

ST. JAMES ANGLICAL CHURCH BEACONSFIELD

CENTENARY SERVICE

19th JULY 1987

PREACHER ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

Beaconsfield and its church.

Beaconsfield began its life as a suburb on the road from Sydney Town to Botany Bay. Originally the area was mostly sandhills and swamp, and aborigines from the Kuringai tribes hunted wild duck in the marshes. The early settlers made their way across these sandhills and the track they made became one of the first roads out of Sydney - it was called Botany road.

In 1823 Governor Brisbane granted 1400 acres of land to William Hutchinson who had been an overseer of convicts on Norfolk Island. Two years later he sold his grant to Messrs. Coopers and Levy, well known merchants, for 2,700 pounds, all in Spanish dollars. This land included Rosebery and that part of Alexandria known as Beaconsfield, as well as Waterloo and Zetland. The Cooper family still retained most of this land until earlier this century. During the 1850's the Cooper estate was subdivided and leased to different people for 99 years. Neat rows of cottages were built for the workers in local industries.

For the first century Alexandria and Beaconsfield around Shea's Creek were market gardens providing fresh fruit and vegetables for the growing colony.

However the land was too valuable for market gardens and became the base for the growing industrial requirements of NSW. Bricks from the kilns of Alexandria were used on the city buildings.

This in turn gave way to factories producing goods for building requirements, iron and steel, soap and tallow, glass, paper and textiles. So industry replaced the paddocks and market gardens along Botany Road.

THE CHURCH

St. Silas church, Waterloo was opened on Botany Road in 1868. With the growing population in the worker's cottages on both sides of Botany Road stretching south towards Botany, it was decided in 1887 to build a Sunday School room on the corner of Collins and Victoria streets, Beaconsfield to be called "Beaconsfield Mission Church". It is that decision that we celebrate today, 100 years later. This building would cater for the spiritual needs of children and families and was to be used for Sunday School and public worship. It was opened on July 26th 1888 by the Dean of St. Andrew's cathedral, the very Rev. Cowper.

The mission church consisted of a wooden structure that was entered by climbing a wooden staircase from Collins Street. A tiny porch opened up into the main room in

which were laid out seats and pews for the little church. Out the back was a further room in which the Sunday School met. A bell was erected at one end of the roof.

For the next 46 years this wooden structure served the spiritual need of many young families in Beaconsfield. The Sunday School work was strong and Margaret Hall recalls teams of Sunday School teachers and many children. She herself received second prize in the St. Silas Sunday school, Beaconsfield in 1919 and 1918. It is not clear when it was given the name St. James, but the name first appears in the Service register on 11th December 1921. The first mention of an Anniversary Service comes on 31st July 1921. The name was chosen because 26th July, the date the Mission was opened, is St. James Day.

Numbers attending grew progressively during the 20's and 30's. Most Sundays there were three services, one of which was Holy Communion at 8am and with 25 or so attending. The wooden building was no longer big enough for services, Sunday schools, and the mid-week activities of Social evenings, ladies guild and the men's brotherhood. A larger church building was required with hall. It was decided that the old weatherboard building was in such good condition that it could be used still. So in 1933 it was lifted up and moved to stand where it does now on the corner of Collins Street and Victoria Lane, and is our church hall now, recently renovated. The new church was opened on 28th April, 1934 by the then Dean of St. Andrews cathedral, very Rev, Talbot.

The old church records reveal some interesting incidents. During the "flu epidemic of 1919 there were no services held on 2nd and 9th February that year and the reason given was "pneumatic influenza precaution". Indeed older residents including Miss Lovejoy recall the time when everyone wore masks and white coats. St. James bell rang to call those who were sick and without food to a distribution of soup and jelly.

There were few other occasions when there were no services, unless it was for anniversary services in neighbouring churches. However, on 31st December, 1939 the entry reads 'no service. No minister on 16th February, 1945 'no service. Light rationing'. And on 6th August, 1967 "very wet"

Other activities in the life of the church have included organisations for children and adults. Sunday school was for many years a strong draw for children, with a large team of dedicated teachers, including the much-loved Hilda Manson (whose pupils included Margaret Hall). The Sunday school remained strong until the advent of the football training. In the summer of 1962 there were 43 students but during the winter it fell to 6, and it never really recovered. A boy's club was run by rev. Ross in the early 50's on Friday night and the youth learnt leatherwork. During recent years a youth group called N>A>J>S> met for a few years in the hall under the leadership of Christine Chipps and Robyn Quinn.

Adult activities used to include social evenings when, Margaret Hall recalls, "boys dressed up as girls and had sing songs". The fetes, sales and bazaars have always been a feature of St. James life. In the early days they were essentially money-raising ventures for the new church, and all in the community were expected to help out. Fete festivals meant the making of paper flowers like roses and carnations. Fetes came to an end temporarily in 1976 but were started again in 1986.

St. James has had many preachers in the pulpit over the years. A number came as catechists and have gone on to have eminent ministries elsewhere.. These include Alan Donohoo, Clifford Warne, David Hinchcliffe, Jack Elliott and Bryce Wilson. Many ministers and church workers are remembered fondly for their pastoral care. These include sister Campbell, Rev. John Ross, rev. Alan Palmer, Sister Joan Thompson and Sister Margaret whose everescent smile and laugh/ cheered many a lonely heart.

Today we welcome as our special guest the present Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Reverend Donald Robinson. It's been 45 years since an archbishop was visited St. James'. The Most Rev. Howard Mowll preached here on 26th July, 1942. Special guest, old friends, members of the local community, all join in praising God for His faithfulness to us a "Beaco" and pray for His good hand upon us during the years ahead.

PLEASE RETURN TO ROBYN!

ST. JAMES – BEACONSFIELD

Recently I received an E.mail from Geoff Holt. He was a Lay Preacher who spent a number of years ministering at St. James and refurbishing the church. I had asked him for a history of his time at Beaconsfield. His reply was, "I tend to live in the NOW, and let the PAST go." Geoff loved to hear the stories of St. James... but deplored comparisons of past ministries. It may well be, that those comparisons of ministries at St. James, is the reason why this little church in the centre of Beaconsfield, remains a place of worship, a centre for fellowship and community activities, in an area which is undergoing great change. For a few moments, I would like to delight in the PAST..... as I remember it..... and bring us up to the NOW.

It was night time. I was a child when I first noticed the lights of St. James flickering. Several of us ventured into the church. A projector was churning away and a movie was being screened. The church was in darkness. People filled the pews. A man told us to stay and sit at the back of the church. It was Easter time and the movie was on the life of Christ. After the movie the people moved out of the church and into the hall. The most magnificent supper that young eyes had ever seen was set out on a table that stretched from one end of the hall to the other. We were allowed to stay. And..... we were invited to Sunday School. I don't remember the Minister's name, but I remember his ministry. It was one of projected movies, suppers and Sunday School... sticker rewards and Sunday School picnics.

A new Minister arrived in town. I remember this one. He was the Reverend John Ross. He was on a crusade for Christ. He was Rector of three churches... St. Silas, St. Andrews and St. James. He was, like he used to call himself, "a bright spark!" He invaded the local schools with great enthusiasm by taking scripture lessons. He began a Christian Endeavour group at St. James and conscripted children from his scripture classes. There was no escaping this one. At any given time he would stop his old green car and give a lift to the kids on their way to school. What a moment it was to arrive at school in the minister's car. But it came at a price. Church, Sunday School or Christian Endeavour. John Ross would visit parents and enlist their support for excursions and camps. He had a charming ministry with the old and an exciting fun filled ministry with the young as he led them to Christ. Confirmation into the Anglican church was a special moment for all the local young people who had been gathered into the church by this very charismatic man.

The Reverend Nathaniel Graham started his ministry at St. James when John Ross went to Liverpool. He had been a former policeman. He made changes that none of us liked..... but soon grew to love. The Christian Endeavour went..... a Y.P.U., a young people's union, took its place. He was an earnest man who loved God and wanted to bring all in the parish to Christ. He changed the colour of St. Silas and St. James. He painted them pale green. And he had the bells ringing..... so loudly that one of South Sydney's first action groups was formed to have the Sunday bells of St. Silas's stopped. St. James continued to ring out it one small bell.

The Reverend Alan Palmer followed Nat Graham. He was an older man and not in the best of health. His ministry was a quiet ministry of simple worship. He took the evening services at St. James and endeared himself to those about him by being a good listener and a supporter of their faith.

Captain Buckingham from the Church Army was the next clergyman to come to St. James. He had been posted to St. Paul's Redfern... and Beaconsfield came under his wing. Once again his ministry was quite different from those who came before him. This one wore a uniform. He also had the burden of telling the congregation that the closure of St. Paul's Redfern, St. Silas's Waterloo, St. Andrews Rosebery and St. James's Beaconsfield was eminent. Nevertheless we continued with services. Onward Christian Soldiers was a favourite at this time. Captain Buckingham left and at the end of his last service at St. James, he told the congregation the church was no longer viable and it would soon go. As history will record..... St. Pauls was sold to the Greek Orthodox Church, St. Andrews went to the Macedonian Church and St. Silas was torn down for a factory site.

Barry Dudding, a curate from Moore College, peddled his way into the parish. He lived in the St. Pauls centre Redfern. He wore spectacles, wore a very dark suit and a bicycle was his mode of transport. He was a character who looked like an English vicar. During his ministry he was ordained and became the Reverend Barry Dudding. His time in the parish was not easy. While some churches closed another re-opened. St. Saviour's Redfern became the senior church of the parish and St. James continued to flounder. Barry met a lovely girl called Jo, and moved into the refurbished church and rectory of St. Saviours.

The Reverend Geoff Huard came next. He arrived with the Good News Bible and a small book called Growing Together..... and a whole lot of new hymns. He was a tall, thin Englishman with a young family. St. Saviours had been the church where he and his wife Kathie had met. By this time the parish had become St. Saviours, Crossroads and St. James. Geoff was based at St. Saviours and Beaconsfield survived on Curates, catechists and youth workers with the Rector giving St. James as much time as he was able. During Geoff's ministry a once a month Children's service was started. A music group was formed. Gifted catechists preached the gospel through puppet shows, ventriloquism, overheads and flannel board stories. Two of the most memorable children's services was the Christmas pageant when the children played the music and took the service.... And the other one, when the Reverend Geoff Huard, in full ministerial robes, conducted the entire children's service in gigantic pink plastic ears.

The Reverend John McIntyre came next. He seemed nice enough for someone who came from Melbourne. He settled into St. Saviours with his young family. This one, again was very different. He played a guitar and sang hymns like folk songs. The Reverend John as he became affectionately known, was based at St. Saviours and spent as much time as was possible at St. James. John McIntyre is still our Rector and has been for the last eleven years. He has moved about the parish, a priest without a collar..... a man in touch with God... and in tune with the common man. He has ministered to the old and

the disabled and he has been a champion of Aboriginal ^{causes} courses within and outside the parish. For his work and his ministry he was given the South Sydney Citizen of the Year award. As for St. James..... well the cloud of closure still hung heavily.

But... A revival of St. James was starting to stir. John McIntyre met a Lay Preacher called Geoff Holt. John appointed Geoff to St. James and.... "Bob the Builder" arrived in town. Geoff, a local businessman, threw himself into revitalising the services and face lifting the church. Old time favourite hymns were sung again as drab old curtains came down and fresh paint went up. The gloominess of the church interior made way for sunny brightness. The little church of St. James, under Geoff Holt's ministry, began to grow. The morning services were increased to every Sunday. New people arrived. A prayer evening was started.... A café was commenced and monthly dinners were held at a local community centre. For the children, there was a weekly puppet show within the service. Geoff not only was the Lay Preacher, he became a friend. Soon after he completed the renovations of St. James he married Rosemary Hayles, a Beaconsfield link missionary. The entire congregation attended his wedding. Flowers filled the church and St. James never looked more splendid. Geoff's time was up..... and "Bob the Builder" left town.

After Geoff Holt, the Rector appointed his assistant minister, Graham Tutt, a young man with two young children, to take over St. James. Graham arrived, and wow... was this one different. He came with a group of "missionaries" from St. Saviours. Graham and his team were so enriched by the Holy Spirit that they expressed themselves in the manner of the Pentacostal. A new music group was formed, and a new puppet called Gilbert was introduced to the children. And there were a lot of children. They were running everywhere! Graham's ministry with its Pentacostal touch, was new, fresh and exciting. This was a time when St. James was filled with new faces. Songs were sung with hands upraised in praise to God.... And people hugged each other in the greeting of peace. Only after a few short years, the Rev. Graham Tutt ended his ministry at St. James and sadly most of the pentacostal congregation left with him.

St. James was alone again except for a faithful few. Before the Rector could find a replacement for Graham, a devastating hailstorm hit and St. James was flooded and nearly destroyed. It was closed for many months before the long slow haul of repair and renovation was commenced. Throughout this time John McIntyre took Sunday morning services in the hall. Slowly St. James rose up out of the devastation of that April hailstorm. For the second time St. James had been refurbished.

This little church now stands in an area undergoing great social change. The name of our church has become St. James Community church, Green Square. This now brings us out of the PAST, To the NOW ... and into the FUTURE.

A new man is in town. The Reverend Keith Mascord and his wife Judy and five boys. The church is filled today with worshippers on St. James ? anniversary. The cloud of closure has moved on. We now accompany Keith and his family into the next chapter on the life and times of St. James.

Louise Toth

St. James Beaconsfield Ministry AS REMEMBERED BY LIFE LONG
PARISIONERS AND SUPPORTERS

THE MINISTERS

Reverend Richards as remembered by Mick Green
Rev. John Ross
Rev. Nathaniel Graham
Rev. Alan Palmer
Rev. Captain Buckingham
Sister Ailsa McColm Chaplain Crown Street Hospital, Temporary Minister
Canon Capel Temporary
Rev. Barry Dudding
Rev. Geoff Huard
Rev. John McIntyre
Mr. Geoff Holt, lay minister
Rev. Graham Tutt
Rev. Keith Mascord
REV. BRIAN KELLY PAUL DEW
THE CURATES

Rev. Barry Dudding
Rev. Paul Bayliss
Rev. John Bales
Rev. Richard Harvey
Rev. Ross Poulton
Rev. Stephen Edwards

THE CATECHISTS

John Imisides
Alan Donohoo
Ray Robinson
Bruce Dingwell
Bruce Southwell
Rob Graves
RICHARD HARVEY And many more, but mostly at parent church

DEACONESSES AND PARISH WORKERS

Sister Joan Thompson
Sister Margaret
Sister Campbell
Joan Loane (Marcus Loan's daughter in law)
Connie Knox (Marcus Loan's sister in law)
Ailsa McColm
Christine Chipps (Anglican Counselling Service)

Sue Shelley nee Farrell
Judy Hawkes nee Barrett
Sister Anne
SUE WOOLF And many more
CARMEL GRANTHAM
WARDENS AND LAY PREACHERS

Clifford Warne
Alan Crawford
Frank Lovejoy
Mr. Richards from Rosebery
John Matthews from Waterloo
Maggie Hall
Kit Puckeridge
Geoff Holt rectors Warden
Zara Harriott
Freda Mcdermott
Gordon Farrelly

MISSIONARIES FROM St. Saviours *FOLLOWING CONVERSION AT CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE
WATERLOO (MILLSONG)*

Rev. Graham Tutt *and children*
Mark and Karen Roberts
Brett and Ros Johnson
Terry and Liz
David Charmley
AND LIBERTY MINISTERIES
THE WOMENS GUILD

Mrs. Douglass	Miss Manson
Mrs. Hope	Mrs. Kennedy
Mrs. Betts	Mrs. Green
Miss Hall	The Standfields from Rosebery
Mrs. Crawford	Mrs. Robinson

THE ACTIVITIES OF ST. JAMES

Christian Endeavour:	Jan Norman	Robyn Quinn
	Noeline Slowgrove	Wendy Douglass
	Judith Hawkes <i>(MARRIED STEVE BARRET)</i>	Sandra Furse
	Lorry Schumacker	John Shumacker
	Scottish John	Bassa
	Alan Farmer	John Adams <i>(BECAME A MINISTER)</i>
	Jeanette Lawrence <i>(Head HEDDTSWEIGH)</i>	Margaret Rich <i>(MARRIED ALAN DONOHUE)</i>
	Amy Rich <i>(MARRIED REV NAT GRAHAM)</i>	Janice Powell
And many more	<i>60 on the roll</i>	CHARLIE RICH BILLY CHAMBERS

CHURCH OUTINGS AND LUNCHEONS
SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNICS

Annual Fete
Fellowship Teas
Pleasant Sunday Afternoons
Bible Study Groups
Womens Guild
Boys Brigade
Progressive Dinners
House parties to Chaldercot, Springwood, Meroo
Crusades, Billy Graham, Lawrence Love
Christian Endeavour Conventions at the Sydney Town Hall
Saturday Night at the Assembly Hall in the city to hear visiting evangelists.
NAJS Youth Group
Friday School
Sunday School
Liberty Groups
Samoan Christian mens and womens singing and praise groups
Alpha Groups
C.A.F.E.
Monthly dinners at each others homes then at the Community Centre
Playgroup
Moody Movie afternoons
Neighbourhood Watch for children
Alcoholic Anononymous group
Music Group weekly meeting and practice
Line Dancing
Labour league, and various labour party meeting
Vestry Meetings annually
Annual Church meeting and elections
Attendance at Group Council at Parent church 2 representatives
Confirmation classes
SENIOR CITIZEN HEALTH EDUCATION GROUP - WAG.
AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN
MUSIC GROUPS

Sue Farrell Robyn Quinn Noeline Slowgrove Kellie Slowgrove
Karen Roberts Robyn Quinn Noeline Slowgrove

(20 YEARS
OF MUSIC)

CHURCH ORGANISTS

John Matthews Mrs. Betts Kit Puckeridge Kellie Slowgrove
Julie Southwell Rev. Paul Bayliss

THE SERVICES

Sunday School every Sunday Morning and Evening Service. Annual Anniversary
Service 4th Sunday in July at 3.00pm NOW 127 YEARS YOUNG
Fellowship Groups on Friday Evenings

Monthly family and children's service with Geoff Huard, then came weekly Sunday morning with

Geoff Holt (working in own job, laypreacher almost full time, renovator)

Grahaem Tutt (sent from St. Saviours as a missionary to St.James)

John McIntyre

Keith Mascord (1st full time minister for many a year)

Paul Dew (minister at St. Saviours, part time St.James) *as has been past practice*

Other activities such as bible study, house parties, congregational dinners, working bees, fireside chats (café) Sunday school and music groups have been initiated in the past few years. Street fetes on voting days. Winter bible study in the sun 10.00am with Bruce Southwell (catechist).

St.James annual anniversary, closest Sunday to St.James day, usually last Sunday in July. Always a guest minister, or someone of some importance. Combined service. Banquet morning tea. 2007 should have been 120 years of faith.

Many times in the past other churches in the parish have seen the monetary value of St.James and its sell off and closure has been a constant threat and imminent. In our parish St.Silas was sold, St.Andrews was sold, then St.Pauls Redfern was sold, and just outside St.Lukes in Mascot. God has a future for St.James as if the people of the church council had their way there would no longer be a St.James.

This fact is born out of the fact that when a full time minister is installed, then the church and the community has a great revival, and following is how CONTACT with the community took place over 5 years when Judy and Keith Mascord came to Beaconsfield, their only mistake was renaming St.James Green Square Community Church which upset many locals. However this couple revived the church to full capacity they were here from 2001 to 2007. They lived and ministered in the area, and with the help of their newly formed congregation here is what occurred during their brief years in Beaconsfield.

1. Church finally painted and re-renovated, toilets finally built.
2. Minister had two small part time jobs and donated his salary to his income.
3. three monthly letter drop on activities and church announcements.
4. Historical nights, meet and original resident, relay memories of the past, meet a neighbour nights.
5. Carols by candlelight and childrens nativity play.
6. House parties at Chaldecot.
7. Trivia nights
8. Outreach visitation in the community.
9. Hospital visitation.
10. Quest at the Alexandria pub monthly
11. Mini Quest at Keith's home weekly.
12. Bible study at community centre and various homes, ongoing
13. Cups of tea and coffee at Keith's home.
14. Dinner invitations to dinner at Keith's home.
15. Ho down dances
16. Kids club outings monthly
17. Green kids Sunday school.
18. Hall rentals to various groups and people

19. Election day fetes outside church and gathering names of people interested in church activities, so CONTACT is made with the voters, which the common phrase was "hello, I am the minister of this church and bla, bla, bla, so went the conversation, so CONTACT was made with the general community on voting days, a good day to catch everyone in the area.
20. Big day out in Beaconsfield, which attracted hundreds of people, 2 years in a row.
21. Theatre parties to see Christian movies
22. Touch football in park Sunday afternoons.
23. Beach volley ball at Coogee in the summer
24. Sunday school, Green kids club.
25. Sunday school teacher training
26. Childrens playgroup on Tuesdays.
27. Constant supply of trainee ministers (catechists)
28. Fellowship morning teas after Sunday Service, longer than Church.

Sadly when the Mascords left, so too did many of the congregation, but that also happened when Geoff Holt and Graham Tutt left for other jobs.

Unlike most people who have come and served at St.James, once they leave, they sever all CONTACT with the congregation who supported them, and if you do CONTACT them they are less than pleased to hear from you or fail to answer your hand of friendship. However the Mascords even though they are gone, remember the friends they made in Beaconsfield and often make CONTACT and always respond to a friendly email or call.

So making CONTACT starts with ourselves and our ministers, if we can't talk to each other after a departure, then how can we talk to others.

So once again following a wardens meeting at St.Saviours, St.James has been marked again to be considered for closure or whatever, so I do hope this chronicle of the life of a faithful church is not discarded like an old relic of the past. In recent years we have seen our hospitals closed and our Baby Health Centres (the most neediest in Redfern, recently closed) this has proved to be a disaster for the growing communities, who now have very few hospitals and baby health centres to keep them healthy, so lets keep people spiritually healthy by refusing to close the churches, even an old church with its lights on is a BEACON IN THE FIELDS for those who reach out in their time of need, in Christ alone our hope is found, He is the light.

CONTACT = CONNECT

