



St. MARK'S
JUBILEE YEAR — 1968-1969

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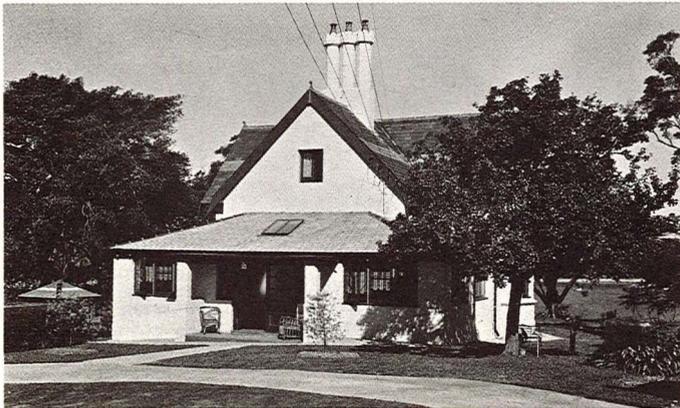
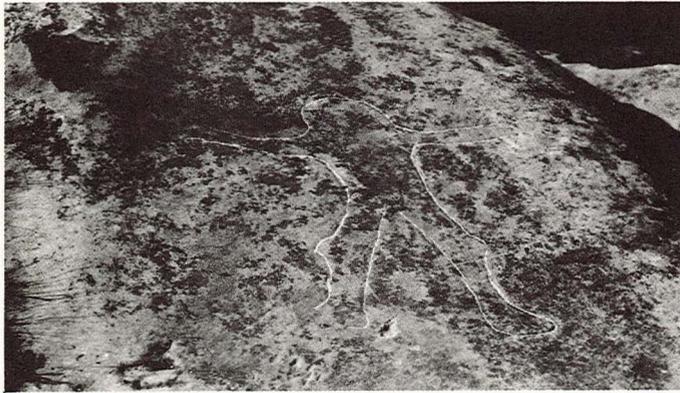
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THE GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF
ST. MARK'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
NORTHBRIDGE

Rector: Rev. S. N. Abrahams,
17 Tunks St., Northbridge. 955794.

We acknowledge with appreciation
the many hours spent by Mrs E.
Fisher in research of historical data
for this booklet.

A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN NORTHBRIDGE



The first Church of England service in Northbridge, like the first in Australia, was held in the open air, due in this case, to the fact that in 1919 a Government proclamation was made prohibiting public indoor gatherings, in an attempt to halt the spread of pneumonic influenza.

In September 1913, the Reverend C. B. Elwin, Rector of St. Stephens, Willoughby acting on instructions from the officers of the "Church Endowment Fund", and with the approval of the Rural Dean, had bought at auction two blocks of land on Sailor's Bay Road, nearly opposite Harden Ave., to be used later for the erection of a church.

One Sunday in March 1919, the Reverend A. A. Yeates, Rector, and some parishioners of St. Stephens, Willoughby, came to Northbridge, and held a 6.00 p.m. service attended by 30 adults, presumably on this land. The offertory at this service was given to "Northbridge Building Fund".

On St. Mark's Day, 25th April 1919, a meeting to discuss the establishment of regular church services in Northbridge was held on the back verandah of Mr. Ide's home in Sailor's Bay Road, later the residence of the Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, since demolished, and now the site of a service station. The Reverend A. A. Yeates presided at this meeting, held at the instigation of Mrs. Lily Briscoe, who had earlier opened a Sunday School at her home in Harden Avenue. As far as is known, the only person still active in St. Mark's who attended that meeting is the Rector's Warden, Mr. R. W. L. Woolridge.

The first service of St. Mark's Northbridge, was held on the following Sunday and for the next two years, services were usually held on Mr. Ide's verandah. At times the van of the Bush Church Aid Society was used on the land.

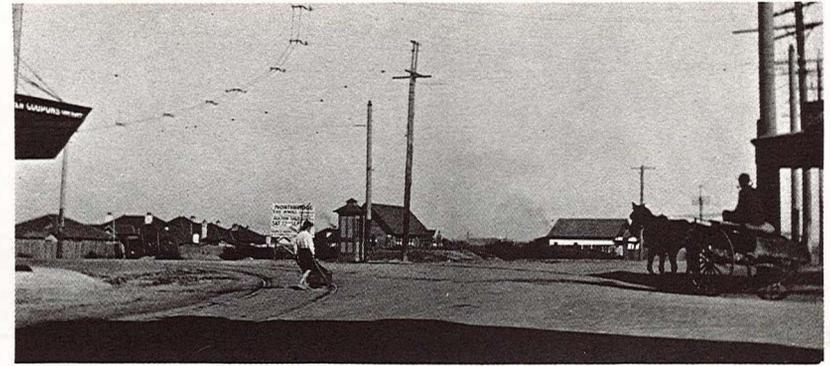
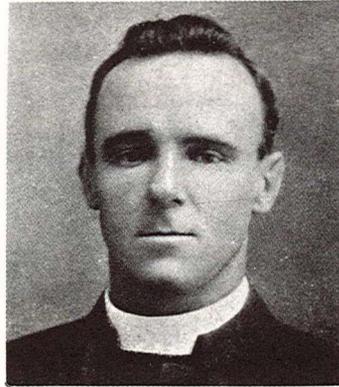
Top: Aboriginal carving in Clive Park accidentally destroyed by workmen.

Centre: The Knoll about 1925.

Lower: The original home over 100 years old at Northbridge Point, "Fig Tree House" now occupied by Sir Edward Hallstrom.

REV. G.O.C. BARTLETT

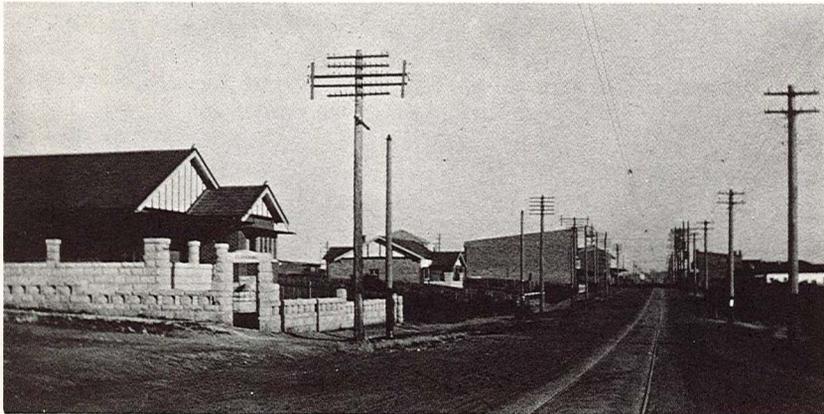
Assistant Minister of St. Stephen's Willoughby in 1921. He conducted the first service in the original St. Mark's church. Mrs. Bartlett was the daughter of Mrs. S. Sears who was at that time residing in Baringa Road, Northbridge.



Above: Northbridge Junction in 1925 and the first St. Mark's Church.

By 1921, with £240 in the bank and the land, the small congregation, by an act of faith, set out to erect a church building. A loan was obtained from the Church Building Fund, and an overdraft from the bank. The church was to cost no more than £875, and the builder was Mr. Hempton. At this time the Rev. Arthur Kilworth was the acting Rector. The foundation stone of the church was set on 6th August, 1921.

The first service in the new church was conducted by the Reverend G. O. C. Bartlett, curate of St. Stephen's, on Sunday, 23rd October 1921, although the church was not officially opened until 21st November 1921 by the Venerable Archdeacon D'Arcy-Irvine, Vicar General.



Above: Sailor's Bay Road - 1927.

As the church was unable to be self-supporting it remained a part of St. Stephen's Willoughby. The Rector at that time was Reverend H. S. Begbie. An offer was made to pay St. Stephen's £25 per year towards the stipend for a curate to be in charge of Northbridge. The Reverend Ernest Cameron was appointed as curate at St. Stephen's on 26th March 1923, for this task. By 1924 the contribution toward the stipend had been increased to £100 per annum.

As the district expanded towards the east, and the population grew, it became increasingly obvious that the church building was too small, and the site being on the western border of Northbridge, was no longer suitable.

Negotiations were entered into with the Baptist Union of New South Wales to sell the property to them.



Above: The new church site in Tunks Street,
Right: Corner Dalmeny Road and Sailor's Bay Road in 1926.



In February 1925 land in Tunks Street, the site of the present church buildings, was bought at auction. Commenting on this recently Canon Cameron said:-

"There had been many discussions on the nearness of the original St. Mark's to the boundary between the two parishes. One evening, coming back from a special call with my wife, we took the short cut from Narani Crescent along Malacoota Road, and coming to a large vacant block were struck by the vista of lights from every single angle and said, if we can get this land it will be admirable for the new Church. No time was lost and it was found that it was owned by the Public Works Department and steps were taken to see if it could be purchased. Mr. R. T. Forsythe helped and eventually the site was put up to auction, and was purchased at six pounds five shillings per foot. On the evening of the auction sale, the Rectory 'phone rang and Mrs. H. A. J. Walsh spoke and said, 'I would like to pay for the first foot', and within the hour she came with the cheque.

When it was realised that Malacoota Road was not to be widened and only a laneway to run between the block next to the church land and Mr. A. J. Brown's property, I interviewed the Minister for Public Works — and it was agreed that if Mr. Brown would buy a section to even his land, and the Church would give an undertaking not to build over the Water Board manhole, we could have the corner block, and Malacoota Road would go through as a full width street".

The land was vested in the Church Property Trust, and in July 1925 approval was given for Northbridge to become a Provisional District with the Reverend E. Cameron as Curate in Charge.

The sale of the existing property was finalised with the Baptist Union for £1800.



**REV. ERNEST and
Mrs. CAMERON**

Rev. Ernest Cameron was appointed Curate of St. Stephen's Willoughby in March 1923, and was delegated the special oversight of Northbridge. He and Mrs. Cameron lived in Northbridge and were constant in their efforts for the advancement of God's work in the district. A staunch supporter of missions, he kept the work of the Missionary Societies overseas and in Australia always before the congregation.

When Northbridge became a Provisional District in July 1925, His Grace the Archbishop appointed Mr. Cameron to the Charge. It was through his initiative and foresight that the original church property was sold to the Baptist Union of New South Wales. The land in Tunks Street was purchased, and the proceeds used toward the erection of the new church building.

In 1929 Northbridge became a parish with Mr. Cameron as its first Rector. This was during the depression, and Mr. Cameron was able to exercise a Christian ministry organising food relief and helping to find work for those who were unemployed.

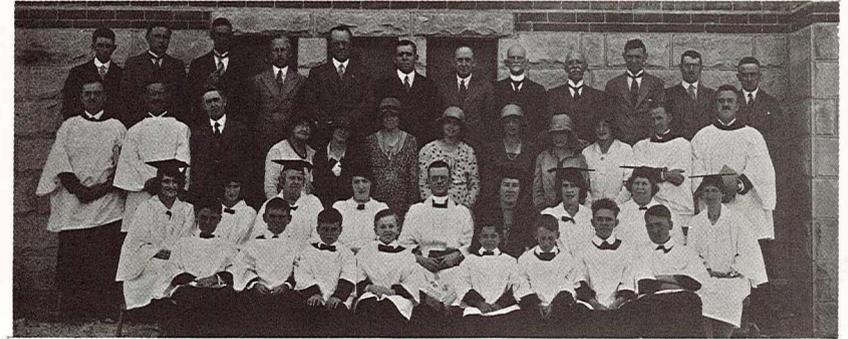
THE PRESENT ST. MARK'S CHURCH BUILDING

The new church building was designed by one of the parishioners Mr. A. E. Withey, the honorary architect. The building contract was given to Mr. Lisle Hainsworth, builder, and the foundation stone (part of the granite quarried and dressed for the Sydney Harbour Bridge) was set on 10th December 1927 by the Venerable Archdeacon D'Arcy Irvine, and as is customary, a case was placed behind it containing a copy of the "Sydney Morning Herald" published that day, a "Recorder" and a Canberra florin. The foundation stone, set by Dean Talbot in the first church in 1921, had been removed and was re-set by him in the new church building.

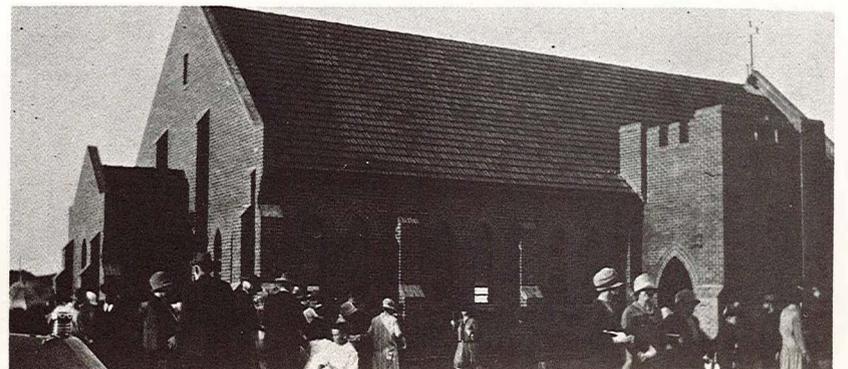
It was decided that the Crypt, the basement of the church, be completed first so that services could be held there while the building was in progress. The first service was held on October 23rd 1927, and the first marriage ceremony in the Crypt on 10th March 1928, between Francis Carrol and Muriel South, who are still living in Sailor's Bay Road. The church was completed and dedicated by His Grace Archbishop J. C. Wright on 24th March 1928.

The Communion Table used in the original church was presented to the Bush Church Aid Society and placed in St. John's church, Cann River, Victoria. The present table was the gift of the Sunday School and the bell was formerly at the church of St. Simon and Jude, Surry Hills.

The following year a petition was forwarded to His Grace the Archbishop asking that Northbridge be granted the status of a parish, and the Diocesan Synod, meeting in October, unanimously agreed. Mr. Cameron was appointed Rector.



The Parish Council and Choir, shortly after the Dedication of the Church. Back row:- Messrs. Dunster, Jeffrey, Ellison, Whyte, Warren, Woolridge, Spencer, Tuckwell, Walsh, Burrough, Whitworth, Stone. 3rd row:- Messrs. Lawson, Weissel, Aspinall, Messdames Draper, Dewhurst, Rapley, Cameron, Warren; Misses Lovett, Withey, Messrs. Holford, Denham. 2nd row:- Misses Selfe, Bond, Colless, Mrs. Burrough, Rev. E. Cameron, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Spencer, Miss M. Walsh. Front Row:- Masters Harry, Alan & Bruce Hunt, Coupland, Douglas Curgenvan, Eric Warren, Sherbrook Willis, Noel Warren.



THE MINISTRY OF REV. C.H. TOMLINSON

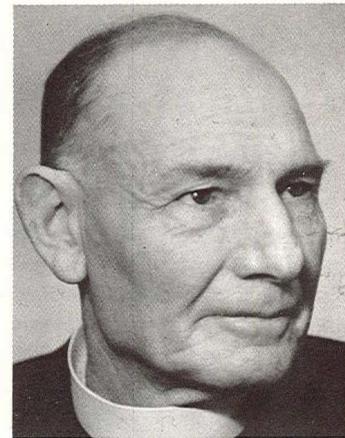
In October 1930 Mr. Cameron resigned to become Rector of St. Peter's, Hornsby, and the Rev. C. H. Tomlinson was appointed Rector of St. Mark's.

Because of the economic depression there was difficulty in meeting financial obligations. A sum of £200 was donated anonymously towards the cost of building a Rectory. A Rectory Fund was opened in June 1939, but as World War II broke out soon after, only a few people were able to subscribe. Mr. E. J. (now Sir Edward) Hallstrom, whose wife and family have had a close and continued association with this church, built a brick fence on the southern and western boundaries of the property, together with certain concrete paths, and later gave generously to the Parish Hall Fund.

St. Mark's was vitally concerned with the war effort. As Japanese attacks on Australia became a possibility, plans were made for the crypt to be prepared as an Air Raid Shelter and "Communal Feeding Centre". For a short time Evening Prayer began at 4.00 p.m. so that "black out" regulations should not be infringed. More than 250 men and women parishioners on Active Service were on the church prayer list. When an Honour Roll was to be installed it was impracticable to include all these names, and the Honour Roll, unveiled by His Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott, contained the names of those who were killed.



Ferries at Clive Park.



REV. CHARLES HENRY TOMLINSON

Rev. C. H. Tomlinson was Rector of St. Mark's for 25 years. He came, in 1930 from the parish of Bulli, where his compassion and practical assistance had eased the burden of depression years for many of the distressed families of that district. Few people were aware that within Northbridge he continued this same type of work, until economic stability gradually returned. Like his predecessor, he was keenly interested in the work of Christian missions. For 17 years he was President of the New South Wales Temperance Alliance, and was outspoken through the Press and Radio, against excessive drinking.

During his ministry a Rectory Fund and a Parish Hall Fund were opened, the debt on the Church was paid off, and a new pipe organ installed, branches of the Mothers' Union, the G.F.S., and the Fellowship were also formed.

Throughout his prolonged illness, he maintained an intense interest in the spiritual welfare of the church and all who visited him in hospital came away strengthened and inspired by his calm acceptance and unwavering faith. In April 1955 he went joyfully to meet the Lord he had loved and served.

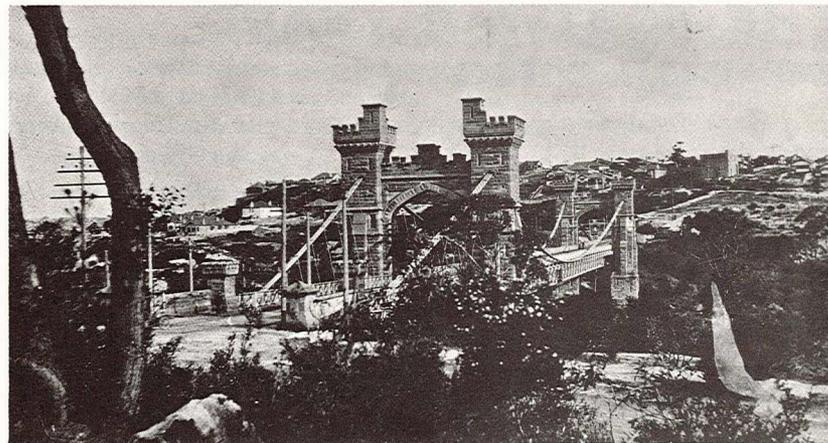
His two daughters Miss Helen Tomlinson and Mrs. Enid Akeroyd still live in the parish. Miss Tomlinson taught in the Sunday School for 25 years, part of that time as leader of the Kindergarten. Mrs. Akeroyd has maintained an active and responsible interest in several of the church organisations.

At the end of the war it was possible to liquidate the debt on the church, which was then consecrated by the Co-Adjutor Bishop the Right Rev. C. Venn Pilcher in November 1945. A "Parish Hall Fund" which later became known as "St. Mark's War Memorial Hall Fund", was opened.

In the early years of St. Mark's, the women's organisations held functions regularly. These provided a worthwhile opportunity for Christian fellowship, and as well, raised considerable amounts of money for the upkeep of the church, and for the support of missions. The Guild was re-formed at a later date with the object of raising money for specified projects. The first of these was a new pipe organ. An organ fund was opened and was well supported by parishioners. The present organ was built by Mr. J. Eagles in 1953 and installed at a cost of two thousand six hundred pounds. The main timber girder supporting the balcony of the organ was part of the old Whitley organ in St. Andrews Cathedral, Sydney.

Mr. Tomlinson, whose health had not been good for some years, became seriously ill in 1955 and was admitted to the Community Hospital. Despite expert care and constant attention, his illness proved fatal.

It then became imperative to provide a rectory, as the house used as a rectory was Mr. Tomlinson's own property. Fund-raising efforts were stepped up and parishioners were asked for donations. Mr. Withey, who had designed the church, was asked to prepare plans and specifications, but after a short time was forced to relinquish the task because of failing health. Mr. John Hellyer, a parishioner of St. Marks, then accepted the position of Honorary Architect.

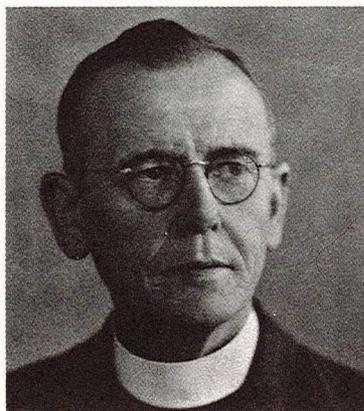


The old Suspension Bridge and (right) the re-opening ceremony in 1939.

REV. J.W. FERRIER

Rev. J.W. Ferrier came to St. Mark's in 1955, as Locum tenens when Mr. Tomlinson became ill, and continued until the appointment of a new Rector.

Though a retired man, and without a car, he visited many people in the parish, covering even the roughest terrain. His happy and friendly disposition endeared him to all parishioners.



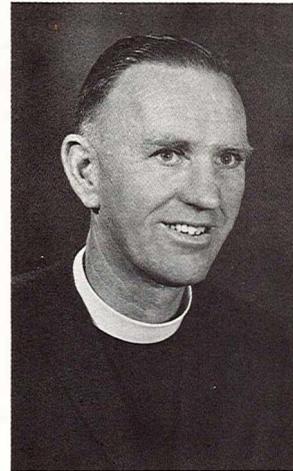
THE POSTWAR YEARS OF BUILDING ...

In the meantime a house was rented in order to provide a temporary residence for the Rev. K. L. (Peter) Loane, who was appointed in 1956. An "Every Member Canvass" was successfully launched, and it was not long before sufficient money was available to begin building the rectory. The contract was given to a parishioner, Mr. Arthur Holland. The foundation stone was laid by Archbishop Mowll.

With the completion of the rectory, and with a stabilised income, thoughts turned to the possibility of building the long awaited Parish Hall. Mr. Hellyer prepared plans, and parishioners responded well to an appeal for donations to build a War Memorial Parish Hall. A loan of \$62,000, repayable in 25 years, was obtained from the M.L.C.

At this time Mr. Loane accepted the invitation to become Rector of St. John's, Parramatta, and the Reverend J. F. W. Mason was appointed in his place at St. Mark's.

The War Memorial Parish Hall was begun early in 1961. The foundation stone was set by the Most Reverend H. R. Gough, Archbishop of Sydney. In October of that year His Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Woodward, opened the hall, and it was dedicated by the Rt. Reverend M. L. Loane, Coadjutor Bishop. The hall, is a fine building, providing a worthy memorial to those who served in the war, and an appropriate setting for the work of the Sunday School and the various organisations of the church.



REV. KENNETH L. LOANE.

Rev. Peter Loane, was inducted as Rector of St. Mark's in May 1956. His four and a half years as Rector saw many advances in the practical and spiritual life of the church.

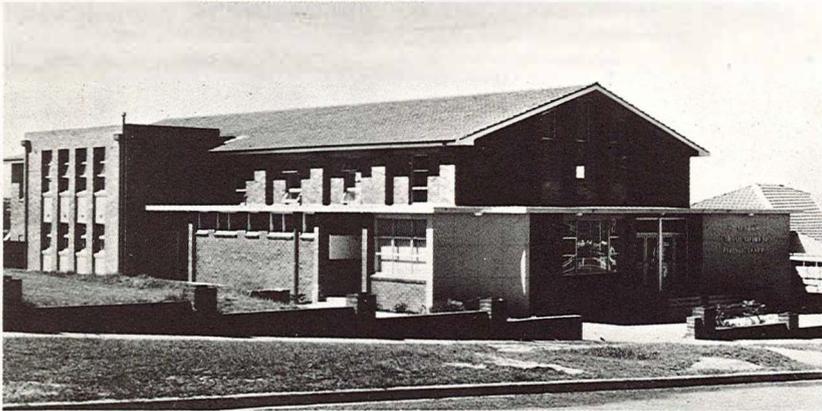
The Young Wives' Group, affiliated with the Mothers' Union was organised, and a branch of the Church of England Boys Society was formed.

An intense parish visitation was successful in bringing more people to an awareness of the place of the church in the community, and encouraged a greater sense of participation in the church life.

The Rectory was built, and plans for St. Mark's War Memorial Parish Hall were drawn and approved.



The three Churchwardens during this period.
Messrs. T. Warren, J. King and L. Woolridge.



From its earliest days St. Mark's has been a missionary-minded church, supporting missions financially and by prayer. It was appropriate therefore that when Mr. Mason returned to his work among boys, the new Rector should be one with strong missionary connections.

Rev. G. M. Fletcher accepted the nomination as Rector of St. Mark's intending to stay for about five years, but his work as General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society had proved his capabilities in that field, and after two years he became the Diocesan Missioner.

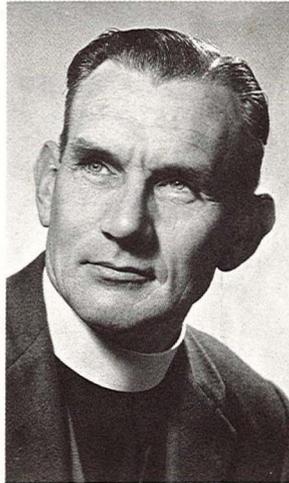
During its first fifty years St. Mark's has been faithfully served by loyal hard working supporters, sometimes few in number, and God has abundantly blessed them and our church. We look forward in faith to the future, knowing that His guiding hand will ever be over us, and that St. Mark's will continue to witness for Him.

REV. JOHN MASON

Rev. J.W. Mason had been chaplain at "Shore" school when he became Rector of St. Mark's in 1961. He had a special interest in young people.

The War Memorial Parish Hall was completed and the Sunday School at last had a permanent home.

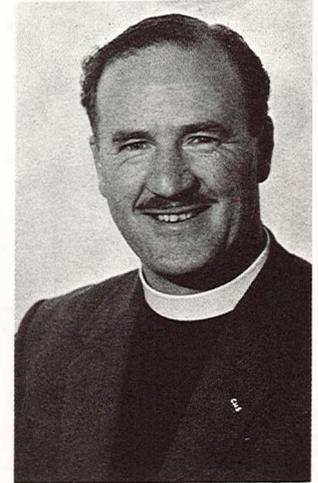
Despite his undoubted popularity with people of all ages, Mr. Mason felt that his real work, was in Christian Education of youth, and resigned in January 1964 to re-enter this field. His son John who was active in the fellowship is a candidate in training for the ministry.



REV. GEOFFREY FLETCHER

Rev. Geoffrey Fletcher, after being New South Wales General Secretary of C.M.S. for almost 10 years accepted the invitation to become Rector of St. Mark's in 1964.

He was responsible for the introduction of a scheme whereby parishioners made interest-free loans to the Church, repayable in ten years. These sums reduced the amount of the debt to the M.L.C. resulting in a large saving in interest payments. After two happy and successful years he realised that his particular talents belonged in the wider ministry of evangelistic work, and he accepted the appointment as Diocesan Missioner.



PERSONALITIES

THE LATE THOMAS LESLIE WARREN

Mr. & Mrs. T. L. Warren moved to Northbridge in 1919 and became closely linked with the church when plans were being made to erect the original building in Sailor's Bay Road.

It is a tribute to the character of Mr. T. L. Warren that as a young man he was first of all appointed Rector's Warden at Darlington until enlisting for the first World War and then, within St. Mark's, held the equivalent appointment for 40 successive years as the first "minister's warden" and then Rector's warden when the church attained the status of a parish. He was the honorary legal advisor to the church, and one of the first two synod representatives from this parish, which position he held until 1957.

Mrs. Warren, the daughter of a clergyman, has been a consistent worker since the early days of St. Mark's particularly in the women's organisations. Mr. Noel Warren has been a valued member of the choir since boyhood years and is at present a member of the Parish Council. His children make the third generation of the family to be active in the church.



THE LATE LILY BRISCOE, was an outstanding personality in the early days of the church in Northbridge. She was responsible for calling the meeting held on St. Mark's Day 25th April 1919, which decided that regular church services should be held in Northbridge.

Because it was such a long way for children to walk to and from St. Stephen's Willoughby, and because of her love and concern for their spiritual welfare, she organised a Sunday School at her home, in Harden Avenue. Mrs. Briscoe remained a teacher and Sunday School Treasurer until her death in March, 1928. She was also a District Visitor, choir member and an ardent worker in the Guild.

THE LATE A. J. JEFFERY, was elected to the Parish Council in 1924, and with Mr. Ide was appointed Auditor. He was Sunday School Superintendent for many years. In 1934 he became Church Secretary and a Churchwarden; positions which he held until his work took him away from Northbridge in 1938. Returning to Northbridge on his retirement he was again elected to the Parish Council and remained an active member until his death.



THE LATE H. A. J. WALSH, became the secretary of the church in 1925, and a Churchwarden for 5 years from 1929. A man of few words he was sincere and diligent in the Lord's service. With Mrs. Walsh and their two daughters he was a regular worshipper at St. Mark's. Miss Muriel Walsh was a choir member, a Sunday School teacher for many years and Missionary Box secretary. In 1927 she was instrumental in forming the 1st Northbridge St. Mark's Guide Company. Miss Olive Walsh was the Kindergarten Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years and a member of the choir.

THE LATE CHARLES JAMES HUNT, moved into Northbridge in 1926, from East Maitland where he had been closely associated with St. Peter's church assisting as a Lay Reader. For 26 consecutive years he was elected to St. Mark's Parish Council and on occasions conducted church services in the absence of the Rector. A High School Teacher he had an intense interest in youth; encouraging, teaching and counselling young people from the church.

THE LATE CHARLES EDWARD MAGUIRE was an active member of the church for 40 years. He applied his ability and energy to many practical aspects of the church affairs, it has been said that "he was always available for whatever was to be done, from serving on a building committee, to mending a broken window".

First elected to the parish council in 1932, he was a churchwarden from 1939 to 1955, when he had to resign because of ill health.

MR. WALTER CEDRIC DUNSTER was only a young man when first elected to the Parish Council in 1929, and has been re-elected each successive year since. In 1960 he became Churchwarden, an office which he still holds. He has taken a particular interest in improving the church grounds, and in recent years has organised several highly successful flower shows.

Mrs. Dunster has for many years been an active member of the Women's organisations and was for seven years the Honorary Secretary of St. Mark's Branch of the Mothers' Union.



MR. ERNEST FISHER has been Secretary of St. Mark's since 1938, and a Churchwarden for seven years. His quiet loyal service has brought a distinctive contribution to the administration of the church. He is a Synod Representative, and the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of St. Mark's Pre-school Day Kindergarten, and a member of the Board of Management of the Gilbulla Diocesan Conference Centre.

Mrs. Fisher was a member of the choir for more than 30 years and with Mrs. Ivy Cook trained the boys' choir for some time. She was a Parish Councillor for four years and at one time Secretary of the Ladies' Guild. Their daughters Joan and Jean have been choir members for over 20 years.

MR. ROBERT WILLIAM LESLIE WOOLRIDGE.

Mr. R. W. L. Woolridge holds a unique place in the history of St. Mark's. He has been Treasurer from the beginning of the church in Northbridge and a Churchwarden since St. Mark's became a parish. Having held executive positions in various business organisations he has given unsparingly of his knowledge and ability in the administration and development of the church.

Mr. Woolridge has represented St. Mark's on the Sydney Diocesan Synod for many years. He is a member of the Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board, a parish representative on the Board of Nominators, and a member of the Board of Management of Gilbulla Diocesan Conference Centre.

Mrs. Woolridge has been his "right hand man" and he freely acknowledges that without her constant untiring help and support he could not have accomplished the things he has done. She has also been active in the women's organisations, and for many years has organised the District Visitors to distribute the monthly Church Paper, and in so doing, keeps the parish records up to date.



MR. LEONARD A. ROGERS has become well known within St. Mark's since coming to Northbridge in 1940. First elected to the Parish Council in 1942, he has maintained a constant spiritual emphasis in his Christian work. A member of the choir, he rarely misses a service. For over 12 years he was the Superintendent of the Sunday School, and in this was assisted by his wife and members of his family.

It is impossible to mention the many people who have done so much within the parish over the years. Names such as Mr. W. H. Tuckwell and family, Mr. & Mrs. Bond, Mr. & Mrs. Alf Brown, Mr. & Mrs. W. Harding, Mr. Oliver Clifton, his wife and daughter, Mr. & Mrs. W. Spencer and their family, Mrs. Alma Steele and her family, the Howards, the Keeps, the Appletons and Holford families, all come readily to mind, and it is regretted that the limitations of this record may mean failure to recognise all who by God's grace have been enabled to serve Him in Northbridge.

The **Rev. Stuart Abrahams** was appointed in June 1966. Prior to entering the ministry Mr. Abrahams was for 15 years in Business as a Real Estate Agent and Valuer. After ordination he was assistant Minister at St. Michael's, Wollongong, and Chaplain to the Children's Court for the greater city of Wollongong. In 1964 he was appointed Home Secretary of the New South Wales branch of the Church Missionary Society until accepting the oversight of the parish at Northbridge.

The pastoral ministry today extends far beyond the Sunday Church services, involving counsel and encouragement to those who are in difficult circumstances, to the bereaved and to the ill, — religious instruction at schools, preparation for marriage, and Baptism, and the conducting of these services themselves.

The agencies of the church are able to offer facilities for specialised counselling in spiritual matters, in marriage guidance, and in social welfare problems. If the Rector is unable to assist personally, he will be able to direct to the appropriate person.



THE CHURCH TODAY

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES.

Within the conduct of all services there is an emphasis upon worship, fellowship and a direct ministry from Holy Scripture. At St. Mark's the 10.00 a.m. service is conducted at the same time as Sunday School to enable parents to come with their children to share in worship while their children are in Sunday School. Family Worship services are held on the 5th Sunday of the month each quarter. At the 7.15 p.m. evening services most of the young people of the fellowship attend and the service is intended to provide a positive outreach to all people.

A high standard of church music has since 1923, been a notable part of the worship of St. Mark's. The choir is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music a world-wide body whose aim it is to raise the quality and presentation of church music.

The organist and choirmaster Mr. Bert Le Mesurier accepted the position at St. Mark's in 1967 after many years of experience, first at All Saints' Waverley, and then at St. Andrew's Roseville, where he had been organist and choirmaster for about 17 years.

Many members of the choir testify to the help they have themselves received through this expression of worship, and singing to the glory of the Lord.

In 1966 and again in July 1968 the morning services were telecast by the ABC and circulated throughout the main cities of Australia. On a number of occasions the services have been broadcast.

There are several mid-week Bible study groups, Wednesday evenings in the Rectory and on Wednesday and Friday morning in parishioners' homes.



PARISH ORGANISATIONS

The Church endeavours to provide through its various organisations, not only a wider opportunity for Christian fellowship and service, but also the means whereby every member may give encouragement and help to each other in both spiritual and material ways.

Men's Fellowship:

A recreational evening is organised once a month on Friday evenings and a quarterly Men's Tea is held in the Parish Hall on a Sunday Evening at 5.15 p.m. The teas are usually well attended; the friendliness, the high standard of catering, and an interesting guest speaker combine to make the evenings thoroughly worthwhile.

The maintenance of the church grounds is effected through the willing assistance of a number of men who are rostered for this work. Several visitation programmes embracing both welfare organisations and Church Lay visitation have been keenly supported.

Mothers' Union.

St. Mark's Mothers' Union was first formed in May 1934, when the Rev. C. H. Tomlinson invited the Diocesan Secretary of Mothers' Union to come to St. Mark's and explain to the ladies what the M.U. stood for in the community. The 16 women present were so impressed with her address that it was decided to form a group, and the first Admission service was held in August of that year with the late Mrs. F. M. Brown (the mother of Mr. Alf Brown) becoming the first secretary and Mrs. Tomlinson the first Enrolling Member.

The branch grew to become one of the largest in the Diocese and has been blessed with spiritual and happy fellowship. One of the active members, Mrs. Rapley moved to England, and through her influence arranged "our link" branch with the parish of Adel where she is at present a member.

Practical help is given by the branch to various Diocesan organisations, and members visit mothers at the Mater Maternity Hospital during the months of May and July each year, with a gift for each baby.

The Mothers' Union meets on the 4th Thursday each month at 1.30 p.m. All mothers are welcome to share in the friendship, unity and work of world-wide organisation.

The Women's Fellowship.

In August 1959, Mrs. K. L. Loane was instrumental in inaugurating a Young Wives' group at St. Mark's in affiliation with the Mothers' Union. The aims are to increase fellowship and concern for one another through a deeper knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to inspire active participation in Christian service.

Recently the name of the group was changed to the "Women's Fellowship" and while still pursuing the same aims, is intended to provide Christian fellowship for all women in the parish.

The highlight of each year's programme has been an Annual "Birthday" meeting to which husbands and friends are invited, and has proved to be successful and enjoyable.

The meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. usually in the Rectory. Free discussion is encouraged on a variety of topical subjects, which are introduced by a guest speaker.

Youth Fellowship Activity.

In 1951 the church paper described the Fellowship as an organisation to provide Christian fellowship for young people but more specifically to reveal to them the true meaning of Christianity and to show that it is a "faith that works".

Owen Spencer formed the Fellowship with these objects, and established this pattern for future youth activities. Some of the early leaders were John Newman, Ian Holford and John Dring. As well as providing social activities, the spiritual influence of "Fellowship" in the lives of young people is incalculable. . . From St. Mark's many have now moved into positions of trust within the business world and the community. Some are taking active responsibility in our own, and other churches, at least two are entering the Ministry, two have been engaged in full time Missionary Service, and one is at present training with this object in view. The present fellowship programme follows similar objects — The main meeting is at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday Evenings for Bible Study and Discussion. There are bi-monthly Fellowship Teas, recreational evenings, an annual weekend Houseparty, and among other interests, Carol Singing at Christmas in hospitals, and in the district.





A MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

Sunday School

The Sunday School is supervised by Mr. Maurice Saxby, who is highly qualified in the teaching profession. With the enthusiastic support of committed Christian leaders and teachers, the Sunday School endeavours to help "train up a child in the way it should go" within the Christian faith. The present system of teaching, carefully grades the children into departments approximately corresponding with those of the State Schools, and enrolls children from 3 years of age. Each department has a leader who assumes responsibility under the General Superintendent. The departments begin each Sunday with corporate worship, and then the children move into classes. The lessons follow a syllabus planned, so that as pupils progress through the Sunday School they will cover the teaching of both the Old and New Testament explaining the need for personal commitment to Christ and so lead ultimately to an intelligent understanding of Confirmation and a life of active church membership.

The Sunday School meets at 10.00 a.m. each Sunday at the same time as the Morning Church Service, for the convenience of parents who wish to worship while their children are at Sunday School.

The Church of England Boys' Society.

The Northbridge branch was commenced in 1958 by the Catechist Mr. Reg Platt. Mr. Roy Akeroyd and Mr. Bob Appleton, who assisted in the formation of the branch were to become the Branch Governor and Deputy Governor in the subsequent years. The CEBS "Orders" follow that of the days of Knighthood, and has Lads, Pages, Knights and Esquires. The object is to bring boys to a fuller knowledge of the Christian life through its four square ideals of spiritual, physical, social and intellectual development.

Two of the leaders, Mr. Peter Gaffney and Mr. Chris Bryant have themselves passed through the "ranks" of St. Mark's CEBS.

The present Branch Governor, Mr. Bruce Nunn was previously the District Commissioner of CEBS and has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to this work. The group meets on Thursday evenings.

The Girls' Friendly Society.

St. Mark's branch of G.F.S. was started about 30 years ago, but after a few years ceased to operate. In 1958 the branch was again formed from what had been a girls' club and became affiliated with the world-wide Church of England Girls' Society. The fundamental object of the society is incorporated in its motto "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ".

The activities follow the basic "4 square" programme. The uniform is an attractive one, royal blue skirt, white blouse with GFS emblem on the pocket, lanyard and beret. There are three groups meeting on Tuesday afternoons, the leader Mrs. Robyn Nunn, who supervises the Juniors and Intermediates, and the youngest group "Possums" is led by Miss Anne Cooke.

The girls attend Church parades and are encouraged to attend Sunday School and to take part in Diocesan activities.



"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven".

Daily Pre-School Kindergarten.

For the benefit of local people, St. Mark's Day Kindergarten was commenced in 1964. The school is supervised by a trained Director, and assistants. The kindergarten aims to provide a high standard Christian nursery in attractive surroundings. Information concerning enrolment is available from the director, Miss Maureen Smart, 94-8509.



THE CHURCH'S OUTREACH BEYOND NORTHBRIDGE

(i) Within the Diocese and Australia.

The church takes practical steps to help others in need by financially supporting the work of the Home Mission Society and other Church agencies, as well as giving direct assistance.

It is not possible to list the many avenues in which the church has had particular interest over the years, but it should be noted that the women's organisations have consistently endeavoured to take a direct interest in the work of Pallister Girls' Home, while the young people have had a continuing concern for the boys in Carlingford Boys' Home.

More recently a concern has developed for the establishment of churches in new housing areas, and for several years now two of our young men have been assisting with the Youth Work in Dundas and Telopea, and as well, some of our parishioners have been assisting in a visitation campaign in the new suburb of Whelan, Mt. Druitt.

Apart from the work of laymen, several men from St. Mark's felt the call to the ministry. **Rev. Harold Hinton**, whose family formerly were parishioners, was ordained 12 months ago, and is now curate at All Saints' Hunters Hill. **Mr. John Mason**, the son of a former Rector, is at present in training at Moore College, for the ministry. **The Rev. Graham Jefferys** a

"Northbridge" boy was baptised at St. Mark's, and attended Sunday School. Confirmed in 1957, he joined the Fellowship, becoming leader in 1961, and was a Sunday School teacher, for a time studied at the University of NSW and entered Moore College in 1963, where he gained his Th.I. In 1967 he became curate at St. Barnabas' East Roseville, with St. Philip's Castle Cove, and is now curate at St. Michael's Wollongong.

(ii) Overseas

The pointed comment "The church that lives to itself will die by itself" is a true saying, and by the grace of God, St. Mark's has endeavoured to foster a world-wide vision of man's spiritual need... first by "adopting" a missionary and then later through those who have moved into overseas Missionary Service from this parish.

Miss Charys Begbie, the daughter of the late Rector of St. Stephen's Willoughby, was the first to become "our own missionary" in Nairobi, Kenya and was incidentally later awarded an M.B.E. for her service, then Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Barton, who were missionaries at the Roper River Station in the Northern Territory, and when they returned, Miss Jean Mason at Oenpelli N.T.

Miss Lesley Lyon was the first St. Mark's parishioner to go out on Missionary Service with C.M.S., teaching at Umbakumba mission in the Northern Territory.

Today the parish has developed a special interest in the missionary work of Dr. Peter Bolliger, who spent most of his life in Northbridge, attending first the Sunday School, then the Youth Fellowship of which he was at one time leader. He studied medicine at Sydney University. Since 1964 Dr. Bolliger and his wife Robyn have been working as Missionaries with the Church Missionary Society in Tanzania. For most of that time they have been stationed at Murgwanza hospital. Murgwanza is one of the remote areas where village life is practically untouched by western civilisation. It is here that Dr. Bolliger has been engaged in medical work among the 60,000 people of the Wahangaza tribe, while Robyn has been occupied not only in looking after her own family of three children but also in work amongst mothers and young people in the area. Murgwanza hospital with 120 beds admits nearly 3000 in-patients for treatment every year, as well as treating approximately 2500 out-patients each month. There is only one doctor, two ex-patriot nursing sisters; 7 trained African nurses and 24 African nursing aides. For most of the last 3½ years Dr. Bolliger has been the only available doctor for the whole district with a total population of 120,000.

Still further interest in the outreach of the church overseas was brought about by the marriage of Miss Shirley (Penny) Farthing, to Rev. Robert Andrews who has been a CMS missionary in Tanzania for nine years and after their marriage early in 1968 they returned to the Diocese of Morogoro. They are both officially "linked" with St. Mark's through C.M.S.



Rev. Graham Jefferys



Dr. Peter and Robyn Bolliger



Rev. Robert and Shirley (Penny) Andrews



Miss Dorothy Partridge

Miss Dorothy Partridge, a qualified school teacher, attended first the Sunday School, then fellowship and church at St. Mark's to become a Sunday School teacher, Leader of the G.F.S. and for 2 years a member of the Parish Council, has been accepted a Missionary Candidate for CMS and is at present in training with this object in view.

The role of the church is not always clearly defined in the mind of the average person . . . The history of the people in the church of St. Mark's Northbridge has taught that the spirit of God is at work in the world and that the Gospel of the love of God, as it is revealed in Jesus Christ, is able to meet man at the deepest level of his need. It is for this reason that the role of the church will continue to be the clear presentation of this truth, that men and women, children and young people, in Northbridge and beyond, may be enabled to know personally the reality of God's love.

The Christian Women's Convention





Parker Colman Pty. Limited
Printers 451-2311.