

The Parish Magazine

Epping Anglicans



**November 2022
to January 2023**

Number 870

Saint Alban the Martyr,
3 Pembroke Street,
Epping
with
Saint Aidan of
Lindisfarne,
32 Downing Street,
West Epping



Saint Alban's Choir and accompanists presented a Vivaldi anthem 31 July 2022

In Covenant with the communities of the Roman Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford
and the Uniting Church Parishes of Epping and West Epping

From the Editor

Whether you favour a monarchy or a republic, the death on 8 September 2022 of Queen Elizabeth II was a very significant world event. On Friday 9 September at 12.00 noon AEST, the bell at Saint Alban's tolled 96 times to commemorate the 96 years of Queen Elizabeth's life.

Her role as "Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England", was both an important element of her feat as the longest reigning monarch in British history and a deeply personal part of her life. She was Queen for 70 years and 214 days, exceeding the tenure of her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, who was on the throne for 63 years, 7 months and two days. We all acknowledge the strength and commitment Queen Elizabeth displayed and her constant, and evident, sense of duty and devotion to God.

In this edition you are invited to read the fond recollections parishioners have of Her Majesty and her family and see how the Parish, joined by the Covenant Churches in Epping, paid tribute to her in a Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving. Learn also about the ways parishioners are serving their community, using their God-given skills, and being witnesses to their Christian faith.

Julie Evans

Please contact me at julie.evans@ihug.com.au

Our vision:

*To be
"a city on a hill" - a
worshipping community,
loving Jesus
and
the people around us*

To contact us:

Contact Parish Administrator Tuesday - Friday on
(02) 9876 3362

The Parish Office is open Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am to 3.00pm.

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Our clergy may be contacted at any time:

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Saint Alban's Church is currently not open for private meditation. Our parish library is available when the Parish Office is open. Meeting rooms, various sized halls and other facilities are available to hire. Please contact the Parish Office for details.

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The Anglican Parish of Epping

3 Pembroke Street Epping, NSW, 2121, Australia.

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The Parish of Epping is a parish in the Anglican Church of Australia. *The Parish Magazine* records recent events in the parish, gives details of parish activities and publishes articles of general interest and articles which set out opinions on a range of matters the subject of discussion within the Anglican Church community. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Clergy, Churchwardens or Parish Council.

The editor accepts contributions for *The Parish Magazine* on the understanding that all contributors agree to the publication of their name as the author of their contribution. Articles may be edited for space, legal or other reasons. *The Parish Magazine* is also available online at <https://www.eppinganglicans.org.au/parish-magazine>

A Sermon preached by Bishop Ross Nicholson at the
Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving
for the Life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
held at Saint Albans Thursday 22 September 2022



On Christmas Day in 1939 King George VI broadcast to the British nation. It was three months into the war which would last another five years. A thirteen-year-old Princess Elizabeth gave her father a poem she thought might be helpful. It's popularly known as *'The Gate of the Year'*, but it's actually titled *'God Knows'*. The lines the King quoted were from the opening verse:

*"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'.
And he replied:
'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way'."*

For followers of Jesus, we also know that he claimed for himself:
"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

It would seem that even from a very early age, Queen Elizabeth had a deep and abiding faith in Christ.

There was another word from Jesus that the events of the last fortnight have also illuminated:

*"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶
In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:15-16

The Queen's faith was an active one to which she faithfully testified. Her whole life was lived in that light of Christ, and was marked by humility, service and hope. That humility and devotion to service, was famously stated in her 21st birthday speech from South Africa.

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do."

There is the humble acknowledgment that she could not keep this vow on her own, that she needed the strength of others.

I don't know if you saw the irony in the gospel reading, Matthew 20:20-28, between James' and John's mother, and the life of Queen Elizabeth. The Zebedees' Mum comes to Jesus with a bold request, that when Jesus comes into his kingdom her boys get to be Prime Minister and Deputy. She's just thinking of an earthly kingdom and the glory that her children could share in. The other disciples are also not above thinking of power and prestige, they get angry with the two brothers because they think they'll miss out. But if you're thinking earthly kingdoms, Her Majesty had it, she was the Queen, she was the one sitting on the throne, Prime Ministers and Deputies came to her, she appointed them! And yet unlike so many contemporary leaders she never lorded it over others. She walked the path of a humble servant leader.

For her funeral service the Queen requested the hymn, *'The Day thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended'*, not exactly a hymn you'd expect to sing early in the morning, but she chose it for the last verse:

*"So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway."*

The humility of the Queen is further evident from that last verse. She knew that all kingdoms, empires, even reigns will pass away, but there is a kingdom that is eternal, and that grows until that time when Christ comes back in glory. And that kingdom is built on a very different foundation to that of earthly kingdoms. Hear again Jesus' words to his scrambling disciples:

"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

The Queen famously used those words in her 2012 Christmas message:

"This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son 'to serve, not to be served'. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer this Christmas Day that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others."

Humility and service are characteristics that are found in many worthy leaders, but the defining mark of the Queen's life was humility, service and hope. Her life of service was not from a cultivated work ethic or philanthropic altruism, but the hope and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

In her Millennial Address she declared:

"For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life."

In 2002 she reflected:

"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God. I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel."

It has been radiantly clear from the Queens' words and actions, that she lived a long life with that same faith and hope, of another monarch who wrote in Psalm 28:

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." Psalm 28:7

As followers of Jesus we're urged

"that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity." 1 Timothy 2:1-2

In our Anglican liturgies there is actually a place to pray for the Monarch, and all in authority as Paul exhorted. We can sometimes forget how powerful these prayers of God's people are - yet in the life of her Majesty, we have a wonderful testimony to the fruitfulness of such prayers, directed to a woman of deep faith and trust in God. She kept that vow she made on her 21st birthday, to serve faithfully, no matter how long her life would be, and in her faithfulness, we see the faithfulness of our God.

She put and kept her hand in the hand of God, and her light has shone brightly, giving glory to her Father in heaven.

The apostle Paul was so bold as to say:

"Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us."
Philippians 2:17

Queen Elizabeth II was not just a monarch of a former Empire, but a godly example of a faithful servant of Christ that we could safely imitate.

References:

1 Timothy 2:1-6, Psalm 28 and Matthew 20:20-28

Poem quoted "God Knows" by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)

Editor's Note: See page 10 for more details of this service and pages 11-19, and 25 and 39 for Royal Recollections from Parishioners.

Our Services

Information about ways to join us in the church or on Zoom is in the Weekly Bulletin, which can be found on the Parish website <https://www.eppinganglicans.org.au>

You can also join directly just before 10.00am on Sundays by scrolling to 'Watch' on the Epping Anglicans homepage – the weekly Service Sheet with readings is also available there.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals may be arranged with the Rector.

For further information on Parish matters please telephone Parish Office: (02) 9876 3362

Our regular services

Sunday at Saint Alban's	8.00am Holy Eucharist with Hymns 10.00am Choral Eucharist – 1 st , 3 rd and 5 th Sunday; Sung Eucharist – 2 nd and 4 th Sunday <i>(During January the Choir will be on leave.)</i> The 10.00am Holy Eucharist is also streamed via Zoom. 4.30pm 'All in' Church <i>(See page 6 for more details of this family friendly service and meal)</i> 6.00pm Taizé Service – 2 nd Sunday each month
Thursday at Saint Alban's	9.30am [on Zoom only] Reading, Reflection and Prayers for healing 10.30am [in the church] Eucharist with Prayers for Healing <i>(Last Thursday services 15 December, resuming 2 February 2023)</i>

November 2022

Tuesday 1 November	7.45pm All Souls' Day
Sunday 6 November	All Saints' Day
Sunday 13 November	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost and Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 20 November	Christ the King
Sunday 27 November	First Sunday of Advent – 10.00am Eucharist – during the service we will formally accept a Reconciliation Necklace related to the death of Father Vivian Redlich, in New Guinea during World War II. Preacher: The Reverend Andrew Sempell. <i>(see bottom of page)</i>
Sunday 29 November	7.45pm Ecumenical Advent Service at Saint Alban's

December 2022

Sunday 18 December	7.45pm Festival of Lessons and Carols
Saturday 24 December	6.00pm Christmas Eve Children's and Family Service 9.30pm Festival Eucharist <i>(note the earlier time this year)</i>
Sunday 25 December	8.30am Festival Eucharist

January 2023

Sunday 1 January	Observance of Epiphany
Sunday 8 January	Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday 29 January	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany and observance of Australia Day

Saint Alban's has been gifted, by Patrick Redlich, a necklace given to him at a Service of Reconciliation held in Popondetta Cathedral in 2009. This Service related to the death of Patrick's brother, Father Vivian Redlich, in New Guinea during World War II. The necklace will be formally received, and placed in The Martyrs' Chapel at Saint Alban's, on Sunday 27 November 2022 at the 10.00am Eucharist. You are warmly invited to attend this Service and the morning tea which will follow.



New and exciting developments are taking place at Saint Alban's! The Reverend Phil Lui tells us about two of them.

'All in' Church

On 11 September we soft launched our 'All in' Church service! I'll answer some frequently asked questions:

What is 'All in'?

The liturgical shape of the 'All in' church service, revolves around two halves. The first half is centred around a playgroup style of interaction: play, songs, an interactive Bible lesson and prayer that engages a whole family unit. The second half is centred around enjoying dinner together, while having some guided, yet casual and deep conversations in light of the Bible passage. The intention is to create a bridge into church life for young families, with babies to young children, whose next step would be to be part of our morning services and Sunday school.

What is a 'Soft launch'?

The idea of a soft launch is to spend some time working out the smaller details of what works well and what doesn't work. Should we use the main hall or the lower hall? Should we do church in a circle, or in rows? How many songs should we do? What style of prayer should we use? This style of church is rare in our diocese, so these lessons that we are learning are all the more valuable for us to be able to pass them on should other churches follow in our footsteps. A soft launch also allows a period of time to establish a core serving group of people who are committed to the mission, and to each other, as we work together to welcome the families that God may bring to us in the future. The plan is to be ready to make a bigger push and promote it during Christmas and in January next year as families start to work out their routines and rhythms in a new year.

How is it going?

It is going very well! Each week we have had around 20 people and have had 35 different people come in total across the weeks. We have had a wonderful time playing, singing and learning from the Bible. Though we have simple lessons, we have had some great discussions about deep Biblical truths and how to apply them to our lives and in our evangelism. We are gradually working our way through the Bible and over the course of 4 years we should cover Genesis to Revelation. I've been using my 7-year-old and 3-year-old as test cases to see the effectiveness of our communication. They can remember the main idea of each lesson even after a couple of weeks and all three of our sons eagerly look forward to 'All in' Church, insisting that we attend even when we were meant to be away on holiday. With the feedback from the families that are coming along, we are constantly refining what we do and how we do it.

How can you help?

Firstly, keep praying that God will guide us and that God will use this service to help us engage with new families and build his kingdom through 'All in' Church so we reap a harvest in his name. Secondly, if you would like to help provide a meal, or contribute to some financial support so that we can show love and hospitality to the families that attend, that would be very helpful. Thirdly, come along and see what we are doing, so that if you know someone with a young family who is looking for a playgroup you can confidently invite them.

Newcomer Lunches

Another avenue by which we have been trying to enfold people in our church are our Newcomer Lunches. We have run these each month to better welcome and connect with fresh faces and renew relationships as well. I enjoy the opportunity to ask people we have connected with during the year to join with me and others at church for a meal in Bishop Ross and Jenny's home and to show authentic love and hospitality.

Newcomer Lunches ensure that all who come to our church, feel welcomed and seen and are provided the opportunity to get to know others better. It helps us to understand how we can enrich them spiritually in their relationship with God, or physically as they may have specific needs.

The Newcomer Lunches have been going really well and some lunches have stretched the capacity of the Nicholson's lounge room! Furthermore, the lunches have been of benefit to those who have not yet attended as it has allowed us to keep communicating and expressing our desire to know and love them, even as their life circumstances keep on preventing them coming to a lunch. At least they know that there will be another lunch the following month.

Newcomer Lunches are only one of the early steps in enfolding people into our church community. The dream is that everyone in our church, would regularly be invited to, and inviting of others, to share our lives with Jesus and I look forward to a near future where we will be facilitating more opportunities to enfold new people into our existing loving community of believers.

In the meantime, may I encourage each of us to keep engaging new faces (or old faces!) at church and personally inviting them to join you in a meal or a coffee.

Sydney Organ Competition – 3 October 2022

Music Director Chris Czerwinski

I'm so proud of our young and incredibly talented organ scholars for winning Second Prize (Enoch Pan) and Highly Commended award (Isabel Li) in the The Sydney Organ Competition on Monday 3 October. It had been underlined by the organisers (The Organ Music Society of Sydney) several times and even printed in programs, that: *"we had a record-breaking number of entries this year"*, which for me was a wonderful thing to see.

The final piece Enoch played, a contemporary Fuga-Bolero by a Polish composer Marian Sawa (1937-2005) was extremely well received by the adjudicators and audience with lengthy applause. Sadly, video recordings were not allowed during competition so the performances cannot be shared with parishioners.



Enoch and Isabel with one of the adjudicators,
Heather Moen-Boyd

Children at Saint Alban's

Amy Taylor, Children's Ministry Worker



During Term 3 in Sunday School, we looked at how food in the Bible was sometimes used as lessons from God to teach people. It was used in parables, miracles and even festivals that we still celebrate today. We heard the stories of Manna falling from the sky, the Last Supper and the three times Jesus performed miracles with fish.

In Term 4 in Sunday School, our topic will be parables. We'll be learning firstly what a parable is and why Jesus used them to teach his people, before we study a different story each week. We will also start planning for our Christmas Pageant. We haven't had a pageant for two years because of COVID-19 and the Sunday School has changed significantly over the past year with many new faces.

It may be an opportunity to try something other than a traditional pageant as a few members of the Sunday School are keen to bring their musical instruments. We'll have a brainstorming session to potentially come up with something new.



One of the stories we learned about was how Moses struck a stone with his staff to bring forth water for the thirsty Israelites.

I'd also like to thank Jenny Nicholson for assisting me with Sunday School in Term 3. With the size of Sunday School steadily increasing, she's been a great support and help when it comes to keeping track of all the children.



Colin Buchanan's song, '*My God is so Big*' was a favourite with the children.

With fourteen Sunday School children now attending, with ages ranging between three and fourteen, planning lessons that appeal to both toddlers and teenagers has become tricky. However, this has given us the opportunity to start separate Junior and Senior Sunday Schools again next year. I plan on using the office adjoining the Loft as the Senior room and continue utilising the Loft for the younger group. I hope to spend the summer holidays sprucing up both areas to make them an inviting space for children of all ages.

Below is a table presenting how the two groups will differ from one another as well as how they will collaborate.

Junior Sunday School	Senior Sunday School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 0-10 (approx 7) - Simple, quick craft projects - Videos - Games - Singing - Located in the Loft - Bible basics and stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 + (approx 5) - Workbooks - Devotional style lessons - Craft projects that they'll keep to remind them of the lessons they learned - More self-guided - Located in office adjoining the Loft - Life application
Both Sunday Schools	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birthday calendar - Same termly themes - Potential for end of term collaborations 	

Welcome Corey Chen



Corey Chen pictured with Bishop Ross Nicholson and The Reverend Phil Lui
on the day of his baptism 16 October 2022

Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022

On Thursday 22 September 2022, a declared national public holiday, an Ecumenical Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving for the life of Queen Elizabeth II was held at Saint Alban's with about 90 people in attendance. There were prayers of gratitude and thanks for the late Queen and prayers of support for the new King, Charles III. A hymn, specially written for services of this kind, was sung to the tune Thaxted ("I vow to thee my country") and, for many of the congregation, it was their first time to sing 'God Save the King'.



Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II: a hymn

We stand to mourn a sovereign,
a nation's guide and friend,
who through long years of tumult,
was faithful to the end.
We offer our thanksgiving
for all that she instilled:
her constancy of service,
her lifetime's vow fulfilled.
Now from our world departed –
though never from our hearts –
receive her in the peace, Lord,
your love alone imparts

And as we mark a passing
of sceptre, orb and throne,
we'll find in her compassion
a pattern for our own:
that all who stand in mourning,
or languish now in fear,
may know again your promise
to wipe away each tear.
With her we'll join in witness,
Christ's mercies our refrain:
great Sovereign of the nations,
eternal is your reign!

Dominic Grant 2022

<https://revdsggrant.wordpress.com/2022/09/09/upon-the-death-of-queen-elizabeth-ii-a-hymn/>

Accessed 22 September 2022 at 1600hrs



The congregation sang the Dominic Grant hymn

Royal Recollections from Parishioners

Barbara McRae

My Grandfather was the Veterinary Surgeon for Queen Elizabeth's grandfather, King George V, at Balmoral and was a wizard with horses.

His main claim to fame however came when the circus arrived in the nearby town of Aberdeen with a lion which had a toothache. Grandfather operated even though he was unable to give it sedation.

Bruce Wilson

As I was born in December 1932, I have lived through some or all of five monarchies. My recollection of George V is that I had a jigsaw of him and Queen Mary in full regal regalia. She was a very regal lady. I have no recollection of Edward VIII. My recollection of George VI and Queen Elizabeth, known later as the Queen Mother, is of seeing them in newsreels visiting bombed sites of London during the Second World War.

I was living in Bowral in 1945 when the Duke of Gloucester, a brother of George VI, was appointed the first Royal Governor-General. My family and many others travelled to the nearby Hume Highway to see the GG and his procession pass by on their way from Sydney to Canberra. The Duke of Kent, another brother of George VI, was appointed earlier but unfortunately was killed in an air crash in 1942.

Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne on Wednesday 6 February 1952. She was visiting Africa at the time and ascended to her treehouse overnight accommodation as a Princess and descended as a Queen the next morning. I recollect viewing film of the funeral of her father and listening to the broadcast of her coronation in 1953. I had just taken up my first professional appointment in Broken Hill in 1954 when Queen Elizabeth visited the town on her way from Brisbane to Adelaide on 18 March. A reception was held in North Park and I was standing beside the path she used on her way to the rotunda.

In June 1957, my wife Ida and one of her cousins were presented to Queen Elizabeth in Buckingham Place following which they attended the garden party in the palace grounds. Several days later as Ida was entitled to sign the Palace Visitors Book, I had the privilege of driving her to the appropriate location at the front of the palace to do so; I was able to take a photo looking out from inside the palace forecourt. And now we are in the early days of the reign of King Charles III. Long Live the King!

Graeme Durie

Here are a few royal memories, some of which readers may share.

The first was the death of George VI. When his death became known, we were called to a special assembly at school at which the headmaster made the formal announcement. I can't now remember whether we observed one or two minute's silence, but I recall we then sang the anthem.

When the Queen made her visit in 1954, an enormous fleet of buses carried schoolchildren to an assembly at Concord Park. We were lined up in the hot sunshine and stood to attention as the Queen and Prince Philip drove past. The car moved at a decent speed so there was little to see.

Another recollection is the Queen Mother's visit in 1958. For some reason, she was taken by road to Parramatta.

I was at Ermington Public School, and we lined up at the foot of Marsden Road. Victoria Road was then much narrower than it is now - I think it was just one lane each way. From memory, Harker's General Store, a double storied weatherboard house and shop combined, was in this location. It has been demolished now and a service station built on the site, but in 1958 there was plenty of space for us to be lined up. At least the car went past quite slowly this time so we could clearly see the occupants.



Queen Elizabeth 11 1959

Deidre Haywood – ‘My’ princess becomes Queen

As a child growing up in the UK in the 1940's, I was a great admirer of ‘the young princesses’ (as Elizabeth and Margaret were known), collecting their photographs and putting them into a treasured scrapbook. I listened (no TV!) with great interest when Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were engaged and then married in 1947. After the death of her father, King George VI, my princess became Queen. Yet more photographs to collect for my album - showing such dignity in her grief. The memory is still strong of the whole school being gathered together for a mid-morning assembly to witness an emotional headmistress telling us that we had a new Queen.

Jumping to 1972, Brian and I arrived in Sydney with our family on a two-year Company exchange scheme. We were all invited to join fellow colleagues in one of the tall buildings overlooking the Opera House when ‘my’ Queen Elizabeth, as head of the Commonwealth, was there to open the magnificent newly completed building with white sails on the edge of the harbour below us.

I have always respected her dignity and wonderful smile when seen in her ‘business life’ and read of her warmth and fun in her family life. Her’s is a great example to follow.

Judy Carruthers

It was February 1952, and I can remember walking into my grandmother's house only to find all the family in tears. The King had died and how sad everyone was.

Then it was 2 June 1953 and as well as being Queen Elizabeth's Coronation Day it was also my girlfriend's birthday. Her mother had baked her a Coronation Cake and decorated it with a coach and horses. Her birthday hat was a crown, and we all wore red, white and blue streamers in our hair.

In February 1954 I went with other pupils from South Strathfield Public School in a special bus to Concord Park. It was a very hot and humid day but so very exciting to actually see the Queen and Prince Philip.

I spent many a happy hour making scrap books on the Royal Family, but unfortunately these were lost when my parents moved house.



Queen Elizabeth 11 2016

My greatest thrill of all however was the day when my husband Doug arrived home from his work with a large and official looking envelope. I was speechless!! It contained an invitation to attend a Garden Party at Government House. The Queen was here in Sydney as part of the celebrations for Australia's Bicentenary. The Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne were all there and so close to all the guests. Imagine the thrill when Prince Charles came over to us and started a conversation about Doug's work in a major hospital. He then turned to me and asked what I did and, being almost speechless, I replied, "*I look after him!*" The Prince, now King Charles III, gave a warm smile and walked on.

Margaret Pearson

In February 1954, the Queen was coming to Dubbo. Nothing was going to stop us from joining the hundreds travelling from all over the region to see her.

We lived on a property near the small town of Mendooran which was approximately 75 kilometres from Dubbo. The seven in our family all squeezed into our small but reliable Austen A40 sedan. My three younger siblings attended a tiny one teacher school and arrangements had been made for them to join all the children of the region.

We left home in the early hours of the morning, in heavy rain, convinced that we were risking all sorts of hazards. However, we arrived in Dubbo on time, joined the crowds, and we saw the Queen and the Duke drive by in the open Land Rover. Just a fleeting glance but we saw them, and it was worth every moment of the effort we all made to get to Dubbo on time.

Pam Chambers

We all loved and respected the Royal family. News and photos were welcomed, and we kept up to date. Late one evening in 1952 I heard on the radio that the King was dead. I was 17 and I wept.

In 1954 Sydney was ecstatic! The Queen, the first reigning monarch to visit Australia, sailed into the Sydney Harbour on SS Gothic. Our Queen Elizabeth looked so beautiful in a floral white dress, white gloves and accessories, rows of pearls and a gentle smile. She looked rather frail I thought at the time. What a greeting she received, the handsome Duke at her side. We had the first glimpse of 'that' wave as she left. It was well worth the long wait.

In 1973 I saw the Queen again at the opening of the Opera House. This was a more organised event – thousands turned out to see her.



**Queen Elizabeth at opening of the Sydney Opera House
20 October 1973**

On another visit, we waited in Macquarie Street until evening to see her drive slowly past. In the vehicle the interior light was on. She wore a tiara and many diamonds, and we thought she looked exquisite. A fairy tale Queen – breath-taking!

The last occasion I saw her was outside the Opera House. I was quite shocked this time to find we had to go through security, creating a rather subdued crowd. I was fortunate to be in the front row, thrilled to see my gracious, now middle-aged Queen with her perfect complexion and smile, chatting to so many, young and old. Over the years there had been so many hours of waiting to see Queen Elizabeth, but it was worth every second.

Robin Cummins writes:

As a result of Queen Elizabeth's long reign many Australians will have known only one British Monarch, plus now King Charles III. However, as I was born in October 1934, I have lived during the time of all five members of the House of Windsor. The first was George V who was King from 6 May 1910 to 20 January 1936. Then came George's eldest son Edward VIII but thankfully he abdicated on 11 December 1936 without being enthroned. This was probably a good outcome as, quite apart from his involvement with his eventual wife American divorcee Wallis Simpson, he was quite supportive of Adolf Hitler.

His brother George VI then succeeded him to the throne on 11 December 1936. Throughout the war years, and subsequently, I heard a lot of very positive stories of him through the radio and newsreels at the picture theatres. Also, there was a lot of coverage of his elder daughter Elizabeth who was very active working in the Defence Forces.

George VI died on 6 February 1952, and he was followed to the throne by his elder daughter Elizabeth and this led to a minor effect for me. This was my final year at high school. Over the years from 1949 to 1952 inclusive I was an active member of my school's Cadet Corps. During this time, I had done courses in the school holidays each year to enable me to be promoted through the ranks, first to Corporal, then to Sergeant and finally to Cadet

Lieutenant. For this latter rank I had done a three-week course in December 1951 to enable me to be promoted to Cadet Lieutenant from the first day of February 1952. To confirm this rank, I received a King's Commission signed by the Governor General of Australia, Sir William John McKell given under the Seal of the Commonwealth. Shortly after this I received a second similarly signed and sealed Queen's Commission.

My first direct experience with royalty was in February 1954 when the Queen made the first visit of a reigning British Monarch to Australia. I had commenced National Service Training early in January 1954 and almost immediately we began practising parade ground exercises in conjunction with the Queensland Mounted Police so that the police horses could rapidly get used to a lot of loud noise and action. This went on for several weeks. We were in camp at Wacol, an outer suburb of Brisbane and the Mounted Police base and stables were in the adjoining suburb of Oxley.

On the evening before the Queen arrived in Brisbane, we were given a very restricted meal with only a small amount of water to drink, and the same thing happened at breakfast. Then we travelled by train to Central Station in Brisbane and were marched into an area which was surrounded by shoulder high hessian sheets where we had to urinate into a row of black 'dunny cans' and then marched down to the northern end of Queen Street, Brisbane's main street down which the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were to travel into King George Square in the centre of the city. We lined both sides of the street to keep the crowds of people who had arrived to cheer on the Queen behind us to keep the road clear. Finally, after a long wait the word came that the Queen was approaching in her motorcade and then we were ordered to present arms with our rifles held perpendicularly in front of us as the Royal motorcade passed by. As I did this, I noticed out of the corner of my eye that a little boy being held up by a parent behind the soldier beside me had planted his little Union Jack flag down the barrel of a soldier's rifle. Things can happen.

On the following Sunday morning the Queen and Duke attended a service at Brisbane's Saint John's Cathedral which my mother and sister were able to attend as they had been selected as representatives of our local Anglican Church, Saint Matthew's, Sherwood.

In February 1958, while I was still studying at the University of Queensland, I had a very close up view of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, when she visited the University during her visit to Brisbane. It was one of the few occasions that I got to wear my mortar board and gown while at the University.

In February 1988, Expo '88, an International Specialised Expo in Brisbane which focused on one particular aspect of human endeavour, 'Leisure in the Age of Technology', was opened by the Queen accompanied by her husband the Duke of Edinburgh. He had arranged to meet a number of young people who were undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Our son Stewart, who had been baptised and confirmed at Saint Alban's, and was then in Year 11 at Barker College and in the process of finalising the requirements to be awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, was chosen as one of a small group of representatives to fly to Brisbane and be presented to the Duke. Attached is a photo of Stewart (third from left with glasses) speaking to the Duke of Edinburgh.



Stewart Cummins, third from left, speaking to the Duke of Edinburgh

Peggy Sanders

My parents, after their marriage in Saint John's, Balmain, were in Swansea, Wales with my father's parents, and travelled to London to be in the crowd for the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten on 20 November 1947.

On Wednesday 10 February 1954 during the first visit of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, my maternal grandfather, Ray Granger, was the Mayor of the City of Lismore, NSW – he and my grandmother welcomed them (pictured here on the specially built dais) at the Civic Reception. My grandfather is on the Queen's right and my grandmother is on the Duke's left.



The Queen's Speech Lismore February 1954

My parents and I and my two younger sisters were in the large crowd, on what was a damp day. [I have very recently discovered that so too was Julie Evans, our Editor!] With the heavy rains that set in and accompanied the Queen's northern NSW visit, we had to hurry back to Woodburn where my father was the Rector of Saint Alban's, to avoid being cut off by the flood waters. This became a very severe and devastating flood in Lismore and Woodburn, with many lives lost; one of many floods in the area over the years.

One memory of my grandparent's home was the beautifully framed colour photograph of this occasion – having been handed down to my mother, it is now in my possession. I also have strong memories of playing on that dais, which remained for a long time alongside the Council Chambers, while waiting after school for my grandfather.

Over the years my sisters and brother and I have seen only brief snatches of the 1954 Lismore visit – we have been delighted recently to see some of the 'rare footage' of the visit which is focussed on the Civic Reception. The 16-millimetre film was rediscovered by staff at the Richmond River Historical Society as they cleaned and stored their wares in the wake of this year's catastrophic floods'. It was screened on Thursday 22 September 2022. [ABC North Coast by Bruce MacKenzie].

Years later during the 1970 Royal Visit to Coffs Harbour, where my father was now the Rector, my mother and father met and shook hands with the Queen, the Duke and with Princess Anne. The Duke, in conversation with my father, indicated that he well remembered the rain in Lismore, and the flooding that followed.

Julie Evans

At the time of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Lismore in 1954 I was a pre-schooler. I have a vague memory of being with a large group of children and adults and seeing the Queen at a distance on a specially built shell-shaped stage. I can only surmise that it was my mother who took me to such a momentous event.

Glyn Evans

While Peggy and Julie were waiting in Lismore with their respective families to see the Queen in 1954 (refer above), my family was endeavouring to get there that day by driving from Grafton, where we were living at the time. The rain was incessant, and we waited in very long traffic queues for the vehicular ferries - there weren't any bridges over the northern rivers then. When it became apparent that we wouldn't arrive in time to see the Queen, we turned around and went home.

Sarah Weaver



**The then Prince Charles
in Saint Andrew's Cathedral**

When the Queen and Duke visited Australia in 1954, I was only 6 years old. We actually lived in Rose Bay – close to the route the royals travelled to visit Bondi Beach. My parents strategically took our family to stand at a corner where the car would have to slow down, so I got a really good view and can clearly remember a smiling young woman in a yellow dress.

Many years later in 1988 while Paul was serving as Precentor at Saint Andrew's Cathedral our now new King, as Prince Charles, visited and attended a service with his wife Princess Diana. As regular members of the congregation, our daughters and I were allocated seats and were actually sitting just across from the royal couple and got a really good view!

I am including a blurry historic photo!

Paul Weaver adds

The Cathedral Choir and I were presented to Prince Charles before the service. When I was introduced, he said: *"So you're the Precentor. Are you going to 'precent' well this morning?"* It was clear that he was familiar with this term: the Precentor is found in most English cathedrals. Literally the Precentor is the 'first singer' – particularly in leading responsive sections of the service. I suspect that by his expectations I didn't 'precent well': most English precentors will have been appointed based on the beauty of their voices, along with knowledge of music and the ability to sing in tune, both of which I did have, but without the beautiful voice! I did not tell the prince that he was exactly one week older than I am. At my age, I am thankful to be stepping back from some responsibilities, rather than taking up the onerous responsibilities of kingship.

Joy Mayhew

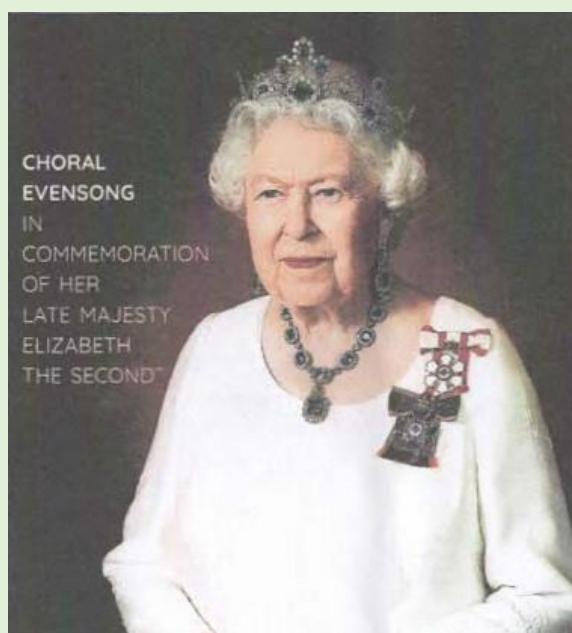
I was five years old when King George V died, and Edward VIII became King, on 20 January 1936. Edward's reign was only eleven months due to his abdication. His brother then became King George VI on 11 December 1936. He came to the throne at a very tumultuous time when World War II was looming. He was a comfort to his people and gave them strength during this time, as did his Queen Elizabeth and family unit.

During Queen Elizabeth II's seventy-year reign from 6 February 1952 to 8 September 2022, she gave a life of service and dedication, and one could see that her very strong faith had guided her through the many trials she had encountered on the way. We loved her speeches and Christmas messages which gave hope and stability. It was exciting seeing her on her first visit to Australia on 3 February 1954 as she made her way down Bondi Road to attend the Bondi Life Saver's Carnival and then another time at Centennial Park, also the Bicentennial Celebrations on Sydney Harbour. There were several more times of waving the Union Jack flag and cheering with the crowds as the Queen and Duke passed by in their special car.

During one of the visits, my husband Terry, who worked at Garden Island, was able to tour Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia. He was delighted to see the beautiful interior of this ship and was especially excited to see the spotless engine room – no drops of oil there!!!

King Charles III is now moving into a burdensome task. *"God Save the King"*.

Barbara Stannard



Cover of Order of Service held at
Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver
25 September 2022

Having had a great train experience on the Rocky Mountaineer train in mid-September 2022, my daughter and I arrived in Calgary, Alberta. I flew back to Vancouver on Saturday 24 September and on Sunday 25 September I attended a 10.00am church service at the Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. I discovered there that I was able to obtain a 'ticket' to attend the Choral Evensong which was a commemoration service for her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to be held at 4.00pm that day.

I filled in time between the services by visiting the Art Gallery of Vancouver and duly arrived early to the Cathedral and listened to the wonderful choir practising.

Just before 4.00pm about one hundred dignitaries: Bishops, Indigenous leaders, Mayors and many clergy, moved towards the Altar where chairs had been provided for them. The dignitaries were piped in by pipers from the Seaforth Highlanders.

Tributes to the late Queen were given and a wonderful Evensong Service commenced.

Hymns which the Queen had loved were sung and the service started with the singing of the Canadian National Anthem, *O Canada*, in both English and French, and the service concluded with the singing of *God Save the King*. In the photo used on the Order of Service, the Queen is pictured wearing her insignia as Sovereign of the Order of Canada [top] and of the Order of Military Merit.

The service was very moving, and I was delighted to be able to attend.

Barbara Meintjes

My memory of first seeing Queen Elizabeth II is still crystal clear in my mind although I was just four years old at the time. It was February 1947 and I had just had my 4th birthday in January. The royal family, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret were on a tour of the Union of South Africa, as it was known at the time.

The mayor of Port Elizabeth was giving a garden party for 4000 in Victoria Park and my family were invited to attend. We were among the lucky ones to receive an invitation. I remember the excitement of being dressed in my 'Christmas' dress and my mother and grandmother looked wonderful in their dresses, hats and gloves. The men, too, were very dapper in their best suits.

The excitement was palpable. I was going to see the King and Queen and the Princesses! You must remember that I was only used to story book princesses at the time. When we joined the throng up in the park we had arrived very early and had a good position to see the Royal Family.

I was utterly disappointed.

The Queen and Princesses were dressed just like every other woman there. At least the King was in naval uniform but there was not a crown in sight! Can you imagine the devastation of a four-year-old expecting to see real live Princesses and a King and Queen?

Apparently, the people nearest us were very amused when I kept asking in a very high-pitched voice: "*Where are their crowns?*"

**King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and their daughters
Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret**



A great deal of fuss was made of The Royal Tour in South Africa, and Princess Elizabeth made her famous speech in Cape Town on her 21st birthday.

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which all belong.

Later of course I realized how privileged we had been to have received an invitation to the garden party. All the adults were in very festive mood but not a very disappointed little four-year-old!



The Royal family on the official dais

Margaret Foster

Listening to the hymn '*The day thou gavest*' at Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and singing it at Saint Alban's during the Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving for her life, brought back memories of this lovely hymn by John Ellerton.

The hymn has always been a favourite at Saint Alban's. I especially remember singing it as the final hymn after Evensong during the 1950s when Evensong was held at 7.00pm with a full choir in attendance. As we sang the lines "*The sun that bids us rest is waking, our brethren 'neath the western sky,*" my thoughts were with the congregations in England rather than Europe, Africa or Asia. I don't know why.

Sundays were busy for me at Saint Alban's beginning with Holy Communion at 8.00am, followed by breakfast and then Sunday School and later in the day Evensong. My family did not own a car until I bought one in 1959. We used the bus that plied from Malton Road in North Epping to Pennant Parade in West Epping. Fortunately, we could catch the bus in Ray Road to and from church even on a Sunday.

Sunday School teachers were encouraged to attend Holy Communion before teaching Sunday School. This was when breakfast was introduced and held in the lower kitchen and hall. We began small with just Sunday School teachers and Servers and eventually breakfast became popular with the broader congregation. I can't remember putting on the urn but do remember filling large kettles and setting them on the gas stove for Morning Tea and filling them again to wash up. Occasionally we ran out of matches and had to chase up a male parishioner who smoked.

We measured tea leaves into large teapots and served it with or without milk and sugar. The only coffee on offer was from a bottle of Bushell's coffee and chicory. We made toast mostly on the gas griller which held six slices of white bread and had to be watched constantly. Tea was served in the pretty Johnson Bros brand of pastel-coloured cups and saucers, none of the ubiquitous white. The Church did own a set of white china which was kept for 'best' and stored under lock and key by the Ladies/Women's Guild. The toast was served already buttered with real butter and spread with honey, vegemite or marmalade. Occasionally we would open a tin of raspberry or strawberry jam. I assisted too with filling the sinks with water and Sunlight soap and commenced washing up but sometimes had to leave early to be there for the children as they arrived for Sunday School. Mrs Gladys McGregor, wife of one of the parish councillors often took over.

All these memories of Sundays at Saint Alban's were evoked by one haunting and beautiful hymn written in 1870 for *A Liturgy for Missionary Meetings*.

Reference: *The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended. The darkness falls ...* Text by John Ellerton (1826-1893). First published in the 1870 work *A Liturgy for Missionary Meetings*, edited by Frome and Hodges. The author revised it as a hymn in five stanzas in 1871. The tune (St. Clement) composed by Clement Cotteril Scholefield, (1839-1904). Accessed 7 October 2022 at 1600hrs <https://hymnstudiesblog.wordpress.com/2008/11/05/quotthe-day-thou-gavestquot/>

Royal Recollections Acknowledgements:

1. 1959 photograph of Queen Elizabeth was the official portrait of the Queen before the start of her 1959 tour of Canada. Photographer unknown – commissioned by Canadian Government. Page 11
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Queen_Elizabeth_II_official_portrait_for_1959_tour_\(retouched\)_cropped_\(3-to-4_aspect_ratio\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Queen_Elizabeth_II_official_portrait_for_1959_tour_(retouched)_cropped_(3-to-4_aspect_ratio).jpg) Accessed 26 September 2022 at 1030hrs
2. 2016 photograph of Queen Elizabeth on her 90th birthday - Diocese of York image accessed 26 September 2022 at 1045hrs Page 12
<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events/news/celebrating-the-queens-90th-birthday/>
3. Photo of Queen at opening of the Opera House 20 October 1973 Accessed 9 October 2022 at 1425hrs Page 13
<https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/digital/articles/community/remembering-her-majesty-queen-elizabeth-ii.html>
4. Stewart Cummins 1988 photo courtesy of Robin Cummins Page 14
5. Photo of Queen and Duke in Lismore 1954 courtesy Peggy Sanders Page 15
6. Photo of the then Prince Charles in 1988 courtesy of Sarah Weaver Page 16
7. Cover of Order of Service from Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, 2022 courtesy of Barbara Stannard Page 17
8. The Royal Family in South Africa 1947 - photos courtesy of Barbara Meintjes Page 18



Thank you to Jenny Nicholson for the following article in which she reviews a book written by Mark Greene and Catherine Butcher.

*The Servant Queen and the King she serves
A tribute for Her Majesty's 90th Birthday*

Recently the world has marked, and mourned, the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Queen Elizabeth as monarch of Australia and the Commonwealth for over seventy years, has been a steady figure in the background of my sixty-two years of life.

Like many Australians, I had grown up with the Queen's portrait on the wall of every school classroom. Throughout my years of schooling, I stood with the rest of my school to sing "*God Save the Queen*", at every weekly school assembly and Speech Night.

As a very excited twelve-year-old, in my best frock, I was present in 1973 on the Sydney Opera House Forecourt, along with many thousands of others, as Queen Elizabeth opened the Sydney Opera House. I would not have particularly identified myself as a monarchist, yet I found myself experiencing a strong sense of great loss at the news of her death. In the days that passed before her State Funeral I reflected on what it was about the life and person of Elizabeth II that had so impacted me.

In 2016 I was given a book that was published by The Bible Society, to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. The book titled "*The Servant Queen and the King she serves*" was written by Mark Greene (Executive director of The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) and Catherine Butcher (Communications director for HOPE Together (HOPE), a catalyst group which functions to bring Christian churches of all denominations together). This book was written as a tribute for the Queen's 90th birthday, to celebrate a monarch who had, by 2016, reigned as Queen over the United Kingdom and Commonwealth for over sixty-four years, but the book's purpose is also to tell the faith story of a woman who professed a deep life-long dependence on Christ Jesus as her Lord and Saviour.

A quote from the Royal Biographer, William Shawcross, in the Introduction to "*The Servant Queen*" expresses the heart of the Queen's approach to her life.

"Two things stand out - the Queen's constant sense of duty and her devotion to God. Of this she speaks humbly but openly, especially in her Christmas broadcasts." [page 2]

The authors of "*The Servant Queen*", in the nine chapters of the book and the many quotes and photos illustrating her life, seek to give the reader a glimpse into the life and ministry of the Queen. In chapter 1 titled "*The Queen's Secret*" we get a personal glimpse into the Queen's "*remarkable consistency of character*" and the source of her strength for the 60 years of her gruelling travel and work schedule, in a public statement she made in 2002.

"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God...I draw strength from the message of Hope in the Christian Gospel." [page 6]

Chapter 2, "*The King's Speech and the Princess's Piece*", outlines the early spiritual foundations of the Queen. This strong sense of her purpose in life, and to whom she would look for the strength to live this life of duty and service, began early and was expressed by the Queen in her Coronation vows and 21st birthday radio address:

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it". [page 12]

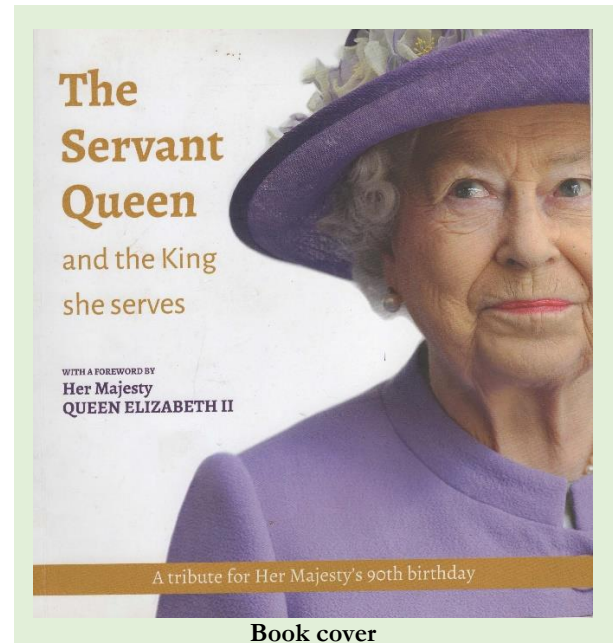
In her 2008 Christmas address the Queen clearly expressed her faith in God and her trust in the power of Christ to lead His people:

“I hope that like me you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life. Countless millions of people around the world continue to celebrate His birthday at Christmas, inspired by His teaching. He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than being served. We can be surely grateful that two thousand years after the birth of Jesus, so many of us are able to draw inspiration from His life and message, and to find in Him a source of strength and courage.” [page 13]

The Queen’s life-long commitment to the service of her people was evident in her long hours of correspondence, State visits, leadership of charities and personal visits to places of business, senior citizens care homes, veterans support groups, youth development projects, events relating to the fostering of music and the arts and support of animal welfare among many, many other organisations and charities.

The Queen was often said to have impressed those who worked with her, and met her in the course of her life, with her amazing ability to show genuine interest in whoever she was with, and wherever she went. Her commitment to service came from her commitment to follow the example of Christ.

Her understanding of the need for a personal faith in the redeeming work of Jesus, in order to live a life of faith, was evident in her 2012 Christmas address when she said:



“This is the time of year when we remember that God sent His only Son ‘to serve, not to be served’. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer this Christmas Day that His example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others. The carol, ‘In the Bleak Midwinter’, ends by asking a question of us all who know the Christmas Story, of how God gave Himself to us in humble service: ‘What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part’. The carol gives the answer, ‘Yet what can I give him- give my heart ‘. [page23]

The authors of the book outline the many challenges the Queen faced throughout her life, not least among them was her commitment to working for peace and reconciliation in national and international conflicts and religious divisions. In 2011 the Queen said:

“Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves - from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) – but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.” [page 42]

In his Christmas Day broadcast in 1939, the year in which England was to go to war for the second time in a quarter of a century, Queen Elizabeth’s father, King George VI, quoted a portion of a poem titled “Gate of the Year” by the British poet and Sociologist, Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957) which was reportedly handed to him, by his eldest daughter, the then 13-year-old, Princess Elizabeth.

“I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown’ And he replied, ‘Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.’” [pages 10-11]

Queen Elizabeth II committed her life to follow the God whose light shone through all of the darkness in her life. She often acknowledged that her life and work were certainly not perfect, but she trusted that her strength for the journey was to be found only in the person of her Lord Jesus and she trusted Him to be the Author and Finisher of her faith.

I commend this book “*The Servant Queen and the King she serves*” to you as a simply written, and well-illustrated, glimpse into the life of a monarch, daughter, stateswoman, wife, mother, grandmother, leader and a fellow believer in our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus.



“The Servant Queen” [page 63]

Reference: Catherine Butcher and Mark Greene, “*The Servant Queen and the King she serves*”, 2016, Bible Society, HOPE, LICC
Published by The Bible Society Copyright 2016 Bible Society, HOPE, LICC

The Parish Register

Holy Baptism

Corey **CHEN** on 16 October 2022

Joshua Joseph **RANIERI** on 30 October 2022

Holy Matrimony

Chris **FLOROS** and Monika **SINGH**
Renewal of Vows on 21 October 2022

The Faithful Departed

Ronald John **PEEL** on 23 July 2022

Annette Elizabeth **SHEATHER** on 30 July 2022

Arthur Manning **RIEDEL** on 6 August 2022

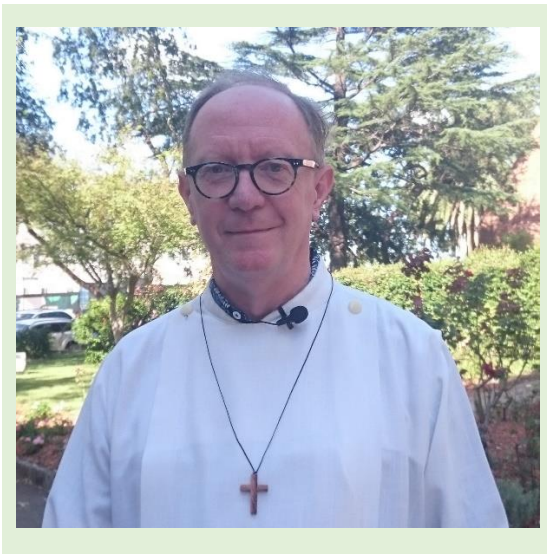
Nancy **VANE** on 8 August 2022

Paul Alan **DAVIS** on 5 September 2022

Marion Shirley **OSBORNE** on 10 October 2022

Elaine Margaret **RAWLING** on 11 October 2022





Over the past couple of years, I have been listening to various podcasts. There is an endless library of topics available from the silly to the serious. They are great when you are on the move and cannot read a book or for blocking out the noise around you. They educate, entertain and satisfy curiosity. At the height of COVID, I escaped the daily updates and barrage of bad news by listening to podcasts.

Like books, one podcast often leads to another. One that kept coming up, seeking my attention, was *'Revisionist History'* [1] by a Canadian, Malcolm Gladwell. Gladwell describes the programme as a *"journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood."* [2] He *"re-examines something from the past — an event, a person, an idea, even a song — and asks whether we got it right the first time. Because sometimes the past deserves a second chance."* [3] Gladwell uses the benefit of hindsight and time to reconsider an event and then asks how we could apply that lesson today.

Most of you would have seen a recent TV ad for frozen meals where a young woman is espousing that a frozen pizza with her best friends, family or grandmother is 'nothing special.' A message of the ad, beyond flogging frozen pizzas, is that the act of a meal, however simple, with people we love is special and to be valued.

The ad, together with a recent episode of the podcast, got me thinking about our outreach to the community. In particular, the feeling that as an individual we sometimes convince ourselves that we do not have anything to offer. Or that outreach requires some grand, large-scale event. Yet outreach may be more successful where a person has many and varied contacts with a community; small, frequent, open and warm – small acts of kindness and showing genuine care for another.

The title of the podcast episode that got me thinking was *"I was a stranger and you welcomed me"* [4] taken from Matthew 25 verses 35 to 40. The podcast considers how we undervalue kindness. Gladwell gathers a group of elderly men and women, including his mother, in his hometown in Ontario. They are all members of various local churches, and he discusses with them how they came to sponsor and support three Vietnamese refugee boat people for resettlement in Canada in 1979. The Canadian government had a formal programme, but individuals or groups could apply to sponsor and support additional people into their community. The elderly group remembered with fondness all the things they did; the challenges, the humour and the successes, as if it were yesterday. But they talk about their individual contributions, many acts of care and kindness, as if they were insignificant. *'It was nothing special, I just did ...'* They had no idea how many people had assisted and as they talked, some even came to learn what some of the group had done decades earlier. People just came forward when there was a need.

Gladwell then tells the story of a Jewish man who escaped from a Nazi concentration camp in Poland in 1943. He had no clothes, money or food, and was not even sure of the way to Warsaw, his intended destination. He meets a farmer and his wife who give him a shirt; someone hides him; others give food, a lift, some papers. All small acts of kindness, notwithstanding the danger and consequences of discovery by the Nazis. They did these things not as heroic gestures or because they were brave; the opposite was true. They were fearful and terrified of being caught. Some felt their small acts inadequate, but it was all they could do in the circumstances. It was their humanness, their care for others, which called them to make small acts of kindness. Combined, these small acts of kindness resulted in the man making it to Warsaw, surviving to see the war end and living a life grateful for the kindness offered to him.

Gladwell considers kindness within a hierarchy. *"The biggest act we can perform for another is sacrifice. Where we surrender something important for someone else."* [5] As Christians we see Jesus' death as the most significant gift we have received. *"The step below is generosity. When we surrender some share of our time or resources for another."* [6] And below that is kindness. To Gladwell, *"Kindness is entry level caring."* [7] He describes kindness as *"just a temporary suspension of indifference."* [8] Gladwell is not being critical of kindness; the opposite is true. What he is trying to demonstrate is how easy and powerful small acts of kindness are, both within a community and as individuals. He notes that in the story of the good Samaritan (Luke 10 v25-37). The Samaritan doesn't fight off any bandits, sneak past enemy

checkpoints. *"He's kind, not brave."* [9] Too often when we are kind, we feel inadequate. We feel we should be doing more but can't or are fearful. We are impressed by the big generous act, the organized response and underrate the mundane, the unseen, the small acts, when we open our hearts to others. Combined, this care, these many small acts of kindness can be life changing and even lifesaving.

But let's take a step back to the elderly group of Canadians. The individuals who assisted the refugees did not think anything of the part they played. Each made small contributions. One hated paperwork, but there were clothes for a Canadian winter to source and 'pot – luck' dinners to organise. Ian was good with paperwork and dealing with bureaucracy. Graham worked at the University and when the time came for the boys to go to university, he assisted in navigating through the process of applying for scholarships. Each had gifts, the giving in most cases was not a significant burden; they were small acts of kindness that played to the individuals' gifts, strengths and confidence.

The final story Gladwell tells to demonstrate the power of small acts of kindness is about his brother Geoffrey who was a principal at a primary school. A young Syrian refugee girl arrived for her first day. She was inconsolable about being left by her parents. She may have been exposed to significant past trauma.

As a Principal, he had seen many children who were upset, but nothing like this. He was at a loss to know what to do and finally in utter desperation he knelt near her and started to hum a lullaby. She stopped crying, took hold of his hand and stuck close to him for the morning. This insignificant, costless, indeed desperate act, to hum, to open his heart, his caring, was the kindness accepted and valued by the little girl. He considered this moment the pinnacle of his career.

Gladwell's conclusion is that we underrate the impact that individuals or a community of ordinary people can have in the lives of others. At a community level, and with a little bit of kindness from many individuals, we could address all sorts of issues.

None of what I have written should be unfamiliar to us as Christians and members of the Parish of Saint Alban's. As examples: our Pastoral Care team supports many through act of kindness; Duty Parishioners welcome newcomers to our Church and see that they have everything they need at a service, our Clergy visit the sick or those mourning and spend time with them. Daily within the Parish, there are acts of kindness and caring offered to others, acts which are unseen or unnoticed by most people. In some cases, the value of these acts is not understood by the person giving the kindness.

If reaching out scares you, then stop thinking about the need for large acts and instead focus on the small acts of kindness you could offer that come naturally. Few people come to Christ from their first interaction with a Christian or a Church. Our outreach (and your place in it) will be well served by acts of kindness and caring to anyone in the community around Epping and those who come to look at Saint Alban's. Where they encounter repeated and frequent acts of care or kindness their interest will grow, and opportunities will open up to talk about what it means to be a Christian and in time for them to welcome God into their lives.

Each of us has gifts to offer and sometimes the smallest act of kindness, the opening of our heart and showing we care, can be incredibly powerful and valued by the receiver. Many small acts of kindness can deliver wonderful things. Maybe you make great pizzas you can share – 'nothing special'. But made with love and kindness they may change the world for someone.

*"... for I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, **I was a stranger and you welcomed me**, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." - Matthew 25 v35 – 40 [10]*

Note – Direct quotes are referenced to original sources in the endnotes. Indirect quotes and ideas are not referenced, but it is acknowledged that the complete article draws significantly from the podcast Revisionist History "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" by Malcolm Gladwell (Season 7, July 28, 2022). I would encourage you to listen to the podcast.

Footnotes:

1. Gladwell, M. 2022 Puskin Industries *Revisionist History*. [Online] Available: <https://www.pushkin.fm/podcasts/revisionist-history> [July 31, 2022, at 07:45]

2. ibid
3. ibid
4. Gladwell, M. 2022 Puskin Industries *Revisionist History – I was a stranger and you welcomed me*. Season 7 July 28, 2022 [Online] Available: <https://www.pushkin.fm/podcasts/revisionist-history/i-was-a-stranger-and-you-welcomed-me> [July 31, 2022, at 07:55]
5. ibid
6. ibid
7. ibid
8. ibid
9. ibid
10. Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. 1985. *The New Revised Standard Version*. [Online] Available: <http://bible.oremus.org/> [July 31, 2022, at 09:00]



Another Royal Reflection

Meryl Smith

I was eleven years old in February 1952 and one of my morning chores was to collect the daily paper from the front garden for my father. Not being interested in the world news at that time, I rarely read even the headlines. That day the headlines shouted at me and remained in my memory. In big, black, bold letters were the words "THE KING IS DEAD". and in smaller script beneath "Long live the Queen". I ran back into the house shouting the news.

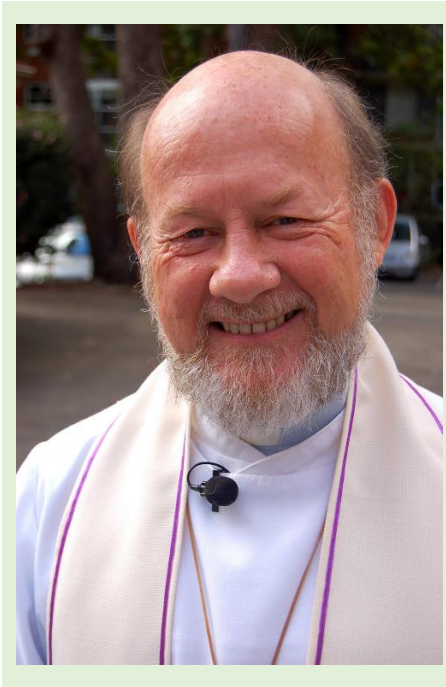
We went off to school as normal but at the morning assembly we sang the changed national anthem '*God save the Queen*'. This was not without some thrill because we had a young and beautiful Queen.

The next excitement was the coronation in June 1953. It was a public holiday but all the school children in Townsville were bussed to the Sports Reserve to form a huge tableau, ELIZABETH II, on the green lawns. There was much excitement as all in our white garbs we took our positions. My school formed the large 'E'. The mayor gave a suitably solemn address which we children promptly forgot as we were all focused on holding our positions. As Townsville was an RAAF Base, there was an elaborate fly past. Our tableau was photographed from the air and the photograph printed on the front page of the '*Townsville Bulletin*' the following day. We all felt very special. After the very formal proceedings the school choirs sang patriotic British songs as well as *Advance Australia Fair* and *Waltzing Matilda*.

In March 1954 the Queen and Prince Philip arrived in Townsville by plane. Once again, the school children formed a tableau WELCOME TO TOWNSVILLE. I was a Girl Guide at this stage, and we formed a Guard of Honour for the Royal couple as they walked from their open Land Rover to the palm-decorated dais to meet the official party. This was very special as we were so close to the royal party. I forgot to look at the Duke but was able to report the details of the Queen's yellow dress and lovely white accessories to my friends. These were very important facts for young teenage girls from the country who had followed the Queen since she had been a young princess.

Why go to Church?

The Reverend Paul Weaver



“You don’t have to go to church to be a Christian!” Most clergy will have heard this comment from people explaining why they attend services only occasionally, or not at all.

Of course, they are quite right! It is not going to church that defines a person as a Christian. There are genuine Christians who for all sorts of good reasons find it difficult or impossible to get to church services regularly. And there are people who come to church who are not Christians: some come hoping to find out more about the Christian faith, while others may come for a range of other reasons. And we hope they will all feel welcome.

But I want to remind us all how important it is for Christians to come to church regularly. Our relationship with Christ brings us into relationship with other members of his family. We are not just individual Christians: we are part of a community. And the church as a community is right at the heart of what it means to live as Christ’s followers. If we trust in Christ and follow him, we **are** members of his church. And we express that by being committed members of **a** church.

It is natural to think of the church as an organisation: but first of all, it is a community. Our obligation is to one another before it is to our denomination or our diocese, which is essentially an organisation linking congregations to one another. Denominations are important of course: they help churches to support one another, provide resources which might not be available to individual congregations; they ‘keep churches honest’ by making them responsible to a wider body of Christians, and they remind us that as a congregation, we are part of a much larger fellowship of believers.

We each have different experiences when we come to church. For most of us (or at least in my experience), services will not every week be exciting and ‘wonderfully inspiring’. Life has its up and downs, and its ordinary experiences. There will be those days when a service really “works” for us, or when a sermon gets through to us in a special way, or when we feel really fulfilled, or our fellowship afterwards is really encouraging. We don’t expect that every time we eat a meal, it will be a gastronomic extravaganza: but we would want it to be sustaining and generally healthy. In the same way our involvement in a service of worship, together with our time with people before or after the service, should provide ongoing spiritual encouragement and sustenance. And do remember that going to church is not just a “me and God” experience: it is a “me and my Christian family” experience. We acknowledge that liturgically in the Greeting of Peace. Hence it is so important that regard our time with other family members before and/or after a service as a vital part of the package.

The writer to the Hebrews urged his readers not to neglect to meet together, as apparently some of them were doing. Coming to church regularly is not only helpful for us: it is an encouragement to us all. It is certainly a great encouragement to me when I see a good attendance at a service, and I suspect that it is an encouragement to most of us. And our active participation during the service, as well as the helpful conversations we have with one another after the service, can be a real encouragement to one another. We come to church not only for our own sake, but for one another’s sake.

Of course, over the past two years or so, COVID has made a difference to us all. It has disrupted patterns which were standard for many of us. It has had an impact on the health of many of us. We were very thankful that Zoom was available so that we could quickly resume our Sunday services, even if they were on screen. However, we also had the facility to talk in small groups afterwards, and that was a blessing for many of us. Most of us still felt connected to our church, even if it was not the same as usual. Zoom also “allowed” us to go to church without having to go out, or to dress in our Sunday clothes. The time and effort involved was substantially reduced, and the demands of rosters and other things requiring effort did not apply to most of us. For many of us, I suspect, coming back to church seemed a big effort and involved a big amount of extra time.

However, remarkably effective though Zoom services were, they were not the same as actually gathering with one another. Yes, the resources are available for people to hear and sing hymns, to pray, to read the scriptures, and to hear or read sermons (by famous preachers!), without needing to leave home. But if we are to do it **together**, we need to actually come. Of course, there are all sorts of good reasons why some of us may not be able to come, especially those of us who have health and other significant personal issues – and I am so glad that we are continuing to provide Zoom services each Sunday at 10am. And if you are away from Sydney, let me encourage you to either join with Christians at a Sunday service wherever you are, or to join us by Zoom.

At this time, I am well aware that many parishioners are unhappy with things happening in the Diocese, and the formation of the Diocese of the Southern Cross. The new “diocese” (not an actual Anglican diocese) will serve what I hope is only a small number of Anglican ministers and groups of people who believe that their relationship with their bishop is impossible. It will not affect us in any direct way, except that I believe it sends an unhelpful message out to the wider community. I have heard offended people wondering whether they still want to be associated with a church in Sydney Diocese. I would point out that there is a variety of views throughout the Diocese – as there are differing views in every Australian diocese. Our parish life is not affected – unless we allow it to be! Please pray for the Anglican Church in Australia. And let us beware of judging people with whom we may disagree. After all, our community is based on grace and forgiveness.










I have been associated with Epping Parish for 24 years, and with different Rectors and changes in tradition and style, I have always been blessed by my involvement, as a member of Parish staff or as a member of the congregation. Sarah and I feel blessed that we are able to continue our involvement in our retirement years. As we both hope to continue to be encouraging members of the parish, may we all be encouragers through our regular attendance, our warm and supportive fellowship, and our loving service as members of the body of Christ in this parish.

We come to church for our own sake, to help us grow as God’s people. We come to church for God’s sake as we offer him our praise and worship. And we come to church for each other’s sake, to encourage and support and show love to one another as Christ calls us to do. I look forward to seeing you at church soon and sharing in worship and fellowship together.

Do you enjoy reading *The Parish Magazine*?
Could you contribute to the next edition?

The deadline for contributions is 6 January 2023.

Ask yourself–

-  In what ways has my faith helped me to endure the vicissitudes of life?
-  Have I been able to help others?
-  Have there been lessons I have learned?
-  What changes have I made in my life in 2022?
-  How am I contributing to my Church? How am I supporting my family and friends?
-  Do I have an interesting journey of faith? Would others enjoy hearing my story?
-  Is there someone who has influenced me and my religious faith? An author? A preacher? A friend?
-  Is there a Christian book, author or podcast I would like to review?
-  What would I like to see in future editions of *The Parish Magazine*?

Please contact the editor Julie Evans via email julie.evans@ihug.com.au

Guests at Saint Alban's

The Reverend Greg Harris

National Director of Bush Church Aid



Bishop Ross Nicholson with The Reverend Greg Harris and his wife Karen 4 September 2022

On Sunday 4 September 2022 The Reverend Greg Harris was the guest preacher at Saint Alban's.

Greg spoke to the congregation about his role as National Director, explaining that he travelled extensively to oversee current Field Staff, engage with supporters and work with Diocesan Bishops and other partners to identify new opportunities for ministry.

Many Saint Alban's parishioners support BCA by using their 'money boxes' to collect small change to donate to the work of BCA.

Parishioners were able to get current information and resources from the display in the narthex.

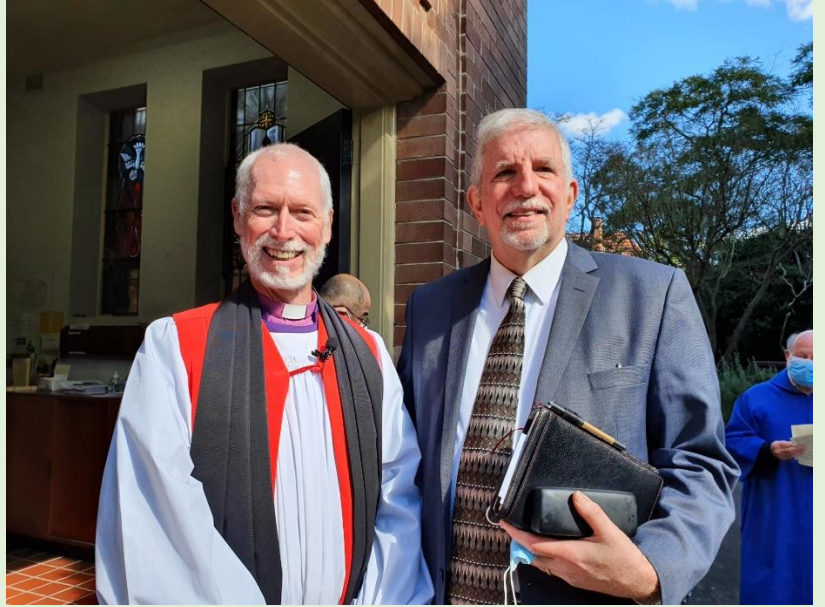


A BCA display was set up in the narthex of Saint Alban's



On Sunday 7 August 2022 The Reverend Bob Mendelsohn visited Saint Alban's and preached at both the 8.00am and 10.00am services. He told the congregation about his Orthodox Jewish upbringing and his later search for the meaning of life in the counterculture of the 1960s. He found meaning and relevance in Jesus, which caused him trouble at home. He declares that it was worth the cost. Bob has worked for Jews for Jesus since 1979 both in the USA and when he moved to Sydney in 1998.

Jews for Jesus is an international organisation of Jewish people who believe that Jesus is the Messiah and Saviour of the world.



Bishop Ross Nicholson with The Reverend Bob Mendelsohn



Ada Suresh

On Sunday 11 September 2022 Ada Suresh sang the opening verse of the hymn *Amazing Grace* during the 10.00am service. Ada is one of the choral students taught by our Music Director, Chris Czerwinski.

She is becoming accustomed to performance and impressed us with her talent.

Blackheath Choir Festival 2022

Rema Gnanadickam



Blackheath, in the Blue Mountains, hosts a choir festival every two years. It has been running since 2007 and was the brainchild of Linda McLaughlin, a resident of Blackheath. It was started as one of the activities of the Rhododendron Festival of Blackheath. It is at present run by a subcommittee of that festival and Mick O'Neill is the present coordinator.

Choirs from all over Australia travel to Blackheath and over three days perform at various venues in the town. This year it was held between 26 and 28 August. An eclectic selection of choirs of varying abilities and very different repertoires participate in this festival comprising a cappella groups, barber shop groups, some ethnic choirs, glee clubs and some serious and accomplished choirs presenting classical music. Surprisingly, there were two other choirs based in Epping, NSW: Linnet Singers and Urban Voices.

For the first time the Saint Alban's Church Choir performed at this Festival on Saturday 27 August 2022. A group of choir members, our choir director, Chris Czerwinski, and our two young accompanists, Isabel Li and Enoch Pan, made the trip up to Blackheath. We were the only church choir that participated and sang only sacred music. After registering and a short practice at the Uniting Church we moved to the Presbyterian Church Hall to wait our turn to sing in the Church.

We processed into the Church, singing in canon, *Jubilate Deo* by Michael Praetorius. We then sang two negro spirituals, *Oh, Won't you sit down?* and *Deep River* followed by *Adoramus Te* by G F Handel (from the Water Music Suite) and *Gloria Partii Et Filio* by Antonio Vivaldi. It was an uplifting experience for the choir to be part of the festival that simply celebrates the joy of singing.



Saint Alban's Choir performing in the Presbyterian Church Blackheath

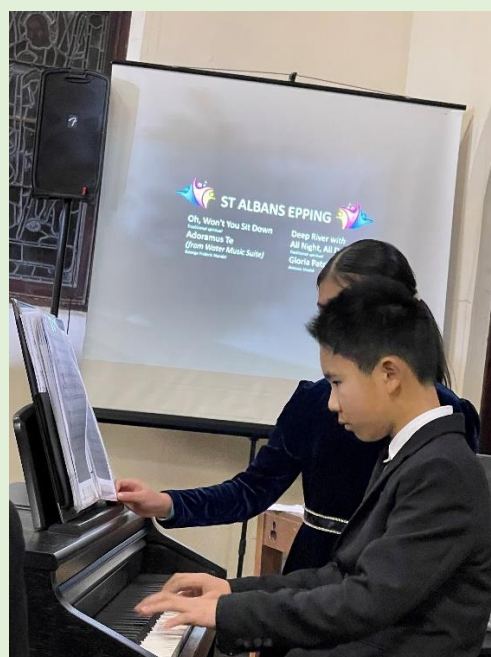
Additional comments from Chris Czerwinski
Music Director of Saint Alban's and Conductor of the Choir

The Artistic Director of the Blackheath Choir Festival attended Saint Alban's Choir's performance and we have already received an invitation to perform at the next Festival in 2023. After 2023 the festival will return to its biennial mode.

We were the only church choir amongst sixty other choirs from all over Australia which participated in the festival. It was not a competition, so we were not marked or judged by adjudicators, but an 'after performance invitation' from the Artistic Director of the Festival speaks for itself.

Our organ scholars, Isabel and Enoch, drew the attention of the public who were impressed by their skilful accompaniment of the choir's performance.

I received lovely feedback from random members of the audience saying that Saint Alban's Choir is "up there" together with the best choirs participating in this year's festival.



Organ scholars Isabel Li and Enoch Pan accompanied the choir in their performance



During the performance

History of Saint Alban's Choir – Part 7

Dr Doug Carruthers

This is the seventh instalment in the series on the history of the choir and choral music at Saint Alban's. **Part 1** was published in *The Parish Magazine* Number 861, August – October 2020, **Part 2** in *The Parish Magazine* Number 863, February – April 2021, **Part 3** in *The Parish Magazine* Number 865 August – October 2021, **Part 4** in *The Parish Magazine* Number 866 November 2021 - January 2022, **Part 5** in *The Parish Magazine* Number 868 May – July 2022 and **Part 6** in *The Parish Magazine* Number 869 August – October 2022.



Doug has been a choir member since December 1966

In the previous instalment of the History of Saint Alban's Choir, we learned of the last years of the 20th century. For many people, their thoughts were focused on the defining features of the departing century. One could say that the main feature would have to have been the increasingly rapid changes of life in general. Not only had the 20th century seen mankind take to the air, but the boundary of our earth had also been conquered, with exploration reaching out as far as the moon and other planets in our solar system. The increasing use of motorised vehicles and advances in telecommunications had brought people together in a way previously unheard of.

Great strides had been made in science and society as increasingly thoughts of our own existence and our own role within it had produced a tension between the social aspects on one hand and temporal aspects on the other. It had been most dreadfully demonstrated by the horrors of two world wars, and other regional wars, whilst financial changes caused several distressing depressions. With all these changes had come changes in the church especially in the latter half of the century.

With the freedoms following World War II, there was a demand for a freer society especially as the population grew. Since 1962 the Australian Church has been headed by its own Primate and on 24 August 1981 the church officially changed its name from *The Church of England in Australia and Tasmania* to *The Anglican Church of Australia*. There were subsequent changes to both our Prayer Book and Hymn Book. Saint Alban's managed to cope well with the changes, mainly due to the tireless efforts of the clergy, choir and a very supportive laity who fully appreciated our style of worship.

Alas Church attendance was not as strong as in previous years and the days of hundreds in the Sunday School, and the need for two confirmation services, had regrettably gone. However, the music survived and in its own way maintained the traditions of our parish. Indeed, it would be the role of the music that would be responsible for changes within Saint Alban's in the future. It was in June 1923 that the foundation stone had been laid for the church building that we use today, and this building was further developed in 1961 with the extension of the nave and a tower with a spire. Allied to this was the purchase of the old Telford tracker organ replacing the old reed organ. The current Letourneau organ, and the details surrounding the reason for its purchase in 1981, have been fully covered in a prior edition. We ended up with a brilliant new pipe organ which was placed in a purpose-built gallery at the rear of the church thus freeing the sanctuary of choir pews and leaving a space on the north side, from where the old organ had been removed, for the Martyrs' Chapel. There were other gains as the new organ attracted many to hear and try the organ whilst maintaining our traditions of musical excellence in praise of Our Lord.

As the new century approached there were many thoughts upon which to ponder. The one causing most concern was the so-called Y2K bug whereby at the stroke of midnight it was feared that all computers would click over back to zero and cause a universal shut down. I can clearly recall the massive sigh of relief when it was announced that after midnight in New Zealand, which is two hours ahead of Australia, all computers were still fully functional! The focus was now on the forthcoming Olympic Games, Sydney 2000. There were still problems to be resolved at Saint Alban's, however. One thing of note as we advanced into the new century, we dedicated an

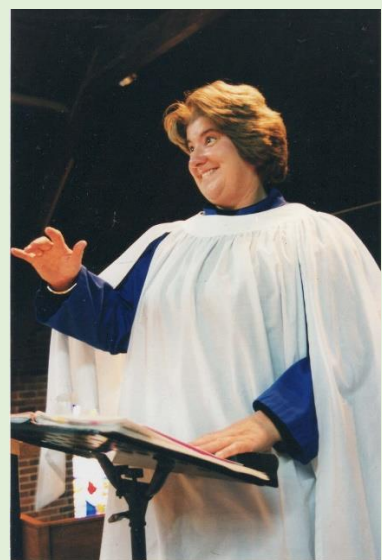
Epping Anglicans Choir Banner. There were however issues that had to be resolved, especially concerning the appointment of a new Director of Music.

What a quandary! Here it was, the beginning of the year 2000 and we were in the position of having to look for a new Director of Music. Luckily a solution presented itself when Anne Price accepted the responsibility for the three choirs: the Senior Choir, the Junior Choir and the Schola Cantorum choir.

Mrs Price was a highly qualified and highly regarded music teacher, with much experience, who was employed at The Hills Grammar School. Anne had joined our parish in the latter part of the 1990s. Her musical education included her attendance the Conservatorium High School prior to continuing further studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music from where she excelled in music and teaching methods.

One of her early appointments was at Ravenswood College where her abilities, especially in choral music, were soon recognised. Her friendly and outgoing disposition was soon met with universal approval within the parish and choir. Her commitment, approachability, and willingness to understand and support the Saint Alban's style of music and its place in our liturgy, were much-admired attributes.

She was fully supportive in a firm and confident professional manner which endeared her to the choir. Individual encouragement, and her skills both at the senior and junior level, gave her a universal appeal and, accordingly, the choirs responded to the challenge.



Anne Price mid 2002

Just as Anne Price was settling into her new role with the choirs, the ever tireless and supportive Chris Wagstaff, who had been the acting organist for Anne Price, decided to retire from Saint Alban's after a period of 10 years to take up a position at Newington College. Both he and his wife Rosemary Blake remained as parishioners and were available from time to time as needed. The parish was much indebted for his years of service and on his leaving David Rumsey, a previous Director of Music, agreed to be acting organist until the end of August prior to his moving to Basel in Switzerland. During this time, he arranged a much-appreciated organ recital on a weekly basis while providing informative notes to parishioners on all things relating to the current organ scene.



Ben Edwards circa 2001

A new organist became available in October 2000. Benjamin Edwards was studying at Macquarie University with the aim of gaining honours in Ancient History. In a relatively short stay at Saint Albans Ben became a good friend to many and proved to be a very competent organist. He had already had an appointment as assistant organist at Saint John's Cathedral in Parramatta in western Sydney. His stay with us was not long as he decided to pursue post graduate studies. Ben left Saint Alban's in 2002. He was made Deacon in 2004 and then priested by the Bishop of Bathurst in All Saints' Cathedral in Bathurst, NSW in 2005. It was a fine tribute to Ben that a number of choir members and parishioners travelled to Bathurst to support him at his ordination.

There were more difficulties to contend with when ill health forced Anne Price to relinquish her position in the latter half of 2002. Amid much concern for her within the choir and the whole parish, there was a feeling of great appreciation for all she had achieved over her far too short tenure as Director of Music. She had made a wonderful contribution to our worship with her warm and supportive personality and her considerable musical skills.

One of Anne's legacies was the renaming of the Junior Choir as Alban's Angels. It would be Saint Alban's gain when Anne was well enough to resume her normal choir role at a later date and offer the Director of Music assistance as needed.

It had been a most unsettling way to commence the new century.

However, the situation was resolved in late 2002 when, during the choir weekend away, the ever-helpful Bruce Wilson was able to introduce a new director and an overseas one at that.

Margaret Ganderton, also known as Maggie, was a graduate of the University of Cardiff in Wales. She, like her predecessor, was also a school music teacher having studied organ at Llandaff Cathedral.

She came with highly commendable qualities: as proficiency in string instruments, especially the cello; experience with recorder ensembles; extensive experience in teaching music and music consultancy as well as an ability to direct choral works.

Maggie had also gained much experience as a Director of Music in three churches making her a good choice for Saint Alban's now that she and her husband, who was also a teacher, had moved to Australia.



Margaret (Maggie) Ganderton
circa 2002

Maggie's cheery approach was reflected by the style of music that she so obviously enjoyed but she always respected the overall reason for which the choir was there in the first place. She readily involved herself in other musical aspects of the parish, for instance, under her a very good recorder ensemble evolved. Maggie, as she liked to be called, maintained our tradition in a different but inclusive way. It was a shame that personal commitments required the family to move out of the Sydney area.



Saint Alban's Recorder ensemble performing at a special lunch
circa 2002

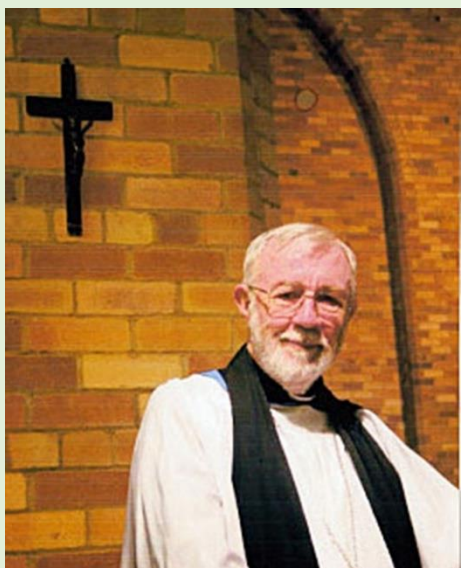
What a lot of movement on the music front at Saint Alban's in such a relatively short time. Will it settle down or will it remain unsettled? For the answer we will have to wait for the next instalment.

Acknowledgements:

1. Editions of *Epping Parish Magazine/The Parish Magazine* covering the period of time featured
2. Parish Records as needed
3. Brian Haywood - current parish archivist for access to appropriate records as needed
4. Julie Evans - current editor of *The Parish Magazine* for helpful advice
5. Personal recollections and interviews
6. Photos used in this instalment come from the author's personal collection

Exploring Tintern Abbey with Wordsworth and Turner

Father Robert Willson



The author, Father Robert Willson, is a retired priest in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and a regular contributor to *The Parish Magazine*.

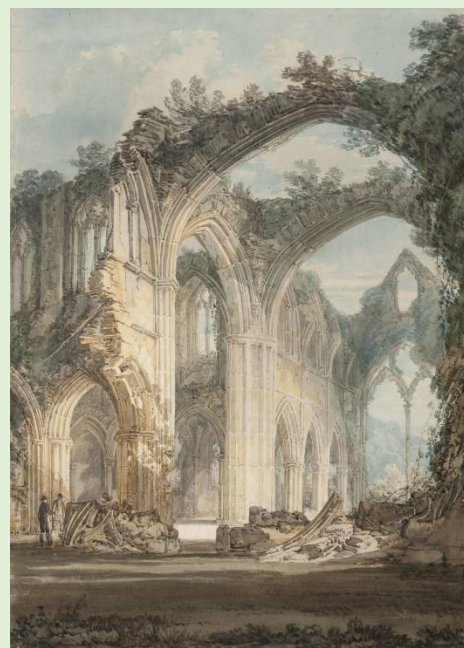
In the year 1795, a group of young men were exploring the district around the Severn River on the border between England and Wales. They crossed the river and hired horses to try to find the ruins of the ancient Cistercian monastery known as Tintern Abbey. In the true Cistercian tradition, the Abbey was in what was then a remote and desolate locality, deliberately isolated from towns and people.

One of the young men in the party nearly died that day. He became totally lost and, in the darkness, nearly rode his horse over a cliff into a stone quarry. His name was Samuel Taylor Coleridge, friend of William Wordsworth, and one of our greatest Romantic poets.

Exactly two hundred years later, in 1995, my wife Beth and I left our Youth Hostel in Bristol and set off on a similar quest to see Tintern Abbey. It had been made famous by the poet Wordsworth and the painter J M W Turner [1775 – 1851]. Today access to Tintern is easy and thousands of tourists visit it.



Tintern Abbey and Courtyard – Monmouthshire, Wales



Turner's Tintern Abbey 1794

Nearly 500 years ago King Henry VIII dissolved all the English, Welsh and Irish monasteries. Some wit remarked that he claimed that he was doing it for the good of the Church, but he really wanted the goods of the Church. Today the results of his greed are some of the most beautiful ruins in Britain, and we wanted to see them. Turner painted those ruins many times.

In the little town of Chepstow we browsed in bookshops and got some fruit before reaching Tintern Abbey. The name in Welsh is *Abaty Tyndym* and it was once the Abbey Church of Saint Mary, a Cistercian Abbey, said to be the richest in Wales. I wrote in my diary that I had thought it would be a quick visit but how wrong I was! Beth and I spent all morning there.

Tintern was founded in 1131 and dissolved in 1536, a little over 400 years later. What we see today is the great decorated Abbey church, built of old sandstone in varied colours. The total length is 228 feet [over 69 metres] and the transept is 150 feet [almost 46 metres] in length. Building work took several decades and was completed about 1301.

Visiting Tintern brought back many memories of my studies in Medieval history many years before. Our class explored the history of the Cistercian Order which was originally founded as a reform of the ancient Benedictine Order. They were much stricter than the Benedictines and decreed that their Abbeys should be of plain architecture and located well away from cities and towns and their sensual distractions.

Our lecturer at the Australian National University [ANU], Dr Tillotson, was passionate about his subject. As students entered the classroom we were greeted with the sound from a tape of chanting monks, and images of the ancient abbeys on a screen. When my wife and I came to Tintern we purchased a cassette with a splendid commentary giving us a guided tour and sights and sounds, describing every aspect of the great Abbey over the centuries. The film *The Name of the Rose*, starring Sean Connery, gives a memorable recreation of that time.

In the first century of the Abbey, the Cistercian tradition was an attraction to many men seeking solitude and a life devoted to prayer and work. The *Carta Caritatis* [the Charter of Charity which is the constitution of the Cistercian Order] laid down their basic principles: poverty, chastity and obedience, along with silence, prayer and work. Tintern, like 500 other Cistercian foundations across Europe, had a dual community: monks who kept the full vows, and lay brothers, those who worshipped God through manual labour, growing the food needed in the Abbey. In that violent age many were attracted to the Cistercian way.

However, a heavy blow was dealt by the Black Death [bubonic plague] which swept the country in 1349 and left a severe labour shortage. Tintern Abbey struggled on in spite of the death toll. In 1536 Henry VIII ordered the Dissolution of all the Monasteries of England, Wales and Ireland. On 3 September of that year Abbot Wych, the last Abbot of Tintern, surrendered his Abbey and all its estates to the King's Commissioners and the final Mass was said in the great church. The scribes in the scriptorium laid down their pens and the chanting died away forever.

Abbot Wych was fortunate and received a pension. The elderly Abbot of Glastonbury, not far away, was condemned as a traitor and executed with savage brutality.

As we walked through the ruins, I heard the words of the commentary on our tape. The voice said: "*Look at those men, like ants on the roof of the great Abbey Church*". They were workmen stripping away the valuable lead from the roof, leaving it to disintegrate and crumble. Cart loads of the treasures of Tintern were taken to London to increase the wealth of King Henry, on the orders of Thomas Cromwell who masterminded the whole horrible business.

Only four years later Cromwell was executed when Henry felt that he had outlived his usefulness (as a matchmaker!) Cromwell had lined up Anne of Cleves for Henry as his next and fourth wife, but she did not please the King and Cromwell paid for it on the block.

Sadly, perhaps the greatest treasures of Tintern, like other monasteries, were the priceless books in the monastic library. These were often just left to rot or blow in the wind. Unique copies of ancient classics were lost forever. Before the age of printing the monks had done a marvellous service to the Church by copying the Scriptures and other writings, both sacred and secular.

But the monastic ideals were not so easily destroyed. In the years to come some monastic buildings were reclaimed and again became centres for the religious life. One was Pluscarden Abbey near Elgin, in northern Scotland, which we had previously visited. It is now a Catholic Benedictine monastery. Today the praise of God is sung in Anglican and Roman Catholic monastic communities, as well as those in the Orthodox tradition. They preserve a rich ancient Christian tradition, in spite of the dislike of the puritan fundamentalists.

Many years ago, I first read *Lines Composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey* by William Wordsworth, and that poem, along with the art of Turner, made me long to see the great Abbey for myself.

While researching this article I read my old diary and also turned again to Wordsworth's great poem. In spite of the reference to Tintern Abbey in the title there is nothing about Tintern in it. It is a meditation on memories of revisiting the banks of the Wye River, a few miles beyond Tintern, during a tour on 13 July 1798. On the other hand, the artist Turner made many pilgrimages to Tintern itself and some marvellous paintings are the result.



John Mallord William Turner (1775-1851)
Self-portrait 1799



William Wordsworth (1770-1850) at 28
Painted by William Shuter

For my wife and I our visit to Tintern Abbey was a memorable pilgrimage to a priceless part of our Christian as well as our literary and artistic heritage. We would gladly go again.

Acknowledgements:

1. Photo of Tintern Abbey – Monmouthshire – Wales by Saffron Blaze
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15358619> Accessed 8 September 2022 at 1400hrs
2. JMW Turner self-portrait 1799 <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-self-portrait-n00458> Accessed 8 September 2022 at 1430hrs
3. Turner's painting of Tintern Abbey 1794 Accessed 8 September 2022 at 1445hrs
<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-tintern-abbey-the-crossing-and-chancel-looking-towards-the-east-window-d00374>
4. Painting of William Wordsworth by William Shuter – [William Wordsworth at 28 by William Shuter2.jpg](#) (1896×2244) (libapps-au.s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com) Accessed 8 September 2022 at 1500hrs



Memorial Floral Arrangements in August



Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, I decided to see if the death of George VI in 1952 was recorded in *The Parish Magazine* at the time.

In the March 1952 issue, the Rector, The Reverend Noel Rook, made reference to the event in his letter to Parishioners together with a separate tribute to 'Our Beloved King'.

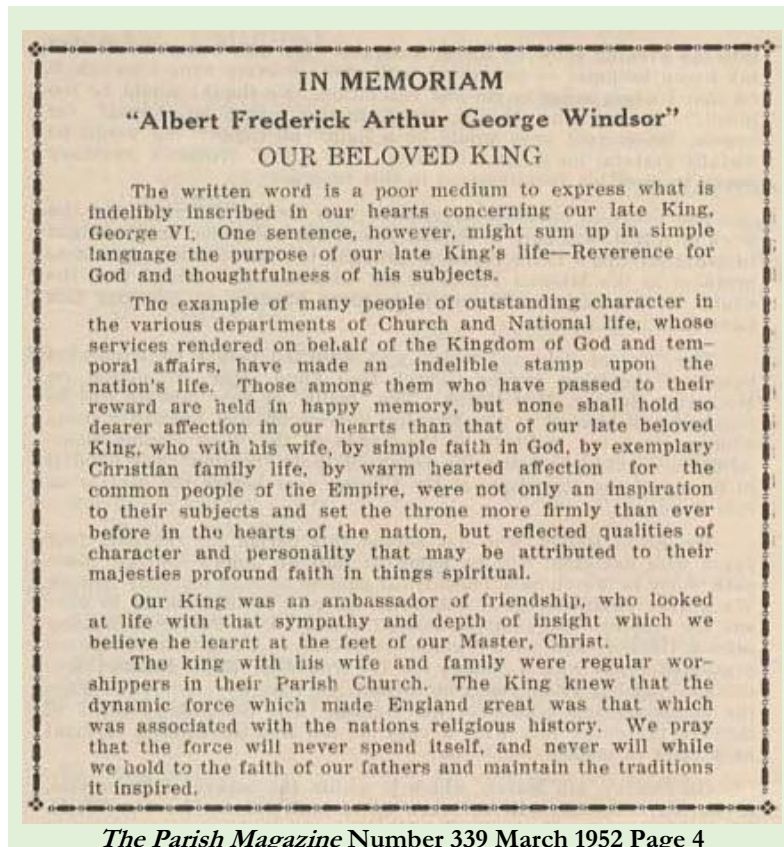
The Rector's words appear below as well as the *In Memoriam* – both from the March 1952 edition of *The Parish Magazine*, pages 1 and 4.

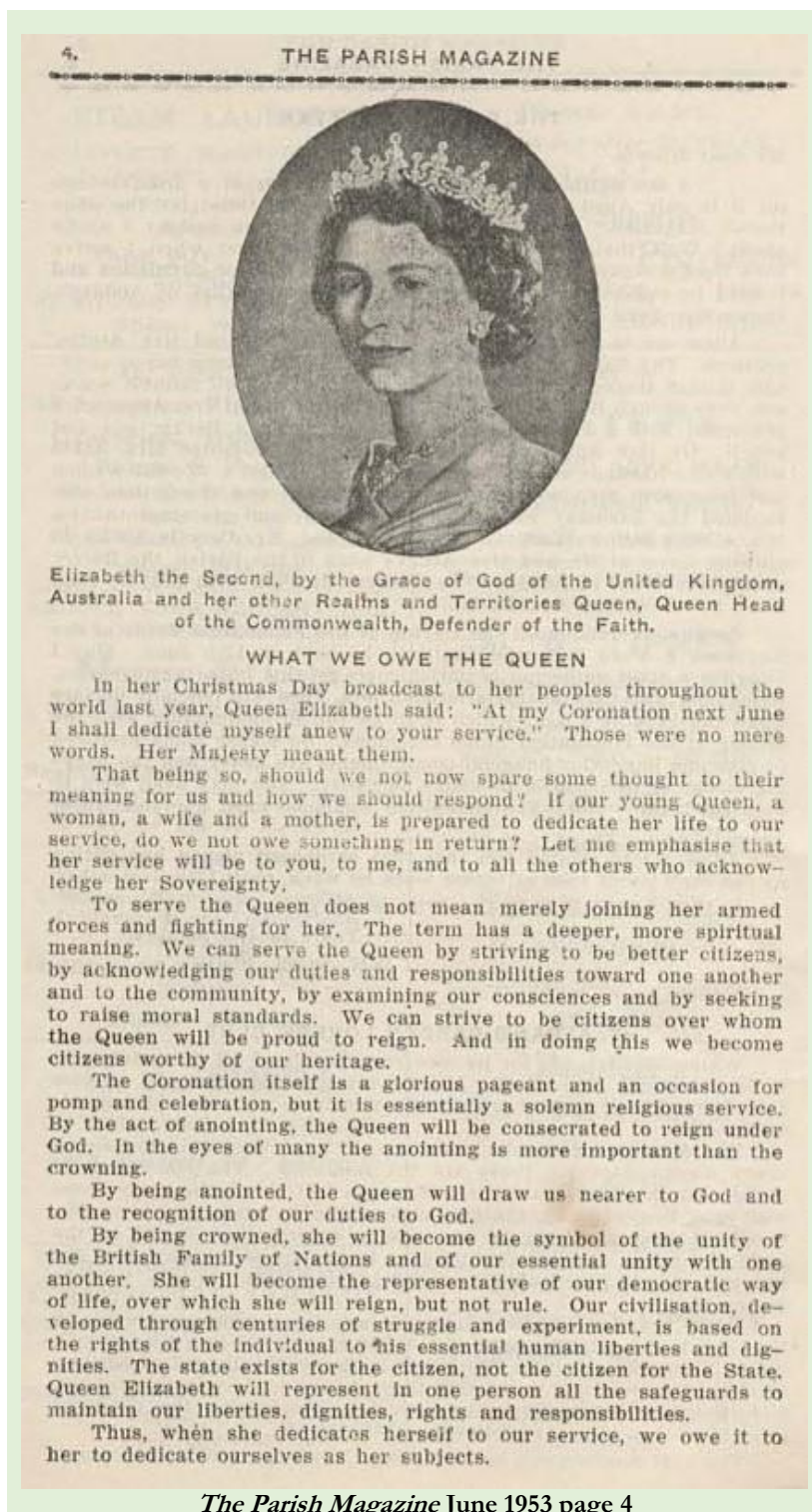
The Reverend Rook began his monthly Rector's Letter with the following:

My dear friends

Since I last wrote you momentous things have occurred in the life of the Empire. Our beloved King has passed away. And we have a new monarch reigning in his stead, his daughter, our Gracious Queen Elizabeth. I have paid a special tribute to the memory of the King in this issue. To our new Queen we pledge our loyalty and love, and as we sing the National Anthem, 'God Save the Queen', the word 'save' is rich in meaning. Virtually, as we sing 'God Save the Queen', we say may she be shielded from all evil influence. Prevent her life from being spent on useless things, O Lord. Preserve her in her going out and in her coming in from this time forth for evermore. Go before her with the blessing of goodness. Grant her a blessed and prosperous life in Thy service. With sentiments such as these the fervent goodwill of millions go out to our Queen.

*Yours in His service
Wm Noel Rook*





On 2 June 1953, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

Sunday 31 May was designated Coronation Sunday and observed "throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations as the day to commemorate the Crowning of Her Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II" in services drawn up by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to mark the occasion.

On Monday 1 June the parish held a Coronation Eve Dance at 8.00pm to mark the festive nature of the event. Admission was three shillings and sixpence [35 cents].

On Tuesday 2 June, Coronation Day, the Epping Ministers Fraternal arranged for a combined service to be held at Saint Alban's at 9.00am. The invitation read:

"All non-Roman Catholic Churches in Epping are invited to take part in the Service. [*The Parish Magazine* May 1953]

We have thankfully, during the Queen's reign moved a long way in Epping to put sectarianism behind us, to the extent that we now have a Covenant between the Anglican, Uniting and Roman Catholic Churches.

An Ecumenical Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was held on Thursday 22 September 2022 at 10.30am, just three days after her State Funeral in London.

In the process of finding these references in the Parish Magazines of 1952 and 1953, I have been reminded of my own experiences of the Coronation. My father was manager of the County Fire Insurance Company which later became part of the Sun Alliance Group. The head office was in Piccadilly Circus with balconies looking directly down on the Statue of Eros.

My mother and I, as family members, were invited to come up to London for the occasion and I well remember watching the Coronation Service on a black and white television and then standing on the balcony to watch the horse drawn Coronation Coach pass with a clearly visible Queen, wearing her crown, moving around Piccadilly Circus ... in the pouring rain!

Editor's Note: For more Royal Recollections see pages 11 – 19 and page 25

Parish Directory

Rector	The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson BCom, BTh, Dip A, MA
Assistant Minister	The Reverend Philip Lui BAppSc, BD
Children's Ministry Worker	Amy Taylor
Lay Assistant	Ruth Shatford AM (Diocesan)
Sanctuary Assistants, Servers and Intercessors	Godfrey Abel, Sue Armitage, Ross Beattie, Licette Bedna, Ken Bock OAM, Margaret Cummins, Anne Lawson, Lachlan Roots, Peggy Sanders (Senior Liturgical Assistant), David Tait, Mark Taylor, Kim Turner, James Von Stieglitz, Sarah Weaver
Sacristans	Ross Beattie, Mark Taylor, James Von Stieglitz
Parish Administrator	Denise Pigot Telephone: 9876 3362 Email: office@eppinganglicans.org.au
Honorary Parish Treasurer	Shane Christie-David
Parish Councillors	Ken Bock OAM, Margaret Cummins, Graeme Durie, Glyn Evans, Christine Murray, Laura Rowe, Peggy Sanders, Gillian Taylor
Parish Nominators	Graeme Durie, Peggy Sanders, Ruth Shatford AM, Meryl Smith, David Tait
Synod Representatives	Michelle Lee, Gillian Taylor
Safe Ministry Representative	Laura Rowe
Churchwardens	Noel Christie-David – Rector's Warden Elizabeth Jenkins – People's Warden David Tait – People's Warden
Music Director	Chris Czerwinski Perf. Dip. (Wieniawski School of Music, Poland), BMus (Eastman School of Music, New York, USA), MMus (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, England, UK), MMus (Sydney Conservatorium of Music)
Organ Scholars	Isabel Li and Enoch Pan
Caretakers	Jaymes and Jessie White
Editor	Julie Evans
Proof-readers	Glyn Evans and Peggy Sanders
Archivist	Brian Haywood

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