, about a year later Grace's husband and other daughter arrived and came to church – a very moving answer to our prayers

Other activities

- Monday afternoon Friendship group run by Margaret Tye, Norma Brown and others
 - Koinonia family group activities, monthly on Saturdays led by Tess Grey, Margot Dixon etc.
 - annual Church Fete which was well attended by locals. Memories included someone buying several dozen old cookery books, Graham Dryden putting up a sign saying "It's a boy!" at the fete soon after our Robert was born in 1992.
 - Church Dinners and lunches in the hall and in people's homes
 - Regular Working Bees organized by Doug Brown etc. -Jim McGoldrick spray painting the old chapel/site office in the upper car park – quickest paint job I have ever seen
 - One cold winter the Sunday School teachers and children threatened to go on strike because it was so cold on the stage of the hall where they met. A local Lions Club or similar kindly came and installed some removable walls and we could put some heaters in.
 - George Rotton, Graham Dryden, Doug Brown and others faithfully maintaining the memorial garden and church grounds week by week
 - The churchwardens including Doug Brown building a huge retaining wall outside the church office to stop potential landslides
 - The vicar's office in the lower hall regularly flooded such that I put old margarine containers under each of the legs of the desk to prevent water damage. This was eventually fixed by having drainers dig a bigger drain from the downpipe that came from the church hall roof, across the vicarage backyard and into the park.
 - Monthly Caritas meetings (Marian Brown), Care Group (Phyl Dryden and others), Ladies Guild (Peg Carr).
 - Missions group led by Meryl Rowe
 - Jenny McGoldrick faithfully typing the pew sheet each week
- **Rev. Geoff and Ann Milton**

1997 – 2007 Rev. IAN BATTERSBY

THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF ST. AIDAN'S PARKALE 1923- 2023 1997-2007

On Sunday, August 30th 1998 at 5.30pm, the Parish celebrated its 75th anniversary with a church service in which the Reverend Peter Harradence, Vicar from 1964-70, preached the word of the Lord, followed by a sumptuous dinner in the church hall. The gathering of many Vicars and leaders from the early days of the Parish, made the evening one to remember, with many stories of past personalities and parish events being eagerly recounted!

Prior to this time, on August 12th 1997, the Reverend Ian Battersby was inducted by Bishop John Wilson as Vicar of the parish. Ian came to St. Aidan's with a strong concern for the poor and broken of this world, having previously served on short-term missions to the Philippines during his time at his previous parish, and hoping to encourage others at St. Aidan's to also consider this form of ministry.



**Ian and
Carol
Battersby
at a service
2007**

And, as a director of the Para-church group, Wholeness through Christ Ministries, his heart to see broken people restored and healed through prayer ministry led to the desire to establish this ministry in the parish! However, it was not until the new century had come and specialised counselling rooms were built in the new Parish Centre below the Hall, that this ministry was able to start up!

The life of St. Aidan's had always been vibrant and over time much of this was centred around the Ladies Guild and Caritas groups that continued to provide a focus for fundraising and fellowship under their continuing strong leadership.

In 1998, a special effort was made to expand this focus in the parish to include more men, by way of five new, mid-week Fellowship Groups led that year by Betty Crawford, Friederike Druitt, Claude Brown, Diana Smith and Vi Rotton, who always liked to be referred as the host. And an excellent host Vi was! Some of these groups had a Bible Study focus, but all were vehicles for growing the fellowship among parish members!

Throughout all of the years from 1997 to 2007, the music ministry at St. Aidan's continued under the direction of Phyl Dryden, with Phyl and Lois Deighton-Smith being responsible for the main Sunday morning worship service, often complimented by the beautiful organ playing of Dr. Ian Godsil.

Christmas Carol services also continued under the choral direction of Phyl., with help from husband Graham! This service was always a joyful feature of Christmas at St. Aidan's!

The following year, 1998, a second service having a charismatic flavour and featuring more modern music and choruses, was commenced. The music teams were led by Rosalind van Es and Carol Battersby and the worship style afforded the development of spiritual gifts among the people - gifts such as prophecy having another vehicle for their expression!

St. Aidan's had always been evangelical in its churchmanship with its emphasis on the Word of God and bringing the unsaved to Jesus.

To encourage people in this area, 1998 saw the commencement of Alpha Groups, a video outreach program from the UK led by the Rev. Nicky Gumbel from Holy Trinity Brompton.

The program began with an information night, to give potential leaders an understanding of the agenda, which comprised an evening meal followed by a video teaching presentation about Jesus, and concluded with round-table discussion among participants, each course running for about six weeks! Many parishioners attended the initial course, but over time, people from outside the Parish were invited by parish friends to attend.

Many thanks to John McClellan for his leadership of the Youth Alpha program that he ran in the church in the year 2000.

Alpha courses were run most years through the then Vicar's incumbency, with the last ones in 2006 being led by the Rev. Geoff Glass who had retired from parish ministry and came to worship at St. Aidan's. Geoff's strong leadership was very much appreciated through this, and the many other aspects of St. Aidan's life, that he and his wife Jan, contributed to!

1998 also saw a further move to upgrade the parish facilities, with the removal, under Warren Smith's capable leadership, of the small building known as St. Columba's chapel that had been brought across from Parkers Road in the initial shift from that site to Parkdale East. In keeping with this, upgrades to the top car park were undertaken with crushed rock laid and a concrete spoon drain being put in place!

Across the road from St. Aidan's is located the Parktone Primary school, which over time had opened its doors to St. Aidan's folk to present authorised religious education programs for interested children. From this base grew an excellent relationship with the school community and its principal Peter Clifton. When it became evident that there was a small number of children that often came to school not having had breakfast at home, a group of parishioners banded together to provide a breakfast of fruit juice, cereal, and toast, with coffee being available for any parents and teachers who came! So as not to stigmatise any child, the breakfast was open to all who wanted to come, even those coming for "seconds".

The breakfasts began in the first term 1999, initially once a week on a Thursday morning, with some 30+ children attending, but with extra funding from the Melbourne Anglican Foundation, this was expanded to two days a week the following year! Who can forget Graham Dryden, as the great "Toast Master", welcoming the kids, along with a dedicated team that included Alison McFadden, Norma Brown, Joan Goodes, Carole McCoy, and many others!

The breakfast program was seen by church leaders as a reflection of the "Church without Walls" concept, and it opened up many other points of connection between church and

school, with Parktone Primary often using St. Aidan's Hall for its concerts and meetings, and the school publicising St. Aidan's activities to its community through its newsletters etc.

In keeping with the church's desire to serve the community in which we were set, a team led by the Vicar, with music provided by Phyl Dryden, provided Holy Communion each month to the residents of the Elly Kay Retirement Home in Parkdale East.

A monthly Men's Luncheon was convened each month to encourage the men's fellowship in the congregation, with interesting speakers from the community coming, including Mark Dreyfus QC, now MHR for Isaacs, and Cr. Bill Nixon.

1999 also saw the installation of a new sound system in the church, bringing us up to date with the latest technology to enhance our worship of the Lord! And during this year, the monthly study booklet, "Every Day with Jesus" was introduced and became a firm favourite with many parishioners for decades to come! Along with this, the Prayer Chain, which had operated for such a long time, continued to support the spiritual life and needs of the congregation!

In the beginning years of the twenty-first century, most of southern Australia was still being hard hit by the seemingly never-ending millennium drought. And because St. Aidan's was blessed by the Lord in so many ways, in 2003 the Vestry decided to provide support for one of the drought-ravaged Anglican parishes in Victoria. During the year, funds were raised for this project and over four thousand dollars were provided for the Pyramid Hill - Boort Parish in northern Victoria, with whom we had connections through Terry Vernon's family who were still parishioners there. In December of 2003, these funds were gifted to that parish during a visit to the area by the Vicar and his wife, along with other parishioners from St. Aidan's. A wonderful time of fellowship was had by all!

In this same year, the parish began to run "Life in the Spirit" seminars led by Geoff Glass and the Vicar, and this continued each year during Lent for the remainder of the Vicar's time at St. Aidan's. The seminar was run weekly for some six weeks and introduced parishioners to the practical aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry and to the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" as this first encounter with the presence and power of the Spirit had become known in the wider church!

The new millennium saw an increased desire on the part of St. Aidan's leadership to work cooperatively with other Christian churches in the area. Youth ministry had been a big problem since the glory days of the 1970's with most churches not having sufficient young people to sustain engaging programs.

As such four local churches banded together to form Youth Inclusion under the enthusiastic leadership of Warren Smith and an inter-church team. The program successfully ran for a number of years until leadership issues and falling numbers caused its closure in 2004.

At the same time as this program was running, St. Aidan's took the bold step to commence a primary and pre-school aged Children's Ministry, employing June Bryant part time to lead it. June's ministry was and is highly successful, and although numbers waxed and waned over the years, the ministry has now been running for nearly two decades!

2003 saw an earlier decision of the Vestry to develop the under-croft of the church hall, to be known as the Parish Centre, for parish ministries. A number of builders were approached for quotes to undertake the work, the design of which was guided, in part, by the needs of the St. Aidan's Prayer Ministry team which had been set up and was functioning here in the previous year.

The Pariah Centre was duly completed that year and formally opened by Bishop John Wilson on December 2nd, as a very useful addition to St. Aidan's ministry space!

The previous year, the Vicar was able to put together a Prayer Ministry team for the Parish. Some of its members came from other churches, some as far away as Drouin, whilst a few parishioners took up the challenge of undertaking a year-long training course being run monthly on Saturdays by Pat Shepherd at Christ Church Dingley!

Prayer ministry is an inner healing ministry that depends upon "listening" to the Holy Spirit to direct team member's prayers to bring healing of past traumas and generational problems to hurting people!

In 2006, the parish invited the Christ Church Dingley prayer ministry team to use our facilities for the year that their church was undergoing a major building program. This arrangement worked very well and cemented a fruitful relationship with that church that had existed for some years! St. Aidan's prayer ministry continued to operate for all the years that the then Vicar was at Parkdale, its team disbanding in late 2007 and joining other teams in the southern area of Melbourne!

December 2003 saw a major change to the way the Diocese approached clergy accommodation. Synod decided to allow parishes to pay their clergy a housing allowance, at the same time permitting vicarages to be leased out to provide the parish funds for this to occur. As a result, the Vicar, Ian Battersby and his wife, Carol, were able to purchase their own home in nearby Houston Street, into which they moved in December. This change has been a great blessing to many parish priests who for many years faced the prospect of reaching retirement age and not having a home to live in! Thank you, St. Aidan's, for your kindness in this matter!



Prayer Ministry Team 2007 - Rev. Ian & Carol Battersby and Friederike Druitt, led by Karen Seymore (right)

The above material is but a sampling of the life of St. Aidan's Parish during the decade from 1997 to 2007. Many other things happened along the way and of course, the church is the people, each with their individual stories as well as the collective one!

The life of this parish has been sustained by the faith, hope, love, and kindness of its people, most of whom are not mentioned here by name. Yet, all of the activities of this parish in serving the kingdom of God, could not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of its people! So, well done St. Aidan's!

Submitted by Rev. Ian Battersby

St. Aidan's Nursing Home Ministry, 1997 onwards

We have 2 Nursing Homes in the parish – Elly Kay in Elliot Street, & the now Parkdale house, in Herbert Street.

The Rev. Ian Battersby commenced monthly Services at Elly Kay – 1997 approx. with Phyl Dryden playing the hymns on the piano & Dawn Mackay helping with Communion. Margaret Carter & Thelma Ward went along to support. When Phyl went into care about 2016, I took over the music with CD's.



At a wild guess, I started monthly services at the now Parkdale House in 2008. When the Vicar was not available for Elly Kay, I was asked to take the services. On one occasion, I was asked to take them 2 months in a row. I suggested Dawn may like to take them, which she was delighted to do. Since being allowed back after the Covid, this year Dawn & I have been alternating taking the services at Elly Kay. At Parkdale House Robert Lucas assisted by Rosalyn was taking the services if I was not available. My stand ins have been much appreciated.

I also visit Sandy Lodge in Aspendale under the umbrella of St. Aidan's.

It is a very fulfilling privilege to take the Lords Supper to our brothers and sisters in the Nursing Homes.

Yours in Christ

Margaret Carter



Rev. GEOFF GLASS, Locum



Geoff and Jan Glass Farewell

2008 – 2011 Rev. CHRISTINE ROSEN

Chris Rosen instigated the Logo we now use on many of our Correspondence, etc.
Her family was very Computer Literate & they helped her to create the LOGO.



St. Aidan's - Rev. Daniel GEBERT

Mon 12/11/2018 2:36 PM

Hi Daniel,

You asked about what kind of initiatives Christine Rosen had introduced to St. Aidan's.

After I got home, I remembered that there was a poem written about Chris Rosen when she was Vicar at St. Aidan's. I have located it & will send it to you. I think that Doreen Bryant may have written it when Chris was leaving St. Aidan's.

Will also list some other items that Chris initiated at St. Aidan's:

The round tables & chairs, Christmas in July, Camps at Phillip Island, Alpha, Pancake Day, Parish Picnics, 50 Years of Worship on this Site – 28th August, 2011, M.U.'s 50th Anniversary Service, the colourful word signs hanging in the sanctuary, e.g. JOY was one of the words.

I have also located a Baptism in Port Philip Bay – Parkdale. I will attach a few photos from that very special day.

Regards, Rosalyn Lucas

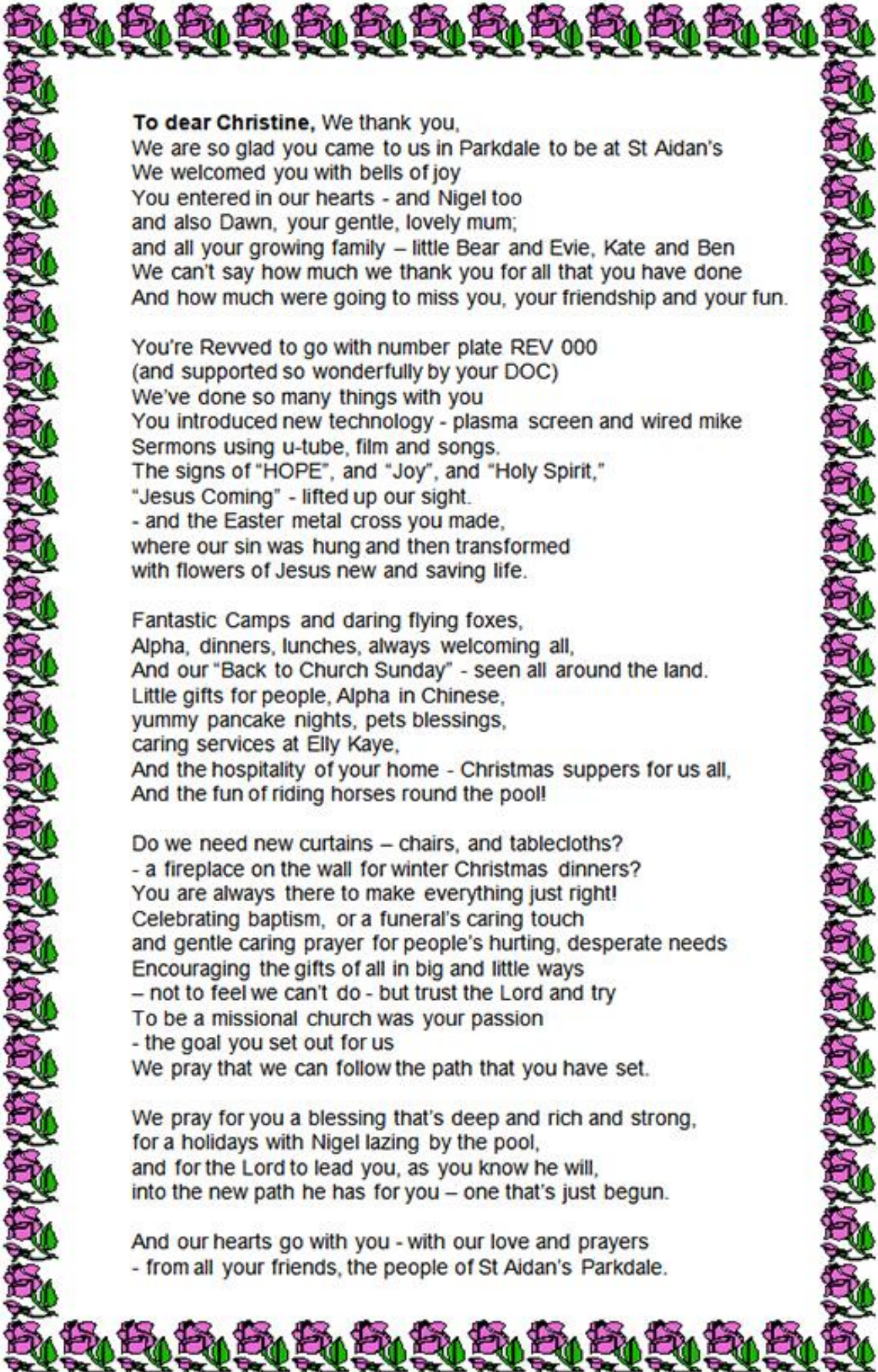




MU 50th Anniversary



Christine and Nigel



To dear Christine, We thank you,
We are so glad you came to us in Parkdale to be at St Aidan's
We welcomed you with bells of joy
You entered in our hearts - and Nigel too
and also Dawn, your gentle, lovely mum;
and all your growing family – little Bear and Evie, Kate and Ben
We can't say how much we thank you for all that you have done
And how much were going to miss you, your friendship and your fun.

You're Revved to go with number plate REV 000
(and supported so wonderfully by your DOC)
We've done so many things with you
You introduced new technology - plasma screen and wired mike
Sermons using u-tube, film and songs.
The signs of "HOPE", and "Joy", and "Holy Spirit,"
"Jesus Coming" - lifted up our sight.
- and the Easter metal cross you made,
where our sin was hung and then transformed
with flowers of Jesus new and saving life.

Fantastic Camps and daring flying foxes,
Alpha, dinners, lunches, always welcoming all,
And our "Back to Church Sunday" - seen all around the land.
Little gifts for people, Alpha in Chinese,
yummy pancake nights, pets blessings,
caring services at Elly Kaye,
And the hospitality of your home - Christmas suppers for us all,
And the fun of riding horses round the pool!

Do we need new curtains – chairs, and tablecloths?
- a fireplace on the wall for winter Christmas dinners?
You are always there to make everything just right!
Celebrating baptism, or a funeral's caring touch
and gentle caring prayer for people's hurting, desperate needs
Encouraging the gifts of all in big and little ways
– not to feel we can't do - but trust the Lord and try
To be a missional church was your passion
- the goal you set out for us
We pray that we can follow the path that you have set.

We pray for you a blessing that's deep and rich and strong,
for a holidays with Nigel lazing by the pool,
and for the Lord to lead you, as you know he will,
into the new path he has for you – one that's just begun.

And our hearts go with you - with our love and prayers
- from all your friends, the people of St Aidan's Parkdale.

2012– 2017 Rev. ALEX KORNACZEWSKI



Reflections on my time at Parkdale

I began at St Aidan's Parkdale serving as a locum in January 2011.

A few months later I had a call from Bishop Paul White informing me that the Incumbency Committee wanted me to be the Priest in Charge.

I was surprised to be asked and hesitantly agreed, and was commissioned in July.

I served for 6 years and look back with deep gratitude for my time there and the friendships forged. The parish had a rich spiritual heritage and was the most united parish I had served in. I found the people to be very loving, caring, willing to serve and receptive to changes I introduced. These included changes in liturgy, new music, use of banners in worship and healing teams to pray for people during the service. Many people had loyally and sacrificially served in the church for a long time.

I introduced Certificates of Appreciation which were presented at regular intervals during the service. The most memorable achievement was during my time were the costly replacement of the church hall roof made of asbestos.

Concern had been expressed about the possible impact on children at the Primary School opposite. We ventured out in faith and the costs were covered by a group providing after school care which hired the hall for a few years when there were no alternatives. Also standing out was the generous

donation of solar panels from a deceased parishioner's estate which helped decrease electricity costs.

I resigned early in the belief that for the parish to continue it needed to attract young families which was most likely to occur if it had a young minister with a family who was willing to work part time. Against the odds God provided Daniel Geber. Praise God for His goodness.

Rev. Alex Kornaczewski
Alex Kornaczewski





Pentecost Sunday 2012 Rev Alex Kornaczewski,

2018 - 2023 Rev. DANIEL GEBERT

Some memories from my time at St. Aidan's

Retreat days

Early in my time at St. Aidan's we started having an annual retreat day for the whole congregation to worship, have fellowship, and think more deeply about our walk with God. Our speakers included Dr Jill Firth who taught us on the Psalms, and pastor and speaker from Adelaide, Graham Agnew. During Graham's time with us he got us into a big circle to discuss questions around the culture and distinctive of St. Aidan's, the primary things we want to be known for, what changes we would like to see and how they might happen. I remember people around the room speaking passionately about how good it would be to all be worshipping together (at that time we held two different services – one more traditional, one more meditative). A number of people were excited about this, including Max and Annie Broadway. This retreat day became a catalyst for an important merging of our two



At MU 60th Anniversary with Lois Furmedge

services. This took some time and effort, but it had the effect of increasing our ability in local mission, building our critical mass and making a more family friendly format. It turned out that God's plan was also for that year spent gathering as one congregation to be critical in helping us all stay connected and worshipping online during lockdowns, and to all return to church in person afterwards.



YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO OUR
**ST. AIDAN'S
RETREAT DAY**

A day of encouragement over God's goodness with Graham Agnew, speaker and experienced Church of Christ minister. All Welcome.

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH, 2019
10.30AM - 4.30PM

CHESTNUT HILL CONFERENCE CENTRE, KALLISTA
(SEE OVER FOR DETAILS)
LUNCH, MORNING & AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED
COST: \$25 PER PERSON (PLEASE BRING PAYMENT ON THE DAY)

Please sign up on the list in the meeting room.
If you would like to come but cannot afford it, please speak to Daniel, as subsidies are available.



ST. AIDAN'S RETREAT DAY
SATURDAY 30TH MARCH 2019

CHESTNUT HILL CONFERENCE CENTRE,
ST JAMES AVENUE, (OFF GLEGHORN ROAD),
KALLISTA, DANDENONG RANGES



WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!





Commissioning of Daniel Gebert

Parish renewal program

In 2019 we started the Diocesan Parish Renewal Program. This consisted of a group of parishioners who would take part in workshops, prayer and discussion over two years, with the aim of making key changes to grow the church missionally. Those on the team from St. Aidan's were myself, Rosalyn Lucas, Friederike Druitt, Diana Smith and June Bryant. There were similar teams from the parishes of Eltham, and Altona/Laverton. We would take turns travelling to each church for workshops, so workshop days involved a lot of travel. It was facilitated by Ken Morgan.

The program involved a lot of different ways of thinking through local mission, to help us not just get it at a head level, but get excited about it at a heart level. I remember one exercise that asked our team to collaboratively draw a bus that represented St. Aidan's. We were then asked where people outside St. Aidan's were in the picture, and where we thought they should be if our mission work was successful. It would have been easy to draw lots more people on the bus. But instead the group turned the bus into a first aid van, stopping and helping people in need, going out from the bus to offer the hope of life in Christ.

We lost our second year of this program due to COVID. But some important results from the time we had included committing to running Alpha, in person and online, which we did in the next few years. There was also a question around our service at Parktone Primary School, as our former involvement there had concluded. We were not sure we had the energy to continue, but this program helped us recommit wholeheartedly, starting a new lunchtime music club.

Youth group

In 2022 we launched a new youth group with 12 young people. A number of these were connected with us through the great work of Messy Church made possible by many parishioners and led by June Bryant for years. The catalyst for the group was that those kids had now grown up and needed something different. Some friends and family member of parishioners joined to make it the group it is today.

Everything new takes some time to settle into its own shape. I remember slightly panicky feelings as soccer balls zoomed past my face across our small church hall in the first couple of sessions. The group's leader, Andrew Readman, provided some great games, including throwing items of footwear around the church grounds as a form of golf. After trying Youth Alpha we settled into fairly unprogrammed Bible studies through the Gospel of Mark, which led to some good gospel discussions. This group continued after I left, with Steve Gartlan taking over my role. It is great to see it continuing strong today.



It was my privilege to be priest in charge at St. Aidan's from 2018 to 2023. My family and I felt very loved, welcomed and encouraged in our time at St. Aidan's, and our prayer is that God will continue to grow everyone there by the power of His Spirit through life's joys and challenges, "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18).

Rev. DANIEL GEBERT

Rev. PHIL HURWOOD Locum 2023



To achieve a century is worth celebrating. For those who live to a hundred a special congratulations comes from royalty. A cricketer will celebrate a century as a fine achievement. There is no less reason to celebrate as a church. It is a wonderful Milestone. It leads us to remember the faithfulness of God, and our organic link to those who have gone before us, invested into us, and believed that God had great purposes for us and for Parkdale.

As we celebrate what has come before, we can also look with expectancy to what will come after. Our God is the same God, and though our nation and culture has been through much the past hundred years, the need of human beings to know their Maker, is a crucial as ever. God has much to do through us in the time ahead. Let us embrace our past, our present, and our future, for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Phil Hurwood