



HISTORY
OF THE FIRST 50 YEARS

of the

Anglican Church of
ST. MARY'S

Camberwell South

Price \$1

AN INTRODUCTION

(By the Vicar)

As a lad I recall riding my bicycle to the outskirts of Camberwell from whence the country to the south dropped away to the creek, and to the east rose towards the hills. Scattered homes, paddocks, clumps of yellow furse, and the trees around Back Creek complete a mental picture.

This area was already part of the Parish of St. Mary's, peopled generally by younger folk who were creating for their families a centre of common life and interest at the Parish Church. Catechism and Communion, learning and doing, were already the essential basis of this life.

To read the story which my good friend and former Warden, Geoffrey Harrison, has written covering 50 years of Parish Life is to measure with gratitude the faith and foresight of all who have shared a responsible part in its building.

And now St. Mary's stands in the midst of a large dormitory suburb, and overlooks a teeming traffic-way where the constant roar of vehicles denotes the nerve-destroying urgency of the late 60s.

Where are we going in such a hurry, and has this Church sufficient grace to meet the extraordinary demands of an era of immense secular achievement and singular self-sufficiency.

We are living in an age of revolutionary thought and examination, when the faith of our fathers must be expressed in contemporary terms, and the structures of the Church geared to the demands of the new Society.

But the faith remains the same, and we continue to meet our Lord within the sanctuary of our Parish Church. Here we are schooled to face the problems which Society imposes, and to lead men to ways of peace.

May St. Mary's continue to be, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land", arresting the drift and encouraging the development of life and vitality in its lea.

(C. Fraser Withington.)

FOREWORD

This history has been compiled by direction of the Vestry, to whom the writer is indebted for having been given opportunity for so doing. Following an active association with St. Mary's since 1922, it is indeed a great honour and a privilege of which I am fully conscious.

It is of necessity as brief as possible, but every effort has been made to bring out relevant details of our past history of fifty years as culled from parish records, and also to prevent inaccuracies or vital omissions — although there may be some. For convenience it is written in the form of chapters, each covering one of the five decades, with appendices.

We pay tribute to the pioneers and many workers in the parish for their assistance in moulding St. Mary's into the parish unit that exists today.

This history is dedicated to all who love St. Mary's, and in particular to everyone who has gained spiritual help and uplift from its Services and Vicars over the past half century.

G. HARRISON.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The assistance given with the compilation of this record by

REV. C. R. C. TIDMARSH, TH.L.

MISS VERA JONES

is gratefully acknowledged.

APRIL, 1968.

A *TRIBUTE* to the memory of GEOFFREY HARRISON,
the Editor of this "History of St. Mary's First Fifty Years",
who died 15th July, 1968.

Those of us who knew Geoffrey Harrison and were associated with him in his life and activities at St. Mary's realise with sadness how deep will be our loss in his "passing on".

During the long period of over 40 years of such association, his genial nature and gracious personality won him many friends, and his devotion to his Master and his selfless service were an example and inspiration to all who knew him.

Not only did he fill the important offices of Church-Warden and Secretary over a length of years, but as a Lay-Reader and member of the Choir he shared in the liturgical side of the Church's worship, and rendered a glad service in the reading of the Lessons and Prayers at Mattins and Evensong, and in full participation of the Choir's activities.

Geoff found a joy in serving, and wherever he knew of anyone facing need or anxiety, would do his utmost to find ways of helping them. He was in every way a true follower of his Master, and a Christian gentleman.

His last act of service for St. Mary's was the editing of this "History of the First Fifty Years" — a colossal piece of work, requiring him to give many hours to patient collation and research. We rejoice that, in the words of his Master, he could say, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do". His memorial will stand in his life of Christian witness and deep devotion to our Lord and His Church.



CHURCH OF ST. MARY

South Camberwell

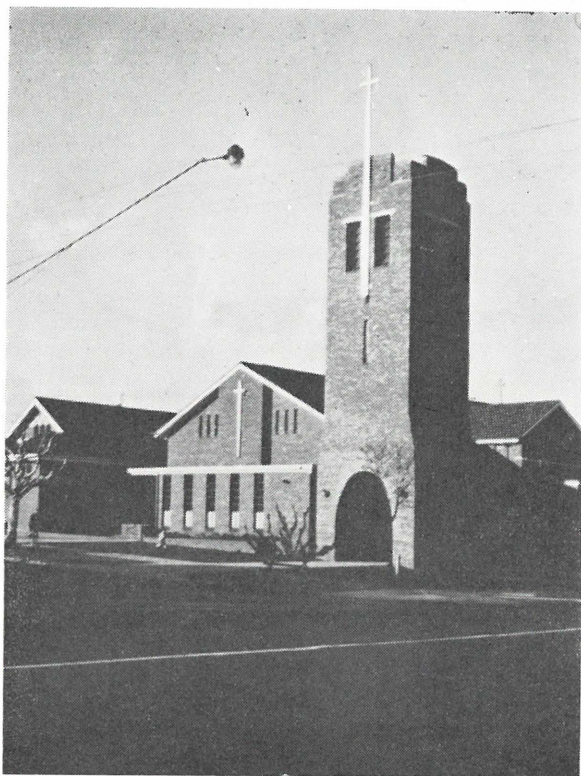
1918 - 1968

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST"

ACTS. — Chap. 1, Verse 8.

"But ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

(Text for Sermon preached at 25th Anniversary by Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh.)



A RETROSPECT

On a commanding corner site on Toorak Road stands the parish Church of St. Mary, which for the past fifty years has been a centre of religious life in South Camberwell.

In terms of time, this is but a brief span, but in the life of a parish it is a matter for rejoicing and achievement.

It is due to the acumen and foresight of our first two Vicars, the Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh and the Right Rev. Bishop D. L. Redding, and the pioneers of the parish, that we at St. Mary's, aided by the guiding hand of our Heavenly Father, find ourselves today in a position both spiritually and secular, of which we can be justly proud, and for which we must indubitably render grateful thanks.

The parish rests upon a firm foundation, and we trust this may always be so, by God's grace. The Church cannot remain static, and it is our fervent hope that we may ever go forward, from strength to strength, during the years to come.

Over the years it has always been the aim of the parish to support the Missionary work of the Church at home and abroad, and other works of a Christian nature.

Chapter I.

BIRTH OF THE CHURCH (1918)

The establishment of a Church in South Camberwell was mooted in July, 1916, when the Vicar of our Mother Church, St. John's, Camberwell, the Rev. A. Roscoe Wilson, suggested to the Archbishop the purchase of land in the district for that purpose.

Things moved slowly, however, until 1918. At this time the area known as South Camberwell and Tyrone (Hartwell) was sparsely settled except at the north end, served with poor roads, and contained much vacant land and even market-gardens and violet farms, but it was slowly developing with the advent of the tram to Burwood in 1916.

It is recorded that the erection of a Church Hall in this area, to be known as St. Mary's, was definitely considered when the Vestry of St. John's accepted a tender of £1317 for the erection of such a Hall on land donated by our benefactor, Mr. John Payne, at the corner of Toorak Road and Bowen Street: the cost of furnishings was not included in this figure. To secure the necessary funds for the purpose, donations were sought, and these were supplemented by a grant of £500 from the Diocese and loan of £800 from the Bank (pending the sale of certain shops in Camberwell Road by St. John's, the proceeds of which were made available for St. Mary's).

Thus was St. Mary's born, and we here acknowledge our great gratitude to our Mother Church.

The Foundation Stone of the building was blessed by the Venerable Archdeacon W. G. Hindley, and was laid on Saturday, 11th May, 1918, in the presence of many people who contributed an offering of more than £580. Donations towards furnishings also commenced to come in.

This Stone reads:

ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL

This stone was laid by Mr. John Payne,
a member of the Council of the Diocese,
11th May, 1918.

The next important move was the announcement that the Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh was to be ordained at St. John's on Trinity Sunday, 26th May, to become their assistant Curate, but with the specific thought that he should devote most of his time and energies to building up the new centre at South Camberwell, and conducting Services here.

On the afternoon of Saturday, 10th August, 1918, the Church Hall at St. Mary's was duly dedicated and formally opened by the

then Archbishop, the Most Rev. H. Lowther Clark, before a crowded congregation. The offering is stated to have been £34. Thus did St. Mary's obtain its birth and infant nurture. Archbishop Clark retired in 1920; the Most Rev. Harrington Clare Lees was appointed in his place.

The day following, Sunday, the opening Services were conducted, the preachers being the Ven. Archdeacon W. H. Hindley and the Rev. Henry Girdlestone, then Headmaster of Melbourne Grammar School.

Amongst those still associated with St. Mary's at the present time, and who were present at the laying of the Foundation Stone, and/or the first Service are:

THE MISSES GOODBRAND
MRS. ARCHER
MR. AND MRS. J. FISKE
MRS. SHILCOCK

The first Sunday School was also conducted and a Kindergarten opened. Gifts continued to come in to assist with the furnishings of the new building, viz., a prayer desk, reredos, altar cross, communion vessels, etc.

The first organisation to be established in the new parish was a Ladies' Guild, and the inaugural meeting of the Provisional Council, consisting of Messrs. J. Payne, A. E. Peats and H. A. Scott, took place on 15/8/18, Mr. Peate acting as Hon. Secretary, and arrangements were forthwith set in motion for financial support of the Church.

Parish records show that the first Baptisms were conducted one week after the opening, when on 17th August, 1918, several children were baptised by the Vicar, viz.,

KENNETH DAVID WINES
PHYLLIS GERTRUDE WINES
MYRTLE VICTORIA WINES
HAROLD KINGSBURY SPERRING
MINNIE JOAN FREEMAN
KATHLEEN MARY LOVE
JOHN PERCIVAL CARTER
JOHN WILLIAM FREDERICK DAMON
AUDREY DAMON

Over the following few weeks several further baptisms took place.

The first wedding solemnized was not until nearly twelve months later (23/8/19) when

LESLIE VICTOR WOODFORD and
OLIVE SUSAN MOULD

were married.

For the first three months the average attendance at Services per month was only 60, and the average offerings for the same period £17.

In November, 1918, the Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh announced that he had been invited to accept the incumbency of Phillip Island, and his decision to do so was accepted with some regret. In December his successor at St. John's, the Rev. E. E. Robinson, took over the work at St. Mary's.

Chapter II.

FIRST DECADE

(1919 - 1928)

Early in 1919 Sunday Services were discontinued for a short period due to certain restrictions. These restrictions were due to a Government order because of the prevailing Influenza Epidemic. At this juncture, support for the creation of a Tennis Club was promised and enquiries set in motion as to the cost of laying down a Court on Church land. The Club later was established.

Late in 1919 the Archbishop was approached with a view to St. Mary's being created a separate parish, and in December the announcement was made that this had been approved and that the Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh was to be appointed our first full-time Vicar. He commenced duties as such on the 20th February, 1920, his induction having been carried out by the Very Rev. Dean Hart (later Bishop J. Stephen Hart of Wangaratta) on 13th February.

The Diocese agreed to give £300 towards the erection of a Vicarage, and Mr. John Payne donated a further £1000, after having previously given the land as stated earlier.

At the first Annual Meeting of parishioners in February, 1920, it was decided, due to the shortage of numbers, not to appoint a Vestry that year, but to work with three Wardens only. It was reported at this Meeting also that a tender of £1145 for the erection of the Vicarage had been accepted. The actual cost was £1381.16.4. The builder of the Vicarage was Mr. Mould. Mr. Tidmarsh forthwith commenced the task of organising the parish, but this was far from easy, in view of the scattered homes at that time.

The Vicarage was completed on 10th July, 1920, and was taken over by the Vestry, after having been blessed by the Ven. Archdeacon Hindley.

Mr. Martin became Sunday School Superintendent, and Mr. Semmens Choirmaster of the new parish. A Boys' Club and a Sowers' Band were formed, also St. Mary's Men's Brotherhood was established and met in the loft at the home of Mr. Payne. (Some few years later a Club Room was erected in the Church grounds.) The purpose of this Club was to provide a meeting place for the men of South Camberwell as at that time there was no such amenity in the district. It was open to men of all denominations but only Anglicans were permitted to take office in the Club, and the Vicar was elected the first President.

Early in 1921 it was agreed that a fund be inaugurated in preparation for the building of a Kindergarten Hall, and £50 was set aside by the Vestry for this purpose. An innovation here was the conducting of a monthly musical service, when special music and popular soloists were heard. Mr. Lancelot Williams and his sisters, a great musical family living in Burwood gifted both in Solo and Choir work, were the most prominent people making this monthly service possible. Another man, Mr. Steven Le Pine, contributed much to the Solo work.

At the Annual Meeting in 1922 reports presented indicated steady progress in the Church's activities particularly in view of increased home building in the area. At this Meeting a direct appeal was launched for funds towards the erection of a Kindergarten Hall. £120 was promised forthwith, and a loan of £1000 was made available for the project; in addition a grant of £375 was made by the Diocese. In June of that year a tender of £1515 was accepted for the work, by the Vestry. It was designed and built by Mr. George Winward.

In passing it is worthy of note that 415 people were squeezed into the Church Hall for the evening Anniversary in August this year.

The new Kindergarten Hall upon completion was officially opened and dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop A. V. Green on Sunday, 19th November, 1922. The Hall from its inception and for some years thereafter was also used as the Parish Hall and for a private Day Kindergarten, under agreement.

Continued growth of the parish following further homes and some road construction was referred to at the 1923 Annual Meeting. It was pointed out, however, that the financial support of the Church could not be expected to be strong for some time as so many people were purchasing homes on terms. At this Meeting the use of an Envelope System was first suggested and such a system was duly launched on 10th June, 1923. Temple Days also became a feature of giving at Anniversary time annually.

In mid-year a Committee comprising representatives of all organisations was created to organise the social life of the Parish, the objective being to establish a sinking fund to meet the Parish debt.

The principal items of interest in 1924 were the holding of a regular series of Lantern Services at Evensong, monthly, and the adoption of the Envelope System as the MAIN source of giving.

At this time, too, due to the activity of Mrs. Emery a branch of the Mothers' Union was formed. As an experiment, the time of Evensong for the summer months was altered to 7.30, but this did not prove entirely successful.

Early in 1925 the Vestry voluntarily decided to forgo its annual Diocesan grant of £50 from the Home Mission Fund. At this time, too, investigation was made as to the practicability of establishing a Parish School, but the scheme was abandoned, due to the lack of support: the Hall, however, was still let as a private Kindergarten.

A troop of Boy Scouts was formed.

A series of sermons by the late Bishop Green was initiated with the view of increasing Church attendances, followed by a shorter series delivered by the Very Rev. Dean Hart.

For the first time, towards the end of 1925 a Church Fete was organised. A Fete and Garden Party had been held in November, 1918. Its purpose was to raise funds for the Lay-Out of the Bowen Street Gardens, recently acquired by the Camberwell Council. It is noteworthy that a strong civic sense has always been shown at St. Mary's. In fact the Church was the first mover in the formation of the South Camberwell Progress Association, and it was largely to her advocacy that the site in Peate Avenue was chosen for the South Camberwell State School, the Vicar and others meeting Sir Alexander Peacock, the then Minister for Education, to press the claims.

At this stage the Parish was thrilled to receive congratulations on its progress and Christian atmosphere. (The formation of new parishes at Hartwell and Tooronga was considered by the Diocese, but neither subsequently eventuated.)

At the Annual Meeting of 1926 a further report was made of parish progress, as still more homes continued to be erected. The number of worshippers had increased. A decision was made to open an Organ Fund, with the view of ultimately obtaining a pipe organ. It was during this year that a Freewill Envelope System was launched and parishioners urged to support this method of regular giving. This was an extension of the earlier one.

In 1927 we were enabled to procure a rostrum for use as a Pulpit in the Church Hall. Also a concerted effort was agreed upon to assist in liquidating the debt on the Kindergarten Hall, the means adopted being Thankofferings and further enlargement of the scope of the Envelope System and a Carnival.

It is written that St. Mary's Brotherhood (Men's Club) which had hitherto met on the property of Mr. John Payne was desirous of building a Clubroom on vacant land adjacent to the Church Hall. After discussion as to conditions, etc., the project was agreed to by the then Vestry and the Diocesan Council. It is worthy of mention that this Clubroom, although not in the same position, still stands, and further that, if at any time the Club should disband, the building is to become the property of the Parish and Diocese.



Rev. C. R. C. TIDMARSH
Vicar—1920-1956.

Chapter III.

SECOND DECADE (1929 - 1938)

With the close of this period came *the depression*, which was to prove so difficult for everyone. The district was rapidly becoming more settled, but because of the prevailing conditions, any progress became slow, and support and upkeep of a Parish Church a problem. We were indeed fortunate in having the astute guidance of a Vicar in the Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh, and a capable Vestry, to give a strong lead in both the spiritual and secular side of parish affairs. Right throughout the depression the Vestry was fortunately able to show a credit balance each year, however small. It is worthy of note that on one such occasion a copy of our parish "Magazine" found its way to Queensland, and this resulted in a paragraph in one of the Brisbane newspapers recording the fact that in these troublesome times, St. Mary's, South Camberwell, Victoria, must be the only Church in Australia to show a credit balance.

It was early in 1929 that the Diocese suffered a loss with the passing of the then Archbishop (Most Rev. Harrington Clare Lees).

In mid-1929 two important events occurred: first, another fine series of sermons given by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Green, and secondly, the formation of a branch of the Church of England Men's Society. The Late Mr. A. Livingston was the chief mover in its foundation. Another innovation was the creation of a Supplementary Boys' Choir. At this period also we were delighted to receive our first legacy (£100) and this was ear-marked as the nucleus of a new Church Building Fund.

A nine-day Parish Mission conducted by a group of clergy led by our Vicar was a special spiritual feature of the Spring of 1931. The subject of the Mission was "What it means to be a Christian, its joys and life." The attendances and interest in this Mission are stated as being amazingly good. Twelve months later a follow-up Mission was successfully conducted by the same group of clergy.

Another forward move here was the robing of the Choir. Our parish at this stage was still suffering from the prevailing economic conditions and progress was somewhat limited.

Early in 1932 the decision was made that with a view of stimulating interest in the erection, in the future, of a proper Parish Church, Mr. Louis Williams be authorised to prepare a tentative sketch plan for display in the Church porch. It was remarked at the time that the design of the proposed building was a little out of the ordinary, in that it leaned more towards English than Australian ideas. The basis

for the design of the Church was an old Edward III Church in Buckinghamshire, where the Vicar's father was Rector, and where he had spent most of his boyhood. The estimated cost was given as being quite reasonable (some £8000) when size was considered. At a special general meeting of parishioners in May, 1933, the need for a permanent Church was affirmed, and the tentative plan accepted. This meeting further agreed to an appeal being launched, and Mr. George Brain was appointed Honorary Organising Secretary. A plan of campaign was formulated by a strong Committee and put into early effect; this envisaged the drive being called "The Centenary Building Fund Appeal", in view of Melbourne's approaching Centenary. It was optimistically hoped that the foundation stone would be laid as one of the city's functions, but this was not to be, there being only £171 in hand at the conclusion of the Appeal's first twelve months in 1934. The Appeal continued thereafter but with the outbreak of war it was decided, in 1941, not to press it for the time being. At this stage with the addition of two further legacies the Fund stood at approximately £1500. Mr. Brain continued as Organiser until 1948. In 1945 fresh impetus was given to the Fund with the cessation of hostilities, by the appointment of a new Committee, with Miss Vera Jones assisting Mr. Brain. The Fund continued slowly but surely until 1957, when it received considerable momentum due to unfortunate circumstances, referred to later.

The year 1936 presented further problems at a parish level, and these made a forward move a little more difficult. However in 1937 the Annual Meeting initiated a move towards procuring a more suitable organ for Church use, and a Committee was formed to investigate possibilities. As a result a better type of cabinet organ was eventually procured, the cost being met by donations.

Another move arose out of the need of facilities for worship in the south-east corner of the Parish, viz. in the vicinity of the junction of Toorak and Tooronga Roads. This resulted in a scheme being submitted to the Archbishop-in-Council, but upon investigation and enquiry, the plan was later dropped by the authorities, because of the unavailability of suitable land at a reasonable price, and a shortage of funds for such a purpose.

In 1938 the Rev. T. Roach (retired) was appointed as Clerical assistant, to share particularly in the visiting work of the Parish. At this time, record was made of the passing of Mr. John Payne, founder and benefactor of the Parish.

During this decade we were privileged to have further visits still on several occasions from the Rt. Rev. Bishop Green.

As previously mentioned an Envelop System had been introduced at an early stage in the life of the Church. Another feature over the years was the policy of having Bank Note Offerings at Easter-tide, and a Temple Day at Anniversary time in August each year, as well as on other occasions, such as a Christmas Thank-offering. These went to further supplement Church funds, and were further augmented by a Carnival or Fete annually. A Budget system, too, was introduced and used over a period of years.

Chapter IV.

THIRD DECADE (1939 - 1948)

With the outbreak of the Second World War and over the next five years the parish experienced difficult times in many respects, especially financially, but careful guidance and pruning saw us through these days.

Here, and over several years following, we were delighted to have with us, from time to time, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Ashton, who gave us several inspiring addresses and courses of sermons.

During the period of the war the parish took its part in assisting the war effort, and a branch of the League of Soldiers' Friends was formed, and became very active. The parish also assisted with the Comforts Fund, and the Vicar and several parishioners became Air Raid Wardens.

Internal repairs and renovations to the Kindergarten Hall unfortunately became essential at this time, for which finance had to be found. Again, providentially, we received a further small legacy of £100 which was placed into the New Church Fund, and a few months later still another legacy of a like amount was received. This latter was credited to the Kindergarten Hall Debt Extinction Fund. In 1941 yet a third legacy of £100 became available and this, too, was placed in the New Church Fund.

The parish over the years had always endeavoured to support the work of Missions in a modest way, and now a determined effort was made to assist Sister Maud Pethybridge (whose mother and family then lived in South Camberwell) in her work in Kenya, Africa.

Towards the end of 1942 the procurement of a small Pipe Organ was suggested, but no active steps were taken at the time due to the prevailing war conditions, but at the Annual Meeting of 1943 it was resolved that a St. Mary's Organ Fund be launched.

August, 1943, brought with it a most joyous event in the life of the parish, its Silver Jubilee. Arrangements were undertaken by a strong working Committee to cover both the spiritual and social side of the celebrations. The main Services were conducted by the then Archbishop (Most Rev. J. J. Booth), the Rt. Rev. Bishop Baker, Rt. Rev. Bishop Green, Rt. Rev. Bishop Hart, and these were assisted by the then Rural Dean (Canon L. L. Wenzel), our first Vicar as part of St. John's (Ven. Archdeacon A. Roscoe Wilson) and our own

Vicar, Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh. Reports indicate that these Services proved the highest spiritual force in the history of the parish to date and we had every reason to thank God for them. The Jubilee Thank-offering amounted to £150. One outcome of the celebrations was a scheme of liaison with our various parish organisations, and this incorporated periodic reports by a nominated member of the Vestry. The plan, however, was short-lived, owing to various factors.

An item of considerable note early in 1944 was the holding of a Flower and Vegetable Show, and this led to the birth of our Horticultural Society which still functions, and has been a tower of strength to the parish ever since. It is worthy of mention that this Society is one of two only within the Diocese working in the name of a parish Church.

The question of a War Memorial was given consideration and prayer, but no definite scheme was formulated.

Near to the close of 1944 a special meeting of parishioners was held, and as a result this time strong support eventuated for a scheme to procure a small Pipe Organ, there being a secondhand one available, complete with blower, for £200, but it was found to be unsuitable for our use.

The debt on the Kindergarten Hall having been reduced to £250 by mid-1945 proposals were made for its early extinction, and this was finally accomplished in 1946.

In 1947 the proposal to obtain a small Pipe Organ again came to the fore, particularly as it was found that a one manual instrument (new) was available from G. Fincham and Sons at a total cost of around £675 and following another general Meeting of the parish an appeal was launched and a working Committee created to further the project, under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Hicks. This Committee with the impetus given by Mr. Hicks worked solidly, and its efforts resulted in the instrument being ordered from the builders, as funds commenced to come in. It was duly completed, installed and dedicated. The dedication took place at Anniversary time in August, 1948.

Early in 1948 we were delighted to learn that our Vicar had been appointed by His Grace a member of the Council of the Diocese.

Chapter V.

FOURTH DECADE

(1949 - 1958)

Undoubtedly as events will indicate, this was to prove the most momentous decade in the whole history of the Parish.

Early in 1949, Miss Vera Jones, who had been an indefatigable worker in the parish for some time, regretfully relinquished her work as Assistant Superintendent of our Sunday School after 24 years of faithful and devoted service, to join the Staff of Korowas C.E.G.G.S. as Divinity Mistress and School Librarian. Record was made of her unselfish work in this and other spheres over that period.

The Annual Meeting at that time agreed that we should aim to step out boldly, in power and faith, in view of the rapid growth of the parish.

The next point of interest is that at the 1951 Annual Meeting much discussion took place on a matter put forward by our Archbishop, viz., his concern that increasing costs must of necessity affect Church maintenance. After due consideration it was agreed unanimously to give effect to the suggestions made by him, and to make every endeavour to increase financial support within the parish: the resultant appeal made by the Wardens unfortunately was only moderately successful.

In mid-1952 our vicar (Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh) was appointed Rural Dean, a matter of personal congratulation and satisfaction to him — and one of honour to the Parish.

Early in 1952 there came into the district another retired priest in the person of the Rev. A. M. Levick, who by his genial personality endeared himself to all who knew him. He immediately offered to assist the Vicar, and did so up until quite recently, particularly with the Services of Holy Communion. He has reached a ripe old age and now lives at "Ellerslie".

During the early fifties some progress was noticeable, but not the extent that we would have liked, but notwithstanding, parish organisations were reported to be in a healthy condition.

In 1955, with gratitude to God, we were able to report the ordination of the first young man from the parish into the ministry, Rev. Tom Morgan, who was inducted as Incumbent of Beech Forest. He is now Vicar of Doncaster.

The year 1956 opened quietly enough, but in the early morning of Saturday, 19th May, came near disaster, when St. Mary's suffered a severe loss (as it appeared at the time) in the almost complete destruction of the Church Hall and its contents by fire, with incidental damage to the Kindergarten Hall. The real cause of this fire has



THE FIRE, Saturday, 19th May, 1965.

never been fully established. The manner in which the Vicar, Vestry, parishioners and friends rallied to our help was a true inspiration. Arrangements were immediately made for the proper continuation of Divine Services, and for this purpose we were indeed fortunate in being able to use the Men's Club building, with the Club's ready acquiescence, until such time as the Kindergarten Hall was available for occupation.

Following the fire, a number of special Vestry meetings were convened to decide ways and means to restore the Church Hall. We were most fortunate in having had benefit of sound and prudent advice in respect of Insurances, and as a result, we held cover for nearly £15,000: part of this had of necessity to be used in replacing the Church Hall and repairing the Kindergarten Hall, and the balance was later put to the New Church Building Fund.

A special Meeting of parishioners was called after Evensong on Sunday, 27th May, and plans made for the restoration of the Church Hall, and also a tentative plan prepared by Mr. Louis Williams for

the erection of a permanent Church on our corner block were discussed at length. These plans were generally approved by the meeting, and methods of finance formulated: fund raising was later considered at a further meeting on Sunday, 8th July.

Due to the foresight of our Vicar, it was at this stage that we became interested in the furnishings and fittings of St. John's, Latrobe Street, City (the building having been sold) and accordingly a request was made to the authorities to have them allocated to this parish in view of our pressing need (further reference later). The cost of these was stated to be in the vicinity of £1000. With the help of the Insurance money the New Church Fund then received quite a boost and stood at £20,200, but the cost of restoring the Church Hall had to be met from this, leaving a balance of some £14,800 in the fund.

At a special meeting of the Vestry on 11th August, 1956, tenders for the rebuilding of the Church Hall received careful consideration: on the advice of the Architect a decision was made to accept a price of £5393/10/- submitted by A. L. Ackland, subject to the work being completed by the November following. Here, too, we were delighted to receive advice of our success in obtaining St. John's furnishings already referred to. Our Temple Day that year reached the amount of £2,800.

A decision of some moment at the end of 1956 was the acceptance, in principle, of the New Church plan as previously submitted at an estimated cost of £29,000. As the complete project was felt to be beyond our means at that stage the Architect was not authorised to proceed with arrangements until the following year. To keep within our financial limits, we proposed erecting only the Church proper (excluding Vestries and Tower) at a cost of some £21,400.

The Day Kindergarten established in 1926 and conducted privately had to be discontinued because of proposed building operations and the danger to young children.

Then at the close of the year came the intimation of the impending retirement of the Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh as Vicar after so many years at St. Mary's. This was received with profound sorrow after such a fruitful, faithful and long ministry in our midst. In Parish records there appears the following minute:

"That we learn with regret of the Vicar's intention to retire from parish work on 31st December, 1956, owing to ill-health:— that we record our appreciation of his splendid work and ministry amongst us over a period of 39 years (36 years as Vicar) and thank him for his able guidance during that time. Also Mrs. Tidmarsh, specially for her work and leadership in the Kindergarten, Ladies' Guild, and Choir over the same period. Further, that we express the hope that both Mr. and Mrs. Tidmarsh may have a long and happy retirement in better health."

On Sunday, 16th December, 1956, we joyfully entered into occupation of the restored Church Hall, just in time for the Christmas Services. Our Vicar preached his farewell sermon at Evensong on Sunday, 30th December, 1956.

Following the departure of Mrs. Tidmarsh as Kindergarten Leader, a post she had held since 1918, Miss Maisie Jones, who had hitherto been assisting in this worth-while work, assumed charge and continued for several years, a tower of strength in training our very young people: when she finally had to give up the position, it was realised just how much St. Mary's owed to her.

We are indeed pleased at this juncture to introduce a very interesting "addendum" specially written by the Rev. C. R. C. Tidmarsh. It reads.

* * *

ADDENDUM BY REV. C. R. C. TIDMARSH

Your historian, Mr. Geoff. Harrison, aided by that able FACITITIONER Miss Vera Jones, has produced such a splendid record of the first fifty years of St. Mary's history, that one hesitates to make any suggestions that would improve the opus. However, in my old do-it-yourself style, I do dare to offer up what I think may be of interest to many people living, and also serve as a short memorial to that great body of men and women, who, having served their Master through their Church of St. Mary's, are now at rest.

I refer to the long roll of pioneers, who over the years so ably acted as my lieutenants in their several offices and ministry. Of course it is impossible for me, as I cast my mind back over so many years, to think of many who should appear in such a list. If they are not mentioned, they will, I know, forgive. Their works are known to God.

First of all, may I therefore write into this appendix the names of some of the giants who have passed on to their reward? John and Mary Payne with their family come first to mind. With their benefactions the very foundation of St. Mary's, as you know it today, was laid. God bless them and keep them. Mr. Peate, that stalwart Lay-reader and first Secretary, Mr. Warner, ex-Mayor of Camberwell, who saw us through those early difficult days, as Churchwarden and Choir man. And then, the tall, bearded philosopher of ever blessed memory, Mr. G. Rees. On the Saturday afternoon when the foundation stone was laid, by the Ven. Archdeacon Hindley, he, as was his wont, was taking his ambulatory along Toorak Road, and saw the gathering across the road, and came over to have a look at what was going on. Then and there he decided that this would be his new spiritual home. And this is just what he made it. In later days, following his reitretment from the Railways, he often referred to that occasion. He spent his time thanking God for that chance opportunity. He was later confirmed, and it would be impossible here to record his many good

deeds. As I write, I look at his photograph and thank my God for the inspiration and guidance that he was ever ready to give me. The humblest man I have ever met, and my greatest friend. May he rest in peace.

About that time, Mrs. Latitia Harrison came with her husband to live in Toorak Road. It was this good lady who took up the secretaryship of the Ladies' Guild, and whose work and interest never failed, even when she left to live in Sydney. Mrs. Harrison was largely the inspiration to build the permanent Church which you enjoy today, but which she did not live long enough to see. About that time there came to live in Margaret Street, as it then was, a returned soldier and his bride, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lilywhite. Although he had lost a leg in the war, he found his way up the steep hill from Hartwell, and they both joined the Choir. He served as a Vestryman and Churchwarden, and was one of the foundation members of the C.E.M.S. God rest them both.

And now, a word about another returned soldier, a gunner in the First World War who came to live at the other end of the parish in Tooronga, Mr. A. B. Denton, a stalwart churchman of the old school — a Lay-reader, Vestryman, Churchwarden, and for many years Synodsmen. A business man, he was of immense help to the Vestry in financial affairs. His interest never flagged until ill-health forced his retirement.

Also at that time, a family of Maryborough and Avoca people moved into Athelstan Road and Hazel Street, the Wilsons. The widow of lasting memory and her gifted daughters, and Jack, the retired farmer and his wife. I must not enlarge here on the wonderful activities of this large family, but no history of our Church would be complete without mention being made of them, of Jack and his sound service all through his life, and the rest of them, both the living and the departed. God bless them. I hardly know of any family that has given longer service, and still gives it, in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Broadbent.

In the earlier pages of this history, mention has been made of Mrs. Emery as the founder of the Mothers' Union in this Parish. Here, I would recall yet another old friend, and dear counsellor over the years in her husband, Francis Emery. An old Wesley College boy and brought up as a Methodist, he came to join us at St. Mary's. He was a commercial traveller, and if you want to know a person travel with them. I was privileged to do just this on many occasions, and Frank gradually became my most valued confidant. In the Church he served as Vestryman, Churchwarden and Synodsmen. May God rest his soul.

Then among the early pioneers I would bring to your memory another family, the Andersons of Range Road. They came to St. Mary's from St. Columbs, Hawthorn. Mr. Anderson served for long

years on the Vestry, and as Churchwarden and Treasurer, and the whole family were for a long time in the Choir. Altogether their contribution towards the building up of our Church life was no small one.

Right from the beginning of our history there lived two people of blessed memory in Mr. and Mrs. Brooks. Market gardeners, they owned at one time the site of the Camberwell Football Ground, and all through their lives they were our benefactors.

At different times in our first fifty years our Choir has been somewhat renowned, under several gifted organists. Mr. Semmens has already been mentioned. He was followed by Mr. Jennings, who then lived in Bowen Street. He was one of the most gifted organists I can recall, and he attracted to his Choir many with gifted voices. When he moved away to Ringwood I was at my wits' end to fill his place, and, being in the Cathedral at lunch time one day, I told my difficulties to Dr. Floyd. To my amazement, he came out with an offer to take over the Choir himself, and to bring with him one of his best pupils to play the organ on Sundays, John Nichols, the present Hobart City Organist and of Hobart Cathedral. So for two or three years we were truly blest and the Choir prospered with a great Choir Master, a great organist, and not to forget a great Secretary in Miss Helen Sutton. And then, as so frequently happens, in Parish Churches, we came through some rather lean days. Then the new manual organ was built, and Mrs. Wenzel took over. Through many long years she worked and all through the days after the fire until the new Church was built. How she managed to keep it up, driving herself backwards and forwards, is one of the epic stories of our Church, and it is only very recently she has felt she could do no more and retired. God bless her and keep her, in her retirement.

Yet there are many more I would like to speak of. There is room for one more whom I would like to mention, Mrs. Jones. Why I would like to speak of her is that she was one of those dear souls who refused all publicity, and yet was consistently, and quietly, unknown to most of the congregation, doing a wonderful work for her Church. Mrs. Jones for many years was attending to all the Church's Altar linen. May she rest in peace.

Now, I do not know the terms of the compilation of this history, but if I am allowed, I want to add just a few last words to this appendix. They have to do with the Editor and his assistant, Geoffrey Harrison and Miss Vera Jones. It is with great regret that I have learned of the illness of Geoff., that has led now to his retirement. If ever there was a dedicated servant of God, my nomination would be Geoffrey Harrison. All through my long ministry at St. Mary's I learned to lean very heavily on this great soul. Every Saturday morning I would be with him discussing the affairs of the Parish and his insight and kindly advice never failed me. St. Mary's people owe

more to Geoff. Harrison than they will ever be able to repay. May we wish for him a quick recovery to health, and also in part a realisation of his place in the annals of the Church. He has served his time in our generation with a singleness of heart. May God reward him and his dear wife.

And then, lastly, a word about Vera Jones. She has led a dedicated life in our midst, "full of grace and truth". Ever a student, she has been able to impart to others the fruits of her studies, and no less than two generations of our young people of this Church should be ready to rise up and call her blessed. May she enjoy peace and happiness now in her retirement and see everywhere the results of her labours.

C.R.C.T., 1968.

January, 1957, brought advice from the Archbishop that the Rt. Rev. Bishop Donald L. Redding, Bishop of Bunbury, Western Australia, had accepted his invitation to become our next Vicar. This news was received with general delight throughout the parish. His Induction by Archbishop Booth, assisted by Bishop McKie, took place on 4th April, 1957, before a crowded assembly of Clergy, parishioners and friends, and a suitable welcome followed. This was to be the beginning of a most fruitful and inspiring ministry at St. Mary's. One thing of the utmost importance that followed soon afterwards was that a special Meeting of parishioners on 19th May, 1957, approved of final instructions being given our Architect to prepare plans and specifications for a proposed Church, including the Vestries but not the Tower.

The following month we became interested to learn of a scheme to erect a Service Station at the corner of Toorak and Athelstan Roads, and of a proposal by the Oil Company concerned, which did not require all the land involved, to pass to the Church, free of charge, a section fronting Toorak Road, 25 feet wide by 100 feet deep (this was subsequently amended to give the Council the front section). However, at the same time the owner of the land also agreed to our having, free, an area of 60 feet by 40 feet at the rear. These sections now provide our parking area and the site for the Men's Club.

The New Church Fund at that time stood at approximately £16,000, and so it was that a further significant step was taken, when it was agreed to conduct a Stewardship Campaign (Every Member Canvass) with the dual purpose of (1) obtaining the interest of all Anglican families in the district in Church attendance, worship and work (Time and Talents) and (2) stimulating their financial support to enable us to provide a Church proper, worthy of the parish and locality (money). This Campaign, it should be noted, was most ably directed by Bishop Redding, assisted by a strong team of ladies and gentlemen of the parish. Thus we were enabled to keep down considerably the cost of such a Campaign.

The next move was a most important meeting of the Vestry, on 14th July, 1957, when, with the approval of the Archbishop-in-Council which also authorised the borrowing of £5000 from the Bank for the purpose, it was decided to proceed with the proposed Church plan prepared by Mr. Louis Williams and to call tenders for its erection. This was duly carried into effect, and from the eight tenders received, that of Mr. Chas. A. Johnson at £23,170 was accepted. (This decision necessarily involved the removal of the Men's Club from the position it then occupied.)

Work on the New Church commenced on the 20th September, 1957, and the foundation stone was laid several weeks later.

This stone reads, inter alia:—

CHURCH OF ST. MARY

This Stone was blessed by the Most Rev. J. J. Booth, C.M.G., M.C., D.D., Administrator of the Diocese, and laid by the Rev. C.R.C. Tidmarsh, Th.L., First Vicar of the Parish, 1920 - 1956, on 2nd November, 1957.

Glory be to God.

The Rt. Rev. Donald Redding, Vicar.

Meanwhile the Every Member Canvass had been successfully launched at a Loyalty Dinner in the Hawthorn Town Hall the previous 17th October, at which about 512 people sat down to a delightful meal. The subsequent Canvass resulted in 268 pledges being received, totalling £6357 per annum, which amount was expected to be increased by un-pledged contributions. On Sunday, 17th November, 1957, the new Envelope System was launched at a Thanksgiving Service.

On Sunday, 5th January, 1958, we were delighted to have with us at Evensong our newly consecrated Archbishop, the Most Rev. Frank Woods, who preached to a crowded congregation of about 400 persons. It is worth while mentioning that this was the first visit of our present Archbishop to a suburban Church.

Early in 1958 we began to consider in earnest the question of obtaining a suitable organ for our new Church, when completed, and still a further Committee was appointed to investigate the matter. At this stage we were fortunate in being able to procure from St. John's, West Brunswick, a small, but old, Pipe Organ for £650. This was later installed in the New Church, and met our needs up to 1966.

Following a suggestion made early in 1958 by Mr. Jim Lewis and ably supported by Mr. St. John and Mr. Harry Pearson, the men of the Church undertook a monthly newspaper collection through the parish, for sale to the paper mills, in aid of the New Church Building Fund. This scheme is still in operation, and up to date has brought in something in the vicinity of four thousands dollars to the Fund.

In mid-1958 with the completion of our Church in sight, came plans for its opening and use. So on 9th August of that year, just 40 years after the first Service at St. Mary's, the Dedication and blessing of our present building took place. The ceremony, a most inspiring one, was conducted by Bishop John McKie, Vicar General, assisted by several clergy, and in which, again, a large congregation took part. Here we may set down our sincere thankfulness for the many and wonderful blessings bestowed upon the Parish. A Tape Recording of this Anniversary has been preserved.

The final Service in the Church Hall, one of Thanksgiving for all that it had been and had meant to us in the past, was conducted by the Vicar in the presence of a full congregation, on 3rd August, 1958. In the Narthex of our Church is affixed a plaque which reads:

"The furniture of St. Mary's Church Hall was destroyed by fire on 19th May, 1956, and was replaced by furniture now in use in this Church from the Church of St. John, Latrobe St., Melbourne.

St. John's Church was demolished in 1957."

At this period, our Stewardship Campaign was renewed for the second year in the following October, at a most successful Buffet Tea and Concert in our Church Halls. This closed the most inspiring and exciting period of our history.

Chapter VI.
FIFTH DECADE
(1959 - 1968)

From this point our New Church Building Fund, as was expected, became a liability, but we still had plans for the future. So much so, that the Annual Meeting of 1959 carried the following resolution unanimously:

“That this Annual Meeting of the congregation of St. Mary’s Church records its gratitude to Almighty God that a Church has been built and dedicated, and asks that the Vestry proceed with the completion, by the building of a Tower as designed by the Architect, and with the enlargement and modernisation of the Organ in such priority and at such time as the Vestry shall deem expedient, and further, that the Vestry should seek every opportunity to extend the work of the Church beyond the parish.”

Mid-1959, our Stewardship Campaign having almost run its allotted course of two years, discussion took place as to the best means of boosting it with the view of enrolling potential contributors, particularly by new parishioners. It was strongly emphasised that the necessary inspiration and zeal would require to come from laymen. At a Buffet Tea on Friday, 16th October, 1959, our Promotion scheme was launched for a further 12 months, the particular needs at that time being considered as (1) completion of the Church as originally designed by the erection of the Tower, (2) the provision of a suitable and worthy Organ, and (3) Missions. Towards the end of that year yet another Organ Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Professor Loughlin of the Conservatorium of Music, Melbourne University, at that time one of our parishioners, ably assisted by Mr. Owen Johns, Mrs. Wenzel and others.

In December of that same year (1959) we received advice of the intention of His Grace to appoint our Vicar (Bishop Redding) as an Assistant Bishop of the Diocese, after a short, active and most effective ministry of only three years. This news was received with somewhat mixed feelings, pleasure and pride at his appointment and regret that we were to lose him. He was subsequently installed Coadjutor Bishop of this Diocese in St. Paul’s Cathedral on 1st March, 1960, and preached his farewell sermon at St. Mary’s at Evensong on 20th March.

At the Annual Meeting on 24th February, 1960, the following resolution was carried with prolonged acclamation:

“That this Annual Meeting of the parishioners of St. Mary’s Church, Camberwell South, desires to record its appreciation and

gratitude for the sterling services rendered by our Vicar, the Rt. Rev. Donald L. Redding, during his ministry of three years in this parish, and also extends its hearty congratulations on his appointment as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Melbourne. Under his guidance and leadership St. Mary's had made very considerable progress, and he left it in a most happy position.

It was announced at the same time that our Vicar-elect was the Rt. Rev. Bishop Richard J. Lipp, who had come to this State from the Church of South India. Here, in passing, it might be added that it is extremely doubtful if there is any other parish in Australia, at least, that can claim having as Vicars two Bishops in succession.

On 29th March, 1960, Bishop Lipp was duly inducted to the parish by his Grace, the Archbishop of Melbourne, assisted by a number of clergy.



Left to right: Late Mr. Geoff. Harrison, Rt. Rev. Donald Redding, Mr. J. Broadbent, Mayor of Camberwell (ex-Councillor Neville Lee), Mr. H. Bird, Rt. Rev. Bishop R. L. Lipp.

In the June following (5th) a Thanksgiving Service was held at Evensong to mark the occasion of clearing all debt on the Church. This was followed on the 17th July by the consecration of the Church at a most impressive and inspiring ceremony. A plaque in the Narthex reads:

This Church was consecrated to the Glory of God by the Rt. Rev. Donald L. Redding, M.B.E., Bishop Coadjutor of Melbourne and former Vicar of this parish, on 17th July, 1960.

At this time, also, consideration was given to the Tower (previously referred to) and our Architect instructed to prepare the necessary plans.

The new Organ Committee was actively pursuing its enquiries and had drawn up specifications with a view to obtaining quotes.

Another important event at this period was the first (and only) radio broadcast of a Service from St. Mary's, when at 11 a.m. on 25/9/60 Mattins was broadcast by 3AR.

A further Christian Development programme was planned and discussed, and priorities agreed upon by the Vestry for future consideration, as finance and circumstances allowed. These priorities varied from the previous ones, and were set down as:

- (a) Tower
- (b) Organ
- (c) Manpower, Forward Movement and Missions
- (d) Kindergarten (Rear Hall) improvements

Another successful Buffet Dinner to launch the Programme was conducted in the Church Halls on 21/10/60 and was attended by a large number of parishioners.

Towards the end of the year it was felt that we were out of touch with the Sunday School, and this led to the formation of a sub-Committee of the Vestry being authorised to confer with Sunday School representatives with the object of conducting a survey to estimate its needs and requirements.

Meanwhile, our Architect pressed on with plans for the Tower, and following the calling of tenders a contract was signed for £6197 (actual cost was, with extras, fees, etc., approximately £6800). In passing it might be noted that had the Tower been erected when the Church was built, the estimated cost would have been £3500.

The first bricks in the Tower were laid on 28th February, 1961, in the presence of the Vicar, Churchwardens and workmen with suitable prayers offered.

The Vestry at this stage also accepted the fine offer and gesture of our Horticultural Society to provide a bell for the Tower when completed. This bell was cast and manufactured in England at a cost of £299 sterling, F.O.B. Actual cost erected was more.

For the first time in its history the Vestry was able to appoint Parochial Nominators and three were duly elected. (See appendix.)

In May, 1961, Forward in Depth Groups were formed at the request of the Archbishop, Mr. S. Port being our Liaison Officer.

By the end of that month our Tower was completed and on 4th June was formally dedicated: the following Minute appears in the records:

"That this Vestry records its joy in the completion of our Church by the erection of the Tower and expresses its appreciation of the inspiring Service of Dedication prepared by our Vicar and conducted by the Archbishop of Melbourne (Most Rev. Frank Woods), the Bishop Coadjutor (Rt. Rev. Donald Redding) and our Vicar, Rt. Rev. Richard Lipp."

Naturally with the completion of the Tower the New Church Building Fund then showed a considerable debit.

On 23rd July, 1961, we were privileged to have the Rt. Rev. Bishop R. O. Hall (Bishop of Hong Kong) in our pulpit.

Later in 1962 (11th February) we were pleased to have another overseas visitor preach in Rt. Rev. Bishop Festo Maseno from Central Africa.

Early that year we unfortunately lost the services of Mr. A. Widmer as Envelope Secretary, owing to removal from the parish. Thanks for, and appreciation of, his valuable assistance as a Vestryman over a period of several years was expressed.

Then in mid-1962, following investigation concerning the Sunday School by the Vestry sub-Committee referred to earlier, report was made that it was badly equipped by modern standards in terms of (a) adequate space, (b) Class separation, (c) facilities for storage of teaching equipment. The Vestry decided to go into the position further when funds were available.

By this time the Church Bell had arrived from England, and a Service of Thanksgiving took place on 8th August, then on the following Sunday (our 44th Anniversary) it was duly dedicated at a well-attended Service. An appropriate plaque in the Narthex bears this record:—

The Bell of this Church was donated by St. Mary's Horticultural Society, and was dedicated on the 12th August, 1962.

For the record this Bell is in the tone of "C" sharp, 29 inches in diameter and weighs 5 cwt. Cost previously given.

Upon the completion of the Tower and installation of the Bell attention was directed to the next item in the parish programme, an organ.

In November, 1962, a further Christian Development Programme in a modified form was again successfully launched at a Buffet Dinner. This did not subsequently prove over-successful.

Early in 1962 our Vicar (Rt. Rev. Bishop Lipp) advised of his acceptance of a Call from the Church of South India, and of his intended departure for Hyderabad in March. Although the Vestry

understood the reasons for the decision, and careful thought given to the Call, the announcement was received with some surprise and much regret. On 24th March he presided at a Valedictory Eucharist and preached his farewell Sermon, and left by air the same day. The following resolution is in the minutes:— "This Vestry in reviewing the distinguished service at St. Mary's during the past three years of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Richard Lipp, records its deep appreciation of the most valuable work which he has done in the parish, as well as his other Episcopal activities and prays that he and his family may find great satisfaction in the success of the very specific task for which he is returning to India."

A further departure of note from the parish at this time was that of Mr. E. H. Dickins, after many years of unselfish service as Sunday School Superintendent, Vestryman, Choir-member and activity in other organisations.

Next came notification of the acceptance by the Rev. Kenneth Hedley Roberts, Th.L., of the Incumbency of St. Mary's, and this was followed by his Induction as Vicar on 13th June, 1963, by the Vicar-General (Rt. Rev. G. T. Sambell) again assisted by visiting clergy, in the presence of a large congregation.

Later that year we agreed to adopt Bishop and Mrs. R. J. Lipp as our own Missionaries.

In the early part of 1964, steps were undertaken by the Vestry to boost our Envelope System, but these did not achieve the desired result to the full.

An item of considerable interest which took place on 11th August, 1964, was a private Communion given to Mrs. Chauncy, in her home, by the Vicar, on the occasion of her 102nd birthday. She passed to a higher life two months later.

Near the end of the year, we became interested in an Organ at St. Agnes', Black Rock, in reasonable order for re-construction, if built in with our own instrument, which was available at low cost. On the matter being referred to the Organ Committee, it was decided to purchase it for £500 plus £120 for dismantling, cartage and storing, the idea being to hold it for future use. An estimate of the cost of rebuilding, using both instruments, at the time was £3450.

We were sorry to learn at this stage of the desire of one of our well-known parishioners, Miss H. M. Sutton, to retire from further active service and the following Minute appears:

"That we record with thanks our appreciation of the faithful and loving service rendered to the Church of St. Mary, over a period of many years by Miss H. M. Sutton, and regret that her health has made it necessary to relinquish her work in the Choir and other spheres."

At the end of 1964 we were also sorry to lose Mrs. McGovern as Leader of the Sunday School and Girls' Friendly Society. Her several years of loving service in these fields was suitably acknowledged.

A matter of considerable interest and a notable event was the visit to Melbourne of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. The memorable Service in St. Paul's Cathedral on 21/3/65 was relayed per radio to our own Church. In mid-1965 steps were taken, both financially and otherwise, to set in motion the construction of a new Organ from the two instruments we owned, and, a little later, a contract was arranged for the work to be carried out at a cost of £3,750.

On Sunday, 8th August, we were indeed privileged, through the good offices of Mr. A. O. Johns, to be able to have a most enjoyable afternoon of recorded music from Churches of England and Wales.



REV. K. H. ROBERTS, VICAR, 1963-1965.

Later, on 15th December, the whole parish was deeply shocked to learn of the untimely passing of our Vicar, Rev. K. H. Roberts. His funeral service two days later took place in the Church before a packed congregation and was conducted by our Archbishop, assisted by Bishop Felix Arnot. Five months later his ashes were interred in our Church grounds at a simple ceremony conducted by Bishop Arnot. The record in this instance states:

"We, the Churchwardens and Vestrymen of the Parish of St. Mary's, South Camberwell, record with the deepest sense of regret the passing to a higher life on 15th December, 1965, of our beloved Vicar, the Rev. Kenneth Hedley Roberts. We wholeheartedly appreciate and pay tribute to the work of a devoted, able, self-sacrificing and sincere Vicar, always a loving pastor to his parishioners and a friend to all. His time among us since June, 1963, was all too short. We express our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Roberts and her daughters. All in St. Mary's parish mourn the passing of a friend and Vicar, always loving in the Name of Christ, his Lord."

March, 1966, brought to us advice of the acceptance of the Incumbency of St. Mary's by the Rev. Fraser Withington, and his Induction was carried out on the 30th May, 1966. The Service was conducted in the presence of a large congregation by the Archbishop of Melbourne, assisted by the Ven. Archdeacon W. H. Graham and Canon Russell Clarke.

One of the early acts of our present Vicar was to define areas of responsibility for the Churchwardens, one being allocated to each of the three following fields:

- (a) People and organisations
- (b) Church and its needs
- (c) Other church buildings and the grounds.

And so we come to the more recent times of 1967, when the principal points of interest, in short, were (1) That owing to certain difficulties the contract for the building of the new Organ was cancelled by mutual consent, and quotes sought for its completion.

(2) The sudden passing on 2nd September of Mr. Reginald St. John after a short illness, which came as a great shock to many, especially at St. Mary's, where he had served so faithfully and well as Vestryman, for several years, Churchwarden for six years, Honorary Secretary for two years, Parochial Nominator six years, and also as a Synodsmen. His help and interest in our newspaper collection has proved of great value. His funeral service on 6th September was attended by a great number of friends and relatives. We must write here a deep note of thanksgiving for his life and service, and for his inspiration and encouragement.

Arrangements were then carried out for the completion and installation at long last of our new Organ by G. A. Fincham & Sons,

followed finally by the dedication on 11th November, 1967, by Archdeacon Graham, at a well-attended afternoon Service. The Archdeacon based his address on an interesting comment which had been made by Mr. Johns, in which he stressed the necessity for great care and knowledge in assessing the value and suitability of an organ — the type of tone best suited to the building — the question of sound, and the particular stops required — the number and relationship of pipes — and who would have guessed that there are nine hundred and seven (907) pipes in our particular organ?

The circumstances surrounding the procurement of our most beautiful instrument involved certain financial difficulties, and to help in this direction, an interest-bearing loan scheme over a period of three years was inaugurated, and an appeal made to parishioners for its support.

The year closed with an "Organza Fete" arranged by an active committee supported by many workers. This proved the most outstanding effort of its kind in the history of the parish, netting \$2500.

We now reach the present year (Our Golden Jubilee), and with it the close of our fifth decade.

This year has commenced with a census of the parish being undertaken, and this we trust will be brought to satisfactory conclusion. This is necessary to keep parish rolls up to date and is in preparation for a Christian Development Programme which it is hoped to conduct in the near future.

One item of satisfaction is our expectation that the New Church Building Fund will be fully met and cleared by the middle of the year.

No record of this nature would be complete without paying high tribute to our administrators over the years, especially during the past twenty years or so, for their able, exacting, and far-sighted guidance in the affairs of the parish, and none more so than Mr. J. Broadbent, with his record amongst other things of twenty-seven (27) years as Treasurer, seventeen years as a Warden and thirty-eight years as a Vestryman. What he has done for St. Mary's might well be emulated by many others, and we here express our appreciation of his long and unselfish work over the years.

EPILOGUE

What does the next half-century or beyond have in store for our parish church of St. Mary's? This, with our Heavenly Father's guidance and help, is largely in the hands of posterity. It is our fervent hope and prayer that the ancient landmarks here may be preserved, and that our Church in the power of the Holy Spirit will forever go forward, having learnt the lessons of the past, and prove a spiritual and moral force in the life and service of the community in the future.

May it survive to the glory of God, the welfare of mankind, and to the benefit of generations yet to come. Our earnest prayer is that with His continued blessing the Parish may be an ensample of the love of Christ our Saviour, and continue to sustain all who need it.

To those who enjoy the celebration of our first 50 years we convey our good wishes.

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APPENDIX "A"

VICARS

REV. C. R. C. TIDMARSH, TH.L.	1920-1956
RT. REV. BISHOP D. L. REDDING, M.B.E.	1957-1960
RT. REV. R. J. LIPP	1960-1963
REV. K. H. ROBERTS, TH.L.	1963-1965
REV. C. F. WITHINGTON, TH.L.	1966-

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

REV. W. T. ROACH, TH.L.	REV. A. M. LEVICK, TH.L.
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HONORARY LAY READERS

A. E. PEATE	G. HARRISON
E. B. DENTON	F. R. MANLEY, M.A.

HONORARY SECRETARIES

A. E. PEATE, 1918-1922	C. MCGOVERN, 1959-1964
W. R. WARNER, 1922-1926	R. A. ST. JOHN, 1965-1967
G. HARRISON, 1926-1959	C. MCGOVERN, 1967-

HONORARY TREASURERS

J. PAYNE, 1918-1924	G. E. REES, 1932-1939
A. QUARTERMAN, 1924-1925	A. MAY, 1939-1941
A. J. ANDERSON, 1925-1932	J. BROADBENT, 1941-

CHURCHWARDENS

J. PAYNE, 1920-1925	J. C. WILSON, 1939-1946
H. A. SCOTT, 1920-1921	E. B. DENTON, 1940-1948
A. E. PEATE, 1920-1922	F. EMERY, 1946-1952
W. R. WARNER, 1921-1927	J. BROADBENT, 1949-
F. C. MARTIN, 1921-1925	B. LILLYWHITE, 1952-1957
A. J. ANDERSON, 1925-1932	H. BIRD, 1957-1965
F. EMERY, 1927-1937	R. A. ST. JOHN, 1966-1967
G. HARRISON, 1927-1968	H. M. PEARSON, 1967-
G. C. REES, 1932-1938	F. R. MANLEY, 1968-
M. T. MEADOWS, 1938	

PAROCHIAL NOMINATORS

H. S. BIRD, 1961-1966	F. R. MANLEY, 1967-
J. BROADBENT, 1961-1962	J. BROADBENT, 1965-1966
R. A. ST. JOHN, 1961-1967	J. BROADBENT, 1968-
G. HARRISON, 1962-1967	H. M. PEARSON, 1968

ENVELOPE SECRETARIES

C. B. RYMER	G. WILLIAMS
A. J. ANDERSON	A. WIDMER
R. A. COTES	N. J. COX
G. C. REES	H. A. PHILLIPS

VESTRYMEN

A. J. ANDERSON	J. H. FRENCH	M. T. MEADOWS
R. ALLEN	J. FRANCIS	F. R. MANLEY
— BROWN	J. A. FRASER	G. R. MARTIN
C. BROADBEAR	H. GURSANSKI	G. McDONALD
G. C. BURSTON (dr.)	T. W. GATCLIFF	M. MCKENZIE
B. BARTON	D. E. W. GREEN	K. J. McDONALD
J. BROADBENT	R. W. HART	M. MCBURNIE
G. BRAIN	G. HARRISON	C. MCGOVERN
G. BRIGGS	— HORMAN	H. J. NUGENT
S. BEDFORD	W. HOUSE	J. PAYNE
D. J. BIDDLE (dr.)	J. A. HICKS	A. E. PEATE
H. BIRD	O. JOHNS	H. M. PEARSON
A. CURRIE	D. JOHNSON	N. PAYNE
R. A. COTES	B. LILLYWHITE	S. C. PORT
J. CARROLL	T. C. LEES	H. A. PHILLIPS
N. L. CAMPBELL	C. E. LANG	W. J. QUARTERMAN
A. E. CHARITY	C. P. LEMON	— ROBERTSON
N. J. COX	W. LOGIE	G. S. REES
E. B. DENTON	R. LEMON	C. ROSS
E. H. DICKINS	F. C. MARTIN	A. H. RADNELL
K. J. DOYLE	F. MOLLER	L. H. ROWLING
F. EMERY	A. MAY	E. RICHARDSON
P. EVANS	M. TOLHURST	J. RADNELL
H. A. SCOTT	A. VICKERY	C. WHITELAW
G. SCOTT	W. R. WARNER	D. H. WENTWORTH
R. M. SARGOOD	G. A. WINWOOD	G. WILLIAMS
R. A. ST. JOHN	J. C. WILSON	A. WIDMER
W. TINDLEY	R. C. WARDLE	J. WATERHOUSE
A. C. TARRANT		

ORGANISTS

MRS. MCINTYRE, 1918	MISS HOLMES, 1940-1941
MR. FREWIN, 1919-1921	MR. P. EVANS, 1941-1942
MR. JENNINGS, 1919-1932	MRS. I. PATERSON, 1942-1944
MR. JOHN NICHOLS, 1932- with DR. A. E. FLOYD, 1936 as Choirmaster	MR. IAN MCGILLIVERY 1944- with W. M. MCGILLIVERY, 1946 as Choirmaster
MR. W. FLINT, 1936	MR. PLUMMER, 1946
MISS N. BEESLEY, 1937	MR. A. MOON, 1946-1947
MR. A. SCHWEIGER, 1937	MR. HUDSON SMITH, 1947-1948
MR. L. DWIGHT, 1938	MR. T. ROBERTS, 1950-1953
MR. E. NYE, 1938-1939	MISS J. BARKER, 1953-1954
MR. J. HOUSE, 1939-1940	MRS. R. WENZEL, 1954-1966
	MR. P. COMPTON, 1966-1967
	MR. R. EVANS, 1967-

APPENDIX "B"

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

We record with a deep sense of pride and appreciation the valuable work in their several spheres, from time to time, of the many persons, groups and organisations who have given sterling service to the Parish over the years, as office-bearers, or members of the following:—

Auditors	Parents and Friends Association
Churchwardens	Brass Work
Vestry	Flower Guild
Lay-Readers	Servers
Choir	Callisthenic Club
Synodsmen	Boys' Gymnasium
Envelope Secretaries	C.E.B. Society
Sunday School	Organ Committees
Kindergarten	Carnival and Fete Organisers
Ladies Guild	Tennis Club
Mothers' Union	Football Clubs
C.E.M.S.	Cricket Clubs
Horticultural Society	Girls' Basket-Ball Club
Girls Friendly Society	League of Soldiers Friends
Missionary Fellowship	Square Dance Club
Bible Study Groups	Men's Club
Young Marrieds Department	Boys Scouts
Youth Fellowship	Girls' Club.

APPENDIX "C"

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO NEW CHURCH

ARTICLE	DONATED BY	IN MEMORY OF
Font	ST. MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION	
Font Cover	ST. NICHOLAS, HORNSEA, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND	
Ewer	MR. COCK	Wife and Daughter
Silver Chalice and Paten	MRS. EMERY	Parents
Carpet	HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	
Altar Candlesticks	MRS. M. E. D. ALLAN	Husband
Standard Candlesticks	MR. AND MRS. H. S. HILL	
Wafer Box	MRS. LILLYWHITE	Husband
Red Burse and Veil (?)	MR. AND MRS. H. NUGENT	
Bishop's Desk	MRS. F. C. MARTIN	Husband
Bishop's Chair	MRS. H. SUMNER	Husband
Choir Kneelers	MRS. MARTIN	
Prayer Desk	MR. AND MRS. A. H. RADNELL	Thankoffering
Sedilia	MRS. J. A. HICKS AND FAMILY	Husband and Father
Book Shelves and Porch Notice Board	MR. AND MRS. W. H. WESTLE	
Lectern and Sanctuary		
Light	MISS A. PAYNE	Father
Hymn and Psalm Boards	MR. AND MRS. N. L. CAMPBELL	Parents
Sanctuary Lamp	MRS. A. J. COX	Parents
Vestry Table	MR. NEIL PAYNE	Grandparents
Vestry Cupboard	MR. AND MRS. C. R. CONEY	
Choir Music Cupboard	MRS. R. WENZEL	Husband (Canon Wenzel)
Stained Glass Window	MISS REES AND BROTHERS	Brother (Churchwarden)
Gift towards Cross on Tower	MISS M. J. SANDERS	Mother

Prayer Desk	A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS	
Church Kneelers	MOTHERS' UNION	
Choir Surplices and Pulpit Frontals	MR. AND MRS. H. S. BIRD	
Vicar's Board	MR. A. PAYNE	Wife (Ida M. Payne)
Altar Cloth	MISSES V. AND M. JONES	Mother
Prayer Books	MR. L. LIVINGSTON	Father (A. G.)
(Reading Desks)	MR. L. LIVINGSTON	
Servers' Vestments	HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	
Stained Glass Window	MISS BERTHA MARTIN	Edith Mary Thoms
Stained Glass Window	MR. G. DOW	Wife (Ella Rose Dow)
Stained Glass Window	REV. A. M. LEVICK AND FAMILY	Wife (Elvira L. Levick)
Stained Glass Window	MRS. I. KIRKHAM	Chas. W. and Bessie Bostor
Book Stand for Choir	KINDERGARTEN	
Stained Glass Window	MR. E. C. H. HARVEY	Wife (Isobel D. Harvey)
Stained Glass Window	MISS HUNT AND FAMILY	Parents (John and Eva M. Hunt)
Church Carpet	HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	
Church Bell	HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	
Church Prayer Books	MR. AND MRS. S. C. PORT	
Church Kneelers and Hymn Books	MRS. M. HATFIELD	Husband
Radiator	MISS V. ACTON	Parents

MEMORIAL ORGAN FUND

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
MR. A. WHITEHEAD	Mervyn Welch
MISSSES CHAUNCY	Mother
MR. AND MRS. H. PYE	Son (Ron Pye)
MR. AND MRS. R. A. ST. JOHN	
MISS M. A. BOURNE	Edith S. Bourne
MRS. V. M. WHITE	
REV. A. M. LEVICK	Wife (Elvira L. Levick)
MRS. AND MISS JOYCE READ	Bruce Read
MRS. SHILCOCK AND DAUGHTERS	Mr. Shilcock and Doris
MISSSES G. AND A. GOODBRAND	Mother
MR. AND MRS. M. H. PEARSON	Parents
MRS. RADNELL, FAMILY AND FRIENDS	Alfred H. Radnell
MR. AND MRS. CHAMP	Mrs. Terry
MRS. E. WALKER	Edward Walker
MRS. E. EVANS	Edith Archbold
MRS. EMBLETON	Husband (Dr. Embleton)
MR. S. ARCHBOLD	Wife (Edith Archbold)
MRS. E. LOWE	Son
MISS E. A. HUNT	Mother
MRS. R. WENZEL	Son (Colin)
MR. AND MRS. COLLINS	Mabel Collins
MRS. V. M. WHITE	Lachlan J. White
MR. AND MRS. CHAPLIN	Mr. Chambers
MR. AND MRS. J. O. FISKE	Fiske Family
MR. AND MRS. REYNOLDS	Mrs. A. Jackson
MRS. WILLERS AND MISS M. BEST	Mother
MRS. A. EMERY AND FAMILY	Francis Emery
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	Rev. K. H. Roberts
MRS. O. BROUGHTON	W. R. Broughton
MRS. ST. JOHN, FAMILY AND FRIENDS	Reginald A. St. John
MRS. PINDER	Sister

