

The Church of St james
PARISH OF MINTO
WOLLONGONG REGION
Anglican Diocese OF SYDNEY

By

O Brockenhuus - Schack

INDEX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Page II
CHAPTER 1. Parish boundaries.	Page 1
CHAPTER 2. A time to begin.	Page 3
CHAPTER 3. Church buildings.	Page 5
CHAPTER 4. A time of decline.	Page 6
CHAPTER 5. A time to get moving.	Page 7
CHAPTER 6. A time to establish.	Page 9
CHAPTER 7. A time of progress.	Page 11
CHAPTER 8. A time of challenges	Page 12
APPENDIX I MINISTERS.	Page 15
APPENDIX II ASSISTANT/SUDENT MINISTERS.	Page 16
APPENDIX III. World War One	Page 17

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Campbelltown Council

Campbelltown. World War One 1914 – 1918 by Jeff McGill

History of Campbelltown NSW by William A. Bayely

In Green Pastures by Robert Porter.

Moore College. (Rhonda Barry Registrar)

National Library. ACT

Office of Surveyor. General, Department of Lands

St Peters Campbelltown

State Library of NSW

The Minto Parish Boundary was copied from the map 'Parish of Minto 1850', at Campbelltown Library in 1995.

I wish to thank all those people at St James who have contributed and encouraged me with this work, every bit helps to build a picture of what happened when and where.

Chapter 1

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA The Minto Parish & its Boundaries

A Brief History

The Church of England's, held its first Baptism and Holy Communion, on Australian soil, on the 17 February 1788. As the Governors held absolute power and having been appointed by the Monarch, they also were Head of the C of E in Australia and some apparently took that role very seriously, therefore at least the Church was overseen by them up to around eighteen sixties. Around 1810 - 1812. NSW was divided into Parishes.

In 1825 "Royal Instructions was sent to the Governor Darling of the Colony of NSW, that a survey to be done of NSW and its division into counties hundreds and Parishes.

In 1835 all the Parishes in NSW were all Gazetted. The Supplement to the New South Wales Government Gazette, dated Saturday, May 27. 1835. Page 331. Letters of Patent for erecting the County of Cumberland and dividing the same into Hundreds and Parishes. Parish of Minto page 338. Same Parishes boundaries were used for the Police Districts, Minto Police Districts, Page 399. The rest of the Parishes in NSW were Gazetted later that year.

The Church Act of 1836 put all Churches on equal footing in NSW. The first C of E Theological College, St Augustine's, St James Church, King Street was established in Sydney in 1845 and moved to Lyndhurst in 1847 and then for various reasons it had closed by 1849.

Following the wishes of Thomas Moore, the Moore Theological College was founded and his estate was instrumental in it's establishment. First situated at Liverpool in 1856 and then later it was moved to Newtown to be closer to Sydney University.

1849 Diocese of Australia was divided into four separate Dioceses of Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne and Adelaide. In 1868 a Conference was held, named 'Conference of Bishops', which was held, 23 November to the 1 December. Around the 5 May 1870 Colony of NSW was then divided into Five Dioceses. Sydney, Newcastle 1847, Goulburn 1863 and in 1950, the Diocese became Canberra, Goulburn, Bathurst 1870 and Riverina 1884

The First General Conference agreed on the Constitution on the 23 October 1872. On Wednesday 23 October 1872, a motion moved by the Bishop of Melbourne, seconded by the Bishop of Adelaide 'That this Conference do now resolve itself into the General Synod of the Dioceses in Australia and Tasmania. The First General Synod met under that name from 23 October 1872 to 29 October 1872.

In 1962 the Australian Church of England ended all legal ties with C of E, in England and became Church of England in Australia from the 1 January 1962. The existing Constitution was passed and then became effective. The Second General Synod then passed Canon 16 which provided for a change of name from Church of England in Australia to Anglican Church of Australia, which took fifteen years before it was passed because of all the States and Federal Parliament had to pass the Legislation first and the name came into force on the 24 August 1981.

Alteration to the Name of the Church of England in Australia, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette Number: G 25, page 73. The Gazette is dated Tuesday, 23 June 1981.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA. Alteration to the Name of the Church of England in Australia, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette Number: G 25, page 73. The Gazette is dated Tuesday, 23 June 1981.

The item is:

I, MARCUS LAWRENCE LOANE, K.B.E., M.A., D.D., Primate of the Church of England in Australia, Archbishop of Sydney and Metropolitan, acting on the advice of the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the said Church in pursuance of Section 3 of 'The Anglican Church of Australia Canon of 1966' of the General Synod, do by this declaration appoint the twenty-fourth day of August 1981 as the date upon which the said Canon shall come into operation, that is to alter the name of the Church of England in Australia to The Anglican Church of Australia.

Given under my hand and seal in Sydney

this fifth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-one.

M.L. LOANE

Primate

In England 1985 The Australia Act 1985 was passed cutting the link between the British Parliament and the Parliaments of all the States in Australia. In 1986 the Australia Act 1985, Act No 142, 1985, 4 December 1985. Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No S 85, 1986 dated 2 March 1986, and signed by Bob Hawke the same day. Was ratified 3 March 1986 and effective in Australia and Great Britain at the same time.

Minto Parish Boundary.

The initial Minto parish boundary was established by Governor Lachlan Macquarie sometime between 1810 and 1812. In 1825 "Royal Instructions was sent to the Governor Darling of the Colony of NSW, that a survey to be done of NSW and its division into counties hundreds and Parishes. 1827 the Minister for St Peters, Campbelltown was appointed, Assistant Minister for Liverpool and held services in the Parishes of Appin and Minto. 1834 the first dated map of Minto that was published. In 1852 the Parish Map showing clearly the boundaries roughly to the East, the Georges River and to the South, two paddocks south of Ben Lomond Road, going west across Campbelltown Road a line drawn in the sand (now roughly where Raby Road is) west to the now Old Hume Highway, Camden Valley Road. The West boundary was along the Hume Highway (Camden Valley Road), north to the Cross Roads. Then going south back towards Ingleburn to what is now called the Old Glenfield Road and then in a straight line down to the Georges River. Supplement to the New South Wales Government Gazette, Saturday, May 27. 1835. Page 331. Letters of Patent for erecting the County of Cumberland and dividing the same into Hundreds and Parishes. Parish of Minto is page 338.

Full Parish

On the 8 June 2004 the Wollongong Regional Council ("WRC") meeting was held. It recommended that Minto Parish then Provisional, should become a full Parish from 1 January 2005. The reason for that was that, to cut the ties to St Peters, Parish of Campbelltown who had been administrating Parish of Minto, either directly or indirectly from around 1875. In October 2004 the Whole Synod met and endorsed "That the Parish of Minto was to be declared a full parish from the 1 January 2005".

Chapter 2

A TIME TO BEGIN Settlement to 1900

THE FARMS

The Aboriginal Tribes were spread around what is now called Australia and also here in NSW. Here in the Minto area as we know it today there was a tribe and what is unusual it had two names depending who you spoke to Dharawal or Tharawal and another tribe used to come to this area called the Darug.

It was said "That in 1809 when the officers who had over from Governor Bligh, heard that Lachlan Macquarie had been appointed Governor on the 1 April 1809, that they named a large area Minto, sometime between May and November which including this area, after the Earl of Minto, Gilbert Elliot Murray Kyngmount who was at that time the Viceroy of India from 1807 – 1814 to appease the incoming Governor, apparently as they were good friends and also because they thought that they would stand trial in NSW instead they were sent to England, but there is no written evidence to confirm or deny that is the reason why it took place. A large part of this area was then renamed Airds in 1810 just after Governor Macquarie arrived. It is a possibility that the village got the name Minto the same time, because it had not been officially named and kept it.

Minto Village

The name Minto Village was in existence in 1810 because Governor Macquarie came there for a visit on the 6 November 1810. Minto was a farming community consisting of the families who owned the larger properties, those who worked on them and businesses which supported the farming community, businesses like the blacksmith's shop and Percival Brothers' slaughter yard. It was for this community that St. James was first built.

At the time of the building of the first St. James, there were five farms on the eastern side of the railway line. The little railway station was known as Campbellfield's the platform was built in 1874, and first used 1877 and it was renamed Minto Station in 1882. and the Station Master's house was situated at the level crossing. The railway station also served as a Post Office and was run by the Station Master.

On the corner of Redfern and Pembroke Roads (the site of the present St. James), there was the village blacksmith's shop. It was the local meeting spot where people from the village would stop to chat.

Campbellfield's

Around May 1811 Doctor William Redford was granted 800 acres, what is today Minto. Situated in what is now Pembroke Road, the estate was named after Elizabeth Campbell, the wife of Governor Macquarie. The farmhouse was built in 1811 using hand-made bricks, rough stone walls and flagged stone veranda floors. It was built for Dr. Redfern, a former surgeon in the Royal Navy and an emancipated convict. The estate was noted for sheep raising and wine grapes.

Varroville

Lying to the north-west of Campbellfield's, the land was granted to Dr. Townson, a doctor of laws, in 1810. The estate was named after the Roman writer Varro. The farm was noted for its sheep and cattle raising as well as for wine grapes. Varroville later came into the estate of W. Staniforth and was used for dairy cattle and sheep.

St. Andrews

St. Andrews was owned by the Thompson family and used mainly for raising sheep. Later it was also had a dairy farm.

Chapter 3

Church Buildings

THE FIRST ST. JAMES

The building known as St. James', Minto, was first erected on a site at the corner of Minto Road and Cumberland Road in 1897. It was built of bricks, had gothic windows, and frames of Oregon and kauri pine. The roof was terra cotta tiles, floors were tallow wood and the chancel windows lead lighted with coloured glass. The builder was T.P. Latter. He was assisted by Architect Wilshire.

The foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Bathurst, the Right Reverend C.E. Camidge, on 13th September, 1897. The Reverend T.V. Alkin, M.A., was rector of St. Peters, Campbelltown and St. Mary's, Denham Court. He placed under the stone, in the customary cavity, copies of the Sydney Morning Herald of September 13th, 1897 and the Campbelltown Herald dated September 8th, 1897. St. James Church was to be a place of worship for the people of Ingleburn and Minto. It was formally opened on Saturday, February 5, 1898 by the Venerable Archdeacon Langley in the presence of many clergy and visitors. Afternoon tea was served by the ladies in a large marquee. The register shows 120 present at the Dedication Service and an offertory was taken up totalling £8-3-8. Thus the first St. James era had now begun and regular services were now held.

RE-ERECTED

On Saturday, August 24th, 1918 at 3 p.m. the foundation stone was laid by the Archbishop of Sydney, Right Rev. J. C. Wright. The original foundation stone was also re-laid, with copies of the Daily Telegraph and Campbelltown Herald of August 24th, 1918 were added to the original newspapers in the cavity, along with details of the church and a silver coin struck in 1918.

The Church was ready, for worship and the task completed in November 1918. Once again St. James became a place of worship for the congregation of Minto.

The Rev. Robert Hunter who died in 1919, and a plaque was erected to his memory which hangs on the southern wall of the 1918 St. James Church building.

The Task Completed

The Dedication Service was held on November 19th, 1918 at 3.15pm and conducted by the Dean of Sydney, Rev. A. E. Talbot. The Service Register showed that 162 people were seated, with many other people standing. An offertory totalling £15-15-0 was collected.

THE SECOND ST. JAMES

The foundation stone was laid by Rt. Rev. Harry Goodhew, Bishop of Wollongong, on Saturday, 1st December, 1984, and representatives of St. Anne's, Ryde, were part of the enthusiastic open-air congregation.

The new St. James was opened Saturday 25th May, 1985 by Rt. Rev. Bishop Harry Goodhew with Rev. Les Vitnell, Director of the New Areas Committee.

Chapter 4

A TIME OF DECLINE 1898 - 1918

It was not long before the first St. James building was unable to fulfil the purpose for which it had been built. The population of the Minto area began to centre on the railway station and Minto village was growing. St. James was no longer central for worship and both the congregation and frequency of services diminished. St. James became less useful as a "place of worship".

It appears from past records that on Friday 25th June, 1915 a meeting was convened by the Rural Dean of Cobbity and the rectors of Campbelltown and Ingleburn with their wardens. The meeting was held in the home of Mr. Lucas, a churchwarden of Ingleburn. The meeting was called to decide the boundaries between St. Peters, Campbelltown and St. Barnabas', Ingleburn.

Those present at the meeting were the Rural Dean, Canon Allmutt (Chairman); the Rev. L. Palmer, Ingleburn; J.R. Hunter, Campbelltown; Messrs. Lucas, Harris, Willis, Sherack and Keats of Ingleburn and Messrs Nowle and Sutton of Campbelltown.

Ingleburn wanted a new church, but St. James, being on the border, was central to neither Ingleburn nor Minto. The people of Minto had bought two blocks of land in Redfern Road (the present site) from a Mrs. Tutt of Petersham on February 15th, 1915, but could not afford to move the building to that site. Unfortunately nothing was resolved at this meeting.

St. James was taken into the parish of St. Peters, Campbelltown, and was used for occasional services by Rev. Hunter. During this period St. James became a haven for men on the road, the "swaggies" who passed through Minto on their way to anywhere work could be found.

It was the time of World War I and public attention was focussed on fighting and winning-and plans for Minto to have a place of worship were again shelved.

By 1917 services were held in the Minto School of Arts at 7.15pm on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, with Sunday school conducted at 3.45pm every Sunday with Mrs. Watson as Superintendent.

Chapter 5

A TIME TO GET MOVING 1918 - 1919

In 1918 a group of Minto parishioners made moves towards having the St. James building transferred from Cumberland Road to its present site in Redfern Road. The war was still in progress and money was scarce, but this was to be a venture of faith. They trusted and they prayed.

The Contract Signed

On Friday, July 12th, 1918 a contract was signed with the builder, Syd. A. Cross, to remove and re-erect St. James on the blocks of land which had been purchased in 1915. The firm of architects was Bucham and Clamp. The contract price for the finished job was £389, with a time allowance of 10 weeks and a penalty of £4 per week for every week taken over this time limit.

The contract included transporting all material to the Redfern Road site, which was no small task considering that all the carrying was done by horse and dray. All work on the project was done by hand. No machinery of any kind was used. Even the cement and mortar was mixed by hand. Extracts of some of the conditions of the contract are as follows:

"Contractor to take all responsibility and risk in demolishing and removal and re-erecting of material and make good any damage or loss that may happen -- give all council notices and pay any fees due... insure all workmen under the Workers Compensation Act... insure all material against loss or damage by fire..., scrub all floors..., clean all glass... building to be ready for use... all extra material or any loss or damage to Church is to be met by the Contractor."

There is no record of any industrial trouble during the building of St. James; there was no 40 hour working week in those days, and certainly no demarcation clauses!

The building was to be re-erected; to all intents and purposes, as it stood at the corner of Minto and Cumberland Roads, but with two alterations and conditions.

1. The veranda which had extended along the front of the church was to be left off. A porch 7'6" square was to be built in its place at the entrance to the southern end of the Church.

2. A gothic arch was to be put in at the northern end to lead, at a later date, to the Chancel and vestry door, an extension which was never made.

The Work Begins

The doors of St. James were opened for the last time on this site, Sunday, 21st July, 1918. No record of this service was kept.

During the last week of July 1918, the workmen started clearing the site at Redfern Road and dismantling the building ready for removal.

The First Vestry Meeting

The following people were present at the first Vestry meeting, chaired by Rev. Hunter: Mr. Arthur Watson; Mr. D.J. Hall (elected people's warden); Mr W.H. Hawes (Rector's - Warden); and Mr. Hall, (Secretary). The first balance sheet is dated March 31st, 1919.

Sunday school Begins

Sunday school on the new site was opened at 3pm in June, 1919 with Mr. Sutton as Superintendent. He was assisted by Misses Porter, Vernon, Mowl and Mrs. Watson with a total of 30 pupils attending.

Mr. Sutton always drove a horse and 4-wheel buggy which he tied to the fence outside the church. He soon became the victim of pranks by the local boys and often came out of evening service to find his horse either back to front in the buggy or unharnessed altogether. He sometimes found the fence between the horse and buggy. Although he never complained, he was heard to say on one occasion that the boys "needed praying for!"

Sunday school also had its lighter side, such as ringing the bell at odd times, or tying the girls' sashes to the back of the seat and singing out of tune!

Services Commence

As St. James was rebuilt, the service arrangements were for a 7.15pm Evening service which included Holy Communion that was held once a month. Communion was also celebrated on Christmas Day and Easter Day. A morning service was to be held as arranged by the Rector.

This pattern of Services was followed until the time of World War II when it was decided to change the regular service time from 7.15pm to 1.00pm. These service times continued until 1960.

At that time, Rev. G. Chandler replaced the 1.00pm service with a service at 9.30am. This 9.30am service remained following the appointment of the Rev. Peter. Clifford when St. James was brought under the oversight of the Sydney Church of England New Areas Committee in March, 1978.

Service times were changed, however, on September 30th, 1979 when 8.00am and 7.00pm services were begun. The 8am service was dropped from December, 1980 due to poor attendance, but recommenced on the 4 February 2007. The Chinese congregation had their first service at 14.30PM. and it commenced on 13 March 1994 and on the 7 January 1996 the service time was changed to 11.15 AM and the service was still run from Cabramatta. In 2003 it was requested that the service be run from St James, Rt. Rev. Harry Goodhew, Bishop of Wollongong concurred.

Chapter 6

A TIME TO ESTABLISH 1827 - 1927

Rev. Thomas Reddall 1820 - 1838

Rev. T. Reddall, was appointed Minister for Campbelltown in 1820, supervised the building of St Peters. Rector there from 1823 – 1838 when he died. 1827 he was assistant minister at Liverpool and looked after the Parishes of Appin and Minto. Put in charge of the male orphan school at Liverpool.

Rev. Isaac Arbitrage 1919-1927

Rev. I. C. Arbitrage followed the Rev. Hunter as Rector of St. Peter's, Campbelltown and therefore of St. James, Minto. During his time fetes were held at John Westbury's home in Redfern Road, at Mrs. P. Hayes' in Lincoln Street home and at the Local Hall. Proceeds were used to reduce the Church debt. Rev. Arbitrage transferred to Manly in 1927.

Changes to the Grounds

St. James was well attended during these post war years and during this period the palm trees in front of the Church were planted to represent a cross. Many trees were planted in the grounds.

In 1920 a tennis court was built on the site of the present Rectory, under the supervision of one of the churchwardens, Mr. A. Watson. Tennis tournaments were held and St. James had senior and junior teams in the competitions. Ladies used the courts for social games, inviting ladies of other denominations to join them. These competitions continued until the beginning of World War II when the courts were abandoned.

Rev. John Frederick Rofe, 1927-1951

In 1927 Rev. Rofe succeeded Rev. Armitage. He will be best remembered for bringing St. James through the difficult depression and War Years. A great strain was put on him and the parish. Rev. Rofe also conducted the first wedding in St. James when Mr. Keith Morgan married Miss Ivy Hawes.

Depression

The depression years of the late 20's and early 30's were felt by everyone and even our parish suffered. The records of St. James show that contributions towards the rector's stipend had fallen from £10 per annum to between £7 and £8.

At that time, the expense of paying fares from Sydney for more than one lay reader to assist with services a little embarrassing. In 1931, to ease the financial burden on the church, it then was examined by Rev. Rofe, who appointed a licensed lay reader for the parish of St. Peter's, Campbelltown. This meant that there was now conducted services on four Sundays each month at one of the branch churches, Minto, Wedderburn or Appin. The only transport was bicycle, except when Mr. Hannaford would lend me his horse and sulky for the drive to Appin.

St. James Minto was consecrated at 3pm on Sunday, 14th October, 1934. The service was conducted by the Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Rev. Dr. H. W. K. Mowll.

Keeping in Touch

St. Peter's Church published a monthly news journal which included Minto news and it was Norma's and Porter's job to deliver copies to about 50 families in Minto. It would take two Saturday afternoons to deliver these and talk to the folk. Many who received the journal sadly were not regular attendees at church. This task started in 1931 and went to 1939.

Keeping the Church Lights Burning.

In the late twenties the lighting at St. James consisted of four Miller kerosene lights. These lights used one pint of kerosene each per service, an expense that could well be done without at that time. Three parishioners donated two hanging and one table Aladin lamps to replace the Millers.

The Aladin lamps stood two feet high and burned 4% air with each pint of kerosene. Their light was four times as bright as the Miller lamps and the other advantage was that they used only one pint of kerosene to every gallon used by the Millers.

In 1926 the four Miller lights were donated to the Bush Church Aid Society and were sent to Wilcannia to light a hostel that had just been completed. They served their purpose there for many more years.

Setbacks

It was probably a sign of the times that in 1932 St. James was broken into and the curtains, chalice, offertory plate were stolen.

Chapter 7

A TIME OF PROGRESS 1935 -1978

Signs of Progress

August 1938 saw electric lights installed at St. James. The contract was given to Mr. F. Wilkerson of Campbelltown. The contract price was £6. A special service was held on Sunday, August 28th, 1938 at 7.15pm when the lights were switched on.

In 1948 city water was connected. Mr. Mattes, a licensed plumber from Macquarie Fields, connected one tap to the vestry for a cost of £14-10-0.

Rev Charles Sherlock

In 1951 Rev. Rofe retired. He was followed by Rev. W. R. Browne who stayed for one year. In 1952 Rev. Charles Sherlock (later a Canon of St. Andrew's Cathedral) took up residency in Campbelltown. Rev. Sherlock was followed in 1956 by Rev. Angus Tipping. He strongly supported St. James' interests and will be remembered for his efforts in obtaining the Guild Hall (now the Children's Centre), which was located on its present site next to the church in 1962.

Rev. Geoffrey Chandler

In 1966 Rev. Geoffrey Chandler was appointed Rector. During his time (in 1975) we received the Sun' day School hall (now demolished to make way for car parking and access to the new church centre) from Leumeah. The hall was of a similar construction to the Guild Hall, and stood behind and between the Guild Hall and the church, forming a U-shape with them.

The rectory, a prefab building was also moved from St. Peter's to Redfern Road in 1975 and bricked. This saw a new phase in the life of St James.

Captain Brian Mattinson

In 1975, with a rectory on site at St. James, the parish received its first residential worker. Captain Brian Mattinson was a Church Army Officer attached to St. Peters church, but with the task of looking after St. James. He and his wife Barbara brought to St. James a time of consolidation, outreach and industry. Barbara died half way through 1987 after a long battle with cancer.

During Brian Mattinson's time at St. James much restoration work took place. Brian organised working bees -- Mac Goodenough was in charge of painting and with, the help of Bert Oliver, Dave Bugden, Neville Hart and many others, the two halls were painted.

In 1975 the roof of St. James Church was retiled at a cost of \$2,455, the amount lent interest-free by the late Mary Monkley.

In 1977 the church floor was varnished, and the vestry and broom room removed from the front of the church to make room for the organ, communion table and dais.

The stained glass window at the northern end was renovated in memory of Mr. Apps. All windows and doors were repainted by Mac Goodenough; the wall at the southern end was cleaned of moss; all fencing around the church and rectory was replaced.

Chapter 8

A TIME OF CHALLENGE 1978 - 2010

The New Housing District of Minto

1978 saw a number of dramatic changes in the life of St. James. The Anglican Diocese of Sydney had recognised the needs of the rapidly growing centre of Minto, and St. James was proclaimed a "New Housing District" under the supervision of the New Areas Committee. This meant that St. James was no longer a branch church of St. Peter's, but a new and separate parish unit in the making, but still supported financially by Sydney Diocese.

Rev. Peter Clifford 1978 – 1982

In April 1978 Rev. Peter Clifford, formerly a missionary with the South American Missionary Society, became the first resident minister of St. James.

Growth Explosion

The quiet village of Minto now found itself part of a planned housing development called the Macarthur Development Region. To the village of Minto were added the Government housing area and whole new suburbs such as Leumeah and St. Andrews. There were new housing developments within Minto itself and Minto itself consisted of 97 % housing commission houses and the whole of Minto 30%. In 1985 Eagle Vale and Raby came into being.

Two high schools, Leumeah and Sarah Redfern, and six primary schools, Leumeah, Campbellfield's, Sarah Redfern, the Grange, Minto and St. Andrews, were within the parish boundaries and each called for weekly scripture teaching.

Most of this population was made up of young families. Figures obtained from the Campbelltown City Town Planner in 1980 showed that 42% of the population was less than 12 years of age. The four years spent at Minto were hard years for Rev. Clifford as he tried to meet the demands of a fast growing district. Rev. Clifford will be remembered most for his tireless efforts in visitation.

During Rev. Clifford's time, St. James obtained the services of Church Army Sister, Lyn Cox. Lyn will be remembered for her work among the children, scripture classes and her pastoral work among women. Sister Lyn, with her husband Geoff, left St. James in January 1983 to move to Queensland.

The participation of the congregation which had begun during the time of Brain Mattinson continued and the congregation greatly appreciated the musical talents of Jim Godfrey and Karen Willis.

After four years at St. James Peter Clifford decided that his calling was to the mission field once more. Thus, in 1983 Peter Clifford, his wife Valerie and two boys, Paul and Carlos, returned to missionary service with the South American Missionary Society in Venezuela.

Around 2000 it became evident that the concentration of housing commission houses was too much and it was decided to cut the number to around 30% of houses in the town of Minto itself. The north side of Ben Lomond Road had been cleared by the end of 2009 and new houses have been erected and new areas are being prepared. Although work has started on the south side it could take some years yet to complete.

On the Lighter Side

The then Archbishop of Sydney, Sir Marcus Loane was visiting St. James for a Confirmation Service. The church treasurer, Mac Goodenough recognised the visitor and greeted him at the church door.

TREASURER: I'm sorry, you can't come in. We're expecting the Archbishop!

ARCHBISHOP: But I am the Archbishop.

TREASURER: That's what they all say. I think you'd better see the Rector.

13

ARCHBISHOP: Where is the Rector?

TREASURER: Oh, he'd still be in bed. He doesn't get up this early on Sundays, you know. At that time Peter Clifford arrived and straightened everything out.

Rev. Eric Bird 1982 – 1989

Rev. Eric Bird was appointed Resident Minister of St. James and, with his wife Dorothy, came to the Parish in July 1982. During the years since then the parish has seen great initiatives and development. Rev. Bird is well experienced and equipped to handle the work of a growing parish. His untiring efforts as a teacher and organiser speak for themselves.

First Curate Appointed

While Sister Lyn Cox had been in the Parish a house in St Andrews had been rented for her. However in January of 1983 the house at 6 Blanche Street, Minto was brought from the Simmons family and in February Rev Neil Mayhew was appointed Curate. He came with his wife and new son Alan.

The Second St. James Project Begins

History has a habit of repeating itself and so it is with our beloved St. James. Once more the congregation outgrew the ability of the building to provide the necessary accommodation for our people. So, as in 1918, we prayed together for a bigger church building to meet our growing needs. With prayer and faith we made plans for the future.

"Minto Thingamee-Jig" is born

At the beginning of 1983, the idea of a craft shop to be operated by the parish was put forward. This was to provide in some measure an outlet for the "Sip-'n'-Stitch" craft group. This idea was fused with the realisation that an Op Shop selling used clothing and household items was badly needed in Minto. Quite amazingly, Minto Mall agreed to our use of a double shop at the front of the centre and all this led to the opening of "Minto Thingamee-Jig" in March, 1983. When this was no longer available, the management of Minto Mall made space available next to the Post Office in what had been a builder's storeroom.

The "Minto Thingamee-Jig" has been managed from its beginning by Dorothy Bird. One of the unexpected results of this enterprise, quite apart from its benefits to the community, was that its earnings provided much of the capital initially needed to furnish the new St. James' building.

The new Op Shop building brickwork and walls were finished around June/July 2004 and the people from St James painted the interior and fitted it out and it opened 11 August 2004.

Taking the First Steps

In August, 1983 the block of land next to St. James, on the corner of Pembroke and Redfern Roads, was purchased from the Mobil Oil for \$120,000. The money was provided by the New Sites Committee of Sydney Diocese. Mobil Oil had acquired the land in order to build a petrol station on the corner, but the widening of Pembroke Redfern Roads meant that they were denied approval for that purpose. The land thus became available for purchase at the very time it was needed.

In October, 1983, Mr. Bill Black of Sawdy and Black were engaged as Architect and in September, 1984, the building firm of Uptis & Co. Pty Ltd. was given the contract to erect the third St. James.

Working Together

The building project was to be a wonderful witness to the way God brought His people together, each playing different but important part. The New Sites Committee had bought the land. \$13,000 was given by the Wollongong Anglican Regional Council.

The people of St. James raised \$12,000 over the months of building, much of it earned through the Talent Project. Up to \$40 was offered to individuals to use in order to raise more, and ideas ranged from T-shirts printed "Finish the Job" to leather-embossing, street stalls, woodcraft, home made chocolates and Christmas cakes. This was the "Finish the Job Appeal". However, the lion's share of the cost of the building was provided by St. Anne's Church at Ryde.

In October, 1983, the Parish of Minto was informed that the Parish Council of St. Anne's had committed them selves to pay \$35,000 per year for six years. This was later raised to \$40,000 each year, making a total of some \$240,000 being given by St. Anne's.

The Beginning of a New Beginning

Highlight of the occasion was "Majesty", a musical extravaganza of worship in song, presented in the evening by the choir of St. Anne's Church. It was a day of great rejoicing and thanksgiving.

We are thankful for the many avenues that our Lord had opened and our thanks go especially to St. Anne's Church at Ryde, the "Minto Thingamee-Jig", the New Areas and New Sites Committees of the Diocese, and our congregation for their efforts in supporting our project for the "St. James Number Three". Late in 1985 a third staff-member was appointed to St. James with the specific role of pasturing the areas of Eagle Vale and Raby, both of which were added to Minto Parish.

In the same year, St. James, Minto become a Provisional Parish, no longer under the financial oversight of the New Areas

Minto Boundary and Area 2005

The boundary east Georges River, Meadows Creek, south Peter Meadows Road, east along Hansen Road, then left along Westmoreland Road, left at Pembroke Road, right at Rose Payten Drive. Right at Campbelltown Road, straight across the Hume Highway to Raby Road, left at Raby Road up to and includes Macarthur Grange Country Club, western boundary Leppington, Denham Court and north boundary to Campbelltown Road to just past Odyssey House, then left in a straight line to Collins Promenade, left to the outskirts of Ingleburn, then right in a line skirting Ingleburn to a unnamed creek and following that down to the Georges River.

Minto is well suited, now having a direct road and rail link to Sydney CBD and the Airport and being close to the highway and rail track from Sydney to Melbourne.

Appendix I.

Ministers, St James, Minto

Rev Thomas Reddall. St Peters, Campbelltown. 1820 - 1838. Assistant Minister Liverpool 1827.

Rev Thomas V. Alkin. St Peters, Campbelltown. 1876 - 1904.

Rev John Robert Hunter. St Peters, Campbelltown. 1912 - 1919

Rev Isaac C. Armitage. St Peters, Campbelltown 1919 - 1927.

Rev John Frederick Rofe. St Peters, Campbelltown 1927 - 1951

Rev William R. Browne. St Peters, Campbelltown 1951 - 1952.

Rev Charles Henry Sherlock. St Peters, Campbelltown 1952 - 1956.

Rev Angus Tipping. St Peters, Campbelltown 1956 - 1966

Rev Geoffrey Charles Chandler. St Peters, Campbelltown 1966 - 1978

Rev Peter Clifford. 1978 - 1982.

Rev Eric Bird. 1982 - 1989.

Rev Graham McKay. 1990 - 1998.

Various, retired local Reverends who had offered their services. 1998 - 1999.

Rev Alwyn Griffiths Rtd. 1999 - 2000. Was one of the above, but agreed to take on the service full time.

Rev Robert Happer. 2000 - 2005

Rev Chris Hanger. 2005 -

Appendix II.

Assistant Minister

Rev Neil Mayhew. 1983 – 1986.

Rev Stephen Semenchuck. 1987 – 1988.

Rev Warren Stuckey. 1989 – 1990.

Rev John Gaunt. 1991 – 1995

Rev Stephen Pivetta. 1996 - 1997

Rev David Doran. 2009 -

Student Minister

David Doran. 2007 – 2008

Appendix III.

MINTO, WORLD WAR I 1914 – 1918

B Andrew

G W C Byram

W B Clayton

R E Cox **Killed in Action**

A Crammond

K M Cuthell

W W Dick

H L Duck

H J Lea

G S Loney **Military Medal**

Sister E McRae

A C Mitcherson

A W Mc Kenzie Mowle

W McIntosh Murrell

D H Nash **Died of Wounds**

D Ohlfsen

A W Smart

J H Whitehouse

F W Wilkinson

W C Wilkinson