

# **The Parish Magazine**

## **Epping Anglicans**

### **November 2023 to January 2024**

**Number 874**



Saint Alban the  
Martyr,  
3 Pembroke Street,  
Epping

with

Saint Aidan of  
Lindisfarne,  
32 Downing Street,  
West Epping

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

This is the last edition of *The Parish Magazine* in which we celebrate our year of centenaries. The Centenary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the current church was marked by services and festive gatherings in June 2023. As I prepare this edition in October 2023, I am cognisant that it is one hundred years since the publication of the first edition of a parish magazine at Saint Alban's. We are yet to mark the centenary of the first service held in the 'new' church in December 1923 and this will occur on 17 December 2023.

What a year it has been! I have been overwhelmed by the number of people both inside and outside the Parish, who have wanted to be a part of the celebrations. All four 2023 editions of *The Parish Magazine* have contained articles and photographs which acknowledge the loving service to Saint Alban's of many current parishioners and clergy and ex-parishioners and clergy.

As we prepare to commemorate Remembrance Day in November 2023, let us look back at the war memorials in Saint Alban's which honour the service and sacrifice of parishioners in both World Wars. One article tells of the World War 1 Memorial to those who lost their lives (pages 22-24) and there is an article about the Reredos which was installed to commemorate the sacrifice of eighteen parishioners in World War II (pages 25-27).

Please contact me at [julie.evans@ihug.com.au](mailto: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.

Post Office Box 79, Epping NSW 1710

Email: [office@eppinganglicans.org.au](mailto:office@eppinganglicans.org.au)

Website: [www.eppinanglicans.org.au](http://www.eppinanglicans.org.au)

Our clergy may be contacted at any time:

Ross Nicholson 0407 916 603

Phil Lui 0433 456 987

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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Thank you to the authors of the various articles in this magazine and to those who contributed photographs to accompany their article. Photo acknowledgement also to Glyn Evans, Julie Evans, Jess Li, Amy Taylor, Saint Alban's Archives. Thank you also to the proof-readers.

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>



*“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”* Philippians 4:8

The Apostle Paul wrote those words to the Christians in Philippi, and to us in 21<sup>st</sup> century Australia. As we now stand on the aftermath of The Voice referendum, they are wise words we would all do well to reflect upon and put into practise. While proponents of both sides of the argument try to claim the high moral ground on honourable behaviour, it is clear that whatever was pure, commendable, excellent or praiseworthy went out the window.

It was said by an American politician at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the first casualty of war is truth. But before we had even entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century, truth had become a casualty not of war, but a relentless push by our Western culture to personalise and internalise the concept of ‘truth’. Your ‘truth’ is true for you but not necessarily for me.

With the proliferation of social media, expressive individualism and a taste for conspiracy, a commitment to ‘whatever is true’ is an almost impossible pursuit. But the beauty of Paul’s words is not that he commends to us truth alone, but that he offers a broad spectrum of values that must shape our attitude to the world.

In the Uluru Statement from the Heart our aboriginal brothers and sisters asked for ‘truth-telling’. Sadly, the truth about two centuries of interaction between white and black Australians has not been an attractive one. Pain, violence, discrimination and misunderstanding have marked our interactions. Reconciliation in its truest sense cannot be achieved in Australia because it assumes a good relationship that has broken down. We have not had a ‘good relationship’ and many of the injudicious statements from both sides of the debate have demonstrated that.

As Christians we believe that there is such a thing as truth, which is not dependent upon my personal, emotional, changeable beliefs. Another truism is that you can win a debate without winning hearts. That is why Paul encourages all those with other values to follow the pursuit of truth.

There are things which are true, elements of our history that cannot be denied. But Paul’s injunction would encourage us to weigh those truths against what is honourable, just, pleasing, etc, because to cling to a truth out of victimhood, grievance or guilt is the pathway to hopelessness and despair.

Truth needs to be embraced as a path to hope and life. As Australians we need to acknowledge that a ‘referendum proposal’ was defeated, not that hope for a better future for a suffering segment of our community. So whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things as you reflect upon what has taken place in our nation through the Voice referendum.

**Bishop Ross attended the Peace Vigil  
for Israel and Gaza 15 October 2023  
at Our Lady Help of Christians, Epping**



# Reflections on Ordination

The Reverend Phil Lui



## What does it mean to be priested?

Leading up to my Ordination, my non-clergy friends had been asking me: *‘What does it mean to be priested?’* The best illustration I could come up with is that it is like coming off my ministry P plates and being given a full licence. When on your P plates you can drive around, but you are limited in how fast you can go. In the same way, as a Deacon over the last 7-8 years, it is not as if I have not been able to serve in ministry, but being priested means I can serve that bit more.

The Bible passage that most reflects my thinking about being priested is Jesus’ words from Mark 10:43b-45:

*“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

To move up in stature in the community of God also means a move upwards in humility, service, and sacrifice. I find a deep contentment, in knowing that this step, allows me to follow more in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Where the analogy of coming off my Ps fails, is that to be ordained a Priest in the Anglican church is also no small milestone. To have the blessing of the Archbishop and our Anglican communion, and to be allowed to lead a church and administer the sacraments, is a great privilege and responsibility and the promises I made at my ordination reflects the solemnity and seriousness of my Holy Orders.

## What does it mean for Saint Alban’s?

For us in our parish, it means I am now able to preside over our Eucharistic services on Sundays and Thursdays, and I will be permitted to administer the Lord’s Supper in pastoral visits for those in care or hospital.

## Thanks

I want to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to my church family for all your support, prayers, and congratulations. Very special thanks are owed to my wife, Rebecca, who has supported my ministry over the last thirteen years.



## Request

I want to ask that all in my parish family, and wider community of readers of *The Parish Magazine*, will continue to pray that God will sustain me in joyful self-giving and service and that God will strengthen me to grow in my faithfulness and service to Him and His church.

**Editor’s Note:** For photographs and more details of The Reverend Phil’s Ordination please see pages 8-12

## 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

<b>Sunday at Saint Alban's</b>	8.00am Holy Eucharist with Hymns 10.00am Choral Eucharist – 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday; Sung Eucharist – 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday <i>The 10.00am Holy Eucharist is also streamed via Zoom. Choir will be on leave during January.</i>  Sunday School 10.00am in The Loft (above the Main Hall) <i>During school terms</i>  6.00pm Taizé Service – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month except for January
<b>Thursday at Saint Alban's</b>	9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing on Zoom 10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing <i>Last service for 2023 Thursday 14 December services recommence on Thursday 1 February 2024</i>

### November 2023

<b>Sunday 5 November</b>	All Saints
<b>Sunday 12 November</b>	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost; Remembrance Day Observance Preacher: The Right Reverend Grant Dibden, Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force
<b>Sunday 19 November</b>	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
<b>Sunday 26 November</b>	Festival of Christ the King Preacher: The Right Reverend Chris Edwards, Regional Bishop

### December 2023

<b>Sunday 3 December</b>	First Sunday of Advent Preacher: The Reverend Michael Aitken (Anglicare) 6.00pm Service of Advent Hymns, Prayers and Lessons
<b>Tuesday 5 December</b>	7.45pm Ecumenical Service at Saint Alban's Preacher: The Reverend Greg Woolnough from Epping Uniting Church
<b>Sunday 10 December</b>	Second Sunday of Advent at 10am Sunday School Pageant
<b>Sunday 17 December</b>	Third Sunday of Advent – Centenary of the first Service in this church building. <i>Placement of the centenary time capsule</i> 7.45pm Festival of Lessons and Carols
<b>Sunday 24 December</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent 8.00am and 10.00am 6.00pm Christmas Eve - Family Christmas Service 9.30pm Christmas Eve - Festival Choral Eucharist
<b>Monday 25 December</b>	8.30am Christmas Day - Festival Choral Eucharist
<b>Sunday 31 December</b>	First Sunday after Christmas 8.00am and 10.00am

### January 2024

<b>Sunday 7 January</b>	The Baptism of our Lord
<b>Sunday 14 January</b>	Second Sunday after Epiphany
<b>Sunday 21 January</b>	Third Sunday after Epiphany Aboriginal Sunday
<b>Sunday 28 January</b>	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Australia Day Observance

## Children at Saint Alban's

Amy Taylor, Children's Ministry Worker



Term 3 was a busy time for the Sunday School. After covering the topic of 'sin' in Term 2, over the past eight weeks we looked at the solution to sin; Jesus! We looked at the ascension and the promise of Christ's return, how God uses people like Saul to do His work on earth and the assurance that one day there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

During the term we also held our Games Day, where the children competed in teams for the ultimate prize, with necessary breaks for pizza and gelato. They designed an outfit from newspaper, were quizzed during trivia and played newspaper hockey.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Samuel (The Mandalorian) and John (a knight) volunteered to model the newspaper creations.



It was brother versus sister as Annabelle and Reuben fought for the Newspaper Hockey title.

On the 7 September, Bishop Ross, The Reverend Phil and I met with Chris Jones and Adam Jolliffe from Youthworks Ministry Support Team to discuss a survey we had each filled out earlier in the year detailing our children and youth program at Saint Alban's. Our results were built into a report outlining our strengths and weaknesses, which were then discussed, and ideas were suggested as to how we could move forward with our growing cohort. A few of the discussion points were:

- how to future proof Sunday School
- how to create a clear pathway for young people in the church from ages 0-25
- what we want for the children once they reach high school age
- the intergenerational connection of children with the wider congregation.

With twenty children now on the Sunday School roll, it is the ideal time to create a clear pathway for the children to eventually grow into long term members of St Alban's.

At the end of the term, the children were asked to write down any questions they had about the Bible, God or Christianity. These will be our focus for Term 4 where, each week, we will answer one of these questions.

During the school holidays, we held our first Sunday School picnic. It was a wonderful time for the children and parents to be together, doing their own thing and getting to know each other a little more. We had party food, colouring-in and Lego stations, and a very popular trampoline.



The picnic and related activities gave the group a lovely chance for everyone to unwind before school returned!



The Ordination to the Priesthood of The Reverend Phil Lui  
 by The Right Reverend Chris Edwards  
 Bishop of North Sydney  
 24 October 2023 at Saint Alban's Epping

Tuesday 24 October 2023 saw another major event at Saint Alban's Anglican Church, Epping: the Ordination of The Reverend Philip Lui to the Priesthood. Family, friends and parishioners gathered to witness this significant occasion. The strains of J.S. Bach's *Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott (Come Holy God)* filled the church, followed by The Processional Hymn, *To God be the Glory* as the procession of clergy moved to the Sanctuary. Four Bishops; clergy associated with Phil's journey to the priesthood, and clergy from the Covenant Churches were present to support Phil in his Ordination.



Becky Lui read the New Testament Reading



Bishop Chris preached the sermon during the service



The laying on of hands by Bishops and Priests as Phil was ordained

CLOCKWISE FROM FRONT LEFT: The Reverend Esmond Lau; Bishop Peter Lin; Bishop Chris Edwards; Bishop Ross Nicholson; Bishop Gary Koo; The Reverend Alan Lam; The Reverend James Davidson



Bishop Ross Nicholson, Rector of Saint Alban's, presented Phil to the Bishop of North Sydney, The Right Reverend Chris Edwards, who performed the ceremony. Phil's wife, Becky Lui read from the First Chapter of The Letter of Paul to Titus, setting up the theme of the sermon: the qualities and characteristics required by a priest of God and The Reverend Paul Weaver read the Gospel from Matthew, Chapter 13.

Following Bishop Chris' Exhortation and Examination, Phil made a public profession of his willingness to faithfully undertake the duties of a Priest. Bishop Chris, Bishop Ross and the attending Bishops and clergy then joined in the laying on of hands whereby Phil received the Holy Spirit. The presentation of a Bible accompanied the conferral of the authority to preach the word of God and to administer the holy sacraments.



Before Communion, Peggy Sanders led the congregation in the prayers for the world and the Church throughout the world, and following Communion, Dr Sarah Weaver led the congregation in prayers for Phil and his family.

After the service the congregation and clergy gathered in the Main Hall for a sumptuous celebratory supper.

**AT LEFT:**  
Bishop Chris presented the newly priested Phil to the congregation which greeted him with warm applause

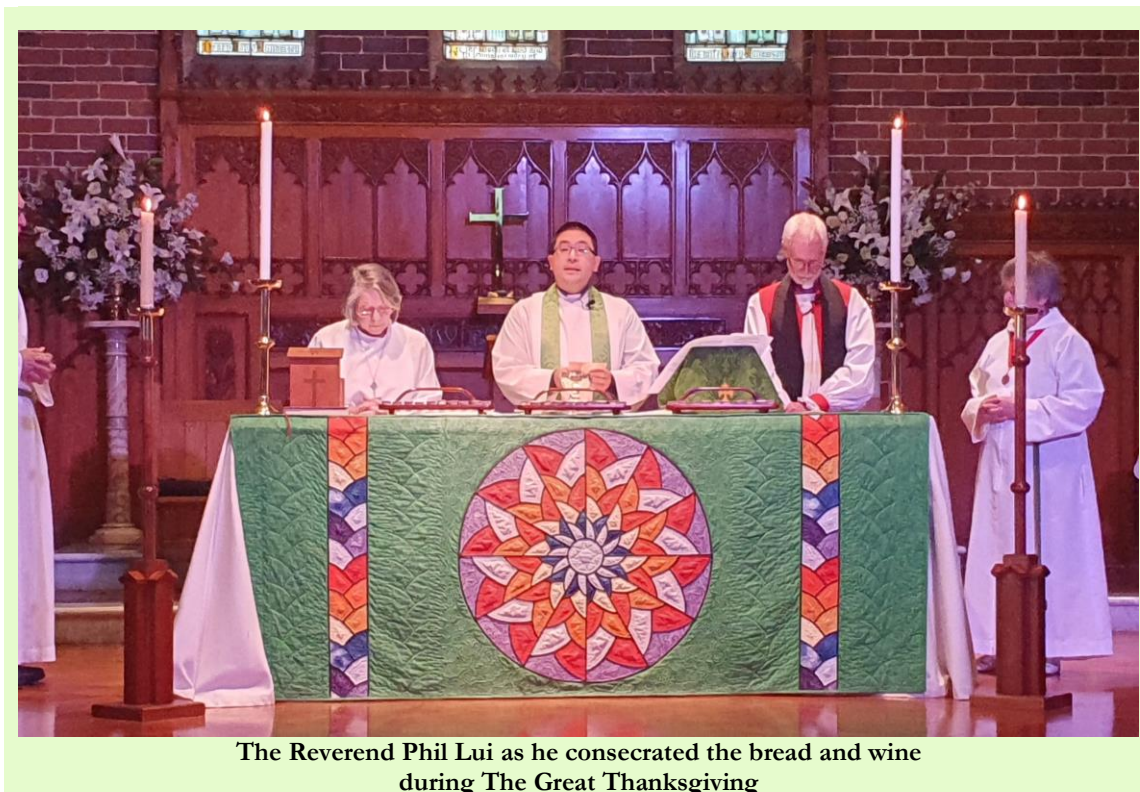


**LEFT TO RIGHT:** The Reverend Paul Weaver; The Right Reverend Peter Lin, Bishop of South Western Region; The Right Reverend Chris Edwards, Bishop of North Sydney; Becky Lui; The Reverend Phil Lui; The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson, Rector of Saint Albans and The Right Reverend Gary Koo, Bishop of Western Region

After his Ordination on Tuesday 24 October 2023,  
The Reverend Phil Lui presided and preached at both the  
8.00am and 10.00am services on Sunday 29 October 2023

**His sermon focused on the Beatitudes  
from Matthew 5:3-10**

- \* Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- \* Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- \* Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- \* Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- \* Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- \* Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- \* Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- \* Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



The Reverend Phil Lui as he consecrated the bread and wine  
during The Great Thanksgiving

Thanks to parishioner Christine Murray for the Ordination report.



**Bishop Ross presented Phil with a Bible as part of the Parish's gift to him on his Ordination**



**The Sanctuary Party Sunday 29 October 2023  
LEFT TO RIGHT Dr Sarah Weaver, Server, The Reverend Phil Lui, Bishop Ross Nicholson, Peggy Sanders, Senior Liturgical Assistant, and James Von Stieglitz, Crucifer**



**The Reverend Phil Lui with his wife Becky and their sons [left to right] Tyndale, Calvin and Timothy**

### **Special thanks from Phil**

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped towards my Ordination. It was a powerful and memorable night for me. I was touched by all the extra effort everyone put in for my sake and to put it into perspective, the evening was even more grand and personal than the ordination services held at Saint Andrew's Cathedral, for the dozen or so candidates put forward for priesthood each year. By contrast the Cathedral would not have organised special flowers, would not have had a choir present, would not have held such an amazing, abundant supper afterwards and the service would not have been zoomed.

I appreciate all who served on the night, in the sanctuary, in the choir gallery, from the pews and even from my home (looking after my children). I must thank Peggy Sanders, Senior Liturgical Assistant, Denise Pigot, Parish Administrator, and Father Paul Weaver, Honorary Senior Associate, who put in a great deal of effort to get the liturgical aspects of the night in order and Bishop Ross Nicholson who was instrumental in pushing my ordination forwards.

There were many for whom coming out at night is difficult, yet many parishioners offered people transport and I feel so incredibly supported in my ministry by the many who made the extra effort to be attend. I am grateful too for those who have expressed their support and were present in spirit.

I have been overwhelmed, by the support, love and encouragement from the parish and have been deeply moved by your service to me. It is my hope and prayer that with God's help I may bless you all in my priestly duty at Saint Alban's.



**Saint Alban's was decorated with beautiful white flowers for the Ordination**

# Saint Alban's Time Capsule

Prepared by David Tait, Warden

## Foundation Stone Centenary 2023

### 100 Years Since Commencement of Construction of the Current Church Building Contents of Time Capsule

#### Background

A decision to create a capsule for the congregation of the future was in part driven by records from 1923 indicating that a capsule was placed under the foundation stone at the time of it being set. This was reported in contemporary newspaper reports and Parish records. It is understood that a previous attempt was made to try and locate the 1923 capsule unsuccessfully for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1973.

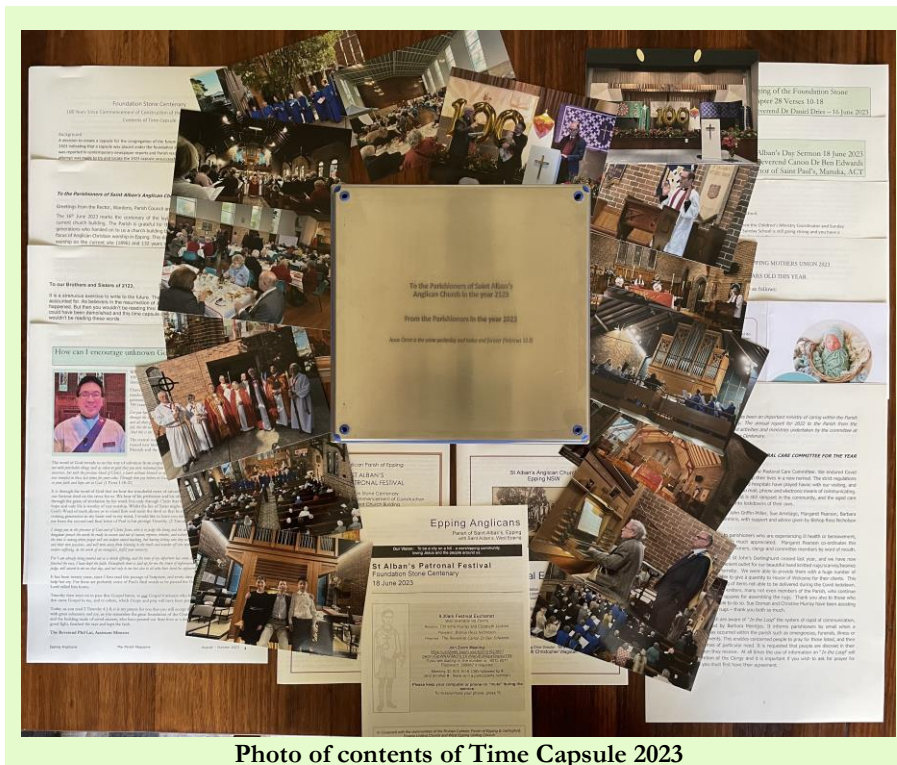
In 2023 bricks were removed from the wall under the Church, behind and under the foundation stone. Cameras to access confined spaces were also used. Despite best efforts, no capsule from 1923 could be located. The organising committee decided that more invasive removal of the foundation stone was not warranted due to the cost and risk of damaging the stone. The capsule may have been removed during extensions of the building in 1960 – 1961 or some other time. Or it may lie waiting to be discovered in the future.

The organising committee decided that a new capsule from 2023 to 2123 would be created and lodged in the cavity created from trying to locate the 1923 capsule. Duplicate copies of a majority of the contents will also be lodged in the Parish Council Minutes and Parish Archives.

#### Capsule Contents

The capsule contains the following items:

- A letter “To the Parishioners of Saint Alban’s Anglican Church Epping in the Year 2123”, “From the Parishioners of Saint Alban’s Anglican Church in the Year 2023”. [2 x A4 pages 210mm x 297mm].
- A letter “To our Brothers and Sisters of 2123” from the “The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson, Rector St Alban’s 2017 – 2024”. [1 x A4 page 210mm x 297mm].
- Article from August – October 2023 Parish Magazine “How can I encourage unknown Gospel descendants?” from “The Reverend Phil Lui, Assistant Minister”. [1 x A4 page 210mm x 297mm].
- Service sheet “Choral Evensong” held on Friday 16 June 2023. Visiting Preacher and Cantor: The Reverend Dr Daniel Dries, Christ Church Saint Laurence, Sydney NSW. [12 x A5 pages 148.5mm x 210mm, printed double sided on 3 x A4 sheets 210mm x 297mm].
- Sermon “Centenary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone Genesis Chapter 28 Verses 10 – 18 Sermon preached by The Reverend Dr Daniel Dries – 16 June 2023”. [2 x A4 pages 210mm x 297mm].
- Service sheet “St Alban’s 127<sup>th</sup> Patronal Festival” held on Sunday 18 June 2023. Visiting Preacher: The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards, Saint Paul’s Manuka ACT. [16 x A5 pages 148.5mm x 210mm, printed double sided on 4 x A4 sheets 210mm x 297mm].
- Sermon “Saint Alban Pray for Us’ Saint Alban’s Day Sermon 18 June 2023 The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards Rector of Saint Paul’s, Manuka, ACT”. [3 x A4 pages 210mm x 297mm].
- Parish Notices Saint Alban’s Patronal Festival - Foundation Stone Centenary 18 June 2023. [8 x A5 pages 148.5mm x 210mm, printed double sided on 2 x A4 sheets 210mm x 297mm].
- A letter to “Dear Saint Alban’s/Saint Alban’s Sunday School” from the Sunday School of 2023. [1 x A4 page 210mm x 297mm].
- A report “Saint Alban’s Epping Mothers Union 2023 – 98 Years Old This Year”. [1 x A4 page 210mm x 297mm].
- Mothers Union Information Card “Welcoming Your Baby”. [4 x A6 pages 105mm x 148.5mm, printed double sided on 1 x A5 sheet card 148.5mm x 210mm].
- Mothers Union members pin (in time capsule only). [Metal gold bar with Mothers Union insignia in white and light blue; approx. 44mm x 12mm].
- A report “Report on Activities of the Pastoral Care Committee for the Year Ended 2022”. [2 x A4 pages 210mm x 297mm].



**Photo of contents of Time Capsule 2023**

- Photographs enclosed are marked with identifying numbers on reverse. All photographs are 153mm x 103mm. Descriptions:
  - 16 June 2023 Choral Evensong and Supper
    1. Interior of Church/Sanctuary
    2. Interior of Church/Congregation and Choir
    3. Interior of Church/Sanctuary - L to R Anne Lawson (Server); Peggy Sanders (Senior Liturgical Assistant/Sub Deacon); The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson (Rector/President); The Reverend Phil Lui (Assistant Minister/Deacon); The Reverend Dr Daniel Dries (Preacher/Cantor)
    4. Interior of Church/Sanctuary – The Reverend Dr Daniel Dries (Preacher/Cantor)
    5. Interior of Church/Sanctuary – The Reverend Dr Daniel Dries (Preacher/Cantor)
    6. Interior of Church/Choir Gallery - Choir directed by Anne Price
    7. Interior of Church/Choir Gallery - L to R Chris Wagstaff and Lachlan Roots
    8. Interior of Memorial Hall showing display of altar frontals and vestments
    9. Interior of Memorial Hall showing commemorative merchandise table
    10. Interior of Memorial Hall showing congregation enjoying supper
    11. Interior of Memorial Hall - L to R The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson (Rector) and David Tait (Warden)
    12. Interior of Memorial Hall showing display of altar frontals and vestments
  - 18 June 2023 Patronal Festival and Lunch
    13. Choir outside Church/Memorial Hall prior to commencement of service
    14. Interior of Church/Nave during reading of Gospel
    15. Interior of Church/Sanctuary – The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards (Preacher)
    16. Interior of Church during distribution of the Eucharist
    17. Interior of Church/Pulpit - Jurrien Fornier, violinist during distribution of the Eucharist
    18. Interior of Church/Sanctuary during final blessing - L to R in Sanctuary David Tait (Liturgical Assistant/Warden); Mark Taylor (Sacristan/Crucifer); The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards (Preacher); Peggy Sanders (Senior Liturgical Assistant/Sub Deacon); The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson (Rector/President); The Reverend Phil Lui (Assistant Minister/Deacon); Anne Lawson (Server/Acolyte); Sarah Weaver (Server/Acolyte)
    19. Interior of Church/Choir Gallery - Isabel Li (Organ Scholar)
    20. Interior of Church/Choir Gallery - Enoch Pan (Organ Scholar)

21. Interior of Church/Choir Gallery - L to R Isabel Li (Organ Scholar); Chris Czerwinski (Music Director); Enoch Pan (Organ Scholar)
22. Exterior of Church - Sanctuary party and Wardens L to R Mark Taylor (Sacristan/Crucifer); Sarah Weaver (Server/Acolyte); The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards (Preacher); David Tait (Liturgical Assistant/Warden); Peggy Sanders (Senior Liturgical Assistant/Sub Deacon); Ted Chang (Warden); The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson (Rector/President); Noel Christie - David (Warden); The Reverend Phil Lui (Assistant Minister/Deacon); Anne Lawson (Server/Acolyte)
23. Interior of Memorial Hall showing congregation enjoying lunch
24. Interior of Memorial Hall showing congregation enjoying lunch
25. Interior of Memorial Hall showing congregation enjoying lunch
26. Interior of Memorial Hall showing congregation enjoying lunch, on podium David Tait (Warden) and Gillian Taylor (Organising Committee)
27. Interior of Memorial Hall - thanking Canon Ben Edwards L to R The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson (Rector/President); The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards (Preacher); Baby James Edwards; David Tait (Warden)
28. Interior of Memorial Hall showing congregation during closing remarks from David Tait (Warden)

### **Capsule – Technical Detail**

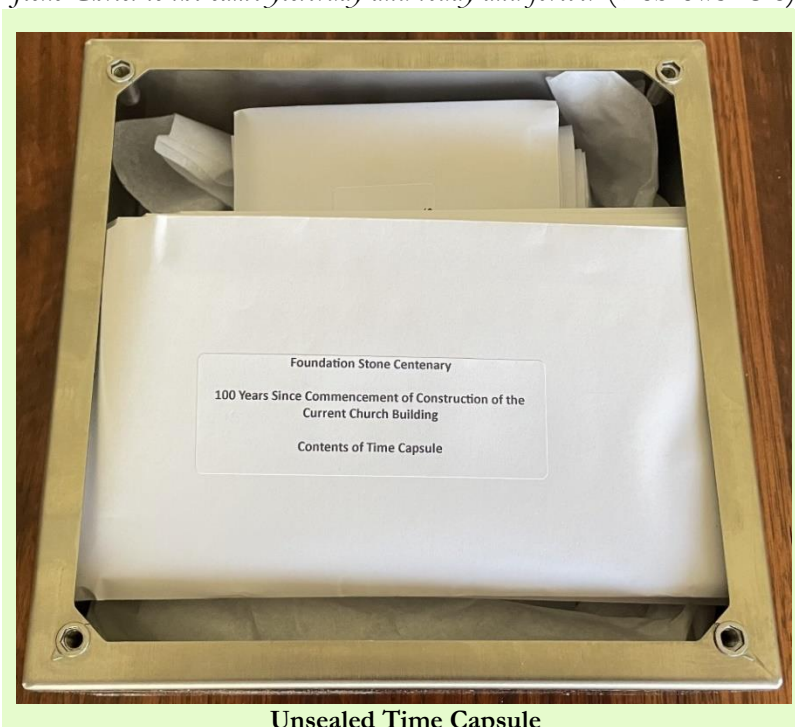
Various options were considered for the capsule. An industrial quality electrical terminal box was chosen for its robustness. The capsule is an IP69K terminal box, used for electrical wiring of industrial plant and equipment. The IP69K rating provides protection against ingress of dust and high temperature and high-pressure water. It is designed to be completely smooth and without crevices and without concave angles to facilitate cleaning and avoid deposits. The body is designed to promote self-draining for ease of hygienic cleaning.

Dimensions: H 200mm x W 200mm x D 100mm manufactured from grade 304 stainless steel 1.0mm to 1.2mm thick. The cover is fabricated from the same grade stainless steel as the body and includes a clip-in blue FDA compliant blue silicone seal. Manufactured by IP Enclosures Italy.

The cover is engraved with:

**To the Parishioners of Saint Alban's  
Anglican Church in the year 2123  
From the Parishioners in the year 2023**

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13.8)*



**Unsealed Time Capsule**

# The Reverend Martin Robinson visited Saint Alban's

27 August 2023



LEFT TO RIGHT: Bishop Ross Nicholson, The Reverend Martin Robinson and The Reverend Phil Lui

On 27 August 2023 we welcomed The Reverend Martin Robinson to Saint Alban's. Our Mission of the Month for August was 'Rough Edges', a program of Saint John's Community Services in Darlinghurst. While Saint John's was seeking a new Rector, The Reverend Martin was the locum for the Parish and also the Chair of Saint John's Community Services that oversees the 'Rough Edges' ministry. Martin's preaching gave us a unique insight into the working relationship between a Parish and its ministry to the disadvantaged in their community.



As the Rough Edges website explains [ <https://www.roughedges.org.au/> ]

*We are a non-government, faith-based not-for-profit organisation that aims to relieve suffering in our local area.*

*Rough Edges is a cafe-style service where meals are provided free of charge for anyone who needs them. But those who come find more than food. Connection is at the heart of what we do. No matter who you are, you will belong here.*

The 'Rough Edges' program is a registered charity which commenced in 1996 at Saint John's as an outreach program for homeless people. The charity also operates a support service for women experiencing domestic violence, Banksia Women, [ <https://www.banksiawomen.org.au/> ], the Community Assistance Partnership Program, a pro bono legal service and a social justice education program.

The Saint John's Parish seeks to share God's love with the homeless and marginalised community in Darlinghurst by creating a space where different communities can come together, have a meal, and connect with each other.

### Acknowledgements:

Rough Edges <https://www.roughedges.org.au/> Accessed 21 September 2023 at 1700hrs

Banksia Women <https://www.banksiawomen.org.au/> Accessed 21 September 2023 at 1700hours



## Richard Forsythe – Disasters and Emergencies Coordinator

Act for Peace  
8 October 2023



Richard Forsythe at Saint Alban's with the Rector, Bishop Ross Nicholson

The October Mission of the Month for Saint Alban's was *Act for Peace*. On 8 October we welcomed Richard Forsythe, the Disasters and Emergencies Coordinator for *Act for Peace*, and his wife Fauziah, to both the 8.00am and 10.00am services. Richard addressed the congregation to share information about their work with *Act for Peace*.

For more than seventy years, Act for Peace has brought people together to create a more just and peaceful world. As the international humanitarian charity of the National Council of Churches in Australia, they strongly believe in a world where everyone belongs, and that to get there, we must work together.

It is beyond dispute that we live in a broken world. Act for Peace's Christian model of peace is of people enjoying right relationships with God, each other, and our planet. An important message of the Bible is a call for all to live in peace with people of all traditions, sharing the gift of peace with those who are distressed, breaking down barriers that create fear, oppression, and division – bringing renewal by fostering justice, equity and love for all.

The brokenness of this world is seen most dramatically in those people affected by conflict and disaster. To meet this challenge, Act for Peace have moved their aid focus specifically to those who are affected by displacement. They have deepened their commitment to raising the voices of uprooted people and following their leadership through the initiatives they support, increasing efforts to address the underlying causes of displacement, by working collaboratively with others to build unity and transform unjust systems.

For more information <https://actforpeace.org.au/>

**ACT FOR PEACE**  
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

# Hymnfest Sunday 24 September 2023

## Contributed by a member of the Sydney Organs Group

At 2.00pm on Sunday 24 September 2023, Saint Alban's hosted a Hymnfest titled 'Ten Well Known Hymns played by Ten Organists'. The event was advertised and promoted with the words:

*Come join us in this ecumenical event involving all the congregations of Epping and surrounding suburbs, and local residents.  
Help us 'lift the roof off' the church with sacred song.*

Invitations were sent by Bishop Ross Nicholson, Rector of Saint Alban's, to churches in Epping and surrounding areas of many denominations, including Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Salvationist and Uniting.

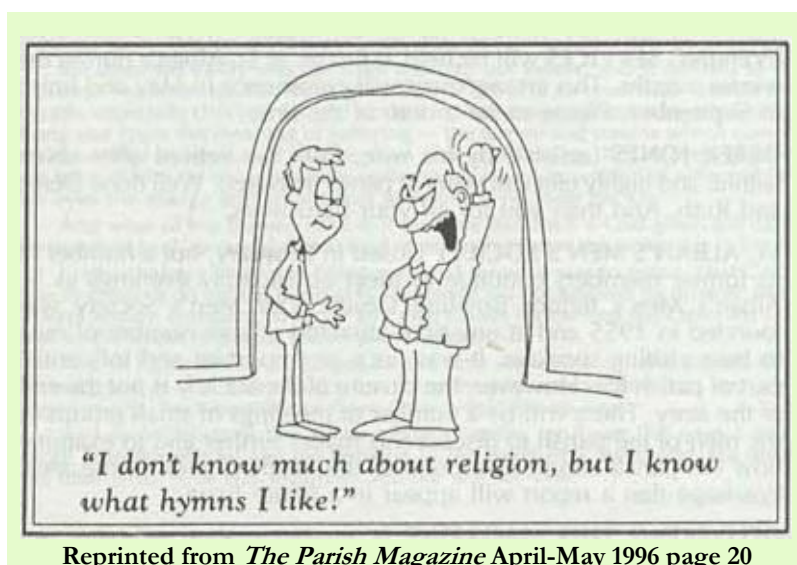
The event was advertised on Christian Radio Station Hope 103.2 FM and announced on radio station 2MBS Fine Music Sydney.

On the day, more than eighty people attended to sing ten well-known hymns and, as well as Saint Alban's parishioners, the many visitors among them indicated that the publicity had been effective.

The hymn list, organists and their associations follow in order of playing:

<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	Isabel Li	A Saint Alban's organ scholar
<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Philip Reichardt	Hunters Hill Anglican Parish
<i>Onward Christian Soldiers</i>	Dickson Chan	Saint Mark's Anglican, Granville
<i>Morning Has Broken</i>	Heather Moen-Boyd	Scots Kirk Mosman Presbyterian
<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer</i>	Nicholas Morley	St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta
<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	Ryan Li	St John's Anglican, Beecroft
<i>Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty</i>	The Reverend Greg Woolnough	Epping Uniting
<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	Enoch Pan	A Saint Alban's organ scholar
<i>Abide With Me</i>	Andrew Davidson	St James Anglican, Turramurra
<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	Christopher Wagstaff	Saint Alban's

A survey seeking people's favourite hymn was circulated prior to the event, and the hymn that topped that list was *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*, so Nicholas played it again as an encore.



Bishop Ross hosted the event and introduced the organists. The MC for the day was Ken Bock OAM who spoke before each hymn giving information on the history of the hymn and/or the composer. Chorister Sonya Carruthers was Song Leader. Hymn words were displayed on the large LCD screen operated by Judith and Aaron.

The event was video recorded by Sydney Organs Group and the recordings will be uploaded to their YouTube Channel [Youtube.com/@sydneyorgans3250](https://www.youtube.com/@sydneyorgans3250) Sydney Organs Group is always looking for people prepared to give their time and talents to play for recitals – either whole recitals or part of a recital – and for our recordings. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Sydney Organs at [sydneyorgans3250@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyorgans3250@gmail.com)

Feedback on the day, and through an exit survey, was overwhelmingly positive. Bishop Ross expressed his desire to hold more such events in the future.



**BACK LEFT TO RIGHT: Christopher Wagstaff, Andrew Davidson, Nicholas Morley, The Reverend Greg Woolnough, Philip Reichardt, Ryan Li and Dickson Chan  
FRONT LEFT TO RIGHT: Enoch Pan, Isabel Li and Heather Moen-Boyd**



**The congregation sang with evident enjoyment. The words were displayed on the large screen at the front of the church**

## A Silver Anniversary - *The Parish Magazine* April/May 2016 The Reverend Valerie Tibbey

**Editor's Note:** This article was originally printed in *The Parish Magazine* in 2016 to mark twenty-five years since the Ordination of Saint Alban's parishioner The Reverend Valerie Tibbey. It is being reprinted now to honour Val and to accompany the article opposite which details the celebration of forty years of the Movement for the Ordination of Women. This article tells of The Reverend Valerie Tibbey's journey to Ordination as a priest in December 1992 at Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle.

This journey began at my baptism. I am a 'cradle Anglican' so it was always a part of my childhood and adult life to attend church and learn about my faith. However, at a certain time as a parishioner at Saint James' Church, King Street, Sydney, I became aware of the place of pastoral care as a necessary work done by a caring Christian community. I began a course in Clinical Pastoral Education at Royal North Shore Hospital. This was followed by the desire to study theology seriously so as to put all of this together. I enrolled in an external studies course at Saint John's College Morpeth and a wonderful world opened out for me.

After three years of external study, I was selected to be a full-time student for the Diocese of Newcastle and resided at the College for the next two years with a view to Ordination. The College, now closed, was situated in a beautiful part of the Hunter Valley on a hill overlooking the town of Morpeth with views of the river and the distant hills.

In addition to the lectures preparing students with knowledge of the Scriptures, Theology and Church History, there were chapel services, liturgy, music and learning to live in community with others on a similar journey.

Sundays were spent at selected churches in the Diocese and for me this was the Parish of Paterson which was further up the valley and over the bridges in most picturesque countryside. It was a delight to drive there early on Sunday mornings. The Parish of Paterson included the small communities of Vacy and Martins Creek. These lovely old churches were carefully looked after by parishioners in the area, and it was there that I learnt the true value of small churches.

My placement for my second year was at the experimental area of Bolton Point down towards Toronto. The congregation here was younger and vigorous and the service was held in a community hall where the chairs were placed in a circle with a square table in the centre and this became the focus for the Communion. The music was provided by the priest who played the guitar. The hymns were lively and one Sunday morning Bishop Alfred Holland confirmed several adults and children. The young priest, Father Doug Stevens, later became Bishop of the Riverina.

On a beautiful summer day in February the next year, 1991, I was admitted to the Diaconate by the then Assistant Bishop Richard Appleby in Christ Church Cathedral in Newcastle. All my family was present and many friends. I then began my life in Holy Orders as the assistant at Saint Peter's Church, East Maitland. A line of a psalm comes to mind: "*The lot has fallen to me in peasant places, and a fair land is my possession.*".

For me it has been a wonderful journey, ministering to God's people and being part of the journey of many others. I have never ceased to be surprised by the variety and personalities that make up any Christian community – and the goodness and kindness, often unseen, that exists in most people.

In December 1992 I was ordained to the sacred priesthood, together with ten other women and three men following the decision of the General Synod of Australia to admit women as priests.

**Acknowledgement:** This article, with minor changes made, was sourced from the original article by The Reverend Valerie Tibbey, published in *The Parish Magazine* Number 840 April/May 2016.

## Fortieth Anniversary of the The Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW) The Reverend Val Tibbey



I was privileged to be able to attend a service on 17 September 2023 at Christ Church Saint Laurence, Sydney, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW). The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, Archbishop of Perth, was the guest preacher and preached very meaningfully on God's grace and what it means in our lives.

When I retired from Newcastle, I selected Saint Alban's Epping as my home church. As there were no women priests living in Sydney at that time, I was a little bit tentative, and wondered how I would be accepted. However, the then Rector, Father John Cornish, and the people of Saint Alban's made me feel very welcome. After I retired, I continued to do locum appointments for Newcastle Diocese when other priests were on holidays and also settled in happily to Saint Alban's where I was made an honorary.

Father John Cornish asked me to lead a women's retreat, which became an annual event for some years. I led that retreat on twelve occasions. I was required to obtain a deacon's licence in the Diocese of Sydney and did so. I preached, and took services at Saint Aidan's, Saint Alban's and the Alan Walker Village for some years. I was also part of the sanctuary team at Saint Alban's. I note from an article by Julia Baird in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of Saturday, September 16 2023, that even Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy is recognised only as a deacon in Sydney, rather than as an archbishop.

My ministry has been very fulfilling, and I am delighted that I have been able to serve others as both a deacon and a priest.

The full story of the 40 years of activism celebrating Sydney MOW can be found in the address given by The Venerable Dr Colleen O'Reilly AM at the lunch following the recent service. You can access Colleen O'Reilly's extensively researched, invigorating and very personal talk here: [Colleen O'Reilly Patricia Brennan address](#)

A copy of the luncheon booklet, detailing the history of the Movement for the Ordination of Women, can be accessed here: [Sydney MOW celebrating Forty Years of Activism](#)



In June 2023 Saint Alban's celebrated the Centenary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the present Church. The last edition of *The Parish Magazine* [Number 873 August to October 2023] contains articles and photographs of these significant celebrations.

It is amazing that just six months after the laying of that foundation stone the church was licensed and opened for worship on 20 December 1923. The parish went into considerable debt to build the church but had faith that the parish would be able to repay the loan. The building cost more than £4,000 and two long-standing parishioners acted as guarantors for the mortgage.

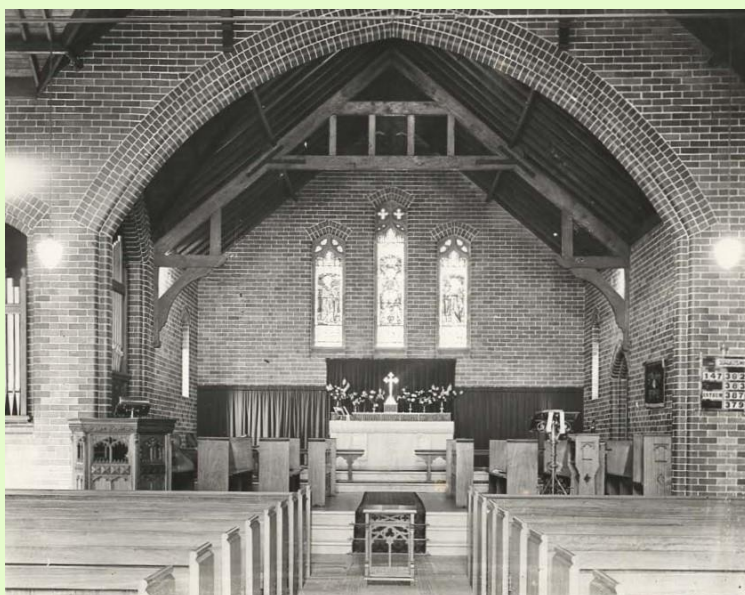
How proud parishioners must have been with what was achieved in such a short period of time; it would put many similar projects to shame today!

The opening of the new church is described in Nigel Hubbard's book, *Only the Years – The Centenary History of the Anglican Parish of St Alban's Epping 1896-1996* pages 38-39.

*"The new church was licensed and opened for worship on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1923. The Archbishop conveyed his apologies for his absence from the opening ceremony which was conducted by the Vicar General, Archdeacon D'Arcy Irvine. During the singing of the hymn, We Love the Place, O God, the procession was observed moving from place to place and offering a prayer of intercession at each spot set apart for the administration of each individual rite of the church. In often repeated phraseology D'Arcy Irvine 'also paid tribute to the salubrious and pleasantly situated town of Epping which he described as a place where people unable to stand sea air could reside within easy reach of the metropolis'."*

*"The new church was of modest proportion, but people found it remarkably spacious when compared with the school church. Visitors commented favourably on the chancel arch and the fine pews of Queensland maple. The Samuel Charles Atchison font and the Great War memorial were transferred from the old building. The Parish Council 'empowered' the Rector to donate 'the altar, credence table and prayer desk (from the original church at St Alban's) to any church which needed them'."*

*"When the new building was opened it included a new altar and altar cross, the gifts of Harry Williamson. The carved wooden pulpit was given by Grace Edith Wilson, in memory of her husband Adam James Rankine Wilson (1850-1909) who lived at 'Braidbar' in High Street, (Epping). Although a Master of Arts and a qualified barrister, Wilson had preferred to describe himself as being of 'independent means'. A magnificent brass lectern was formally dedicated in memory of seven men who fell in the Great War. The Michael family donated the two windows in the south aisle to the memory of Henry Alfred Michael, one of the pioneers of the parish. All other windows were of clear glass."*



**There is no photo in the church archives to show the interior of Saint Alban's in the 1920s. This photo is the closest in time, taken in the 1930s.**

As archivist at Saint Alban's, I would like to share more of the history of our church. I intend to start a new series this edition, following the 'Around Our Parish Church Series' by the then editor, Nigel Hubbard, which began in *The Parish Magazine* of October-November 1983 and finished, as far as I have been able to find, with number 64 in 1996. As it happens, Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 6 refer to items which were installed in the new Saint Alban's church on its completion in 1923. Where relevant, a note or comment has been added to the original for the sake of clarity and accuracy and the items have been re-typed. Items in future editions may not necessarily be in numerical order.



### Around Our Parish Church Number 1 – The Lectern

[Reference: page 11 *The Parish Magazine* October-November 1983]

The magnificent brass lectern in Saint Alban's was placed in the church when it was opened in 1923 and is recorded in Parish Council Minutes as 'the gift of certain parishioners'. It is in memory of seven men who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918, and at the first service held in the church [20 December 1923] it was unveiled by Colonel H Granville, DSO, and formally dedicated to the service of the church.

Out of respect to the memory of those seven men, many officers attended the service in uniform. On a plaque, on the other side of the sanctuary, the names of the fallen are recorded.

The plaque reads:

**To The Glory Of God  
And in Memory of the Men of this Parish  
Who Gave Their Lives in the Great War 1914-1918  
The Lectern in this Church was given by the Parishioners.**

**G White  
E Digges La Touche  
F Wellish**

**R Passmore  
T Lindsay  
R Bradshaw**

**J White**

**December 1923**

**Editor's Note: The book *A Parish Remembers – Saint Alban's honours World War I Servicemen* by Julie Evans 2018 is available from the Parish Office.**

### Around Our Parish Church Number 2 – The Pulpit

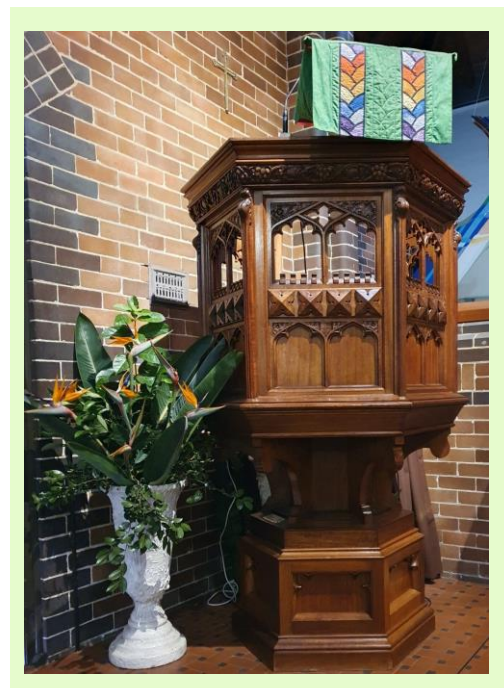
[Reference: page 5 *The Parish Magazine* February-March 1984]

The carved wooden pulpit in Saint Alban's bears a bronze plaque which gives its dedication to the memory of Adam James Rankine Wilson. Born in Glasgow Scotland about 1850, the son of Robert Wilson, a merchant, Adam James Rankine Wilson migrated to Fiji where he met and married his wife Grace Edith Fisher.

In 1885 he came to Sydney and lived for a time in Marion Street Leichhardt. About 1901 he brought his wife and six children to Epping where he lived at 'Braidbar' in High Street.

Wilson was a Master of Arts and a qualified barrister but evidently did not practise regularly, preferring to give his occupation as 'independent means'. On 3 April 1909 he died of tuberculosis. His widow and family gave the pulpit to his memory when the current Saint Alban's church opened in December 1923.

The pulpit was raised by a pedestal when it was moved after the installation of the Reredos in the sanctuary in 1947.



### Around Our Parish Church No 3 – The Altar Rails

[Reference page 7 *The Parish Magazine* April-May 1984]

The altar rails at Saint Alban's were donated when the building was opened in December 1923 by Mrs Maria Jenkins, a thank-offering for her health and strength in her 102<sup>nd</sup> year. Observant worshippers may note that the window in the south transept was given in memory of Maria Jenkins who was born 18 May 1822 and died 22 April 1924. This window was donated by her daughter, Mrs Mary Beveridge.



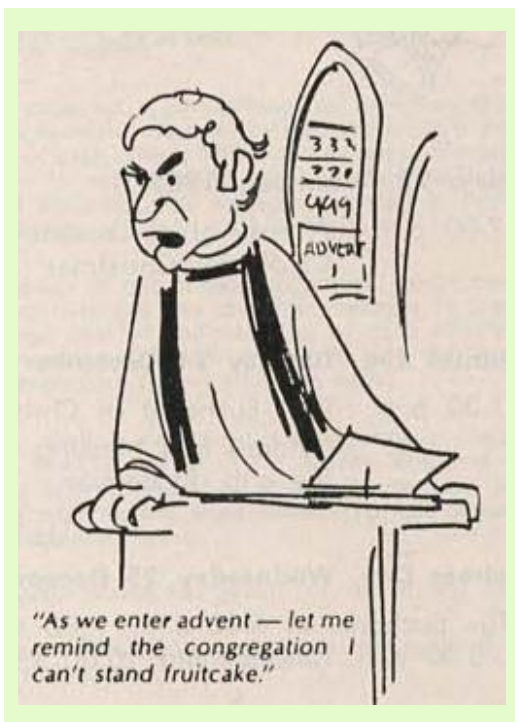
### Around Our Parish Church No 6 – The Original Altar

[Reference page 6 *The Parish Magazine* April-May 1984]

The first altar installed in the present church in 1923 was the gift of Henry Weldon Williamson. Williamson also donated a carved retable, a stand for the cross and the dorsal curtains (later removed and replaced by a carved reredos). A few years later he gave the three magnificent east windows entitled 'Christ the King', 'King David' and 'The Blessed Virgin Mary'. This window is in memory of his parents.

Harry Williamson was a worker and benefactor of this parish over many years. He was a church warden and the parish's first Synodsmen (in 1920). In 1923 he was a guarantor for £1,500 which enabled the new church to be built. He and his wife lived next door to the church on the eastern side in a house named 'Crohamhurst', since replaced by home units. When Mr and Mrs Williamson left the district in 1929, they gave their home to the Australian Board of Missions [now known as Anglican Board of Mission (ABM)] as a training hostel for women missionaries. Harry Williamson died in 1937.

A new altar was installed in Saint Alban's after the sanctuary re-development in 1991. This altar was given by Bruce Mortley and Margaret Guy in memory of Ida Lydia Mortley.

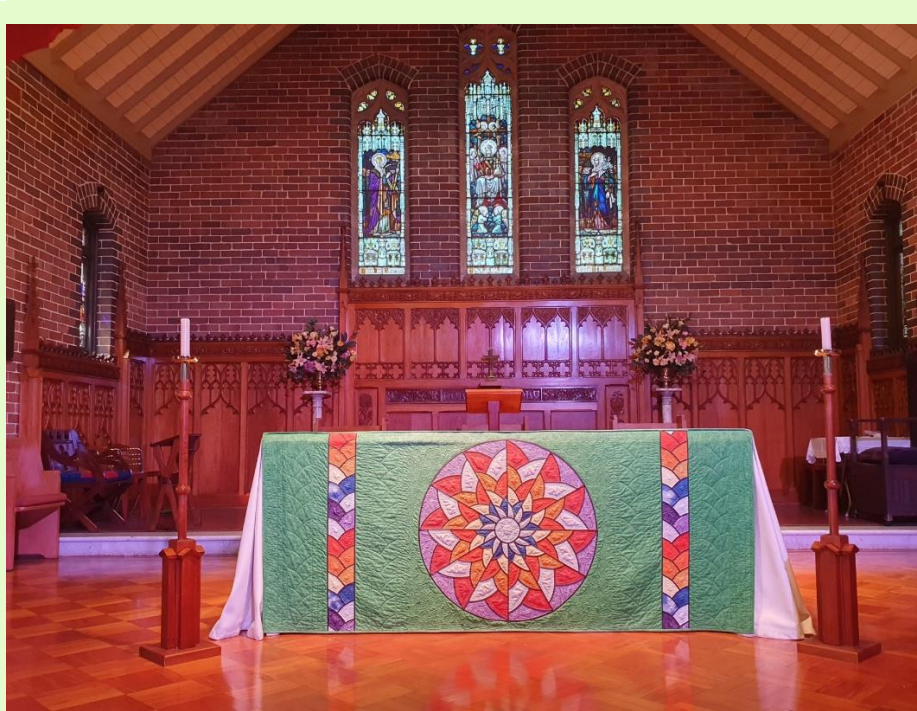


As a reminder to us all that this edition of *The Parish Magazine* covers the Advent and Christmas seasons, this cartoon is reproduced from *The Parish Magazine* December 1985-January 1986 page 5



# The Reredos in Saint Alban's

From archival sources



The carved Reredos is on the east wall and part of both the north and south walls

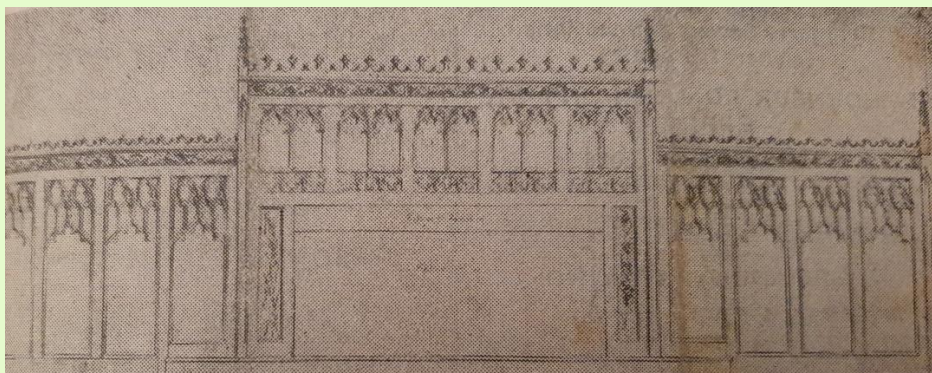
A Reredos is a carved screen of wood or stone placed behind an altar. When the current Saint Alban's church was built in 1923, hangings known as dorsal, or dossal, curtains were placed behind the altar. These remained until after World War II. [See photo page 20]

In *The Parish Magazine* of April 1946, page 6, reference is made to the proposal for a World War II (1939-1945) memorial for Saint Alban's. The memorial, in the form of a Reredos, was to be placed on the east wall of the sanctuary.

By June of 1946, *The Parish Magazine* reported that the Churchwardens had in hand a sum of £360 for the War Memorial Fund and expected other gifts in response to their appeal. By this time the Parish Council had narrowed down the various designs and quotations for the Reredos and panelling and aimed to make their choice within the next few weeks.

The cover of the August 1946 Parish Magazine carried a sketch of the proposal. The cost was estimated at between £500 and £550, and the Churchwardens had £420 in hand. Parishioners had been generous. To accompany the Reredos, a plaque "bearing the names of those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice will be placed on the wall of the chancel." The memorial would also be "a Thank-offering to God for Victory and the salvation of Australia from invasion...". Part of the north and south walls of the sanctuary would have similar panelling.

[Reference for last three sentences: *The Parish Magazine* August 1946 page 5]



Drawing of proposed Reredos  
Cover of *The Parish Magazine* August 1946

## ST. ALBAN'S WAR MEMORIAL

On the front page of this Magazine is a sketch of the proposed Reredos to be erected on the East Wall of our Church as a Memorial of the Men of this Parish who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the War (1939-1945), and as a Thank-offering to God for Victory and the salvation of Australia from invasion by the Japanese.

The completed work in connection with the War Memorial will, it is hoped, include the following:—

- (1) The Reredos.
- (2) The treatment of the North and South Walls of the sanctuary with panelling of the same design and material as the Reredos.
- (3) The laying of a parquet floor in the Choir (Chancel minus Sanctuary) in woods to harmonise with the Reredos and general appointments.
- (4) The placing of a bronze or brass tablet on the north wall of the chancel about mid-way between the organ and the Bishop White Memorial Window. Such tablet to bear the words of memorial and the names of the Servicemen called to higher Service.
- (5) The moving of the pulpit about three feet to the north and the raising of same on a pedestal about 18 inches high.
- (6) The replacement of the old pew at the back of the Choir Stalls (organ side) with a new one to match the others.

The whole scheme, which we hope to have completed by November next, is estimated to cost between £500 and £550, of which sum the Churchwardens have in hand £420.

**Changes made in connection with the installation of the World War II Memorial  
From *The Parish Magazine* of August 1946 page 5**

The Parish Council commissioned the firm of Ernest Mills and Sons Pty Ltd to erect the War Memorial Reredos and Panelling. Permission was sought from the Archbishop to proceed with this addition to the church.

After some delays, the Reredos, and the Memorial Plaque with the names of the eighteen men who paid the supreme sacrifice, were unveiled and dedicated by Bishop William George Hilliard at Matins on 23 February 1947 in the presence of a congregation of over three hundred. The families of men whose names appeared on the plaque were invited to attend and special seating was set aside for them.



**AT LEFT:**  
Panel on east wall behind the altar



**AT RIGHT:**  
Detail of lower right side of panel in main photo



**AT LEFT:** Detail of middle section of panel on east wall, just showing the last letter of the word 'Holy'

**AT RIGHT:** Detail of top section which runs along the entire width of the east wall with an extension on both north and south walls



**Memorial plaque, now located on southern wall of sanctuary, commemorates the lives of the eighteen men from Saint Alban's who died during World War II**

## Reflections on My Time at Saint Alban's

Ian Dyball Former Parishioner



In the 1970s, the Dyball family moved from Broken Hill (Riverina Diocese) where we were actively involved in parish life, to Carlingford and commenced worshipping at Saint Paul's. We struggled with the churchmanship which was difficult to come to terms with. In late 1987 it was suggested that we try Saint Alban's Epping.

From the very first day, we felt 'at home' with the warm welcome afforded us and the traditional form of the Anglican Eucharist. The Reverend Geoffrey Feltham had recently retired, and the interregnum was filled by The Reverend Fred Rice. I knew Fred as a fellow Carlingford Rotarian, and it was interesting to see him in this priestly role.

Father Ian Crooks was inducted as Rector on 31 January 1988, and soon afterwards, I was encouraged to become actively involved in parish life.

I was elected to Parish Council, elected Parish Council Secretary and began working closely with Father Ian and with the then Parish Secretary Kit Smith. I was deeply concerned at the conditions in the parish office – a dingy corner of the original church building. I expressed this to Parish Council. One should have known what to expect when one speaks up; in March 1991 I was appointed Chair of the Parish Centre Development Committee!



**Ceramic Cross made by Beth Radford Cross and explanatory panel (not pictured) donated by Ian and Pam Dyball in 1991**

The design I ultimately presented for the total refurbishment provided for a Parish Office, separate space for a photocopier, an office for the Parish Community Worker (then Catherine Eaton), a waiting room, a library and a seminar room capable of seating 25 people. On 4 August 1991 approval was given to proceed with this significant rebuild of the building, which carried a tablet dating the building as 'AD MDCCCXCVI', Anno Domini, in the year of our Lord 1896.

Construction commenced on 22 August 1991 and proceeded smoothly, and I met the contractor each morning on my way to work. Soundproofing was important and we achieved a remarkable sound attenuation of 50 dBA. It was a joy to see the finished result which is a great asset for the parish. The job was completed on schedule and \$73 under budget. The first function held in the new Parish Centre was a Parish Council meeting just 5 weeks later on Tuesday 24 September, complete with the odour of new carpet laid that morning. My then wife Pam and I had a Celtic Cross made to be hung in the waiting room.

I was subsequently elected as a Church Warden and worked very closely with fellow Wardens Doug Pearson and Bruce Martin. We worked very well as a team. We had an arrangement whereby one of us would be present at each Service each Sunday. In hindsight, it was a big commitment, both timewise and emotionally, but we enjoyed interacting with parishioners from each of the services that we might not otherwise have known. This ensured access to the Wardens for all parishioners, and many would talk to us and confide on a wide range of parish and personal matters.

There were many issues in managing such a large, diverse and vibrant parish. We had over 450 parishioners, with over half coming from outside the parish. Many came because they saw the notice board on Pembroke Street with the word 'Eucharist' which told them of our churchmanship. A copy of the Parish Directory from that time lists

30+ committees and groups. It was a privilege to be able to act as a sounding board and to support Father Ian on many occasions.

In 1991, Father Ian proposed a trial use of incense on a limited basis. An objection was lodged directly with the Diocese and Father Ian was told that the trial could not proceed. Many parishioners were distressed by both the directive and the lack of due process of consultation by the Diocese. As Wardens, Bruce, Doug and I met with our Regional Bishop and left him in no doubt as to our ongoing support for Father Ian and our concern at being told what to do and being treated as incapable of deciding how to worship within our Anglican tradition. A strongly worded letter from Colleen O'Reilly to Archbishop Robinson supported our position. Suffice to say that shortly afterwards, Head Server Ian MacKenzie was able to demonstrate his considerable prowess with the thurible.

The installation of that dramatic hanging in the New Guinea Martyrs' Chapel was at first not universally accepted, but it was acknowledged as a fitting memorial to those Christians who gave their lives in the profession of the faith. On many a Friday afternoon I would join in Evening Prayer in the Martyrs' Chapel, and I very much valued the opportunity afforded by Father Ian for me to lead the service. I considered it a privilege to be a regular reader of The Word at the 10.00am Eucharist.

It has often been said that I am a hoarder (true), and I have kept and regularly read the booklets that Father Ian had printed each month with the sermons given, including those by visiting clergy. I remember on one occasion when the preacher was The Archbishop of Sydney, The Most Reverend Donald Robinson. He had a soft spot for Saint Alban's and particularly loved our strong music tradition. He said (but it was not printed) that "*Saint Alban's is further up the candlestick than most parishes in Sydney.*".

A large contingent from Saint Alban's travelled to Goulburn in March 1992 for the ordination of Father James Butt who was to become our Assistant Priest. It was particularly disappointing that Bishop Owen Dowling was prevented by the NSW Court of Appeal from ordaining the eleven women deacons who were ready to take Holy Orders on that day, despite the church's Appellate Tribunal finding the ordination as 'theologically sound'.

As Wardens, we were confident in supporting the appointment of Father James as Acting Rector in 1993 during Father Ian's extended period of leave. While maintaining the high standard of liturgy and churchmanship, Father James put his own stamp of leadership style on the parish. We came to know, love and respect him even more as our priest and our friend. During Father Ian's absence, Father Toby Klein added a fresh new dimension as our part time locum tenens. We were greatly blessed by the richness of his ministry particularly with the young members of the congregation, and we loved his keen sense of humour. Who will forget his farewell morning tea?

It was particularly pleasing to see many Saint Alban parishioners taking Holy Orders, where they were nurtured and formed in their priestly vocations. I believe that this is testimony to the strong faith building that underpinned so many of our activities, and indeed helped each of us to grow in our faith. It was sad that most were lost to Sydney, the most notable exception being The Reverend Dr Daniel Dries, currently Rector of Christ Church Saint Laurence, a parish somewhat further up Archbishop Robinson's proverbial candlestick than Saint Alban's. Daniel has on several occasions credited me with helping him on his faith journey towards ordination; I would prefer it said that the Lord was working through me to achieve that outcome.

A few interesting anecdotes come to mind. At one of our regular Parish Council weekends, Father Ian asked parishioner and parish councillor Chris Welsh to say Grace. It was the shortest I have ever heard: "*Ta Pa*". As Church Warden, my responsibilities included buildings and grounds' care and maintenance. We needed to get trees lopped, and I could not go past a firm called 'Tree Wise Men'. Parish Council members thought I was joking when I read a letter from our then Sacristan, signed "I remain Sir your most loyal and faithful servant". British formality at its best!

Since leaving Sydney in 1997 to return to hometown Taree, I am now a parishioner at Saint John the Divine, Taree. I always read with great interest the Saint Alban's Parish Magazines sent to me and can relate to many/most of the people and stories, and in particular those in the centenary editions.

Yes, I reflect very fondly on my time at Saint Alban's and appreciate the influence it has had on my life. Father Ian, Father James and indeed all at Saint Alban's, played an important part in my ongoing faith journey; for that I am eternally grateful.

With God's richest Blessings as you embark on the next 100 years and continue to proclaim the Risen Christ.

# Anglican Board of Mission Sri Lankan Project Bring and Buy Stall 20 August 2023

On 20 August 2023 a Bring and Buy Stall was held at Saint Alban's. Jane Bryant was the planner of this initiative which aimed to raise funds to support women and children suffering as a result of continuing economic crisis in Sri Lanka. After both the 8.00am and 10.00am services parishioners were able to make their purchases. The stall was strongly supported and an amount of \$1147 was raised from the sale of delicious meals, baked goods, jams and pickles, beautiful gift cards, handmade children's wear and household items.



Goods for sale included meals, cakes, biscuits, jams and honey



Jane Bryant [RIGHT] coordinated the goods for sale

From the ABM website:

The Indian Ocean island nation of Sri Lanka has a population of 22 million people of diverse ethnicities. The country experienced a crippling civil war from 1983 to 2009 and is currently in one of its worst economic crises in decades. The economic crisis is disproportionately affecting those groups of people who were already poor and marginalised.

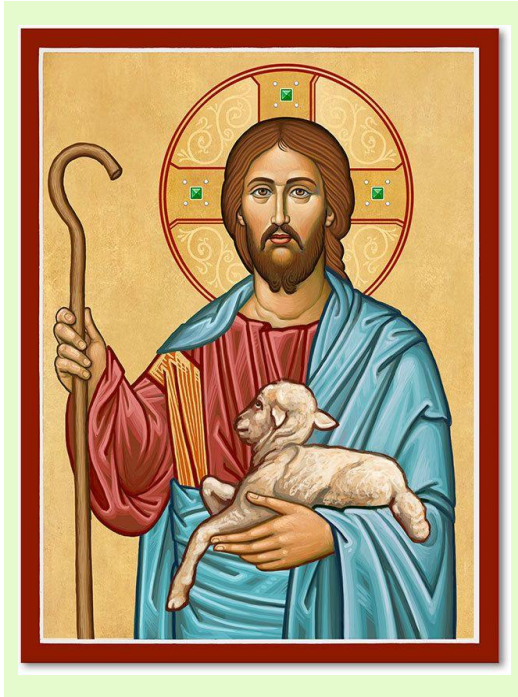
<https://www.abmission.org/projects/> Accessed 2 September 2023 at 1655hrs



## Icons – more than just a work of art

Rodney Hale  
Editor of *The Parish Magazine* 2007-2012

Let me share two of my favourite interests, Poetry and Icons. The verse below is from *Verses* by *Christina Rossetti*. My copy was published in 1893. The icon is from elsewhere. I enjoy them both and they go so well together:



### *Rejoice with Me*

*Little lamb who lost thee?  
I myself, none other.  
Little lamb who found thee?  
Jesus, Shepherd, Brother*

*Ah, Lord, what I cost Thee?  
Canst Thou still desire?  
Still Mine arms surround Thee,  
Still, I lift Thee higher,  
Draw Thee nigher.*

The icon of Christ the Good Shepherd (above) depicts, to me, the famous ‘*I am*’ saying – *I am the Good Shepherd*. The poem draws me to think further on Jesus’ earthly mission and how better I can serve Him.

Here is the final verse of a poem, written in the early part of the 1900’s, and another icon. The author of the poem? That can wait.

*His name is known where’er the foot  
Of Christian man has trod.  
They worship in cathedrals now,  
They call Him Son of God.  
They ask for aid in His dear name,  
When they suffer care and pain,  
And if he came on earth today,  
They’d murder Him again.*

So, we have two quite different icons: one peaceful [above], one quite violent [at right], yet both drawing us to Jesus – what He did, what He promised and what we have so much to be thankful for. And we have two poems: one soothing, one violent. However, they get us thinking and that is what icons do to me!



I enjoy icons and poetry. I really enjoy looking at an icon and then endeavouring to tie that icon to a poem. It doesn't have to be Christian poetry. Actually, the writings of the Mystery Poet above, I discovered purely by chance one day. Whilst he wrote much verse, I think this is probably his only dalliance into a Christian style.

Icons have been around for a long time. The Byzantine Church of the 6<sup>th</sup> century used them. Henry VIII had plenty of them destroyed in his reign of Dissolution. Many were painted onto walls of churches and then painted over, and many have been since found and restored. Icons are generally associated with the Orthodox Eastern Churches; however, they are common in Anglican churches in the United Kingdom, United States of America and Australia (though perhaps not so common in the Sydney Diocese). Some Lutheran churches also have icons along with Coptic and Ethiopian churches.

We would be safe in assuming that an icon is painted, and we would be correct and incorrect at the same time. Iconographers, those who develop icons, are described as being writers, though they paint an icon. This comes from, as I understand, the role of icons in times long gone. In the 1500's the only folk who could read were clergy and some nobility. Thus, icons were used to depict the Holy Scriptures which were written. Hence, the confusion. Icons are images that contain Spiritual power and grace. They do this by the combination of prayers, traditions of the Church, sacred geometric composition, scriptural narratives and the intention of the iconographer to convey the Saints in the light of the Holy Spirit operating within them.

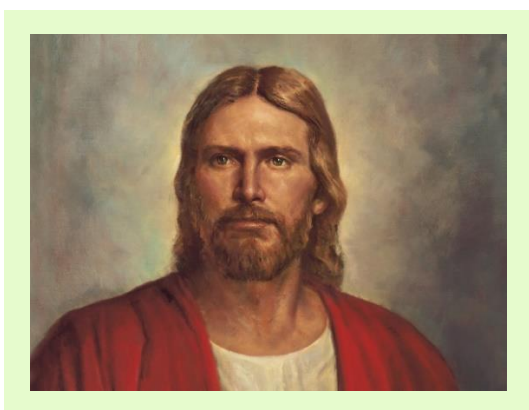


This is the icon of the Melanesian Brotherhood Martyrs within Canterbury Cathedral in the United Kingdom. This icon stands in the Cathedral as a reminder of their witness to peace and of the multi-ethnic character of Global Anglicanism.

The purple altar frontal, and the pulpit fall, which are used by Saint Alban's, Epping, are dedicated to the memory of the six Melanesian Brothers who were murdered in the Solomon Islands on 24 April 2003.

In the Parish Church of Saint John, the Baptist Mudgee (where I worship these days), behind our high altar we have a beautiful stained-glass window. I have looked at it many times. On the Patronal Feast Day this year I saw it in a completely different light. There are five primary panels – the centre depicting John. The others depict the life and times of John. It is a storyboard. It does what an icon does. It draws us to a biblical story.

You do not pray to icons but rather use them to help you focus on what it is you are praying for or about. The word icon simply means image. A religious icon is considered to be a soul window, an entrance into the presence of the Holy. Icons serve as invitations to keep eyes open while one prays. It is prayer to just look attentively at an icon and let God speak.

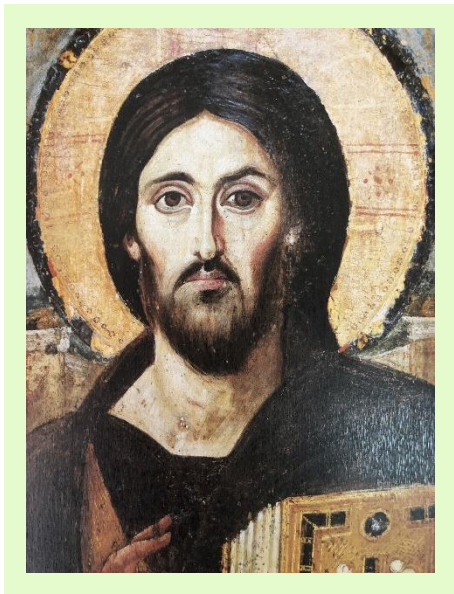


And there are modern icons – those of Jesus with blonde hair and blue eyes. We see these in modern Pentecostal churches particularly in the United States – i.e. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

There are African American style icons, and you will find these in the American Methodist Episcopal churches in the southern states of the USA such as Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina.



It was the custom of the early Church father, Saint John Chrysostom, to keep an icon of Saint Paul before him whenever he studied the Epistles of Saint Paul, for inspiration and to invoke the Apostle's blessing. Once when Chrysostom looked up from the text, the icon of Saint Paul seemed to come alive, and the Apostle spoke to him. As another Church Father, Saint Basil the Great, said, "*With a soundless voice the icons teach those who behold them.*".

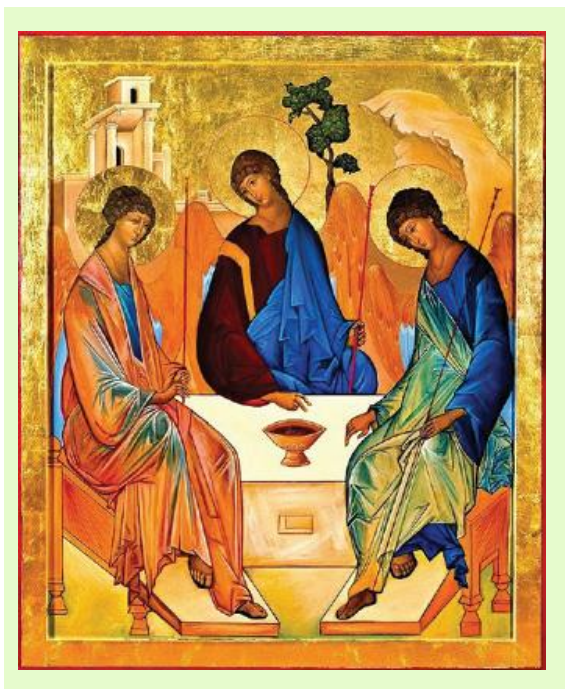


The oldest icon, 'Christ Pantocrator,' can actually be traced back to sixth-century Egypt. Saint Luke the Evangelist is often credited with being the first iconographer of the Catholic Church, as well as being iconographers' patron saint.

If we look at the previous two icons, the question that arises is – are they icons? Certainly, the second icon is. However, the first icon may be seen perhaps as imagery. Me? I am open to the notion – however, I will leave the reader to decide.

I could write volumes on icons. There is not the space. I want you all to explore icons. They will introduce to you so many wonderful insights into Jesus and his early followers. Perhaps this will allow you to strengthen your love of Jesus in another way to that which you are now embracing.

Ah yes! The mystery poet? Henry Lawson. The poem was *The Crucifixion*.



**AT LEFT: Reproduction of Andrei Rublev's *The Trinity/The Hospitality of Abraham* (1411). This is an artwork, yet would be accepted as an icon**

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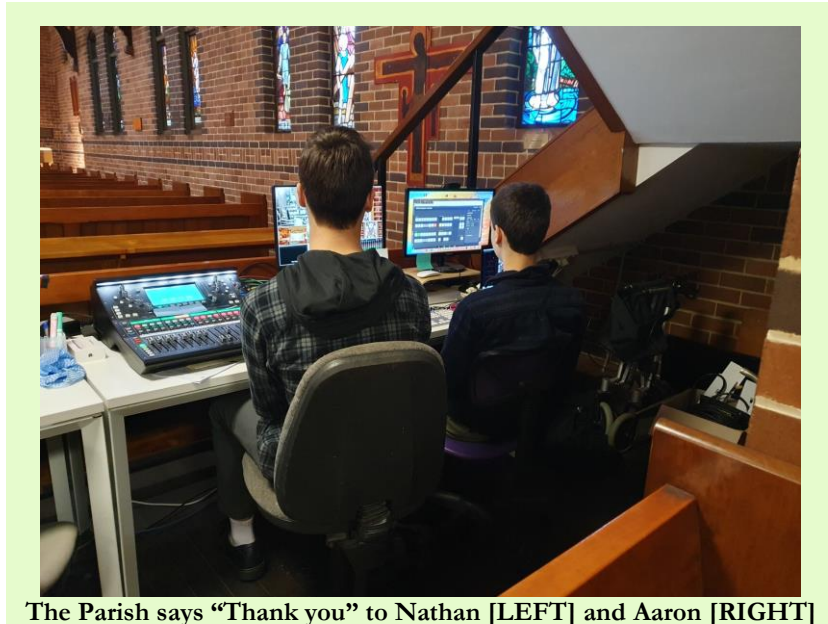
Accessed June 10, 2023 at 1620 hours

Accessed June 13, 2023 at 0855 hours

Accessed June 28, 2023 at 1700 hours

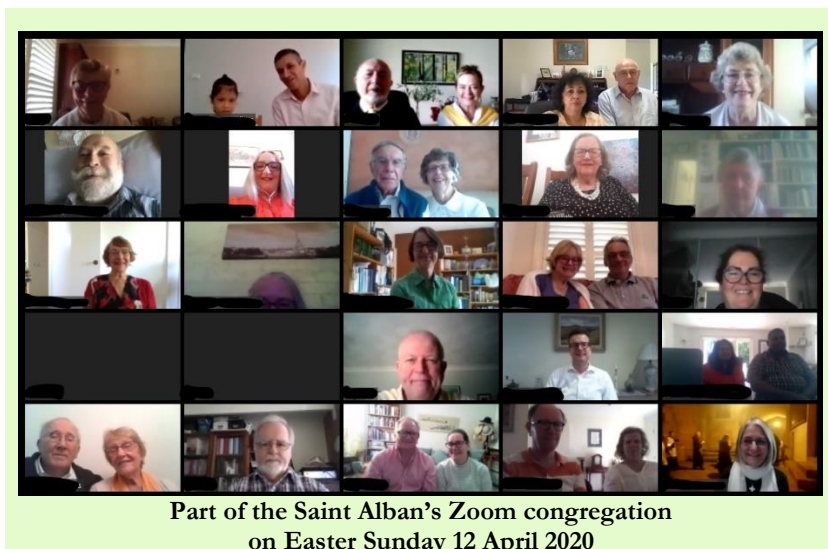
Accessed June 28, 2023 at 1800 hours.

## Zoom Operators at Saint Alban's Sunday 10.00am Services Aaron and Nathan



The Parish says "Thank you" to Nathan [LEFT] and Aaron [RIGHT]

Prior to 2020, most of us would not have heard of Zoom let alone used it on a weekly basis. The communications platform that allows users to connect over the internet with video, audio, phone and chat was founded in 2011 by a communications technology company headquartered in San Jose, California. The software program was only used in and by businesses, and from 2017 it was used for telehealth consultations. Then came COVID-19. Suddenly Zoom was everywhere and used by everyone.



Part of the Saint Alban's Zoom congregation  
on Easter Sunday 12 April 2020

Nowadays, Sunday services streamed via Zoom afford the opportunity for parishioners to attend church remotely when in person attendance may not be possible. Earlier this year, the Saint Alban's Bulletin included an advertisement seeking volunteers to operate the Zoom and audio panels at the 10.00am service.

Two students from Arden Anglican School, who were searching for community service opportunities to fulfil their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award requirements, answered the call. Aaron and Nathan have taken the reins and are now learning the ropes of online service streaming.

Whilst there have been a few technical bumps along the road (when is technology ever perfect?), the twin brothers are pleased to be able to provide this service to the church community. Looking forward, they hope to be able to add some new features to the online service and are exploring the possibility of adding lyrics for hymns or including bible readings on screen. Any suggestions are always welcome.

## Anglican Toys 'n' Tucker Christmas Appeal



**Toys 'n' Tucker** is an annual initiative by Anglicare through which supporters such as our Parish can share the joy of Christmas and demonstrate God's love by providing food and gifts for those who would otherwise go without.

Parishioners are invited to contribute new gifts and non-perishable food to this year's **Christmas hamper** program. Anglicare wants to reach out to more families this year especially during these uncertain times. They aim to distribute 5,000 Christmas food hampers and 4,000 toy hampers to families in need this Christmas.

### **Please leave your donations**

- in the Toys 'n' Tucker crates in the narthex, as you arrive for services at Saint Alban's. [The last day to leave gifts is Sunday 3 December.]
- at the Parish Office Tuesday and Thursday mornings. [The last day to leave gifts is Thursday 30 November.]

**Cash donations** to Toys 'n' Tucker are also very welcome. There are a few ways for you to do this:

- Donate funds directly at <https://toysntucker.org.au/product/choose-your-own-amount>
- Transfer funds electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'Toys n Tucker'.
- Place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your offertory envelope (please write 'Toys n Tucker' next to the stamped date), or in a plain envelope marked 'Toys n Tucker' and deposit the envelope in the collection box as you arrive for a service at Saint Alban's.
- Drop off your monetary donation to the Parish Office on Tuesday or Thursday mornings or leave it in the Parish Office letterbox any time; or mail a cheque to the Parish Office at PO Box 79 Epping 1710 – please make the cheque payable to the Saint Alban's account and attach a separate note that the funds are intended for Toys 'n' Tucker.

If you would like to know more, please visit [www.toysntucker.org.au](http://www.toysntucker.org.au)

Through Toys 'n' Tucker you can share the joy of Christmas with people in need!

The Reverend Michael Aitken from Anglicare will preach at Saint Alban's on the First Sunday of Advent, Sunday 3 December 2023.



# A Northern Summer Pilgrimage

by Julianne Stewart with Reflections from Father Martin Davies  
former Saint Alban's parishioners



Julianne on a walk around Holy Island

During the recent European summer of 2023, Martin and I travelled to the UK to learn more about some of the English saints, most of whom we remember in our yearly Australian Lectionary: Etheldreda of Ely, Julian of Norwich, Bede of Jarrow, and Aidan and Cuthbert of Lindisfarne.

In visiting some of the places where they either lived and walked during their lifetimes, or where their earthly remains are interred now, we hoped to go on a kind of spiritual journey with them, and through this physical connection, to perhaps glimpse something of what they were like and how they lived their Christian faith. Some might call this a pilgrimage.

Martin writes: *A pilgrimage is to bring into the present an event of the past. Pilgrimage can be personal, because of something in your own life, some past event, or place, or person. Or, it can be a corporately held undertaking because of wanting to make a connection, to make something real in the present and give hope for the future – a change of direction, perhaps – of an event of the past, whether it is, say, Christ's life, or the life of some saint or saints in a particular place [like Aidan or Cuthbert at Lindisfarne, or Bede at Jarrow, or Durham, or Māori on the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand...]. It's not only a reminiscing but is much more powerful and stronger than reminiscing. It's somehow, as I say, making real and effective in the present an event of the past. Which is similar to the Eucharist – anamnesis.*

**Etheldreda of Ely** was the daughter of King Anna of East Anglia and, like many women of her class and era, was married (twice in her case) for political reasons, even though she experienced a strong call to devote her whole life to Christ as a nun. It wasn't until she was about 36 years old (eight years before her death) that she became free to respond to this strong calling.

Some years after her death in 680, St Etheldreda's remains were placed in an ancient sarcophagus within Ely Cathedral (then the church of the abbey of which she was for seven years the founding abbess). Her remains became a shrine and a place of pilgrimage until they were destroyed as part of the dissolution of monasteries by King Henry VIII in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. Today, the place of Etheldreda's shrine is marked by an engraved slate tile on the floor of the cathedral.

It can be difficult as a 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian to engage with the kind of piety many of the earlier saints displayed. Etheldreda is said, for example, to have welcomed the pain brought by a tumour in her jaw and neck, saying, *"I realise very well that I deserve this wearisome disease in my neck, on which, as I well remember, when I was a girl, I used to wear the needless burden of jewellery. And I believe that God in his goodness wishes me to endure this pain...so that I may be absolved from the guilt of my needless vanity. So now I wear a burning red tumour on my neck instead of gold and pearls."* It reminded me a little of Saint Paul, and the thorn in his flesh which he believed was *"to keep me from being too elated"* (or *"conceited"*, in another version). I'm not sure if I could approach illness or misfortune in this way, but this path nonetheless hangs there as an invitation.



Slate floor tile showing site of Etheldreda's shrine

This year Ely Cathedral is celebrating 1350 years since its founding. In early July we participated in their Sunday Eucharist and then walked behind the altar to where Etheldreda is commemorated. Four candles burn there, next to a sign which includes this prayer:

*Eternal God, who bestowed such grace upon your servant Etheldreda that she gave herself wholly to a life of prayer and service, grant that we, like her, may so live our lives on earth, that we may join the glorious fellowship of your saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

I first heard of **Julian of Norwich** when I was a young university student in the 1970s. I was studying medieval languages and history and came across a Dame Juliana (Julian of Norwich), an anchoress of Norwich during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. I was delighted to find there was a saint whose name I bore. Hence, I was especially interested to visit St Julian's church when we went to Norwich, shortly after our time in Ely. Having read Robyn Cadwallader's book, *'The Anchoress'* (about a fictional English anchoress, set in a similar time to when Julian was alive) I felt I could imagine Julian as we sat quietly in her (rebuilt) former cell, or anchor-hold, attached to the side of the main parish church. It has been suggested she was named for the church, St Julian's, rather than the other way around.



**A window from Julian's re-built anchor-hold which opens into the main church.**

Like Etheldreda's shrine, Julian's cell was demolished during the 16<sup>th</sup> century dissolution of monasteries. However, the whole church, including the anchor-hold, was rebuilt in the 1950s following its destruction during World War II in a direct hit by a German bomb.

It was a peaceful place in which to contemplate this woman who chose to spend a good part of her life locked in a dark cell (with a maid in an adjoining room to attend to her physical needs) with a view through a small window to the altar through which she could participate in the daily eucharist. She spent her days and nights in prayer, and in giving pastoral advice to those who came to her window.

But she is best known for writing down the content of a series of 16 'shewings' to her by Jesus about the love of God that she experienced during a serious illness in her 30s. These 'shewings' were later published as "*The Revelations of Divine Love*".

One of these 'shewings' concerns a hazelnut:

*And in this he showed me something small, no bigger than a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed to me, and it was as round as a ball. I looked at it with the eye of my understanding and thought: What can this be? I was amazed that it could last, for I thought that because of its littleness it would suddenly have fallen into nothing. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and always will be, because God loves it; and thus everything has being through the love of God.*

When we came home, I began a series of 15 morning meditations based on Julian's life and writing, from a book by Gloria Durka called "*Praying with Julian of Norwich*". This time of morning prayer and reflection was deeply enriched by having sat quietly in a room that might once have been her cell.

Going back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century, but travelling further north, we went across at low tide to Lindisfarne (or Holy) Island, off the coast of Northumberland, near the Scottish border. Six years earlier, whilst visiting York, I had read a book called, "*Aidan, Cuthbert and Bede: Three Inspirational Saints*" by David Adam. What I read about **Aidan** inspired me greatly.

Oswald, King of Northumbria, had spent some time in exile on the island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland. While living there with the Irish monks he had become a Christian, and always hoped he might bring Christianity to his people back in Northumbria. Once he had re-established his hold over his kingdom, he sent to Iona asking for a missionary to come to him to help him bring the love of God to the people there who were steeped in war and conflict. After initially sending a monk who returned complaining the Northumbrians were "*too brutal*" for conversion, Aidan put his hand up for the job.

Aidan saw that the king had offered hospitality, and that here was an opportunity for the monks to accept this hospitality and offer their faith to a people embroiled in warfare. He knew it would not be easy, but wanted to focus on a gradual, respectful approach, rather than quick and forceful conversions. The abbot was convinced by Aidan's arguments for gentleness over self-righteousness and gave him a band of monks to help him. Oswald offered him the Island of Lindisfarne for his monastery, and Aidan and his monks built one firmly rooted in the daily prayer of the church. Aidan seemed to know intuitively that, in the words of David Adam, "*mission has often failed because people have sought to talk about God when they have not yet talked enough to him*" (p33). Aidan and his monks lived their faith, and focused on teaching the local people about Christ, but also on respecting the Northumbrian culture and learning from it.



**Six monks carry St Cuthbert's coffin to safety**

On the five days we spent on the island, we walked all over it, noticing sea, and sand, the pebbles and other things that had been washed up with the sand, the grasses, and the rises and falls in the landscape. We saw ruins of the priory that had been built after the original monastery was destroyed by Viking invaders, and which in its turn was destroyed by King Henry VIII.

We experienced rains, thunderstorms, strong winds and calm, warm weather. We attended the Sunday eucharist, and morning and evening prayer in Saint Mary's parish church. We saw archaeological evidence that the East end of the church had once likely been part of the priory. And we saw a wonderful wooden sculpture of the monks carrying away to safety from the Vikings the remains of their beloved Cuthbert.

We found a retreat house of the Community of Aidan and Hilda – a dispersed ecumenical community which draws its inspiration from the Celtic saints and joined them for midday prayers. And we tried to imagine the kindly Saint Aidan walking (not riding) around this part of Northumbria, stopping to listen to people, to share the Gospel with them if they were not yet Christian, and to say a few encouraging words to strengthen the faith of those who were.

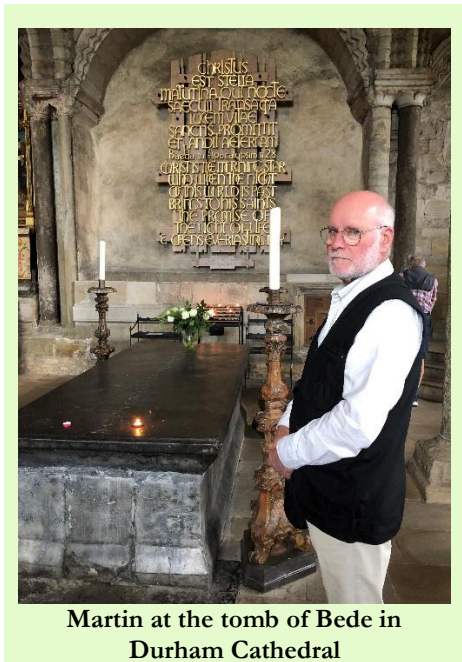
When we came home, some weeks later, on 31 August, we were delighted to participate in an online Quiet Day led by Durham Cathedral, to celebrate Saint Aidan's Day. There were several reflections on the theme, "*What are we doing to share the love of God today?*", taking their inspiration from Aidan who shared the love of God wherever he went, through his actions and his words.

**Cuthbert** and **Bede** were next on our little pilgrimage. The remains of these two Christian men are housed at either end of Durham Cathedral in the north of England.

Martin writes about Bede, who has a particular significance for him.

*I think my attraction to Saint Bede began with my going to St Bede's College, Christchurch for my secondary school years. In particular, I was always drawn to the beautiful wooden carved altar panel in the college chapel, depicting Bede dictating the final verses of his commentary on Saint John's Gospel as he lay on his death bed. Although I didn't like school at all, and didn't do very well, I later came to realise that I was quite privileged in being taught there by priests. Perhaps I'm romanticising it a bit, but now, looking back, it was a past era, and I think it was a fortunate experience. Later, in the mid-1970s, when I was a parishioner at Saint Michael's Christchurch, a wonderful parishioner went to Durham Cathedral, and she brought me back three little cards containing quotations from Bede. I used them for years as bookmarks. So, I was primed by the time we finally went to Durham all these years later.*

*I was very moved to visit his tomb. It was a link between my introduction to Bede and my understanding of him now. I used to imagine sometimes when I was sitting in the college chapel, Bede in his monastery. And I don't know where that awareness came from, because at that stage I'd never been to a monastery and had no understanding of monastic life. But I was somehow drawn to Bede, the monk.*



**Martin at the tomb of Bede in Durham Cathedral**

At the other end of Durham Cathedral, behind the main altar, lie the remains of Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Cuthbert was said to have been a young shepherd, tending sheep near the monastery of Lindisfarne, when he saw a vision of the soul of Saint Aidan being carried to heaven by angels (in 651). He was later told that Aidan had indeed died that night. This event propelled him to enter Melrose Abbey as a monk. He became its prior, and later was sent to be prior of Lindisfarne.

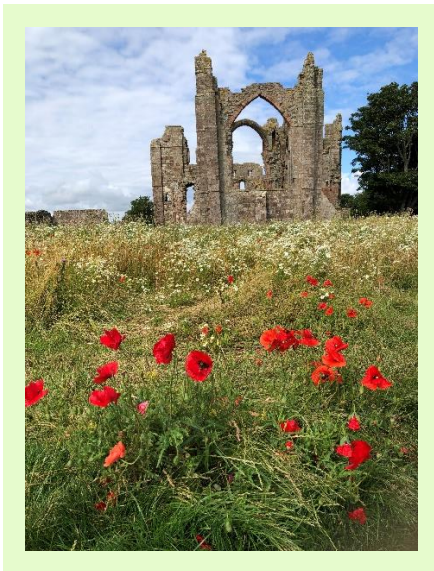
The words above the tomb read in both Latin and French:

*“Christ is the morning star who when the night of this world is past, brings to his saints the promise of the light of life and opens everlasting day.”*

A northern contemporary of Etheldreda, Cuthbert was one of those people who ardently seek solitude and a life of prayer, while constantly being called back into the mainstream to deal with the politics of his day. Whether it was monastic administration, or helping to ensure the English church adopted the customs of Rome (over the customs of the old Celtic forms of Christianity which had been in Britain since Roman times), Cuthbert seems to have been valued for his leadership. He is said to have been a successful missionary, an insightful pastor and healer, and a person who showed great generosity to the poor. In his early 30s he retired first to a tiny island connected at low tide to the main Lindisfarne Island, and then to Inner Farne, an island about 3 km off the coast of Northumbria.

Cuthbert was only to stay on this island for two years before being elected Bishop of Hexham. But less than two years later he was able to retire back to Inner Farne, where he died a couple of months later from a painful illness. I hadn’t initially warmed to Cuthbert as I had to Aidan. He seemed to me to be too much focused on being a hermit, even if he was able to do this only rarely. But during our time on Lindisfarne Island, walking over to what is now called ‘Cuthbert’s Island’ and sitting there, where Cuthbert might have prayed, listening to seals snuffling and splashing as they swam in the waters below, I hoped I might have experienced a little of what that ancient saint experienced about 1350 years ago.

I’m not sure what these experiences will mean for us in future, but already they have helped bring some important insights from these Christian forebears into our lives. We both trust that God will continue to use these ancient saints to inspire us and guide us in our ongoing journey in faith.



**AT LEFT: Part of the ruined priory on Holy Island**



**AT RIGHT: Martin stands on St Cuthbert’s Island**

## Saint Alban Celebrates Another Centenary

Gillian Taylor parishioner and  
founding member of The Mater Chorale



The Cathedral Church of Saint Alban the Martyr, Griffith, in the Anglican Diocese of Riverina, celebrated its Foundation Stone Centenary on the 29 September 2023, just three months after the Foundation Stone Centenary celebrated at Saint Alban's Epping.

The Bishop of Riverina, The Right Reverend Donald Kirk is a good friend of The Reverend Michael Deasey FRSCM, OAM, who is the Director of the choir known as The Mater Chorale [see \* at end of article]. Earlier this year, the Bishop invited the choir to Griffith Cathedral to lead the music for their Centenary celebrations. Another Epping parishioner, Lynn Bock, and I were able to travel to Griffith to sing for the two services.

Like our own Epping Saint Alban's centenary celebrations, Saint Alban's Cathedral Griffith celebrated a Choral Evensong (Friday 29 September 2023) and a Choral Parish Centenary Eucharist (Sunday 1 October 2023).

The Dean of Saint Alban's and Rector of Griffith is The Very Reverend Thomas M. Leslie, who is well known to many of our Epping congregation. Father Thomas wrote an article for *The Parish Magazine* Number 873 August-October 2023 in which he reminisced about his time at Saint Alban's Epping in the early 2000s as a parishioner, a member of the choir and the editor of *The Parish Magazine*. Father Thomas was instrumental in ensuring The Chorale was made as welcome as possible over the weekend, and we certainly were.

Nineteen members of The Chorale were able to make the trip to the Riverina, some flying in on the Friday, with others making a road trip of it and staying at other country locations before and after Griffith. As he always does, Chorale Musical Director Michael Deasey chose beautiful music for the two services, bearing in mind we only had two rehearsals in Sydney to prepare.

### Music for the Choral Evensong

**Introit:** *How shall I sing that Majesty?*

Thomas Tallis

**Preces and Responses**

Setting: M. Deasey

**Psalm 148**

Chant: W. Marsh

**Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis**

Setting: *Statham in E Minor*

**Anthem:** *Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Text: Liturgy of St James Music: Donald Cashmore

**Te Deum**

Setting: *Stanford in B Flat*

### Music for the Choral Eucharist

**Setting:** German Mass

Franz Peter Schubert

**Psalm 122**

Chant: Edmund Chipp

**Communion Motet:** Ubi Caritas

Translation: Paul Wigmore Music: arr. John Barnard

There are excellent recordings of the two services on YouTube:

The Evensong Service <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9X7K6mFtjio> and

The Choral Eucharist [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hxW-Wt\\_7rU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hxW-Wt_7rU)

Both services were very well attended, with a supper after Evensong and morning tea after the Eucharist. In addition to these, there was a High Tea and historical display on the Saturday afternoon. With great generosity, Father Thomas had also arranged a wine tasting for The Chorale at Yarran Estate Winery on Saturday morning. This was most appreciated by many members of The Chorale and their 'groupies'! We were wined and dined on their delicious wines and local charcuterie in a beautiful setting, and many Chorale members bought bottles and cases to take home. The Chorale and our partners and families couldn't have been made more welcome on this weekend, and we were almost overwhelmed by the warm and generous country hospitality.





**Cathedral Sanctuary during the Choral Eucharist Sunday 1 October 2023**

When Chorale Music Director Michael first passed on the invitation to The Chorale, he made the point that this kind of tour should be regarded as Outreach. The Mater Chorale has sung at many city cathedrals, both in Australia and in the UK, but this is the first time we've sung for a more isolated country church, which doesn't usually get to hear live traditional Anglican choral music. Knowing that fact meant our singing became even more heartfelt, as we strove to give our very best to enhance the liturgy of each service. It was a truly wonderful weekend of fine church music and Christian unity.



**Centenary Congregation of the Cathedral Church of Saint Alban the Martyr, Griffith**

\* The Mater Chorale was founded as The Mater Centenary Chorale in 2005 by Dr Jim Wilkinson, a senior anaesthetist at The Mater Hospital, North Sydney. The focus of the Centenary Chorale was on a Concert in July 2006 to celebrate 100 years of service by The Sisters of Mercy to the people of North Sydney at the Mater Hospital. The Mater Chorale was meant to be dissolved after the Centenary, but the enthusiasm of the Chorale members has kept the group alive. Its founding music director was Sheryl Southwood OAM, to be succeeded by Ross Cobb and since 2017 Michael Deasey OAM. Apart from singing at charity events for the Mater Hospital, the choir has become an experienced itinerant liturgical choir.

# English for Life Conversation Classes

English for Life Conversation Classes continue to attract a steady number of eager students. Jenny Nicholson and Jess Li assist the beginner class, encouraging them to speak in English and to learn about Australian culture and the conversations and interactions of daily life. The classes meet in the Main Hall at Saint Alban's on Wednesdays, during school terms, from 10.00am-12.00pm.

Rema Gnanadickam's intermediate class learns more advanced conversation skills, discusses the news and does some writing as well.



Jenny Nicholson with the Beginners Group.



Rema Gnanadickam guides the Intermediate Group

# Marvellous Musicals

## An Afternoon Concert 15 October 2023

### MARVELLOUS MUSICALS

Sunday, 15 October 2023 at 2pm – St. Alban's Parish Hall, Epping

KAREN CALLAGHAN, *Soprano*  
LACHLAN ROOTS, *Baritone*  
PAUL WEAVER, *Piano*

- |                              |                                |  |                   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1.                           | Overture                       | <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>                       | Paul              |
| 2.                           | "If I Loved You"               | <i>Carousel</i>                                      | Karen             |
| 3.                           | "Camelot"                      | <i>Camelot</i>                                       | Lachlan           |
| 4.                           | "Come To My Garden"            | <i>The Secret Garden</i>                             | Karen & Lachlan   |
| 5.                           | March of the Siamese Children  | <i>The King and I</i>                                | Paul              |
| 6.                           | "No One Else"                  | <i>Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812</i>   | Karen             |
| 7.                           | "Close Every Door to Me"       | <i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat</i> | Lachlan           |
| 8.                           | "Mountain Duet"                | <i>Chess</i>   | Karen and Lachlan |
| <b>Interval – 20 minutes</b> |                                |  |                   |
| 9.                           | "The Music of the Night"       | <i>Phantom of the Opera</i>                          | Lachlan           |
| 10.                          | "Heaven Help My Heart"         | <i>Chess</i>   | Karen             |
| 11.                          | "I Know Him So Well"           | <i>Chess</i>   | Karen & Lachlan   |
| 12.                          | "I Got Plenty o' Nuttin'"      | <i>Porgy &amp; Bess</i>                              | Lachlan           |
| 13.                          | Variations                     | <i>Song and Dance</i>                                | Paul              |
| 14.                          | "Any Dream Will Do"            | <i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat</i> | Lachlan           |
| 15.                          | "I Don't Know How to Love Him" | <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>                        | Karen             |
| 16.                          | "All I Ask of You"             | <i>Phantom of the Opera</i>                          | Karen & Lachlan   |

Many thanks for your donations to the work of the House of Welcome, Granville, in its ministry to refugees, asylum seekers, and others in great need. You can also make donations to support their work through their website.

### The Concert Program

On the afternoon of Sunday 15 October 2023, in Saint Alban's Memorial Hall, a very appreciative audience of more than eighty people were treated to an afternoon of solos, duets and other highlights from the great musicals.

The Reverend Paul Weaver played piano pieces on his own and also accompanied soprano Karen Callaghan and baritone Lachlan Roots in their solos and duets.

Many of the pieces were composed by Gilbert and Sullivan, Rodgers and Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber and therefore familiar and popular with the audience. Karen also sang a beautiful love song, *No One Else*, from a lesser-known musical, *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* by Dave Molloy.

Donations at the door raised \$900 for the House of Welcome, Granville, for its ministry to refugees, asylum seekers, and others in great need. The organisation believes in a safe community for forcibly displaced peoples to thrive and belong, and will work for the rights, access and opportunity of forcibly displaced peoples.

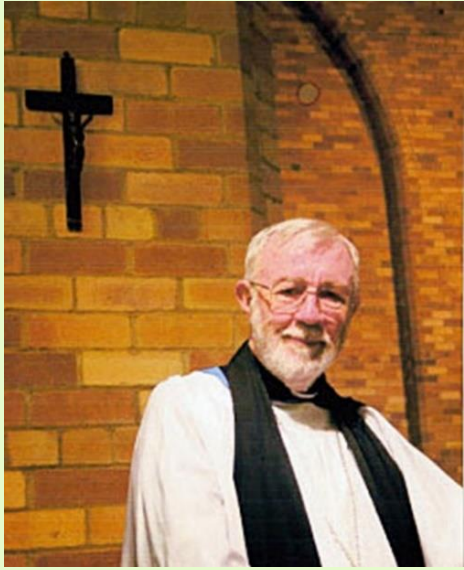
If you would like to make a donation go to <https://www.houseofwelcome.org.au/donate>



LEFT TO RIGHT: The Reverend Paul Weaver, Karen Callaghan and Lachlan Roots

# A Great Escape: From Elba to Waterloo

Father Robert Willson



In April 1995, my wife Beth and I spent a weekend in the city of Nice on the French Riviera.

On the Sunday morning we had a tour of the area. Between Cannes and Antibes, we saw a tiny landing place called Golfe-Juan. That was the place where, on 1 March 1815, an event that touched my family was enacted.

Out of the mist that morning a small flotilla of several boats, with a total of about one thousand men on board, anchored, and the commander stepped ashore. It was Bonaparte.

Napoleon Bonaparte had escaped from exile on Elba. He was back in France to reclaim his throne and would fight his last battle one hundred days later. It was the climax of a great escape.

The background to this event is intriguing.

## Fontainebleau

In April the previous year Napoleon, who had commanded millions of men and had conquered and reshaped the map of Europe, finally faced defeat. At Fontainebleau Palace in Paris I saw the table at which he signed his Abdication document. Afterwards he attempted suicide, without success.

What was to be done with the fallen Emperor?

After long debate the tiny French island of Elba, close to the Italian coast at Tuscany, was chosen for his exile. While we were on a tour of Italy that rocky island was pointed out to us. It was dangerously close to France, being only 260 km south of the Riviera. On Elba Napoleon brooded and plotted his escape. Spies told him how unpopular was the Bourbon Dynasty. He claimed that France needed him. The Allied nations were slack in guarding him and he saw his chance.

On Sunday 26 February 1815, Napoleon said goodbye to his family and in great secrecy, slipped away from Elba in a small flotilla led by a ship called *Inconstant* (how appropriate).

## Escape

He was lucky. The short journey passed without incident. By 1 March the flotilla was anchored off the Cape of Antibes and the French tricolour was hoisted. The tiny landing spot of Golfe-Juan, between Cannes and Antibes, secured a place in history.

Recently I watched *Waterloo*, the film treatment of those events. That brilliant actor, Rod Steiger, looked amazingly like the portraits of Napoleon, and Christopher Plummer appeared as the Duke of Wellington. In spite of some liberties with history, the film, released in 1970, gives a memorable recreation of Napoleon's last gamble. He made it to Paris by 20 March, without a shot being fired, and the army and French people went wild with joy. He prepared for the final show down.

I recalled that these events directly touched my Scottish ancestors, the McKay family. The earliest member of my McKay family was Hugh who was a native of Sutherlandshire, Scotland, but who later lived on the Island of Coll. He had four sons, William, Donald, George and Lachlan.

## The Cameron Highlanders

When the Napoleonic Wars broke out, some of the McKay sons joined the newly formed 79<sup>th</sup> Regiment, the Cameron Highlanders, which was raised at Fort William in 1793. Hugh was too old for active service and Lachlan, my direct ancestor, was too young, but they served on the Garrison at Malta. It was William and Donald who saw active service in the long campaigns to stop Napoleon having total power over Europe for a generation. My great uncle George McKay of Orange recorded in a diary that they went through the campaign in Egypt, the bombardment of Copenhagen, the Peninsular War and the famous Retreat to Corunna, and battles including Salamanca and Toulouse.

After Napoleon abdicated in 1814 the brothers probably thought that peace would come, but they were wrong. In March 1815 news came that Napoleon had escaped from Elba and was on the march again. Once more the 79<sup>th</sup> Regiment and many other units of the British Army under Wellington prepared to fight him, this time in Belgium. The 79<sup>th</sup> Regiment were on the left flank under the command of Sir Thomas Picton who died in the battle.



### Quatre Bras and Waterloo

The history of the two great Battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo is too long to recount here. The internet has much detail about them. It is sufficient to say that the Cameron Highlanders was one of only four Regiments after Waterloo that the Duke of Wellington specifically commended in his Despatches. It is said that Wellington once saw them march past in full regimental kilts and he said: *“I do not know what they will do to the French but they certainly scare me!”*

The record shows that of the 675 men of the Regiment who took part in those battles 103 were killed and 353 were wounded, a total of 456 casualties. Doubtless many of the wounded did not survive so the total dead may be higher. George McKay’s diary comments on this record by saying that as neither of the brothers received any serious wound in those battles it may be said that they led charmed lives.

AT LEFT:

Jacques-Louis David (1748–1825) - The Emperor Napoleon in His Study at the Tuileries - Google Art Project Public Domain  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jacques-Louis\\_David\\_-\\_The\\_Emperor\\_Napoleon\\_in\\_His\\_Study\\_at\\_the\\_Tuileries\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jacques-Louis_David_-_The_Emperor_Napoleon_in_His_Study_at_the_Tuileries_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg) Accessed 21 September 2023 at 1800hrs

## Lord Nelson

Members of the 79<sup>th</sup> Regiment were proud of the fact that they were part of the funeral procession for the burial of Lord Nelson after Trafalgar. After Waterloo the British and other allies were determined that Napoleon would never disturb Europe again. So he was taken to Saint Helena, a remote British outpost in the South Atlantic from which there was no escape. My McKay ancestors were able to retire from the army and they scattered across the British Empire, including Australia. They carried with them their strong Christian faith in the Presbyterian tradition. In Lachlan McKay’s shipping papers he carried references from his Church of Scotland Minister, and its elders, testifying to his faith and integrity.

## The Light of the World

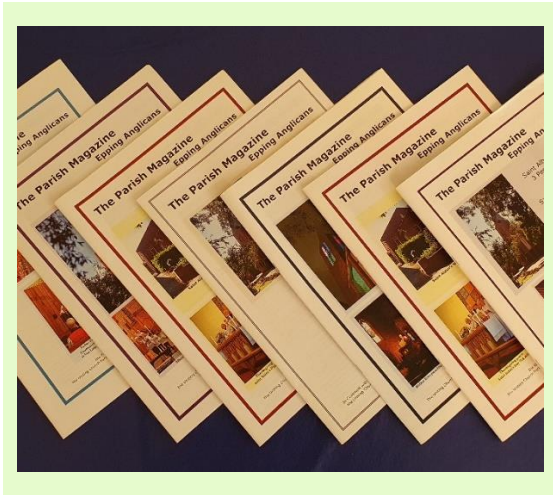
The day before we saw the place where Napoleon’s final gamble began, we had been to Catholic Mass in Nice. The Gospel reading that day was John 8, which begins with the words of Jesus *“I am the light of the world”*. I reflected that the military campaigns of Napoleon were to feed his own vanity and they cost millions of lives and endless suffering. The only light he wanted was to shine on his own glory and he seems to have cared nothing for the deaths of others. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century we still are trying to cope with other dictators who believe only in their own light, not in the divine light of our Heavenly Father.

## Would you like to contribute to the next edition of *The Parish Magazine*?

Ask yourself:

- ✚ What am I looking forward to in my Church life?
- ✚ How can I contribute to my Church family?
- ✚ 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 or author I would like to review?
- ✚ What would I like to see in future editions of my Parish Magazine?

Photographs are also welcome.



**The deadline for contributions is  
6 January 2024.**

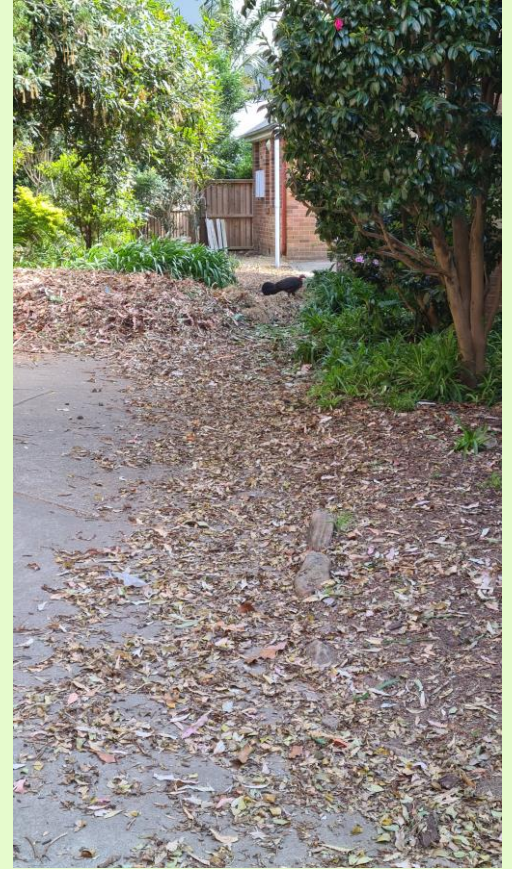
Please contact the editor Julie Evans via email  
[julie.evans@ihug.com.au](mailto:julie.evans@ihug.com.au)  
or via the Parish Office

Music Director of Saint Alban's, Chris Czerwinski,  
with Saint Alban's Organ Scholars Enoch Pan and  
Isabel Li when they gave a lunch-time organ recital  
at Saint Stephen's Uniting Church, Macquarie Street,  
Sydney, on 29 September 2023



## Nesting at Saint Alban's

We have just celebrated the Season of Creation and this male brush turkey was making his preparations. On Tuesday 26 September the turkey moved all the mulch from the garden overlooking the carpark to his chosen place in front of The Shack. A couple of days later a female was seen to be inspecting the construction!



## Parish Directory

<b>Rector</b>	The Right Reverend Ross Nicholson BCom, BTh, Dip A, MA
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	The Reverend Philip Lui BAppSc, BD
<b>Honorary Senior Associate</b>	The Reverend Paul Weaver BA, BD, ThL, AMusA
<b>Children's Ministry Worker</b>	Amy Taylor
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Ruth Shatford AM (Diocesan)
<b>Sanctuary Assistants, Servers and Intercessors</b>	Godfrey Abel, Ross Beattie, Licette Bedna, Ken Bock OAM, Corey Chen, Margaret Cummins, Margaret Foster, Anne Lawson, Lachlan Roots, Peggy Sanders (Senior Liturgical Assistant), David Tait, Mark Taylor, Kim Turner, James Von Stieglitz, Sarah Weaver
<b>Sacristans</b>	Ross Beattie, Mark Taylor, James Von Stieglitz
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Denise Pigot Telephone: 9876 3362 Email: <a href="mailto:office@eppinganglicans.org.au">office@eppinganglicans.org.au</a>
<b>Honorary Parish Treasurer</b>	Shane Christie-David
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Ted Chang – Rector's Warden Noel Christie-David – People's Warden David Tait – People's Warden
<b>Parish Councillors</b>	Ken Bock OAM, Corey Chen, Margaret Cummins, Glyn Evans, Elizabeth Jenkins, Christine Murray, Peggy Sanders, Gillian Taylor
<b>Parish Nominators</b>	Graeme Durie, Glyn Evans, Peggy Sanders, Ruth Shatford AM, Meryl Smith
<b>Synod Representatives</b>	Corey Chen, Gillian Taylor
<b>Safe Ministry Representative</b>	Sarah Weaver
<b>Music Director</b>	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)
<b>Organ Scholars</b>	Isabel Li and Enoch Pan
<b>Caretaker</b>	Vacant
<b>Editor</b>	Julie Evans
<b>Proof-readers</b>	Glyn Evans and Peggy Sanders
<b>Archivist</b>	Brian Haywood