

# The Parish Magazine

## Epping Anglicans



Photo: Doug Carruthers February 2019

**May to July  
2023**

Number 872

Saint Alban the Martyr,  
3 Pembroke Street,  
Epping

with

Saint Aidan of  
Lindisfarne,  
32 Downing Street,  
West Epping

### *A Year of Centenaries*

16 June 2023 – Centenary of Laying of Foundation Stone of  
Current Church Building

20 December 2023 — Centenary of First Service in the  
Current Church

October 2023 — Centenary of First Edition of *The Parish Magazine*

Please celebrate with us during this year. Details of events inside magazine and  
on Church website <https://www.eppinganglicans.org.au/>

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 second Parish Magazine Centenary Edition in 2023, our year of centenaries. Many contributors have emotionally written about their introduction to, and being a part of, the community of Saint Alban's. Our church has been a strong influence on the faith and lives of many people for the last one hundred years in our current church building and for one hundred and twenty-seven years on the Saint Alban's site. Many from Saint Alban's have been called by God to ordained ministry and you can read their stories in both this edition and the next.

We have been blessed with faithful and committed priests who have ministered to us with love, and guided worship in Saint Alban's for our spiritual growth and well-being, and to the glory of God. I am sure you will enjoy reading the contributions from those who were part of the Saint Alban's history to 2023. There will be further such articles in the August edition.

As we look back at the past, let us also relish the many activities that we enjoy at Saint Alban's today and which are illustrated in this edition of *The Parish Magazine*. Our story continues as we stand on firm and faithful foundations as we grow new branches and blooms of outreach.

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.eppinganglicans.org.au](http://www.eppinganglicans.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, Peggy Sanders, Amy Taylor and the 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>

***The Rt Reverend Ross Nicholson and  
The Anglican Parish of St Alban's Epping***

*invite you to celebrate the  
**Foundation Stone Centenary**  
100 years since Commencement of Construction of the  
Current Church Building*

***16th June 2023 at 6.30pm: Choral Evensong  
followed by a Champagne Supper***  
*Visiting Preacher - The Reverend Dr Daniel Dries  
Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney, NSW*

***18th June 2023 at 9.30am: St Alban's Day Choral Eucharist  
followed by Lunch, BYO Drinks***  
*Visiting Preacher - The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards  
St Paul's Manuka, ACT*

***RSVP: Wednesday 31st May 2023***

*Tickets: Champagne Supper @ \$35.00 pp*

*Lunch @ \$70.00 pp*

*Family tickets available for those with children u12y - Price on request*



*Tickets for The Champagne Supper and the Lunch may be purchased via  
trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CHIRI>*

***NB: No tickets are necessary to attend either of the services.***

*All enquiries to Denise Pigot*

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

*Ph: 02 9876 3362 Website: [www.eppinganglicans.org.au](http://www.eppinganglicans.org.au)*

*Please forward this invitation to anyone you know who may be interested  
in attending.*



One hundred years ago in 1923 Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb was opened; the Great Kanto earthquake struck Tokyo followed by a 40 foot tsunami that left over 160,000 people dead; Insulin was first released in Canada as a treatment for diabetes; Hitler staged a failed coup in Germany and Mount Etna in Sicily erupted leaving 60,000 homeless. Closer to home the Sydney Harbour Bridge was begun; the first Anzac Day dawn service was held in Albany, WA; construction began on the 'Provisional Parliament House' and artist Margaret Olley was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June!!!

That list of events from a century ago has just a few of the incidents that caught my attention. They are a mix of the calamitous, the creative, the earth shaking (literally) and the personal. You could even say they are a representation of the world as it was and ever will be. There will always be tragedies, joys, struggles and blessings. The infamous and the respected will rise up alongside each other. Creativity and destruction will vie for attention.

What would you put into a list of moments from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?

We are all looking forward to the celebration of our centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of our Saint Alban's church building. Discussing our centenary with Judy Adamson from *Southern Cross* magazine, I was impressed by the boldness of the congregation in the 1920s that they would contemplate building a new church when the old church building was not much more than twenty-five years old! To take on the expense and to be free from attachment to a relatively new building, shows a degree of excitement about the future and the potential of God's people in pursuing the Lord's mission of making disciples of all nations.

In this edition of our wonderful Parish Magazine (also a child of 1923) you will read lots of great memories from past rectors, parishioners and friends of Saint Alban's. Of course, any historical celebration will by its nature look backwards. But a look backwards ought always be the stimulus for us to look forward.

As you read through the articles and reflect upon the stories you might notice a number of themes arising. As I read the reminiscences of previous clergy I noticed three refrains – Community, Creativity and Continuity. In reflecting upon the Covenant relationship, we have had with the Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches, John Cornish reminded us;

*"God is infinitely greater than the sum of all humanity; but we need each other to see a little more of how God is perceived by our sisters and brothers of other traditions, thus allowing us to follow more closely in the footsteps of Jesus."*

That observation is not limited to the traditions of denominations. In a diverse community we all come with our own traditions, habits and histories. It is in community, in our relationships with one another, that we are challenged to walk with Jesus in directions that might surprise us.

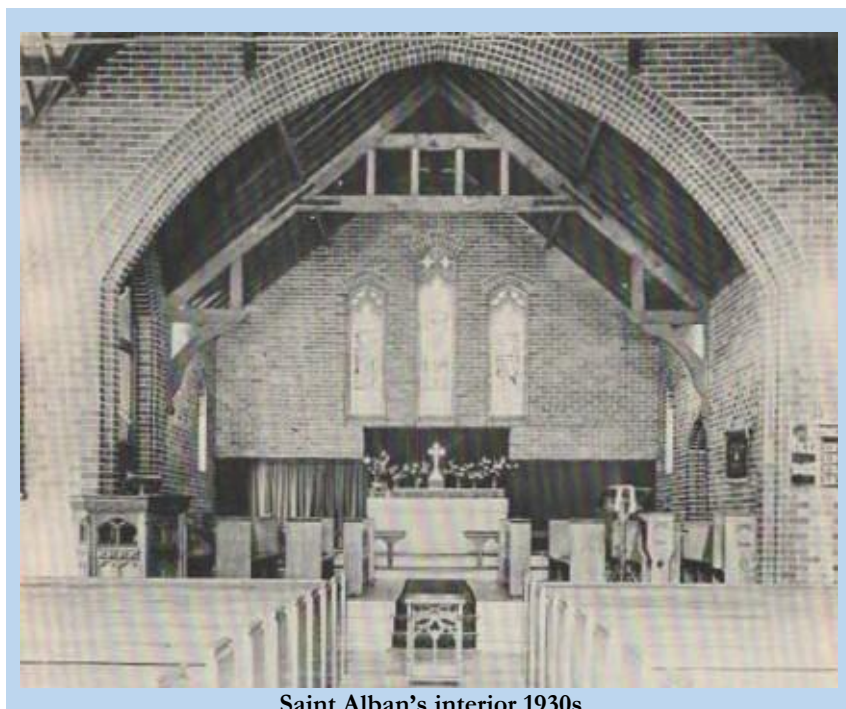
A citizen of 1920's Epping would be astounded by the changes evident in 2023; the station would be unrecognisable, the buildings staggeringly high, the ethnic diversity bringing richness to the community. The musical creativity of Saint Alban's was often noted in the memories and reminiscences, but as we move into a new century, we will all require a new creativity on our mission outreach. High rise and language needs can create an isolation that would have been foreign to 1923. Yet they also provide wonderful opportunities for us as a church to innovate on connecting to a dynamic community where 'the nations' are coming to us.

Looking across that opening list of 20<sup>th</sup> century events is to be reminded of that truism, the more things change the more they remain the same. We still see natural disasters that devastate huge populations, despots still arise even in democracies, infrastructure and buildings change the face of our city. There is always a continuity between the past and the present. In a disposable culture, the past can often be superseded, but in a rapidly changing society there is wonderful blessings to be found in traditions that touch the human soul.

As followers of Jesus, we are the inheritors of the good news of forgiveness, grace and love. To a 21<sup>st</sup> century culture dominated by celebrity, driven by social media and promoting an intolerant ego-centric individualism, that message of hope in the resurrection life of Jesus is a balm to the soul craving for a community that is gracious and accepting, compassionate and transforming. We rightly celebrate 100 years but should always be thankful for 2000 years of faithful witness.



The current Saint Alban's church as originally built. First church, now the Parish Office, is at left



Saint Alban's interior 1930s



*“Legacy. What is a legacy? It’s planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.”*  
Lin Manuel Miranda, *Hamilton: The World was Wide Enough*

The Saint Alban’s congregation who laid the foundation stone of our current building one hundred years ago, could not possibly have imagined all the ministries that have grown and borne fruit at Saint Alban’s over the last hundred years.

One of my great joys has been hearing about the history of our church. People often share with me their treasured memories of our church and tell me the tales of our hall full to the brim with youth and young children and all the wonderful memories they have of how God has worked over the years using the efforts of our church to teach and grow the Gospel.

I enjoy rifling through old church publications and even spotting the structural differences in the church buildings over the years.

What is clear to me is that Saint Alban’s has a legacy of serving under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and a commitment to the mission of the Gospel. Over the years people have laid down their time, their energy, their money and their love to serve sacrificially in countless ministries. From providing pastoral care to supporting local charities and organisations, the church has played an active role in improving the lives of people in Epping and beyond. Most importantly, these ministries stem from the gospel truth of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, holding out the hope of salvation through faith in his death and resurrection and disciplining his followers to live gospel-shaped lives.

Hebrews 11 is often called *“the heroes of the faith”* chapter looking at the faith of such persons as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Rahab and many more. In Hebrews 12:1-2a it says of them:

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith”*

We look at history, not just because we like an interesting story, but to help us set our eyes on Jesus. We can look at the faith of Abel demonstrated in his offering and remember that God deserves our very best. As we sit in our beautiful church building and eat morning tea in our bountiful hall, we should look with the eyes of thankfulness to the members of Saint Alban’s who went before us and sacrificed so that we could reap the harvest that they have sown. They stand as a great cloud of witnesses to the mission that Christ has for Epping and beyond.

This year as we celebrate the hundred years since the laying of the foundation stone of the current church, we will be creating and setting a time capsule to be opened in a hundred years in the future.

What will be our legacy?

As it is for every gospel generation, will we be willing to lay down our lives as paving stones that will pave the way for those who come in the next one hundred years? Are we willing to plant seeds for a future generation to harvest?

Before us are a number of significant building and maintenance projects that need to be done to our church property. Let us leave a legacy of church buildings that are fit for ministry, for facilities that are better and more useful for the future than the way we found them when we individually started

Even more urgently, our parish has been changing over the last few decades as people from gospel-poor countries have come to our shores and settled in Epping and its surrounds. We should dream for our church to be filled with people of all ages and generations, people from all tribes and nations, growing together and passing the faith down from generation to generation. We need to see families with children and youth to join us so that we can be

nurturing the faith of the next generation. We need to think about, and pray for, the people who will open up the time capsule we set down this year.

Pray for our church, pray for our parish council, pray for our leadership team, pray for Epping, pray that God will grow our hearts so that he might use us to grow his Kingdom.

As Christians being sanctified, in preparation for the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ, we believe that our best days are not *behind* us but *before* us. Let us then approach the next 100 years, in likeness of spirit and mind for our church, committed to a better future and ready to plant seeds in a garden, which we may never see.



16 June 1923 The Laying of the Foundation Stone of the current church building  
by The Primate, Archbishop John Charles Wright

Archbishop Wright said: *'The church will be another centre of the progress that is continually taking place in the Diocese and the realisation of hopes spread over many years.'*

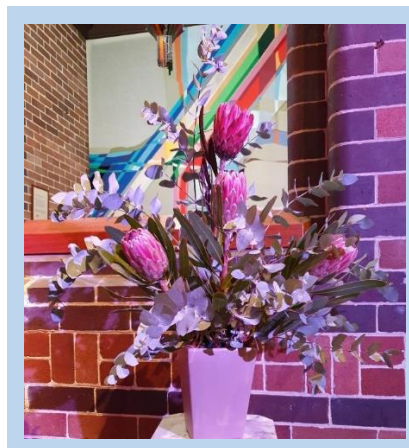
## The Parish Register

### The Faithful Departed

Leslie Canberra **SCOTT**  
on 15 February 2023

Pamela Jean **EVANS**  
on 24 March 2023

Shanta Rebecca **MANICKAM**  
on 6 April 2023



## Children at Saint Alban's

### Amy Taylor, Children's Ministry Worker



Last term in Sunday School, we split into a senior and a junior group. We also welcomed four new families from the Alpha Bible Study course run by Belinda Yeh. The juniors made their way through the story of Abraham and how he learned to trust God, even if it meant waiting and letting opportunities pass him by to receive the blessings brought by God's perfect timing.

The seniors learnt about the structure of the Bible, how we can let it guide our lives and how God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one and the same.

Jenny Nicholson has been wonderful in leading the juniors! They especially enjoy jumping around to Colin Buchanan's music at the beginning of every session and now creating the story from Lego has become a regular part of the lessons.



The juniors were set the task of creating houses from Lego to be combined, making a great nation, like God promised Abraham.

As we move forward with a senior group, I plan to make it a mix between a Sunday School class and a Youth Group. We went for our first group outing towards the end of term and enjoyed some Bubble Tea together after church.

The girls and I brainstormed some ideas about what we could do next time; gelato, seeing a movie or heading to the gaming arcade.

As the girls are close in age, they have the opportunity to foster wonderful friendships with church being that which brought them together.

This term, we will be looking at lessons from the Bible that we can apply to our own lives. After hearing plenty of Bible stories over the years, it's time to look a bit deeper into them, see with which characters we identify the most, and what we can take away for ourselves.

On Easter Sunday, we had an Easter egg hunt after church and it was great to see them all racing around the garden, filling their pockets with their treasure.



The senior group enjoying their Bubble Tea after church



On 29 January 2023 Saint Alban's observed Australia Day. The church was decorated with native flowers and the three flags of Australia – the Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag were part of the display.

We gave thanks for our country and prayed for her land and her people. We asked for tolerance and respect in diversity, and a passionate commitment to justice for all.



## 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> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday; Sung Eucharist – 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday The 10.00am Holy Eucharist is also streamed via Zoom.  4.30pm 'All in' Church  6.00pm Taizé Service – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month
<b>Thursday at Saint Alban's</b>	9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing on Zoom 10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

### May 2023

<b>Sunday 7 May</b>	Fifth Sunday of Easter, Thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles III, and at 10.00am Commissioning of Wardens, Parish Councillors, Synod Representatives, Parish Nominators and the Honorary Parish Treasurer
<b>Sunday 21 May</b>	Sunday After Ascension and Harvest Festival
<b>Sunday 28 May</b>	Day of Pentecost

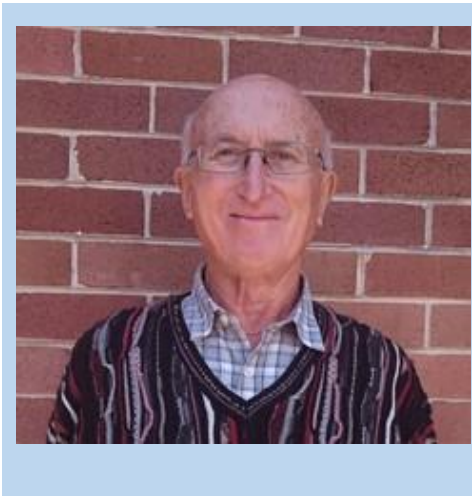
### June 2023

<b>Sunday 4 June</b>	Trinity Sunday
<b>Friday 16 June</b>	6.30pm Choral Evensong 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of our current church building [Also on Zoom] Preacher: The Reverend Dr Daniel Dries <i>See page 3 for details</i>
<b>Sunday 18 June</b>	9.30am Saint Alban's 127 <sup>th</sup> Patronal Festival Choral Eucharist [Also on Zoom] Preacher: The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards <i>One service only in the parish</i> <i>See page 3 for details</i>
<b>Sunday 25 June</b>	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 8.00am Eucharist, 10.00am Morning Prayer and Baptisms

### July 2023

Regular services for Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Sundays after Pentecost

Ecumenical Pentecost Service – Tuesday 30 May 7.45pm  
Our Lady Help of Christians  
Preacher: The Reverend Dr David Reichardt



June is a special month in the life of our church; the foundation stone of the first church building was laid on 19 June 1896, 127 years ago. The name of the church, Saint Alban's, was taken from the Saint's Day nearest to that date. Our Patronal Festival is celebrated on, or close to, 22 June, which is the Feast of Saint Alban.

The foundation stone of our present church was laid on 16 June 1923 and this year we celebrate the centenary of that event.

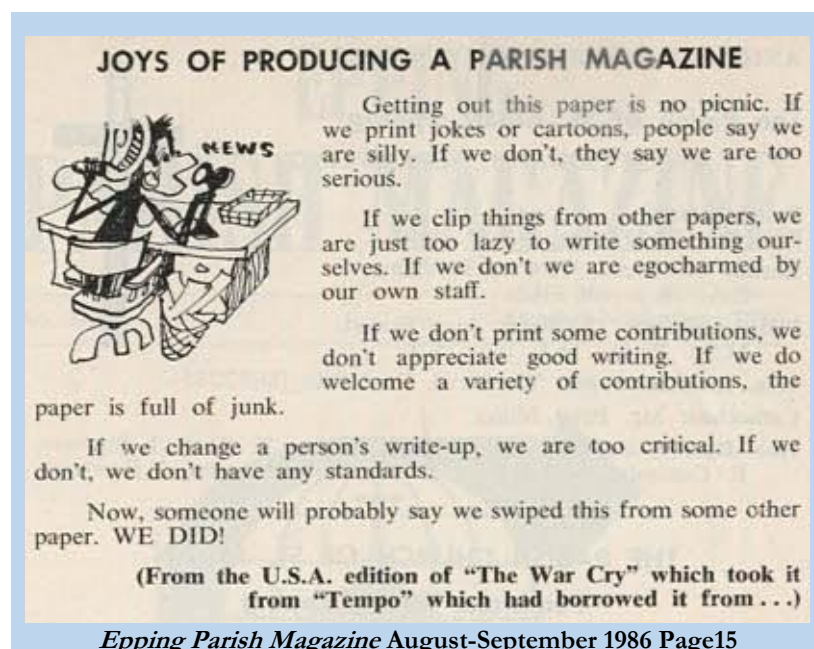
1923 was also an important year for Saint Alban's because it marked the first edition of *The Parish Magazine* which, in October this year will have been published continuously for one hundred years.

Copies of *The Parish Magazine* in the archives provide a wonderful history of the Parish, but as I have indicated in previous articles, the first edition we have in the archives is number 61, dated 1 November 1928. This current edition of the magazine is numbered 872.

In 1983 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of its publication, Nigel Hubbard, the then editor, wrote an article spelling out the history of the magazine, then called *Epping Parish Magazine*. Turn the page to read this article in full.

Today it is a different magazine to the very early issues which included advertising and were sold at one penny per copy. Its format has changed many times over one hundred years. Not many other publications can boast such a history and we can now be very proud of the consistently high-quality format and content produced by all former editors and continued by our current editor, Julie Evans. To read recollections from some of these previous editors turn to pages 29, 46, 50-51 and 54.

Each edition is available in hard copy at the church, but it is also mailed and e-mailed to the many readers who cannot come to church or reside outside the Parish and who have expressed a desire to keep in touch with events and activities at Saint Alban's. In this digital age it can also be read online world-wide through the Saint Alban's web site. <https://www.eppinganglicans.org.au/>



## SIXTY YEARS OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE

This year our parish paper has an important birthday. Since 1923 it has been recording the aspirations and the achievements, the triumphs and the trivia of parish life. In this article we review sixty years of publishing a parish paper.

1923 was a busy year for the parish of Epping. The population of the district was increasing steadily and it was becoming more of a suburb and less of a country village. St. Alban's had become a full parish in 1920 and 16th June 1923 saw the setting of the foundation stone of the new church. The building (comprising the sanctuary, chancel and half the nave of the present church) was opened for worship on 20th December. Rejoicing in its new status and flushed with enthusiasm, the parish sought further to enhance its position by publishing a monthly journal.

The Parish Council Minute Book for 3rd July 1923 records that "after rather lengthy discussion on the proposed parish paper and ways and means for financing it, it was proposed that the Rector secure as many local advertisements as he could and report the results to our regular meeting." At the following meeting, the Rector, (Rev. Charles Thomas) announced that he had obtained twenty advertisers and the first issue duly appeared in October. As the parish had no funds with which to pay for the magazine, it was to be financed by these advertisements and distributed by the district visitors, who were described in its pages as follows:

**A band of faithful and discreet women who are members of the Church of England at Epping. Each one has a definite section of the Parish entrusted to her. Their work is three-fold, viz. First to call upon each Church of England family and collect contributions for the working expenses of the Church. Second, to inform the clergy as to cases of sickness, new members of the church residing in the parish and other matters concerning the well-being of the Church and her members, third to leave the Parish Magazine . . .**

Right well did these good ladies perform their duty. In 1930-1 for instance the District Visitors collected £312/9/4, while the offertory for that financial year was only £414.

At first matters did not go at all smoothly. In all the activity associated with the opening of the new church no one remembered to supply the advertisers with a copy of the magazine and so no advertising revenue was received. This was eventually rectified but it was found necessary to impose a charge of one penny per copy.

The magazine of those days was the same size and shape as it is today, although the paper was of poorer quality. It was an entirely local production, printed in Bridge Street, Epping and it contained twenty to thirty advertisements for local business houses. These proclaimed the virtues of Watts' Little Liver Pills (one shilling per bottle) and the Epping Sponge Kitchen ("The Delight of the Elite" offering "fresh cream puffs, cream horns twopence each, honey rolls sixpence each."), as well as "fresh rabbits daily" from R. A. Radnedge's "new fly proof shop next to the Picture Palace." The ephemeral private

schools which flourished in the district also touted for business. Epping Grammar School, a boarding and day school for boys was at 24 Victoria Street under J. W. Jennings, B.A. A girls' grammar school was described as being "opposite the Church of England." The cover was usually the same — an artists impression of what the completed St. Alban's would be like.

Doubtless the aim was to keep the vision before the people.

During World War II the magazine shrank in size and, there being no wire available for stitching or stapling, the pages were crimped down the left hand side. The vision of completing the church receded somewhat and the cover became a photograph of the church as it was built in 1923.

In 1953 the old-style magazine came to an end. It was no longer an economic proposition to have the magazine emanating from a local printery. It was decided to affiliate with Anglican Parish Publications and their printer F. S. Pacey and Sons of Ryde. This enabled access to a wide variety of blocks and a different cover each month. Sometimes printing was in more than one colour. The advertisements disappeared, never to return. A few years later the Magazine was printed by "The Anglican" and later still (1962-7) by Drummoyne Press. When Drummoyne Press's parish paper business passed to Anglican Parish Publications, the printing was once again carried out by F. S. Pacey and Sons. Since 1976 when Pacey's ceased business, printing has been in the hands of Greenwood Press of Glebe.

From its inception the title was always simply **The Parish Magazine**, in 1953 it became **St. Alban's** and then **St. Aban's Parish News** and **St. Alban's Parish Magazine**. **The Parish Magazine** was restored in 1963 and the variation to **Epping Parish Magazine** was made in 1972.

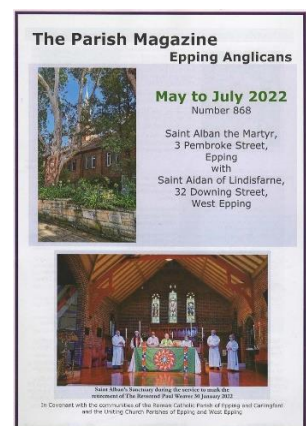
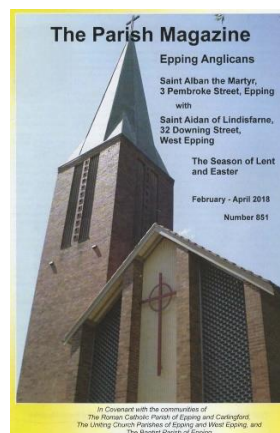
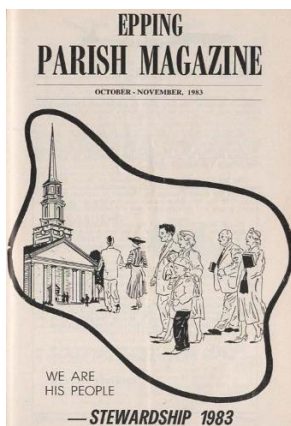
Although the magazine has always been printed by letterpress, costs rose steeply during the 1970's and in 1975 it was decided to publish every second month.

Browsing through the file copies in the archives, one is acutely aware of how much the magazine has been a mirror of its times. The prosperity of the 1920's, the economic insecurity of the 1930's the dislocation of the war year's of the 1940's, the confident optimism of the 1950's and 1960's, the liturgical innovations of the 1970's are all in evidence. One is also conscious of the faithful labours of many priests and lay men and women over many years in this part of God's Church.

After sixty years the District Visitors and Street Hostesses still perform their tasks and the parish paper is still a valuable link between many people and their Church. It is also widely read beyond the parish borders. Many former parishioners and friends write to tell us how much they appreciate this means of keeping in touch.

Happy Anniversary **Epping Parish Magazine**. Long may you flourish!

— NIGEL HUBBARD



*“Woven though the fabric of my life”*

## Memories of Saint Alban’s Janet Wotton (nee Arthur)



Saint Alban’s has been woven through the fabric of my life up until the present day.

Our lives, during the 50s, 60s and 70s revolved around the church as did our friendships. Saint Alban’s was a thriving community church on the hill in Epping with large crowds attracted to all the activities. The outreach to the Epping community was amazing. I still have friends to this day because of the Saint Alban’s connection.

My parents, Merrilee and Tom Arthur, were members of the Saint Alban’s congregation from the time I was born as they built their home in Epping when they were married. My sister Caroline and I were introduced to the church from birth. Caroline’s baptism had to be held at All Saints’ as at that time (1961) the new steeple was being installed at Saint Alban’s. All I remember is that I loved the pretty dress I was given to wear!!

My first memories are of Sunday School in the smallest hall/the old church building when a pre-schooler. I loved getting dressed up each Sunday in my best dress and hat and gloves. (We never missed a week.) Over the years I traversed through each of the four halls of the Sunday School until I ended up in the senior section located in the War Memorial Hall. The year before I started school at 4 1/2 years old, I was enrolled in the Isobel Pulsford Preschool, which was located in hall number two, near the access gate to the Methodist church and those interesting old toilets which were hidden around the back. Are they still there?

Whilst in the early years of Sunday School I fondly remember being involved in the end of year concerts and especially when I was dressed in blue crepe paper to be ‘water’ in the river whilst *All things bright and beautiful* was sung. I loved singing *Jesus loves me, this I know* and I also especially remember that there were two prizes to be won every year: one for attendance and one for application in class and we were given reports similar to school reports! For confirmation we even did an exam in school-like conditions! In time I advanced to the 3rd hall, the big one beside the car park for primary Sunday School under the supervision of Allan Nyholm. My biggest memories there were of the print of *The Last Supper* by Leonardo Da Vinci, which my grandfather donated to the Sunday School and was wheeled out every Sunday and placed in the fireplace; and of a nice boy giving me a fan, my first present from a boy. Interesting that I still remember this! After this we graduated to the ‘big’ Sunday School in the War Memorial Hall with Stacy Atkin as superintendent.



Janet and her younger sister Caroline dressed for Sunday School, circa 1965



Janet's Confirmation 1969

My confirmation was a big event in my life when I realised that it was my chance to decide to follow all that I had been taught or reject it. I had a lovely teacher, Mrs Cleland who answered all my tricky questions. Following confirmation, I enrolled in a class to teach me to be a Sunday School teacher (meeting in the vestry) with Ian Feltham, Peter Bailey and Craig Laws, and taught by Allan Dwight. I subsequently taught for some years and especially enjoyed teaching with Stacy Atkin in the Senior Sunday School. I would occasionally take my classes on excursions to the city, visiting the many churches.

After confirmation I joined the fellowship group, which was very big and thriving in those days, making many friends and forming my early social life. We were always busy helping in the community with door knocking appeals, going on house parties, studying the bible with lively discussions and helping with events around the church.

I enjoyed playing the piano for the fellowship and the senior Sunday School and at Christmas Eve played the piano on the back of a truck as the fellowship drove around Epping singing Carols to many streets and venues. My keyboard playing was a large part of my involvement at the time as I also played the electronic organ (I bought Bruce Martin's old Conn organ) at Saint Aidan's in the evening services and All Saints in the morning when the regular organist was unavailable. When the fellowship went away on house parties, I played the organs which were often old bellows pump organs. The chapel at Gilbulla at Menangle was especially delightful to play in for services.

I used to enjoy tinkering on the Saint Alban's pipe organ after morning services and whilst never proficient enough to play officially, I really enjoyed being allowed to have a go.

During these years other highlights were the annual Church Concerts (when the scout group were marvellous at doing lighting and sound) and Annual Fetes when everyone was involved on a stall in some way. There was also a mission which I remember possibly around the time Billy Graham visited Australia and we were bussed from my primary school to Saint Alban's for afternoon activities. I also enjoyed belonging to 'Heralds of The King', which was a girls' group like Girls Friendly Society, but which supported Anglican Board of Mission. We had a fun time and my first camp away from home was with Heralds at Morpeth in the Hunter Valley. We had lovely female leaders and especially I remember Sue Lambert, Pat Harris and Hilary Cohen.

Whilst Caroline and I were growing up in the fabric of Saint Alban's, my parents were also heavily involved. In the early years my father belonged to the Men's Society and my mother to the Wives Fellowship (which was for the younger wives) and Mothers Union. Each group joined in the annual church concert with gusto and performed some memorable items. The one I remember best was a song and dance act, *"Nobody loves a Fairy when she's 40. We are gay at heart but we must act haughty"*. Lyrics I believe were written by Harold Webster, a fine Welsh songster.

The young men in the early years used to play in an inter-church cricket competition and I recall as a youngster going along to ovals to watch our father play (rather tedious I thought and him never happy with his performance). In later years the men played an inter-church indoor bowls competition in the evening, keeping their bowls kits under the stage in the War Memorial Hall. Both groups were involved in the annual fetes, with the men producing an excellent White Elephant Stall. I still have furniture in my house which I purchased cheaply from this stall! The War Memorial Hall was used for many community activities including flower shows, art shows and physical culture competitions. There were also wonderful film nights on a big screen, and we had introductory shorts telling us about mining in northwest Australia. I rather loved these but can't remember the movies!



**Marriage of Janet and Wayne Wotton 7 September 1979  
Rev Geoffrey Feltham officiating**

My husband Wayne and I were married at Saint Alban's in 1979. Over the years we worshipped at the local churches where we resided at the time, but Saint Alban's has always had a pull and we have returned often.

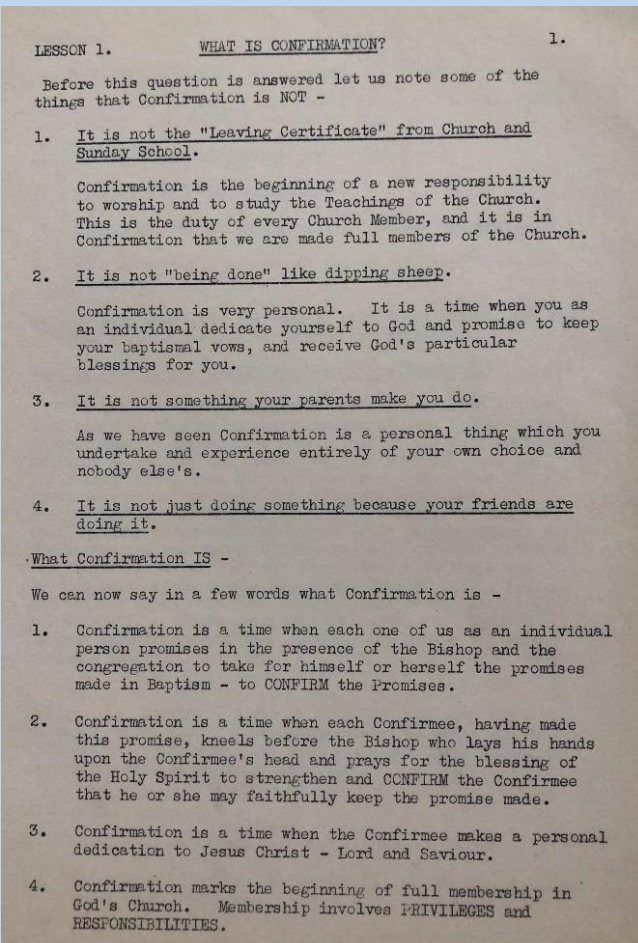
My sister also was married at Saint Alban's. Some of our grandchildren have been baptised there.

We held the funerals of both of my parents there and their ashes are in the rose garden.

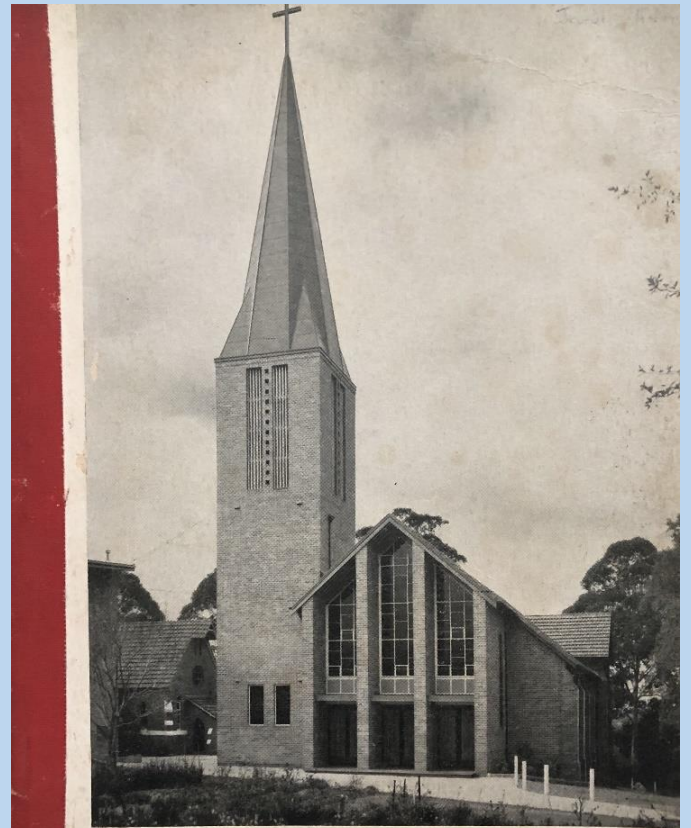
More recently, in 2022, I held my husband's funeral at Saint Alban's, and I felt at home.

Janet's sister Caroline contributed the following additional comments.

I am very grateful for Saint Alban's influence on my life. I was involved in a newly formed Junior Choir, in about 1969 with Bruce Wilson, then the Senior Choir. I was one of the first girls to be inducted as a Server and of course I belonged to the Fellowship, guided by the Curate of the time, for a while The Reverend Paul Weaver. I especially remember camps and dances, where the fathers acted as bouncers. I also recall the first Parish house party, a huge affair at Gilbulla, Menangle. I will always consider myself as part of the Saint Alban's family as it is such a big part of ours.



**This is Janet's Confirmation book – every alternate page was blank for notes**



**CONFIRMATION NOTES  
ST. ALBAN'S, EPPING WITH ALL SAINTS AND ST. AIDAN'S**



## Some Memories of Saint Alban's

### Margaret Foster - Parishioner



My family moved from Leichhardt to West Epping in 1946 and we began worshipping at Saint Alban's. I had begun my Sunday school life earlier at All Souls' Leichhardt when I was 3 years old.

Sunday School was held in the Seventh Day Adventist Hall in George Street Epping. This did not continue after an article on Sects appeared in *The Parish Magazine* and we then joined up with the main Sunday School at Saint Alban's.

Fortunately, there was a bus, from Pennant Parade to Epping Station, that ran on Sundays. Not many people owned cars in those early post war years. I progressed through Sunday School eventually becoming a teacher then a leader of the Kindergarten section. The Bishop of Parramatta confirmed me at Saint Alban's when I was fourteen.

Moya Holle, the wife of then Curate John Holle, introduced a weekly group for girls of the parish called 'Heralds of the King' in which we learnt about, and supported, the work of the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) missionaries. When Moya and John moved, I became leader of this group assisted by Hilary Harris and Margaret McGregor.

Together with then parishioners Jenny Rook and Marian Martin, I made my debut at Saint Alban's Ball held in the old School of Arts building in Oxford Street Epping.



**Saint Alban's Debutante Ball circa 1956  
Margaret (McCallum) Foster with Geoffrey  
Atkin (son of Church Warden Stacy Atkin)  
held in Epping School of Arts  
in the ante room which was used as a  
Circulation Library**

On Boxing Day 1964 I was the first bride to be married at Saint Aidan's West Epping. It was convenient that the church was already decorated for Christmas with Christmas Bush and blue agapanthus, the colour of my bridesmaid's dress. Members of the main choir who were not on holiday provided musical items.

The Reverend Noel Rook, or 'the Rector' as the parish knew him, officiated at the service.

After my marriage I moved variously to Hobart, Canberra and Wollongong. My mother, Adeline McCallum, continued to worship and work at Saint Aidan's and on her death parishioners placed a plaque to her memory in the grounds.

The arrival of grandchildren led me to move back to Sydney and as a result I worship at Saint Alban's again.

My favourite spot in the Church is the East Window where the sun occasionally shines through during 8.00am Holy Communion. I have always looked to the window when receiving communion.

My memories are peaceful and sacred of this fine building in which I have worshipped on and off for over seventy years.

## Saint Alban's – Reflections 1952 to 1977

Derek Luxford



My wife and I are parishioners at Saint John's Beecroft and have been since January 1983 upon our return from living in the UK (in my case since 1977). I have a very real connection with Saint Alban's, the church where I grew up after my parents moved from Bondi to Epping in February 1952 when I was one year old.

My parents Fred and Patricia Luxford were parishioners at Saint Alban's from then until they retired to the Blue Mountains in June 1989. My father in particular was very active in the church, serving on the parish council from about the mid-1950s until the 70s as I recollect. He was an accountant by profession and was involved especially with the church's finances at a time when Saint Alban's, along with all of Epping, was growing rapidly especially in North Epping where we lived in Norfolk Road opposite Epping Oval.

My first memories of Saint Alban's are not of the church as such but rather of Sunday School which I started attending aged about 4 or 5. It was held in the Bailey's plant nursery in North Epping with classes in the house and in their packing sheds. I recall the kindergarten class in the Bailey's living room with its piano. We were probably a small Sunday School initially, but it grew quickly and in about 1959 it moved into the newly built All Saints' church. My younger brother and I used to walk to Sunday School at All Saints' a distance almost all the children walked, I suspect very few were driven. It must have taken at least 20 minutes along Norfolk Road then down Malton Road (ironically, we now live in Malton Road Beecroft). All Saints' has a particular connection for my father and me as in about 1957 or 1958 I clearly recall him putting me on his push bike and riding up to the vacant and overgrown block of land on which the church now stands, along with a fellow parishioner Alan Fountain, where my father erected a sign saying words to the effect that "*on this land an Anglican Church will be built*". I was about 6 or 7 at the time. It was a drizzly day and I recall my father using a sledgehammer to drive home the sign!

My brother and I switched to Sunday School at Saint Alban's at the start of 1961 when I was in fifth grade at Epping Public School. My parents had continued to worship at Saint Alban's even when All Saints' opened, so I suppose it made sense for us children to attend Sunday School there.

Probably my earliest memory specifically of Saint Alban's is attending the christening of my sister in 1957 (an afternoon service) and at about the same time the laying of the foundation stone for the memorial hall in mid-1957. The latter was a large outdoor gathering amid the rose gardens between the church and the Rectory. It was a sunny and mild afternoon from memory with the Archbishop in attendance, I think. At any rate we all wore our Sunday best, as was usual at that time for any attendance at church.

In 1961 there was great celebration when the tower and spire were added to Saint Alban's making it not only the highest building for many miles around, but clearly visible from quite a distance especially if coming from the west. Indeed, the church spire remained the most visible if not the highest building in Epping all the time I lived there right up to 1977, even though by then home units of several floors and several office blocks of three or four floors had been built, but being on a high spot in Pembroke Street our church spire was still prominent. [See photo at end of this article page 20.]

Sunday School at Saint Alban's in the early and mid-60s was a huge event with hundreds of pupils and very energetically run by Stacy Atkin with a large and committed group of teachers of varying ages. Most of them seemed quite old to me but I doubt many were over their mid-40s. I attended the Sunday School till I was confirmed in August 1964 when I was in second form at high school. The confirmation group was very large by today's standards, about 103 from recollection, with many from All Saints' at North Epping and smaller number from Saint Aidan's West Epping, then both branch churches of Saint Alban's. There were slightly more girls than boys in the group. Most of the boys attended Epping Boys High School and most of the girls went to Cheltenham Girls High School. As part of our confirmation preparation, we had to be interviewed by Mr Rook who tested us on our catechism. I think this was my only visit to the Rectory in all my years at Saint Alban's. I attended the

fellowship at Saint Alban's for a year or so after being confirmed but as I attended Sydney High School at Moore Park my connections with my peers at Saint Alban's became more sporadic.

However, I attended the 7.00am communion service regularly with my father until I left Epping and Australia in May 1977 to travel and then live and work in the UK. My grandfather also attended the 7.00am communion service (he also lived in Epping although no longer with us as he had in the 50s) and did so till he died in late 1977 aged 96.

My two younger brothers, Ian and Richard, and younger sister Carolyn also attended Sunday School at Saint Alban's until they too were confirmed, the last of them in the early 70s. Epping in those days was very much part of the 'Bible belt' in Sydney with nearly all my school classmates attending Sunday School at one denomination or another, mainly Church of England, Methodist, Presbyterian or Congregationalist as I recall.

I also went to the cubs and scouts at Saint Alban's (2nd Epping Saint Alban's we were styled) meeting in the old hall on Saturday morning for cubs 1959 to 1961 and Friday night for scouts 1961 to 1963. Both cub pack and scout troop were strong with long waiting lists and performed well at district rallies and other gatherings. I recall one cub rally in 1960 at Castle Hill Showground in which we were dressed as Volga boatmen pulling along a long boat on wheels and chanting "Yo Heave Ho" to the chuckles of our parents, and another time with a fire lighting and billy boiling contest with parents blowing enthusiastically from behind us. Simple pleasures! I recall Gordon Howitt being cubmaster and Ted Charles being scoutmaster who with their assistants gave great and untiring service to their young charges.

Both cubs and scouts featured in church parades at Saint Alban's for the ABC's televised Sunday programs and that involved carrying the Australian and other flags down the aisle and up to the altar to be received by the minister; quite a nerve-racking experience for the cubs and scouts chosen for their role, in which I was involved on several occasions. The church also had a Church of England Boys Society (CEBS) group which my brother Ian was in and my sister attended physical culture there; all these activities in the 1960s.

I have mentioned the memorial hall's foundation stone being laid in 1957. It was by far the largest community type hall in the district and many functions and concerts across the community, not just the church, were held there. For instance, Epping Public School held its Christmas concerts there. I recall performing very shyly in my class's efforts at the annual Nativity plays held there when I was in primary school.

One of the activities I recall my father being involved in while on the parish council, especially in the 60s, was the stewardship campaigns which were organised with military precision (not surprising as most of the council had served in World War II and a few of them maybe even in World War I). These campaigns involved door knocking at all known Anglican homes in the parish to seek regular financial contribution to the church.

Throughout my childhood and youth, Noel Rook was the minister, or Rector as most of us called him, and he was very much a team leader of men as I recall it. He had served as a chaplain in the Sixth Division of the AIF in World War 1, the same division as my father, although my father was younger. 'Rooky' as he was known was never one to shirk work around the church which, with its many buildings and excellent gardens, constantly required working bees. I recall the Reverend Rook and my father up on the roof of the church cleaning leaves in the early to mid-60s and coming down for a cup of tea which Edna Atkin, Stacy's wife had made for them. She was very prominent in the church garden club, one of many clubs in the church, including the Mothers Union and others who seemed to keep the entirely male parish council in check. The Reverend Rook taught scripture at Epping Public School, as did his various curates from time to time. I recall only some of the curates by name including John Holle and John Seddon, but they all worked very hard especially as the parish branch churches grew in size in the 60s and 70s.

I have mentioned Stacy Atkin several times. Nobody who attended Saint Alban's in those years, young or old, could forget the dynamism of that somewhat roly poly Lancastrian whose enthusiasm for the gospel, singing and general organisation of everything in the church knew no bounds. He was also a senior executive of the MLC insurance company and a very prominent warden at Saint Alban's for decades on top of his Sunday School superintendency and membership of the church cricket team, where he was a competent batsman and slow bowler. He always turned out in the most immaculately pressed whites for cricket. My father occasionally played for the team in the early 60s and I went to watch.

Other members of the parish council over these years whom I recall as being good friends of my parents include Les and Glad McGregor who lived in Cheltenham and Frank and Heather Pushee, and Frank Bailey whom I have mentioned hosted the Sunday School I attended in the 1950s in their home in North Epping. These and many

others were frequently mentioned around our dinner table when I was small as church business was an important part of my father's life and by extension our lives. I can still remember the memory verses I learned as an infants' schoolboy in the North Epping Sunday School. I have to thank my parents and all the teachers and leaders I encountered at Saint Alban's in my formative years for ensuring that a love of Christ featured early in my life, even though of course it was a child's perception at first, but it grew and it has always stood me in good stead throughout my life and gave me a firm foundation in Christian faith.

Saint Alban's has many other memories from my youth too numerous to mention, including friends I met there in my teens and later (some at social functions and dances) whom I shall not embarrass by mentioning and some of whom still speak to me. I attended my first funeral there although not till I was about 19 (and sadly for a family friend a couple of years younger than me, a victim of asthma). The annual church fete was always worth visiting as was the art show where my mother sold her first paintings in the early 70s I think it was.

Having lived in the UK for five and a half years from mid-1977, where I met my wife Clarissa (a Beecroft girl!) it was only fitting that ten days after we returned from the UK in December 1982, we were married at Saint Alban's by the then minister The Reverend Geoffrey Feltham. That was in effect the final act of my life at Saint Alban's as we settled into Saint John's at Beecroft after our wedding. My parents continued to worship at Saint Alban's until they moved to the Blue Mountains in 1989. I have attended several funerals at Saint Alban's in the intervening years and when passing by I sometimes have a look around the grounds as it brings back many memories of my childhood and youth, and I think it fair to say, all of them happy memories.



The spire was added in March 1961

The plaque within the church tower reads:

*As this spire points heavenward and is a landmark amid the hills of Epping so may the mind of man rise high above the earthly things that compass him round about.*

*Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven.*

*To the memory of  
Charles Moreton Frederick Olson, DDS  
Obit 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1953*

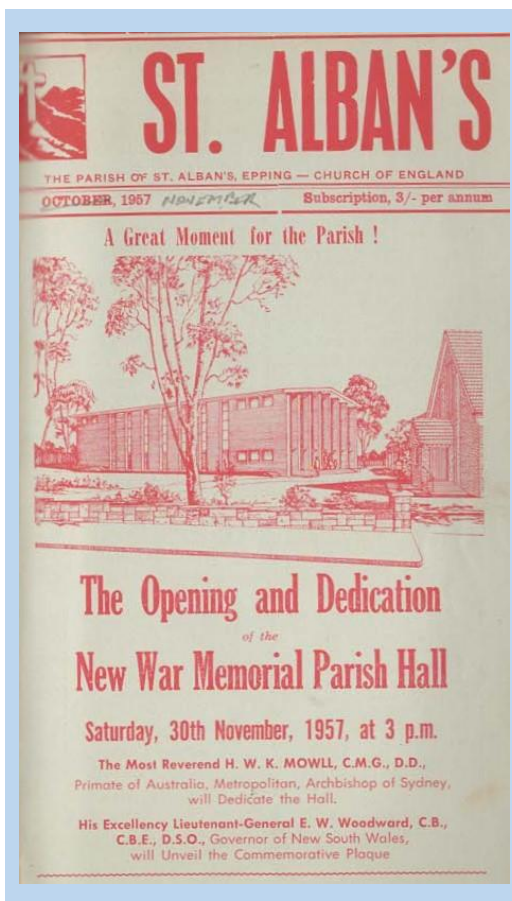
Dei Gratia

March 1961

**Inaugural meeting planning the building of the War Memorial Hall at Saint Alban's c 1956**



**STANDING FROM LEFT: George Arkell, Vi Hughesdon, D Harris, Ken McLeod, George Dibble, Percy Nethery, Les McGregor SEATED FROM LEFT: The Reverend Noel Rook, unknown, Frank Bailey, Reg Flood, Fred Luxford KNEELING: Stacy Atkin**



**The Opening and Dedication of the War Memorial Parish Hall  
Saturday, 30 November 1957 at 3.00pm**

**Cover of November 1957 Edition of the Parish Magazine**

[Note: incorrectly published as October 1957]

## Patronal Festival 2009



Bishop Barbara Darling at Saint Alban's with LEFT The Reverend Paul Weaver and RIGHT The Reverend John Cornish

In 1949, when she was a baby, Barbara Darling joined the Saint Alban's parish with her family. She remained at Saint Alban's throughout her childhood and adolescent years.

Bishop Darling was among the first women to be ordained as deacon in the Anglican Church in 1986 and as a priest in 1992. She was the first female to be appointed as bishop in Melbourne in April 2008 and the second woman bishop in Australia.

Tragically her ministry was cut short when she died after suffering from a stroke in 2015.

She wrote for *The Parish Magazine* in 1986.

### THE REVEREND BARBARA DARLING

It has been a pleasure for me to be worshipping at St. Alban's again for two months while on sabbatical leave, and especially to have been invited to preach. I began my sermon by sharing some of my memories of St. Alban's and I am glad to do so here as well.

My family moved to Pembroke St., Epping in 1949 when I was just a toddler. Within a year or so my older brother, Peter, and I were enrolled in the Sunday School at St. Alban's, just up the road from us. We attended Pre-school in the old church hall as well, so became familiar with the surroundings from an early age.

We progressed from hall to hall through our Sunday School years, from Beginners to Juniors, to Primary with Mr. Nyholm and weekly memory verses, then on to Senior in the new War Memorial Hall. Here Mr. Stacy Atkin paced up and down the central aisle separating the boys' and girls' classes, as he gave us his weekly message, often with a joke or two thrown in to help us remember the main points. It was in this hall, too, where we held our annual prize-giving and concerts, where I attended physical culture classes associated with the church, and where ninety-six of us as teenagers gathered on Sunday afternoons with Canon Rook or the curate, the Revd. John Seddon, for confirmation classes.

As members of the senior Sunday School we attended Matins monthly to enable us to worship with the congregation, and I began to appreciate the sung service, Psalms, canticles and responses. During confirmation preparation we were encouraged to attend Holy Communion, as we usually did with our parents on special occasions like Christmas and Easter. In those days children looked on from afar, however, and were not encouraged to go to the communion rails with their parents for a blessing — a practice I believe helps them to feel included and able to worship more fully.

After the confirmation service, which I found a very meaningful step in my own pilgrimage, I attended 8.00 a.m. Communion regularly, dashing home for breakfast and collecting my material, firstly for Sunday School, then teacher training classes held in the vestry, using G.B.R.E. material, and then as a teacher for some five years in the Beginners department. The littlies there were a refreshing change from the high school students I was preparing to teach — when I left Cheltenham Girls' High School I studied for my B.A. and Dip.Ed. at Sydney University. After this, I was posted to Wauchope High School, on the north coast near Port Macquarie, as an English/History teacher and as their librarian.

As well as the example and teaching from the clergy and teachers at St. Alban's, God was at work in my life in other ways. While at primary school, I went after school once a week to a neighbour's house for a little group called a Good News Club, for singing, a story and some activity, all elucidating the Gospel message. Then at high school I became a member of the local Inter-School Christian Fellowship, finding a new dimension of practical Christian living especially at their houseparties, and at a camp I went to at Camp Howard, through our Sunday School. Through these, and a mission run at St. Alban's, I began to realise that living as a Christian affected my whole life.

As a keen member of the Girl Guides, I found many challenges in the camping and other activities required as I worked towards my Queen's Guide. This practical experience proved helpful when I became a team member of a Scripture Union Girls' Pioneer camp, held on the banks of the Shoalhaven River, near Nowra. Initially, I felt confident helping pitch tents or going canoeing, but was petrified trying to lead studies and explain the Christian faith to a tentful of boisterous teenagers! This experience, plus the deeper theological discussions at the Evangelical Union at university, made me realise the need for continuing growth as a Christian. I stayed with the Pioneer team for the next eight years, and was director for the last four of these.

While at Pioneer one year, I met a dynamic young leader from Brisbane, who encouraged me to join her in theological studies as I had just finished my university course. So while a new teacher in the country, I tried one or two courses but found this difficult. When I returned three years later to Sydney, as librarian at Hornsby Girls' High I worshipped at St. Alban's while helping with the I.S.C.F. at school, and studying for some Licentiate of Theology subjects by correspondence with G.B.R.E. Moore College did not offer evening courses then, but each November I would take some time off school to go into Moore College and sit for the examinations there.

By the end of 1974, I had become excited with the theological courses studied and decided to take a year off to complete my Th.Dip. So in 1975 I went as a student for one year to Ridley College in Melbourne, and have stayed there ever since! During that time I completed my Th.L. and became a tutor and helper in the Library, then went on to lecture in various subjects — Preliminary Greek, Christian Education, Reformation and Australian History, and Church in Australian Society — while at the same time completing my M.A. at Melbourne University by doing a thesis on the Church of England in Melbourne and the Great Depression. While on sabbatical, I have been researching for, and writing a short history of the Anglican Church in Australia.

In Melbourne, I was appointed to St. John's Heidelberg, as their Sunday assistant, and became a Diocesan Lay Preacher, and then after a selection conference run by the Diocese, a Trained Woman Worker. When it became possible last year for women to be ordained as deacons, I returned for further selection, was accepted, and was ordained deacon on Ascension Day this year. I am returning to Ridley after sabbatical to continue my work as Librarian and Lecturer in Australian Studies, but will be attached to another church for Sunday work in the near future.

Looking back, I can see the importance of my childhood and adolescent years at St. Alban's, as I grew to a more mature understanding of the Christian faith and to a deeper appreciation of worship and the liturgy. I have been grateful for the continuing support from St. Alban's throughout the years, including a book grant while a student at college, and the keen interest shown by the Felthams, the Friends, and other members.

Epping Parish Magazine — Aug.-Sept., 1986

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## References:

1. *Epping Parish Magazine* August-September 1986 pp12-13
2. "Barbara Darling, trail-blazing female Anglican Bishop, dies after suffering stroke"  
ABC Online 15 February 2015 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-15/trail-blazing-female-anglican-bishop-barbara-darling-dies-after/6093828> Accessed 22 March 2023 at 1722hrs

# Ecumenical Lenten Services 2023

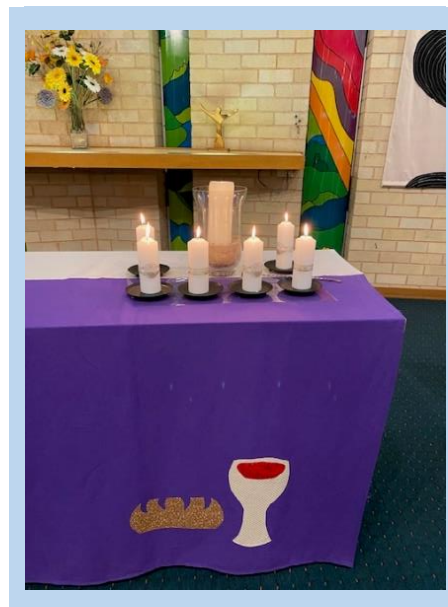


**Tuesday 7 March 2023**  
**Our Lady Help of Christians**

**Preacher:**  
**The Reverend Greg Woolnough**  
**– Epping Uniting Church**

**Tuesday 14 March 2023**  
**West Epping Uniting Church**

**Preacher:**  
**Bishop Ross Nicholson**  
**– Saint Alban’s Anglican Church Epping**



**Tuesday 28 March 2023**  
**The Sanctuary of Saint Alban’s**  
**Anglican Church**

**Preacher:**  
**Father Jim McKeon**  
**– Catholic Parish of Epping and**  
**Carlingford**







**Tuesday 21 March 2023  
Epping Uniting Church**

**Preacher:  
The Reverend Phil Lui  
– Saint Alban’s Anglican  
Church Epping**



**LEFT TO RIGHT: Saint Alban’s 28 March 2023 – Father Jim McKeon, Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford; The Reverend Greg Woolnough, Epping Uniting Church; The Reverend Phil Lui Saint Alban’s Anglican Church Epping; The Reverend Dr David Reichardt, West Epping Uniting Church and Bishop Ross Nicholson, Saint Alban’s Anglican Church Epping**

## A Young Minister's Story

## The Reverend Paul Weaver



**Paul and his wife Sarah on the day of Paul's ordination December 1978**

In the first few weeks of 1977 Sarah and I moved into our new home at 291 Malton Road, North Epping, having lived in Newtown for four years during my studies at Moore Theological College. We arrived with 2-year-old Kate, and Jennifer, less than 2 months old. The red brick house had a back patio with a view over the extensive grassed area which was part of North Epping Public School, and my study looked out beyond the open parking area and grounds of All Saints' church to the church building itself.

During my first period in Epping Parish, All Saints' North Epping was part of the parish: it became a separate parochial unit in 1984. We found it a lovely place to live, and the welcome we received from the people of All Saints', and from the parish of Epping, was warm and generous.

I had grown up in the strong but traditional evangelical church of Saint Andrew's Roseville. When I was asked by Archbishop Loane to become the Assistant Curate in the parish of Epping, I needed to consider and pray carefully about taking up a position in this 'different' parish.

Two years beforehand I had taken part in a Moore College Mission in the Parish, arranged by the Reverend Geoffrey Feltham, the Rector at that time, with the encouragement of the Reverend Stephen Barrett, who was an Assistant Curate at Saint Alban's in 1973. During the Mission week, I was billeted at the home of Bruce and Ida Wilson, discovering a shared love of keyboard music, which of course was renewed years later as Bruce and I started to play piano duets together. Before the College Mission, Mr Feltham expressed concern that members of the mission team, under the leadership of the Reverend Phillip Jensen, might not accept the ways of the parish. Although some students were a bit surprised by some traditions, I am not aware that there were any major problems in that area.

At that time, the Parish's style was what might be called middle-church: it was traditional and formal. Cassock, surplice and stoles were the normal robes for clergy. There were servers, but a number of the procedures we take for granted today at Saint Alban's were not in place during my time. (I believe they were introduced by Father Ian Crooks in the late 80's – but that is not my story to tell!) The early services were always Holy Communion, while the later morning services were Morning Prayer or Holy Communion – I think twice a month each. As we have today, there was a mix of backgrounds and understanding in the congregation: evangelicals, high-church people, charismatics, and others. The tradition of welcoming people from different backgrounds is long-established in the parish!

Although we lived in North Epping, I had responsibilities throughout the parish. I took scripture classes at the four primary schools, as well as Epping Boys High School. I found scripture teaching a struggle, although I got lots of experience! Classroom teaching was not 'my thing', but I was able to gather a team of teachers to help cover the classes, and I sought to guide and encourage them as they shared with me in what I recognised as an important outreach ministry.

Sundays were busy days. All Saints' had two morning services and an evening service. Saint Alban's had three morning services and an evening service. And Saint Aidan's had two morning services. There were large confirmation groups each year, and I organised a weekend away for the confirmees most years. There were also Sunday Schools and active youth fellowships at each centre, and I had regular involvement with the youth groups. At one stage we had a Church Army sister, who lived in the flat above Saint Alban's Hall, while towards the end of my time, the Reverend Gordon Boughton joined the pastoral staff, living in the house at Saint Aidan's. Two much-loved clergy who often assisted on Sundays were the Reverend George Coughlan – whose sermons were often long and sometimes controversial! – and the Reverend Fred Rice.

The three centres of the Parish had their own styles. Saint Alban's was the most traditional, with the choir leading the music. All Saints' and Saint Aidan's maintained the basic parish traditions, but with a more relaxed feel in their more intimate settings. All Saints' had an openness to some experimentation, and there was a large Sunday School

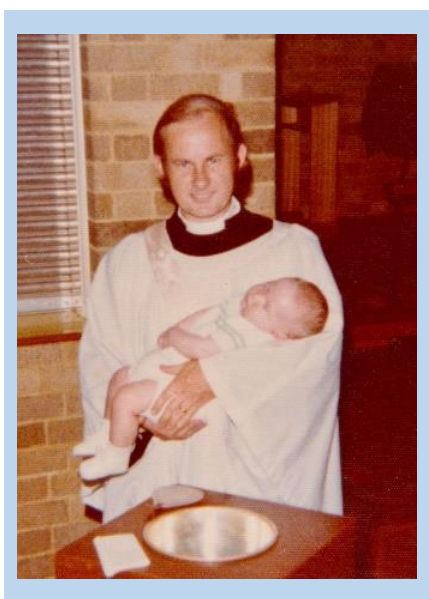
who shared in a story (sometimes noisily!) at the beginning of the main morning service. Many of the young families who settled in North Epping in the sixties and seventies came from evangelical churches in different parts of the diocese, and their influence made All Saints' a very lively church. The members arranged an annual Holiday Club outreach to children around North Epping. Each of the churches had their fetes as significant events on the calendar, with All Saints' annual fete, under the direction of Frank Bailey, becoming almost legendary around North Epping!

Beyond services and scripture, my program was quite a full one. I was the resident minister at All Saints', and planned their services, led a weekly Bible study, and had a particular pastoral responsibility in that part of the parish, as well as West Epping. I led and preached at about half of the services at All Saints', and regularly at Saint Aidan's, and sometimes at Saint Alban's. Quite often I would conduct the 7am service at Saint Aidan's, rush across to All Saints' to be in time to preach at the 8am service (our lay readers would commence these services), and afterwards might be at any centre for the 9.30/10am service. Of course, in my first year, I was a Deacon, and a priest conducted Holy Communion – 'priest' was still the term in the diocese in those days! I was ordained a Priest on Sunday 18 December, at the end of my first year, in time for the Christmas services. Hence, I celebrated my first public Holy Communion at All Saints' on Christmas morning 1977.

It was the custom for young ministers in Sydney Diocese to have placements in two parishes for two years each before they were regarded as ready to be appointed in charge of a parish. At the end of my second year, I was asked to speak to a particular Rector with the aim of moving to his parish. As it turned out, he was not looking for a new assistant. I asked Mr Feltham how he felt about applying to the Archbishop for me to stay at Epping for another two years. I was enjoying the ministry, and felt I was getting such a wide range of experience that it would be beneficial for me – and hopefully for the church – if I stayed in Epping Parish. With Mr Feltham's support, I was permitted to stay on, rather than moving to a different parish.

I spent another 2½ years in the parish before I was appointed as Rector of the Parish of Botany-Mascot, where I served the next five years. I was farewelled with much warmth throughout the Parish, and my farewell from All Saints' was described as a *'howling success'*. I shed many tears on that occasion. I was blessed to have a wise and gracious mentor in Geoffrey Feltham. During our time in Epping, Sarah and I were wonderfully cared for by parishioners – particularly with our three daughters (Alison was born in September 1978) needing babysitting on many occasions. I got to know many faithful and generous parishioners and came to see that people whose traditions were different had a faith that was as real as mine.

Sarah and I are very grateful for that time in Epping Parish, now more than 40 years ago. We learned a great deal. We experienced great love and support. We had wonderful experiences and some great times. We made good friends, a number of whom were still around when we attended a service at Saint Alban's 22 years after we had finished up in 1981. We had recently moved to our house at West Ryde, and I had commenced as Chaplain at Concord Hospital. The Parish of Epping, which had been our spiritual home in my early years of ordained ministry, has now been our spiritual home for the past 20 years. As well as renewing old friendships, we have made many new friends. Like us, the Parish has changed over these 46 years, but it still seeks to show the light of Christ and the love of Christ to the people of Epping. Sarah and I still find great pleasure and blessing as we share in the life, service and witness of the parish.



**AT LEFT:**  
Paul's first baptism 1977 at  
All Saints' North Epping



**AT RIGHT:** Weaver family  
photo late 1978



The Sanctuary decorated for Palm Sunday



The choir and the Sanctuary Party processed around the church as rain prevented the usual Ecumenical Procession through the streets



The choir sang *Praise His Holy Name* by Keith Hampton conducted by Chris Czerwinski and accompanied by Isabel Li



Parish Magazines flourished as a point of contact between church and community. The image presented was very important. Delivery was by Street Hostesses under the guidance of a District Visitor. Often a donation would be made at the point of delivery.

By the 1970s these assumptions were being questioned; very often no one was home when the Street Hostess called. Saving printing costs added weight to a call for an end to the magazine and many parishes took this path. Although the frequency was reduced to six per year, Epping clearly wanted its parish magazine to continue. At a Parish Council meeting in 1976 it was resolved that I be asked to take on the editorship.

At that time the magazine was produced by letter-press process; we had access to hundreds of printers' blocks. There was little variation in the style of illustration as new printers' blocks were quite expensive. The editor was occasionally the target for quite unfair complaints and criticism. I was not encouraged by reading in a parish magazine from another place that the editor required a thick hide and a bullet proof waistcoat.

One irate reader threatened to complain to the Bishop! I had no idea that I would be doing the job, from the June-July 1976 edition, for such an extended period ending with the February-March 2004 edition. I could have resigned, but I was genuinely concerned that no successor could be found. [*"How foolish do your fears seem now, Calpurnia?"* William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* Act II Scene II]

Sometimes the editorship gave me a headache but often it was a source of great satisfaction and pleasure. I was delighted and encouraged by support from the rectors, churchwardens, and parishioners in general.

*The Parish Magazine* has not only survived for one hundred years – it has flourished.



Saint Alban's Epping when completed in December 1923 – and until 1941 when a brick porch replaced the timber steps

## A Letter from Father Ian Crooks

Rector of Saint Alban's – 1988-1996  
Interim Director - Centre for Spirituality  
St George's Cathedral, Perth



Ian and Margaret Crooks 2023

Dear parishioners and friends of Saint Alban's

Thank you, Julie Evans, as editor for inviting me to write for this monumental edition of *The Parish Magazine* marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication.

In 1988, soon after I had been inducted as Rector, I remember Nigel Hubbard, the then editor, asked me for a 'Letter from the Rector' for the next edition, and that such a letter was included in every edition. I wondered at the time what I could possibly write about each time. As it transpired, that was not a problem as so much occurred over the years as together, priest and people, we developed an ever-widening ministry within the community and across the diocese.

Parish Consultations were held as we explored possibilities for responding to community and wider church changes and developments. Australia wide a new Prayer Book was adopted, as did we, and a new Hymnal was introduced. The Eucharist (APBA 2nd order) became the normal Sunday morning and weekday service, nourishing us in Word and Sacrament; Evensong using the Book of Common Prayer was maintained once a month, and an evening Youth Eucharist was introduced and integrated with the newly formed Emmaus Youth Group.

Many of these changes emerged from our Parish Consultations as we embarked on appointing additional staff. Catherine Eaton came to us as a Community Worker and developed a Young Adults Group and a women's group and was instrumental in establishing The Shack, a drop-in centre for youth, using the former Scout Hall. Catherine led one of the Education for Ministry (EFM) groups, took her place in the liturgy and often preached. It was such a joy to hear a woman's perspective in interpreting the scriptures, bringing new insights relevant to our day.

And we were blessed as well when Colleen O'Reilly came to live in Epping after she had been appointed to the teaching staff of the United Theological College at North Parramatta. Her marriage to Walter McEntee brought another gifted and gracious member to our parish. It was no surprise when Catherine and Colleen went on to be ordained priests in the church in Melbourne, at a great loss to Sydney Anglicanism. Walter, having been received into the Anglican Church whilst at Saint Alban's, was also accepted as a priest in Melbourne. And they were not the only ones. John Gumbley, Jono Williams, Robyn Boyd, Brad Kemister, Brian Douglas and Chris Welsh all were nurtured and formed in their priestly vocational calling by the parish community, in the stimulation and leadership that they embraced amongst us. Others followed that call to priesthood: Daniel Dries, our gifted organist and Director of Music, now Rector of the significant inner-city parish of Christ Church St Laurence and (after my time) Ben Edwards, organist, now at St Paul's Manuka, another significant Anglican Parish, where Brian Douglas had preceded him. It was during his time at Saint Alban's that Daniel Dries (then a Roman Catholic) discovered that you could be a priest AND married. That awareness was significant in his vocational journey to ordination.

Yet it is not just the number of parishioners who went on to ordained ministry that is noteworthy (although that has been an enriching ministry that Saint Alban's has had to the wider church), it has also offered good and faithful leadership in the secular society - in education (at all levels), in the public service, in financial institutions, in the judiciary, in aged care, in social welfare, in medicine and pharmacy, in the media, in the arts, in the IT industry, in sales and in many more literary, commercial and trade professions.

And all of these gifts with which God had blessed us were offered in worship as we gathered together on a Sunday as the Lord's people, around the Lord's table, sharing the Lord's supper. That was more communally expressed after the sanctuary had been re-developed, opened up, with the altar brought forward, the font relocated, and the Martyrs' Chapel established, the latter becoming a lovely, quiet and more intimate space for the Daily Office and early morning midweek eucharists.

The administrative expression of ministry was enhanced when a small legacy enabled us to redevelop and re-equip the former church building into parish offices and a larger meeting room, enabling at one point, space for the Anglican Counselling service to use. And I have fond and grateful memories of being assisted by some wonderful parish secretaries (one of whom, Denise, is still with you) and other office and honorary staff.

For most of the almost nine years I was rector, I served in priestly ministry alongside Father James Butt, a most reliable and faithful priest and colleague. And in the beginning of my tenure, I was thankful that the Reverend Dr Alan Friend stayed on until he retired.

But it was also the faithfulness to Christ of you the lay people of the parish, of your commitment to Christ within the orthodox Anglican tradition, your commitment to growth, personally and in ministry to the wider community that I valued and by which I too was enriched. Although it was a demanding time for me, Saint Alban's parish was also the parish which I look back upon as the time of my own greatest growth. You supported me and enabled me, and the other staff, to go on an annual retreat (for at least 6 days). You provided the resources for further study and professional development. You committed yourselves to grow as well which resulted in the growth of the parish and its mission. All of this came together and was offered to God for blessing when we gathered for worship in the Eucharist, greatly enhanced by our rich musical tradition, reverent serving, intelligent reading and prayerful silences. I was but one player in all of that liturgical offering to the glory of God. Together as a whole community we celebrated the eucharistic offering as we re-membered ourselves to the Love who gave and gives eternally.

Now finally, please allow me one further reflection.

I could not (and cannot) have done any of this without the grace of God and the companionship alongside me of Margaret. It was (and still is!) Margaret who kept the rectory household functioning, who supported, encouraged and prayed for me, who accepted the lion's share of preparation when we offered hospitality to visiting preachers, staff dinners, coffee and dessert nights for newcomers, wardens and parish councillors and spouses. It was Margaret who provided food and a hot drink to strangers who knocked on the rectory door, and it was Margaret who ran the re-vamped and enlarged Book Stall and prepared a talk and led the weekly 'Be Still and Know' Prayer group; she was on the reading roster and served as a eucharistic assistant. As well, she worked part-time and also pursued studies in Naturopathy and Herbal Medicine.

When we as a family were welcomed to the parish, a number of people expressed delight in having a rector with a young family in the rectory again. And so it was for us (mostly) as our family grew towards young adulthood, joining in the choir, the servers team and the youth group. Yet it was also hard for them at times to have the rector as their father, but we seemed to have mostly muddled through and we now have five intelligent and delightful grandchildren!

I now conclude this reflection conscious that in many comments I have generalised. Not everyone was comfortable with the changes that we initiated. Some people left the parish, but many more came, attracted by the vibrancy, progressive, inclusive and prayerful worship, collaborative leadership, good Anglican music and a community which offered warm hospitality and a variety of opportunities to be stretched and enriched spiritually. And there are many memories of the parish that I have not mentioned. Others hopefully will have done that.

Let me close by saying how glad I was after leaving, that Father John Cornish had been appointed; a priest who would continue the 'via media' of the Anglican tradition and build on the work and ministry that had gone before, as I had tried to do when I was appointed. Now in my (sort of) retirement I am putting to good use much of what I grew into whilst ministering amongst and with you - and keeping longer silences! And Margaret is still praying too.

Congratulations on this anniversary and may God continue to bless you and keep you true to your hearts' deep desire.



Choir and congregation sang the opening hymn of the service – *“There is a green hill far away”*



Jesus is brought before Pilate



The choir sang *“When Jesus Wept”* by William Billings



*“Behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom”* – Jesus is laid in the tomb





Parishioners gathered after the service for a morning tea of hot cross buns.



## Epping Reflections

### The Venerable Dr Colleen O'Reilly AM Archdeacon of Stonnington, Kew, Victoria



Despite my Irish name I have been a life-long Anglican. Growing up in Hurstville Grove I belonged to the parish of Saint Aidan where we children were given a marvellous formation in the Christian faith.

We had a shortened form of Morning Prayer and sang hymns before Sunday School classes. We learnt that the Church was ancient, world-wide and a communion of saints, as well as 'militant here in earth'.

So, wherever I have lived and in every country I have visited, I have been part of an Anglican congregation since my baptism on Easter Day when six weeks old.

When it came to choosing tertiary studies I explored my options, but nothing was so compelling to me as the study of theology. At the same time my then Rector invited me to preach occasionally, and I began the long pathway to ordained ministry.

My coming to the parish of Saint Alban's followed my decision to live in Epping close to my work and to finding a parish that welcomed the ministry of women. In 1982 I was licensed as a parish reader with authority to preach, a ministry I had exercised in Paddington and Enmore parishes. Following my appointment as a Lecturer in Pastoral/Liturgical Theology in 1987 to the Uniting Church's Theological College, which is a member of the Sydney College of Divinity, I wanted to move closer to my work and to find a parish where I could continue to assist the clergy. The Reverend Ian Crooks had become the Rector of Saint Alban's Epping and was willing for me to continue in my role as a lay assistant and preacher.

Father Ian asked me to lead an Education for Ministry (EFM) group in the parish as I was also an accredited mentor of this excellent programme of formation in faith and spirituality. The group members were the first people I came to know in the parish. Over the following years we shared meals, prayed together, explored the scriptures, and reflected on our daily experiences considering the whole story of God's people over millennia. EFM changes lives and shapes choices. Two of the group have since been ordained in Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, Brian Douglas and Chris Welsh, and the rest have continued to be faithful witnesses to living a mature faith in a real world.

Epping parish offered traditional Anglican worship in its contemporary expressions and valued belonging to the wider Church in Australia and the Communion. The lay and ordained leadership team was a marvellous experience in working to build a faith community which lived with its eyes open to the needs of all who lived within its boundaries. I learnt a great deal working with Ian Crooks, James Butt, and Catherine Eaton. I especially remain grateful for the liturgical formation I learnt from Ian.

During my Epping years I married Walter McEntee, a priest in the Roman Catholic Church whose ministry could not be recognised in Sydney Diocese. Walter was received into the Anglican Church and joined Saint Alban's Choir while I continued to preach and assist with services. Most days we were both able to join the parish clergy for daily evening prayer in the Martyrs' Chapel. This experience also deepened my sense of vocation and despite the seemingly intractable opposition to ordaining women I was able to remain in the Church even as I watched many women friends walk away. The years of dispute over women were sometimes bitter and certainly damaging as now two generations of women have been lost to the Church. Saint Alban's gave me a place where I was welcome and enabled to be in ministry despite the situation beyond the parish.

When we left Epping, on my appointment as Associate Dean of the Melbourne College of Divinity (now the University of Divinity), I missed Saint Alban's very much. However, Melbourne offered us both opportunities not available in Sydney and has now become home. Walter was licensed as an Anglican priest by Archbishop Rayner

(Roman Catholic orders being recognised as valid) and I was ordained deacon and priest in 1995, the year after we arrived. Since then, I have been the Vicar (Melbourne's title for Rector) in two parishes until reaching the compulsory retirement age, been the Chaplain to Trinity College in the University of Melbourne, been a locum in parishes and am now the Archdeacon of Stonnington. I work with Bishop Genieve Blackwell who will often tell people she was ordained a deacon in Sydney because I successfully moved the adopting Canon in Synod in 1987. I was also part of a group of General Synod members who took the case for women bishops to the Appellate Tribunal (the Church's high court) and won, which has led to Melbourne having two women bishops currently in regions, and one semi-retired assisting the Archbishop here.

The late Bishop Barbara Darling, the second woman bishop in Australia, came from Epping before moving to Melbourne long before I did. It was very sad when she died shortly after retiring. Epping can be glad to have fostered many vocations over the years and has enriched the national Church through the people who have been formed for ministry through the parish's life.

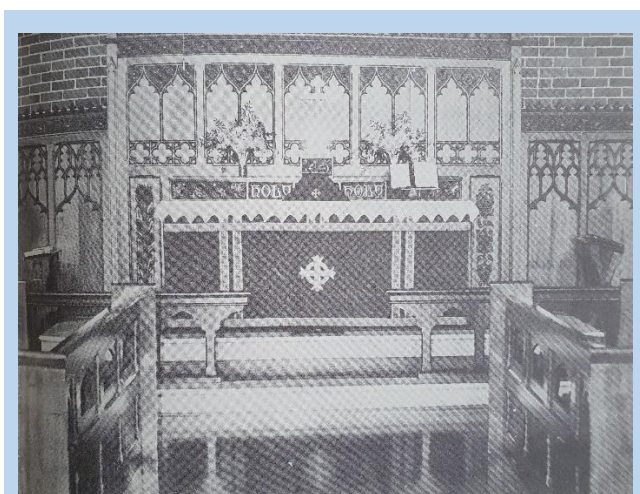
I remain very glad to have belonged to Saint Alban's and value the time I spent among the people of this parish. The Anglican way of being a Christian takes both history and local context seriously, receives the scriptures both gratefully and critically, and continues to evolve as we engage the present moment while waiting patiently for God's future to unfold.

I am grateful to my parents, my Anglican mother, and my Roman Catholic father, for bringing me for baptism in the Anglican way, a way of life I confirmed in my teenage years and have lived now for decades. Alban is said to be the first English Martyr who died during the Roman occupation of Britain. He remains a fitting patron for a parish which continues the blended traditions of the western Church and the English reformation, while worshipping in an ancient southern land where the pioneers of the parish had the vision to build a house of God which continues to welcome worshippers one hundred years later.

Was Saint Alban's part of your childhood? Your youth?  
Your adult life? Your journey of faith?  
Would you contribute to the next edition?

In this edition of *The Parish Magazine* there are articles by many current and past members of the Saint Alban's community. If you have memories of your time worshipping at Saint Alban's, memories you would like to share, please contact the editor who plans to continue such features in the August 2023 Edition of *The Parish Magazine*.

Photographs are also welcome.



Interior Saint Alban's 1977

**The deadline for contributions is  
7 July 2023.**

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

## Recollections of Saint Alban's

### Judy Carruthers - Parishioner



My earliest recollection of Saint Alban's goes back to about 1959 when, as a teenager (with a few friends from Saint Anne's Strathfield), I attended some dances in the Saint Alban's Memorial Hall. The Hall was full of young people, and we had a great time dancing to a live band.

After I married, my husband Doug and I bought our first house in Eastwood in October 1966. We drove up to attend Saint Alban's. Canon Noel Rook was the Rector, and the Reverend Owen Thomas was the Curate. Owen had been catechist at Saint Anne's and had married Hilary Bell, a Sunday School Teacher. They made us very welcome.

In no time at all Doug joined the choir and I joined the Young Wives Fellowship. This group later became known as the Women's Fellowship to include single women. I took a turn in visiting new mothers in the Poplars Hospital.

We also held two dances each year. The summer dance was held in the War Memorial Hall with Ken Bock's Band [see page 44] often providing the music whilst the winter dance was held in the old Lower Hall with the log fire burning. Of course, the women organised the supper! Elaine Taylor was often asked to sing and on one occasion, for something different, she persuaded Doug to accompany her on his guitar, so we enjoyed music from The Seekers.

All Saints' North Epping and Saint Aidan's West Epping were branch churches, so our clergy were very busy.

The Sunday School was very well attended in those days with the junior children meeting in the Lower Hall and the seniors filling the War Memorial Hall.

There was always a large number of candidates for confirmation. The girls wore white dresses. Their First Communion was held on the following Sunday morning then a Communion Breakfast was served. Both our daughters, Sonya and Lyndal, attended Sunday School and were then confirmed at Saint Alban's. They were part of the Youth Group. Sonya became a reader and a server and was married in Saint Alban's. She remains a committed member of the Saint Alban's choir.

It wasn't until the Reverend Geoffrey Feltham became Rector (1969-1987) that women were asked to become Duty Parishioners and members of the Parish Council. Also, at this time morning tea was introduced after the 10.00am service. Until then, parishioners often stood outside the church to chat after the service.

Once the decision had been made to buy a new organ (finally installed in 1981), various functions were organised to raise money. Several choir members held progressive dinners in their homes. They were well attended and great fun. I was involved in the work of the fund-raising committee and helped with posters and publicity.

For a number of years well known musicians performed in the church giving first class concerts. As well as parishioners attending, invitations were sent out to all those on the mailing list and the local papers very generously gave us publicity.

Father Ian Crooks was Rector in 1996 when Canon Christopher Foster from Saint Alban's Cathedral and Abbey Church in the UK came to help us celebrate the Parish centenary. Following a special church service there was a 'Beating of the Bounds' where some of the congregation, in groups, walked the boundary of the parish. A few drove in their old classic cars. Of course, there was a special afternoon tea!!

Soon after Ian Crooks became Rector, Ruth Jones told me he had asked her to form a social committee and would I like to join. This worked very well, and the Committee organised refreshments for various functions. The Pastoral Care Committee was also formed under Ian Crooks.

Saint Alban's had a very active Garden Club which held flower festivals for many years. These were very popular and well supported by the community.

The Women's Guild held annual lamington drives which raised money, were popular and went down a treat!

In 1995, one of our parishioners, Sue Close set up a monthly outreach lunch, similar to one she had run in the village where she had previously lived in England. Three different dishes were offered plus a choice of desserts from the dessert trolley. I assisted with putting up posters and publicising the lunches. People from a wide section of the community attended, including people from neighbouring churches, retirement villages and Warrah hostel for disabled adults at Dural. We asked for a donation to cover costs but never turned anyone away. This initiative operated for 15 years.

Throughout the years I have been a member of the Women's Fellowship, a Duty Parishioner and Welcomer; I have been on the morning tea roster and for fifteen years was a volunteer in the office, assisting Denise Pigot, the Parish Administrator.

My husband Doug was very active in church matters, and he sat on the Parish Council for at least forty years. He was a Warden for some of that time. Doug also attended the Men's Breakfasts and Men's Barbecues, served on the Worship and Liturgy Committee and was the one who chronicled the life of the parish with his camera. He was a great supporter of the choir, which he joined in 1966, and it was a fitting tribute that the Saint Alban's Choir sang at his funeral, held in Saint Alban's in January this year. Doug's commitment to his church and the Saint Alban's Choir led him to write a seven-part history of the Choir which was published in successive issues of *The Parish Magazine*. He had chronicled the years 1896 to 2000 before illness prevented his continuing.

Saint Alban's has brought lifelong friendships to me, and my family, and I am a parishioner still after fifty-seven years.



9 April 2023 5.30am Easter Day Service – the Sanctuary during the Eucharist

9 April 2023 – Parishioners gathered in the Parish Hall for the Easter Party at the conclusion of the 5.30am Easter Day service or before they attended the 8.30am Easter Day service.



The Great Vigil of Easter consists of four parts: The Service of Light; the Ministry of the Word, together with renewal of Baptismal promises; and the celebration of the Easter Eucharist. The Service of Light begins outside the church in the darkness. The fire is kindled, the Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire, the acolyte candles are lit and carried into the darkened church. The peoples' candles are gradually lit by passing the light to others. The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is sung. The Paschal Candle, reverently decorated by parishioner Barbara Meintjes, is new every year and is the major symbol of the resurrection. It will burn at all services during the Easter Season.



The service began in darkness before the fire was lit.

The Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire.

Christ is our Light.

Thanks be to God.





The Reading of the Gospel in the candle-lit church.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the church bell was rung, there was a triumphant organ fanfare, and the congregation 'woke the dead' with whistles and party poppers before they sang the Gloria.



The congregation were invited to renew their Baptismal promises.

There was also a Festival Eucharist of the Resurrected Christ held at 8.30am on Easter Day at which the congregation were invited to renew their Baptismal promises.



My first memory of Saint Alban's is walking into the grounds one afternoon in July 1991 for a job interview. I had applied for the newly created position of Parish Community Worker, an initiative of the then Rector, The Reverend Ian Crooks.

I knew nothing of Saint Alban's and assumed it was just another Sydney Anglican church, and so I was not feeling very enthusiastic about the position.

However, as I passed the open door of the church, I heard the organ playing. It was like something awakened in me, as if God had touched me.

I had been pretty well 'churchless' for almost twenty years, since I lost the connection I had with the church of my youth, the church which had formed me in the faith. I had not been able to find the liturgical and musical beauty, the spiritual depth, the sense of community and belonging which I had known, and I had quietly despaired of ever finding in Sydney an Anglican church where I could feel at home.

As some of you will know I got the job. I was grieving the loss of my mother, but at Saint Alban's I began a time of healing, growth and possibility, as I rediscovered the richness of the Anglican faith and tradition which had shaped my life in so many ways.

My job was basically to assist the parish connect with the wider community, and to discover how we as a church could be a sign of hope and love amongst the people of Epping; how we, in effect, could be the presence of Christ in that particular place.

Perhaps one of the biggest things we did was the Community Research Project, where people were sent out into the community to speak to local services, agencies and other churches to discern what the needs were and where we might make some contribution.

At a Parish Consultation some priorities were identified and working groups explored what might be possible. Various initiatives grew out of these including the English Language classes, community lunches, assistance for The Shack (the youth centre based in the parish) and providing support for the isolated elderly.

I was astounded at the response of the parish to these opportunities – how keen people were to engage with the community around us, and to offer support, assistance and simple friendship to those who were perhaps isolated or in some kind of need. We who bore the name of Jesus were indeed discovering what it meant to live out his ministry among the people of Epping.

My years in the parish also saw a number of opportunities for people to grow in their own faith journey. We saw in that time several 'Education for Ministry' groups, a Meditation group, study groups in Lent and other times, and the formation of the 'Road Less Travelled' group, which continues today.

For me personally, Saint Alban's was a place of incredible growth, learning, and discernment. I had found a community which accepted me and, more significantly, offered me a place, as a woman, in the liturgical life of the parish. Having worked with churches in the Sydney Diocese before, I was very aware of the constraints for women in the broad ministry of the church. Thanks to the grace and generosity of The Reverend Ian Crooks and the parish generally, I was licensed as a Lay Reader and allowed to preach. Women's ministry was well-established in the parish even before I arrived, thanks to the presence of The Reverend Dr Colleen O'Reilly who was also a wonderful mentor for me.



We had a tremendous staff team with Father Ian, James Butt the assistant, Colleen and me, in which we could explore ideas, discuss parish issues, share the workload and generally support each other. But what enabled it all to work so well was the vibrant and generous, inclusive and hospitable parish community. So many wonderful people, so many talents and gifts people were willing to share, so much openness to growth in faith and prayer, and so much willingness to discover the call of Jesus in their lives, individually and as a community.

While the path was not always easy, I can say without a doubt Saint Alban's gave me the foundations and support I needed to find my way back into the church. I learnt how rich and spiritually nourishing our Anglican faith can be, and I discovered in our traditions a depth of prayer and wisdom, of beauty, and connection to God I had yearned for.

Probably the highlights of my time at Saint Alban's occurred during Holy Week and Easter, when year after year the liturgies would break open the gospel in new ways, as we were invited to share more deeply in Jesus' journey to the cross, through the tomb, and into resurrection light. The Holy Week services were always moving and challenging, especially with the gift of visiting preachers, as was Easter Day, beginning in the dark, gradually transforming into joy as the light of the Paschal Candle moved into the church. Every year we would enter into the Easter season as if reborn as a community.

And always the exceptional quality of the music supported it all. We were indeed blessed by the talent of so many wonderful musicians.

Saint Alban's also gave me the courage to follow my own sense of call to serve God's people and God's world as an ordained person, sadly having to leave Saint Alban's for Melbourne to follow that call.

I will always be grateful for my time at Saint Alban's and to all the people who were part of those years who reminded me that God is always seeking to bring light into our darkness.



## Celebration at Saint Alban's

# The Reverend John Cornish Rector of Saint Alban's 1997 – 2015 Acting Archdeacon of the Sunshine Coast, Diocese of Brisbane



**John and Christine Cornish**

I am honoured to be asked to contribute to the celebration marking the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the present Saint Alban's Church building.

At the foundation ceremony, Archbishop Wright, also Primate at the time, said in his address that *"never was there a time for greater need for faith in Christ"*. During my eighteen and a half years as Rector that was my understanding of my calling to lead the community of the Parish of Saint Alban, Epping. Now is the time of salvation (*2 Corinthians 6:2*).

The beautiful building is a place where God can be sensed as being present to all who enter. The colour of the furnishings, the stained glass, the art works, and the lovingly maintained space – these all draw those who enter to think beyond themselves and feel God's presence.

During my time as the Rector, the Parish was able to introduce the priestly ministry of women. We were fortunate to have as members of our community, many women who had been canonically priested outside of the Diocese of Sydney. The Diocese holds that women cannot be ordained as priests but that such women as these could only be considered as deacons. In the Diocese deacons during this time were given permission to preside at the Holy Communion, against Anglican and Catholic tradition. We therefore negotiated with the Diocese to let canonically priested women preside.

We were and are enriched by the ministry of women. Humanity is made in the image of God. If it were only men who were made in the image of God, then women would be created less than human. The first witnesses to the Resurrection were notably women, not men.

An innovation during my time was the establishment of a Covenant among the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford, and the Parishes of the Uniting Churches of Epping and West Epping, and the Baptist Churches of Epping and Carlingford. It was a wonderful celebration of the unity of Christians.

We met for Lenten Services each Tuesday of Lent in a different church each week and with a different preacher. We also did the same at other times during the year, most notably in Advent. I particularly wish to thank Father Colin Blayney who was at the time from Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church and The Reverend Carol Morris then from the Epping Uniting Church for their contribution to establishing the Covenant. The Covenant reminded us that none of us have total knowledge of the mind of God. God is infinitely greater than the sum of all humanity; but we need each other to see a little more of how God is perceived by our sisters and brothers of other traditions, thus allowing us to follow more closely in the footsteps of Jesus.

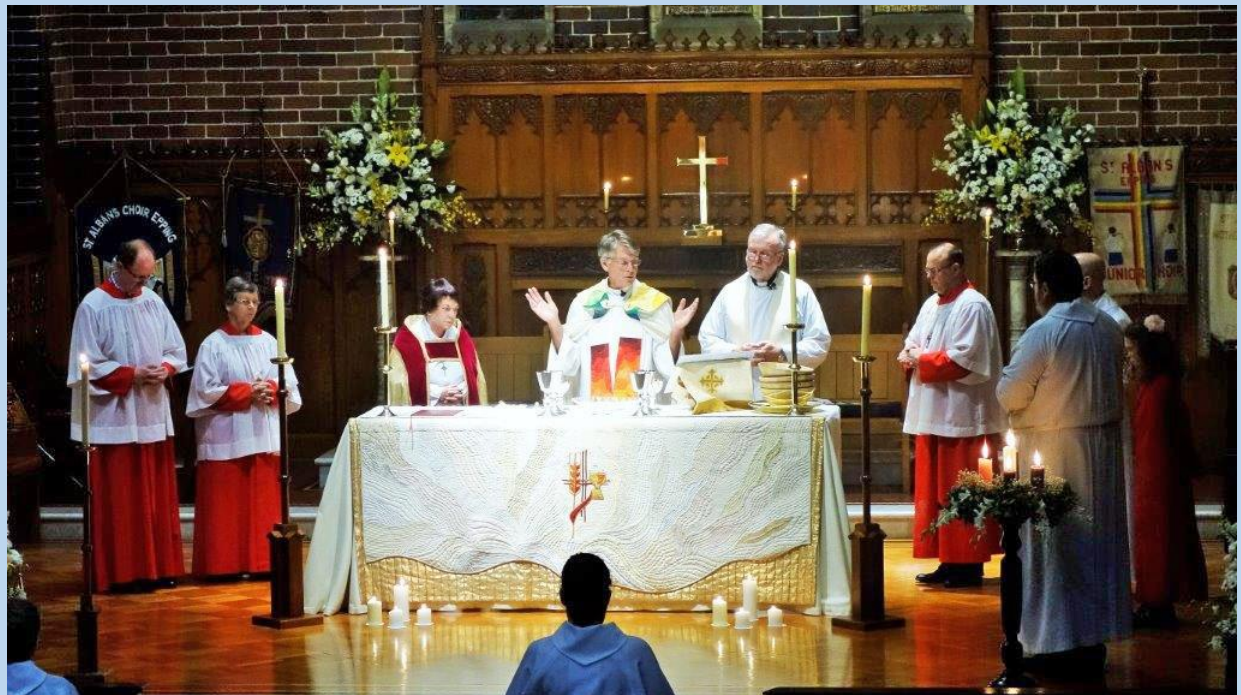
One thing that I really miss in retirement is the good liturgical style and musical excellence that Saint Alban's is so fortunate to have in its musicians and liturgical assistants. Not many churches are so blessed. Father Ian Crooks was the Rector who immediately preceded me, and at considerable personal cost, worked to renew the liturgy. I benefited from his efforts.

Since moving to Queensland, I have been acting as Archdeacon of the Sunshine Coast. Here I get to experience the liturgical and musical styles of many different churches. Some seem to have forgotten that Anglicans are people of the 'Book'. The value of the various forms of prayer in Anglican prayer books has been forgotten. In some churches, it is quite difficult to recognise the liturgy as Anglican. Much of the liturgy has been reduced to a lowest common denominator. A great shame. People were martyred for the sake of the Anglican tradition. At our peril, we forget what it means to be identified as Anglicans.

One aspect that Christine and I so enjoyed as members of the Saint Alban's Parish community, and miss so much, is the variety of the social activities of the regular life of the Saint Alban's community - the Holy Saturday clean-up; the many times we had dinners in the Rectory, and in turn invitation into parishioners' homes.

Jesus met and dined with the people of his day. It was at a dinner, the Last Supper, that the Eucharist was instituted. As members of the body of Christ we too need to enjoy and share in each other's company.

May the Lord continue to bless Saint Alban's, so that it may continue to offer a wonderful and realistic faith in the Risen Christ.



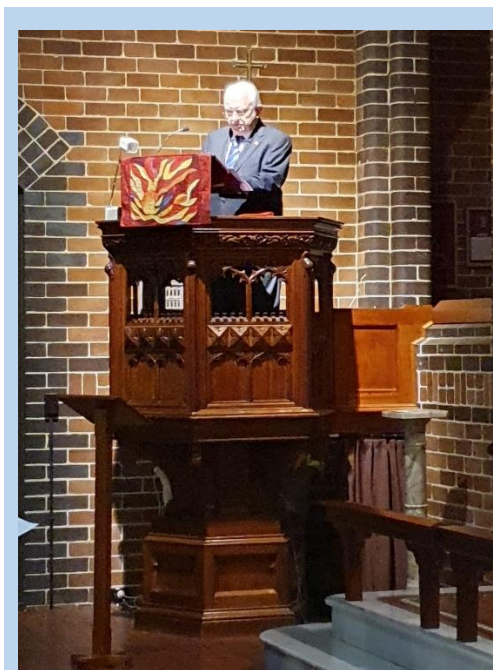
Father John Cornish presiding at a Christmas Eucharist at Saint Alban's



The newly completed Rectory – Foundation Stone laid October 1934

## The Saint Alban's Dinner Dances

Ken Bock OAM Parishioner



Ken Bock as the Narrator at the Good Friday service and pageant 2023

Parishioner Judy Carruthers in her Saint Alban's reminiscing article [see pages 36-37] has mentioned the dinner dances held over some years at Saint Alban's, usually to coincide with the Patronal Festival.

They began towards the end of the rectorship of the Reverend Geoffrey Feltham. I can't recall the year, but they carried over into the time of the Reverend Ian Crooks as Rector.

On the first occasion of these events, what could best be described as a 'salon orchestra' was hired. The ensemble comprised several string instruments in the violin family with a piano providing the rhythm. The group played beautifully but they played from their own repertoire comprising very light classical music which meant that if those attending wanted to dance, they had to fit in with the music. The group did not have music for the traditional social ballroom dancing i.e. Gypsy Tap, Foxtrot, Quicksteps, Jazz Waltzes etc.

I was in attendance on this first occasion and noted this problem, as I perceived it. In my mis-spent youth I had attended balls put on by various organisations and also played saxophone in dance bands for such balls.

When the second dinner dance was being organised the following year, I offered to the organising committee to organise the band for it. Over many years, I had accumulated quite an extensive library of dance band orchestrations and was able to prepare a program to cover all the dance forms i.e. Gypsy Tap, Barn Dance etc. etc.

My offer was accepted, and I arranged for a group comprising three saxes, trumpet, piano and drums to play. Fortunately, the band was well received and for the remainder of the times when the dances were held, I provided the band. It was very pleasing to see how all in attendance enthusiastically participated in the dances. On one occasion, at one of the later functions, I looked down from the bandstand at the dancers and my eyes nearly popped out of my head as I observed the Reverend Ian Crooks doing a very competent Pride of Erin!

On those subsequent occasions, friends, including my sax-playing son Anthony, helped out and played for reduced pay or for nothing. This enabled me to expand the band to a full-sized swing big-band and thus play a lot of the classic swing songs from the 1930s and 1940s as played by Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and others. On the last two occasions, the band comprised four saxes, three trumpets, two trombones and three rhythm instruments. The acoustics of the parish hall are such that the band sounded great, and I believe all in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



In time, however, the dinner dances ceased following a waning of attendance by parishioners. They were great fun while they lasted.

Ah, nostalgia. It's not what it used to be!!

Front Row: Anthony Bock in white shirt beside his father Ken

## Saint Alban's – “a beacon of difference”

The Reverend Robyn Boyd



It was just over this past Holy Week that I was reminiscing that the first time I ever attended everything on offer during Holy Week was at Saint Alban's in 2001. Every evening during the week, there was a Eucharist and reflection, plus, of course, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. I was challenged and deepened in my journey of faith.

Looking back on Saint Alban's, other memories pop up. When I came to the parish, it was straight from a pretty standard large evangelical Sydney Anglican parish. I had moved to Epping a couple of years previously, but had continued attending my old parish, not that far away. But I'd become more and more despondent about some of the theological emphases of the Diocesan evangelicalism.

I was a senior staff manager at Anglicare, and very much focused on social justice. Outside of Anglicare, I didn't hear anything at all about the strong call to justice that permeated the Scriptures and marked Jesus' own life. Furthermore – and very improbably – I had this growing desire to study theology and to maybe even be ordained. But I knew that wasn't possible in Sydney, and I already knew that I didn't want to go to Moore College.

Struggling with trying to understand the bible more deeply, I found myself in an Education for Ministry [EFM] group at Saint Alban's in the early 1990s. I thank EFM and the study group for introducing me to a wider theology. When I knew I needed to leave my old parish, before I actually stepped foot in Saint Alban's, I prowled around the church building looking at the notice boards. What was a 'Sung Eucharist' or a 'Choral Eucharist'? What even was a 'Eucharist'? I really didn't know!

I was filled with trepidation when I eventually arrived at a service. One of the things I had liked at my old parish was the rector at a drum kit, and the guitars and singing group. Would Saint Alban's be too stuffy for me? And they had prayer books. I hadn't seen a prayer book for years, since a parish some while before! However, from the start, there was a difference in how the Scriptures were presented and unpacked. This was indeed refreshing, and enriched the great learning curve on which I found myself.

Well – I coped with the Prayer Book, and the organ, and the Priest (a 'Priest' – my goodness!) and others in robes (who and what were they?). I learned about seasons and colours, and liturgy. Soon enough I found myself in a robe doing strange things in the sanctuary. Dear Margaret Pearson, the then Senior Liturgical Assistant, had to teach me how to walk and comport myself reverently in the sanctuary.

My children had made this move with me. Stuart (Thomson) – then about 16 - took to 'high church' Anglicanism like a duck to water! He subsequently spent a couple of years as verger at Pusey House in his Oxford years – that's higher than high church – truly Anglo-Catholic! Jennifer also – at the age of 20 was baptised and confirmed at Saint Alban's. There were several others around the same age, with whom they still have connections.

A lot has happened since then. I moved to Melbourne to complete my Master of Divinity; was ordained in Melbourne in 2006; then had eight years of parish life, only leaving Melbourne early in 2014 to be Rector of the Parish of the Atherton Tablelands in far North Queensland. I retired back to Melbourne just as the pandemic hit.

Over these past years I have rejoiced in watching people grow in their faith; I have been energised by the creativity experienced as together with parish people we have found ways to engage with the community around us; I've been exhausted, too! And I've grieved the reluctance of the church to come out fully in support of our LGBTQI+ brothers and sisters in Christ.

As for my own personal growth, I have continued in the joy of an ongoing probing of the Scriptures, allowing them to challenge, confront and change me. May this long continue! I thank Saint Alban's not just for the development of my faith and the fellowship and friendship I found there, but for being there as a beacon of difference in Sydney Diocese. Long may that continue!



I met Father John Cornish, the then Rector of Saint Alban's Epping, through a mutual colleague just before Sue and I left for St Stephen's House in Oxford in August 2000. I was a candidate for the Diocese of El Camino Real in California. As it happened, I completed my first placement under Father John's supervision in 2001 and during that time we met many of you, Saint Alban's parishioners – often in your homes as guests for dinner or as part of the family groups luncheons.

Meanwhile, Father John convinced Archbishop Peter Jensen to look at me as a possible candidate for Sydney and after a year of studying at Moore College and attending Saint Alban's on Sundays, I was ordained deacon by Bishop Glenn Davies in Saint Alban's almost twenty years ago. As one parishioner put it to my wife – we like having you here, we get two for the price of one!

Special memories of Saint Albans include:

- the friendliness of the people of the parish
- visiting the Parish Church in Epping in the UK because I was deacon in Epping NSW
- visiting Lindisfarne in the UK which was special because my main ministry was with Saint Aidan's
- Saint Alban's people flooding the Cathedral for my ordination to the priesthood and the splendid worship the next day when I led the Eucharist for the first time
- seeing the community of Saint Alban's say farewell to those who had died – I especially remember the dignity with which Mary Arnold was farewelled; and the funeral service for Christopher Christie-David
- the importance of morning teas after services
- the men's barbecue
- the dinners for eight – introduced to the parish by Christine Cornish
- the efficiency of the sanctuary party
- the greatness of the choir – much beloved Doug Carruthers has shared a special history of the choir with readers over the last years of his life
- the important and friendly office led by Denise and her volunteers – always a good place for a friendly laugh and to relax
- the challenge of editing *The Parish Magazine* and the joy of introducing profiles on some of the members of the parish – the first was Brenda who had been a key person in the creation of Saint Aidan's as a worship centre
- hearing about Stacy Atkin leading a Sunday School of more than a thousand and what Canon Rook and The Reverend Geoffrey Feltham said or did – these days I presume that we would hear about what Father John did or said
- the joy of preparing three groups of people for confirmation – all of whom are now young adults!
- hearing and seeing what the children had done in Sunday School each week
- smashing the chocolate Easter Egg as part of my Easter Day sermon and the haste with which Doug Pearson rushed to clean up the shattered chocolate
- the faithfulness of the people who attended Thursday Healing Eucharist – Allan Nyholm who served the Lord in the Sanctuary every Thursday
- the wonderful messages of goodwill to Sue and me as we were farewelled.

I include a photograph taken with the camera I was gifted when leaving the Parish and say thank you to all the Saint Alban's people who in later times attended worship services at Saint Mary's Waverley and Saint Luke's Concord when I was Rector in those parishes.



Photo courtesy of Cliff, taken with his Saint Alban's camera gift



The Reverend John Cornish with The Reverend Cliff Stratton outside Saint Alban's

On Sunday 19 February 2023 parishioners and visitors to Saint Alban's were treated to a recital by the two parish Organ Scholars, Isabel Li and Enoch Pan. Both organists are pupil of Chris Czerwinski the Music Director at Saint Alban's. Isabel and Enoch often play for the Sunday services at Saint Alban's and are greatly appreciated by the congregation. They regularly accompany the choir when the choir sing the anthem during communion.

The first piece was by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750):

**Concerto in G major BWV 592.**

The *Allegro* was played by Enoch and the *Presto* by Isabel.

The second piece was by Johann Sebastian Bach:

**Trio Sonata in E flat major BWV 525.**

The *Allegro moderato* was played by Isabel and the *Allegro* by Enoch.

The last, and very modern, piece was played by Isabel, a piece composed by English organist and composer Tim Attridge in 2020 during the first COVID-19 lockdown. It is called *Sortie*.

The performances were greeted with prolonged applause. These are very talented young organists! Credit must also go to their teacher Chris Czerwinski.



Isabel Li



Enoch Pan



# English as a Second Language Conversational Classes

ESL Team

After the long hiatus caused by COVID-19, weekly English as Second Language Conversational Classes returned to Saint Alban's in February 2023. During school terms, the classes are held in the Church Hall on Wednesdays from 10.00am to noon with a break for a language game followed by morning tea. The teaching team comprises Rema Gnanadickam, Jenny Nicholson and Jess Li. We are very lucky to have the able assistance of Graeme Cruise, who has volunteered to help with the administration and logistics.

Students were assessed and divided into groups based on their competency in English. We have students ranging from beginner to intermediate levels. They are mostly in middle age, or older, and come from different countries, though the main cohort is mostly Mandarin-speaking. During Term 1 the average weekly attendance was twenty students. Most live locally in Epping but some keen students travel from Castle Hill and Box Hill. The classes answer a need among these students to learn conversational English and English for everyday life in Australia. Class registrations have grown throughout Term 1 due to word of mouth.

We welcome volunteers from among our parishioners to come during morning tea to converse with our students who hardly ever get a chance to speak to native English speakers.



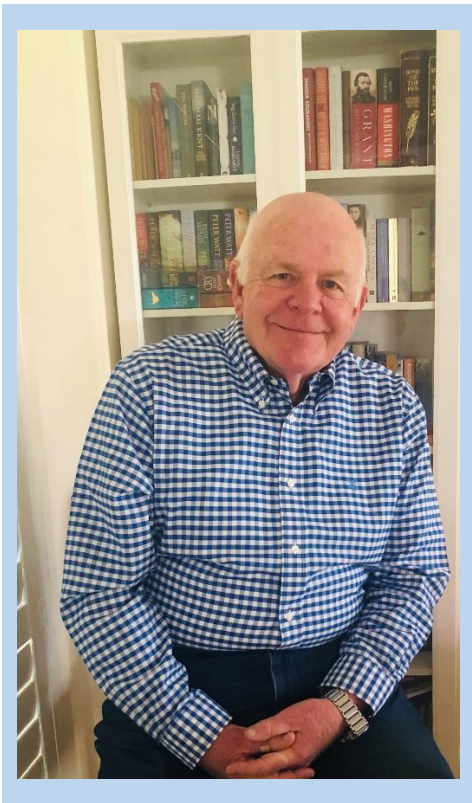
Class in progress



Class members enjoying morning tea

If only our forebears could imagine 100 years!

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



One hundred years of *The Parish Magazine*!

Congratulations on this fantastic achievement! 100 years is no small feat. There are many magazines that have not lasted 100 weeks.

I really do hope you receive the recognition you deserve in the attainment of this wonderful milestone.

You are an incredible parish, in a beautiful little corner of God's wonderful landscape.

Thanks for letting me waffle on about my time as your editor.

My first attempt at being your editor, should probably have, in hindsight, ended where it started – Number 786, the February-March 2007 edition *The Season of Lent*. Yet not a chance for that. Father John Cornish called, and I accepted (how do you say no to that quiet and persuasive voice). I really didn't think I would last. The first edition was to me, an abysmal failure. I wasn't happy with the print or photo quality, and I wanted to fix that though not too sure just how to go about the task. By the time we arrived at Number 816 – April - May 2012, *Holy Week, The Great Triduum with The Festival of Easter*, I felt we had maybe got to the point where I wanted to be – just.

We went to colour at Number 789 and outsourced the printing and collation. I had a problem with formatting the print, which I eventually learned how to fix, thanks to a new printshop and a more than willing teacher. We started to evolve toward something, however I knew not what.

Number 797 was the game changer 'though it was not me who came up with the new format! I had a friend who worshipped at Christ Church St Laurence [CCSL] (how I just love their style of worship, sadly all but gone in Sydney) in the city. They have a beautiful quarterly magazine *The Deacon's Treasure*, and he gave me four copies to read. The style, the format, the art, the articles! They hit me like a runaway bus. I wanted that for our church magazine. I called CCSL to seek ideas. Yes! They would print them for us – how are we going to pay for it? Father John thought it would sort itself out - I think he thought I would get over the idea. Wrong! I had a friend in the funeral industry who suggested his organisation might be a sponsor – done and dusted. Sponsor found and costs well and truly covered.

Next, what could I do to make it ours? Firstly, I took the seasonal colours for covers, headers and footers. I sourced artwork and webpages (thank you [fullbomilydivinity.org](http://fullbomilydivinity.org) a wonderful site from which I have truly learnt so much about our traditions and history). We invited clergy from churches named Saint Alban and Saint Aidan to write articles for us. And they came, from New Zealand, USA, Ireland and the UK. Father John contacted friends from around the world – it was from this I discovered two saint named Alban. Ours and Saint Alban of Mainz (Germany) and a second Saint Aidan, that of Ferns. Other Anglican clergy started writing for us; they came from various dioceses. We have had articles from Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Solomon Islands, Canada, the United States and Tanzania, not to mention the wider community within Australia. Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, The Religious and the Laity have all contributed, plus clergy from the Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches.

Of course, our congregation and clergy: they wrote and they wrote and they wrote. Just about every edition was oversubscribed. I still think some of our own articles are the most beautiful and most unassuming. I have no idea how many articles have been published in the thirty odd editions over the five years of my tenure. However, there has not been one from which I have not learnt something. My great love of religious artwork (especially icons),

the great traditions of an orthodox style of Anglicanism and highlighting the Festivals and Feasts were amongst the many concepts I was able to bring into the production.

However, it was the stories from the parishioners that continued to fascinate me. What wonderful lives, wonderful experiences and wonderful challenges they have, and have had and then shared with us.

In time the parish secured a pretty sophisticated copier, and we were able to bring the production in-house. At around that time our original sponsor, due to nothing else apart from commercial decision, withdrew. Father John found another and that worked really well. In time however, we were able to be independent.

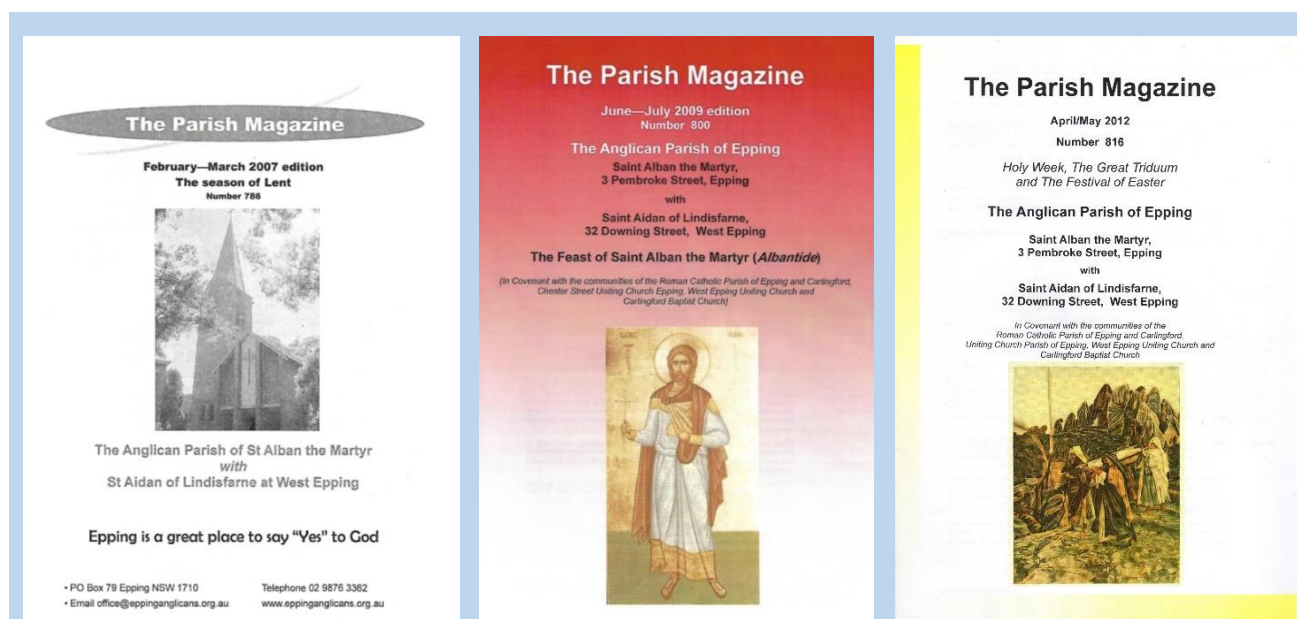
The magazine was growing into nearly a full-time occupation. My fault - I made it that way and I was and still am, glad it happened. But the times were changing.

Our children, now married, were living in Asia – one was returning from Indonesia to the USA and the other returning from Hong Kong to Australia for a period and then to the USA. We moved to Mudgee and whilst I was running the magazine from there with no great difficulty (other than I felt apart from the parish), we wanted to travel to see our children and grandchildren. Father John, as always, supported me. Stuart Armsworth was called and responded, for which I was truly thankful. Stuart took the magazine and further developed the concepts that had evolved.

So, to Number 816, my final call-up. I found it an emotional chore, putting it together. Father John, in The Rector's Letter wrote *The Parish Magazine had evolved over the nearly ninety years...it is unlike any other parish magazine that I know anywhere in Australia, maybe the Anglican world.* He was so generous, as always, in his choice of words. But the magazine was not my work, it evolved through editors such as Nigel Hubbard, Father Cliff Stratton, Thom (now Father Thomas) Leslie. The magazine was, and is, yours, The Anglican Parish of Saint Alban the Martyr, with Saint Aidan of Lindisfarne, in Epping, New South Wales, Australia!

I always try not to thank personalities by individual name, mainly because I fear forgetting someone. However, Peggy Sanders, the best proof-reader ever, must be acknowledged. How Peggy put up with the mistakes and blunders made by me is amazing. Her suggestions, as soft as a floating feather, always gentle. Also, Denise Pigot, who just got things done, regardless of how silly the request. Thanks Peggy and Denise.

May the parish go forward with faith and enthusiasm.



LEFT TO RIGHT: The covers of editions Number 786 Feb-March 2007; Number 800 June-July 2009 and Number 816 April-May 2012 were some of the many, many milestones of Rodney Hale's tenure



Ross and Jenny Weaver 2023

I remember coming to Saint Alban's in November 2004 in search of a safe haven having been bruised and battered by the diocese. I sat as far back as I could in a corner hoping not to be noticed. However, Father Paul Weaver spotted me and we spoke after the service.

He introduced me to Father John Cornish who immediately asked me when I could preach. I said I didn't think the diocese would be happy about that. He said that was too bad for the diocese and asked again when I could preach.

In one sense this is not an important story, but it is typical of the warmth and acceptance I experienced at Saint Alban's over the next thirteen years.

Father John taught me during that time the true nature of acceptance played out in practical actions. Some might want to use the more theological term, 'reconciliation', which is at the heart of our gospel message, and at Saint Alban's I saw the gospel lived out in the lives of many in the congregation.

These days some people treat Christianity as if it were invented yesterday forgetting its 2000-year history, 2000 years of great minds meditating and praying and arguing and celebrating the faith in thought, in liturgy, in art and in music. What I found at Saint Alban's was a willingness to engage with this rich legacy, to learn from it and to be inspired by it. Sunday by Sunday we are encouraged by liturgy, by music, by the reading of Scripture, by preaching and prayer. Father John had an extensive range of liturgical resources that we were all blessed by and I was given the freedom to explore my own liturgical interests hopefully in a way that was an encouragement to others.

In particular, I appreciated the faithful use of the lectionary. Through the three year cycle we engage with so much of scripture giving us an appreciation of the depth of the whole of the Bible. We live in a world where the usual attention span is only long enough to get us to the next ad break while the Bible demands much more from us. It is easy these days to forget the impact the Bible has had upon the world. In about the second century BC an event occurred about which we know almost nothing. This was the translation of the Old Testament into Greek, known today as the Septuagint. How this happened no one really knows, but the result was spectacular. The translation became popular throughout the Greek-speaking world and not just amongst the Jews. For the first time, people who were not Jews started attending synagogues so that they could hear more about the Old Testament because they had no other religious literature that could compare to it. The world had grown tired of the gods of the Greeks and Romans with their petty disputes that could be compared to a poor soap opera. And all this paved the way for Paul on his missionary journeys as he explained how the promises of the Old Testament had been fulfilled in God's Messiah. So, because of this faithfulness in scripture reading at Saint Alban's, we too could share in this rich heritage and fully engage in this revelation of the glory of God.

Easter at Saint Alban's was always unforgettable. The week leading up to Easter was always a profound experience. This was followed by the solemnity of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. But this was such a contrast to Easter Sunday, where we would gather at 5.30am for the lighting of the new fire. I loved this service. I told our bishop that he must come, after all there was nothing else in his diary at that time on Easter Sunday. Sadly, he always missed such a marvellous opportunity. The power of that resurrection story was so wonderful to share with others on that great day.

There was one service, however, that was a completely new experience for me and that was Christingle. I wondered what all the fuss was over a few oranges. And again, I had the freedom to make of that service whatever I wanted. It was a good opportunity to use the talents of our many musicians. As well, we were free to use the many Christmas video files available on the internet. There was one file I was always tempted to use but only the parents would have appreciated it. It was a sung version of the Christmas story set to the music of *Stairway to Heaven*. It was wonderful to see so many families pack into the church on Christmas Eve. It was such a

joyous celebration of the Christmas story, and it was good to see so many afterwards leaving the church with a smile on their faces.

There are many happy memories of Saint Alban's but there was also a deeper side. The rich liturgies and times of worship has great power to hold people together in good times and in bad. Through those years at Saint Alban's, I saw a number of people become sick and eventually die. But the life of the church was so fixed in people's minds as a place of prayer and worship that comfort was always available as people realised their time was short. Also, the church was a place of comfort for those who had lost those they loved. The church had such significance in their lives. They could sit in those same seats where they had participated with their family in the Eucharist week by week. They could call to mind the sharing in those Easter and Christmas services. But even more, it was not difficult for people to call to mind the great hope we share in Jesus, both when life goes well and particularly when it doesn't.

When thinking about Saint Alban's I always like to call to mind the events in John 2 with the wedding at Cana and the miracle of turning water into wine. The chief steward makes this comment to the groom, *"You have kept the good wine until now."* I have worked in various parishes in Sydney, but I have always felt the Lord kept the best until last, and I will never forget it.



Ross Weaver's farewell service at Saint Alban's 29 January 2017



I have had the privilege to contribute to the Parish of Saint Alban's Epping in a number of ways: as a server, including Master Server, a lay assistant, parish councillor and as editor of *The Parish Magazine*.

I was acutely aware of the trust put in me by Rectors and Parish Council, and I was also aware that *The Parish Magazine* was not my magazine - it belonged to the peoples of the parishes of Saint Alban the Martyr and Saint Aidan of Lindisfarne in Epping.

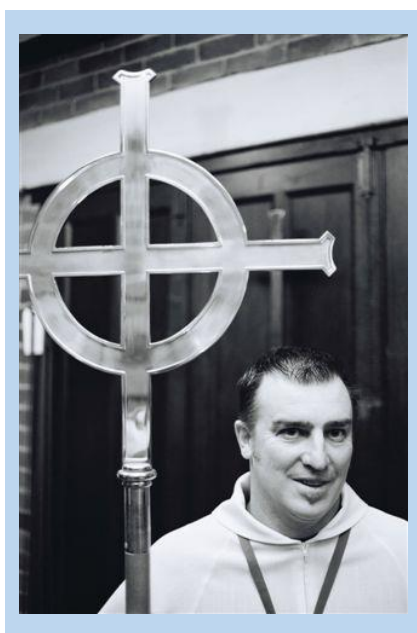
I was a little daunted when Father John Cornish asked me to take on the role of editor not too long after I returned to Church following my stroke in 2010.

I am indebted to the previous editors across the years and especially to Rodney Hale, who preceded me and whose handover assisted in making the first issue continue in the same style and standard he had established during his time as editor. I am also thankful to my proof-readers, Peggy Sanders and Father John Cornish, and to the photographers, Doug Carruthers and John Sowden.

On the surface of it the job looked to be easy, just drop some articles into a document and hit print!! .... No, no, no! It was a little harder than that! I would especially like to thank everyone who contributed such interesting articles over my time as editor. Personally, I always tried to include in each issue articles that spoke to each other. I appreciated feedback given to me (most of which was supportive!).

As an editor, it was satisfying to see that *The Parish Magazine* provoked discussion on issues which we all grapple with on our Christian journey. Our world, both temporal and spiritual, is, and remains, full of "elephants in the room". All of which should be treated with respect and love.

My time at Saint Alban's, from my baptism in 1961 to now, remains a cherished part of my spiritual journey which is continuing on the wonderful Central Coast, in the Parish of Peninsula Anglicans. It pleases me to see *The Parish Magazine* continues to be part of the Parish life of Epping Anglicans. Although I am separated physically from Epping, the people of the Parish remain in my prayers.



**As a server, Stuart carried the Processional Cross**

# 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>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, 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>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>Churchwardens</b>	Ted Chang – Rector's Warden Noel Christie-David – People's Warden David Tait – People's Warden
<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>Caretakers</b>	Jaymes and Jessie White
<b>Editor</b>	Julie Evans
<b>Proof-readers</b>	Glyn Evans and Peggy Sanders
<b>Archivist</b>	Brian Haywood

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# The Parish Magazine

## Epping Anglicans



16 June 1923 — Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Current Saint Alban's Anglican Church

### 1923 – 2023

