

St Albans



1885-1942



1961-1985

Centenary





This Book is Dedicated to
Harold Gorick
who compiled the information
and anecdotes presented within.

The Centenary Committee 1985

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Cover Drawings by
K. Clarke

* C E N T E N A R Y *

S T. A L B A N A N G L I C A N C H U R C H

N O R T H R O O T Y H I L L

O C T O B E R 8 t h , 1 8 8 5 O C T O B E R 8 t h , 1 9 8 5

St. Alban erected and licensed October 8th, 1885
Parish formed, St Mary Magdalene, St. Marys, with
Rooty Hill ... August 30th, 1887
St. Alban Consecrated August 16th, 1910
St. Alban's Parish Hall opened July 28th, 1934
St. Alban destroyed by wind February 24th, 1942
Replace St. Alban Opened and Dedicated July 30th, 1961
St. Alban becomes a Provisional District .. October 1st, 1965
St. Alban's Rectory Opened and Dedicated May 31st, 1969
St. Alban Consecrated August 29th, 1971
St. Alban raised to the status of a Parish May 31st, 1977

R E C T O R S

1885

1985

Rev. G. Brown	1885 - 1887	Rector
" A.C. Corlette	1887 - 1898	Incumbent
" Dixon Hudson	1898 - 1906	Rector
" F.J. Harris	1903 (Licensed as Locum)	
" H.R.H. Wilson	1904 - 1907	Curate
" H.F.L. Palmer	1907 - 1910	Rector
" W. Knox	1908	Curate
" L.R. Connell	1911 - 1914	Rector
" W.R. Bowers	1914 - 1918	Rector
" O.G. Dent	1919 - 1927	Rector
" C.R. King	1927 - 1931	Rector
" R.G.B. Ashcroft	1931 - 1934	Rector
" A.W. Setchell	1934	Curate
" G. Williamson	1934 - 1937	Rector
" C.A. Goodwin	1937 - 1940	Rector
" L.H.A. Broadley	1940 - 1941	Rector
" J. Mills	1942 - 1945	Rector
" T.H.H. Sloman	1945 - 1946	Rector
" E.H. Lambert	1946 - 1953	Rector
" T.E. Champion	1953 - 1956	Rector
" G.J. Ward	1956 - 1958	Rector
" E.J. Storey	1958 - 1962	Rector
" D.S. Richardson	1961	Curate
" K. Gowan	1962	Rector
" J. Baxter	1963 - 1965	Curate
" J. Baxter	1965 - 1968	Curate-in-Charge
" G.L. Wainwright	1968 - 1969	Curate-in-Charge
" J.R. Livingstone	1969 - 1973	Curate-in-Charge
" C.R. Flateau	1974 - 1977	Curate-in-Charge
" C.R. Flateau	1977 - 1978	Rector
" E. Sheppard	1978 -	Rector

LICENSED PAROCHIAL READERS:

Mr. W.J. Schmidt	1934		
Mr. C.S. Smith	1937	Mr. J.B. Sheens	1967
Mr. C.S. Smith	1954	Mr. B.S. Chapple	1967
Mr. C.S. Smith	1956	Mr. J.B. Sheens	1970
Mr. M. Unicom	1961	Mr. B.F. James	1970

PROBATIONARY PAROCHIAL READERS:

Mr. R.D. Harrison	1957		
Mr. J.C. Sheens	1957	Mr. P.M. Plows	1958
Mr. M.W. Ellison	1957	Mr. E. Painter	1959

CATECHISTS:

Mr. D.E. Longshaw	1942	Mr. W.I. Burchell	1952
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LICENSED LAY READERS

Mr. E. Mumford	1915	Mr. J.R. Gerking	1922
Mr. W.A.E. Parrott	1918	Mr. G. Hall	1922

ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH WARDENS, 1885 - 1985

From 1885 to 1906 there are no records of Church Wardens, owing to the loss of the Minute Books.

YEAR	MINISTER'S WARDEN	PEOPLE'S WARDENS
1907	Mr. J. Green	Mr. F. Schroder; Mr. J. Burroughs
1908	Mr. J. Green	Mr. F. Schroder; Mr. J. Burroughs
1909 - 1913	A Committee was elected to act as a Parochial Council in lieu of Church Wardens.	
1914	Mr. Collier	Mr. F. Schroder; Mr. Benyon
1915	" Collier	" F. Schroder; " W. Brown
1916	" W. Brown	" F. Schroder; (none elected)
1917	" E. Brown	" R. Oliver; Mr. F. Schroder
1918	" E. Brown	" R. Oliver; " F. Schroder
1919	" E. Brown	" A. McVey; " R. Oliver
1920	" E. Brown	" A. McVey; " R. Oliver
1921	" A. Burrows	" A. McVey; " - Paul
1922	" A. Burrows	" A. McVey; " - Paul
1923	" A. Burrows	" A. McVey; " - Paul
1924	" A. Burrows	" A. McVey; " - Paul
1925	Dr. L. Lawson	" A. McVey; " E. Baker
1926	Dr L. Lawson	" A. McVey; " E. Baker
1927	Dr L. Lawson	" A. McVey; " W. Cable
1928	Dr L. Lawson	" A. McVey; " W. Cable
1929	(no warden appointed)	" A. McVey; " R. Jeffreys
1930	Mr K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " R. Jeffreys
1931	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " R. Jeffreys
1932	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; (none elected)
1933	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " " "
1934	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; Mr. J. Sperring
1935	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " - Johns

(continued over)

YEAR	MINISTER'S WARDEN	PEOPLE'S WARDEN
1936	Mr K. Gilpin	Mr A. McVey; Mr - Johns
1937	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " - Johns
1938	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " J. Sperring
1939	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " J. Sperring
1940	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " J. Sperring
1941	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " J. Sperring
1942	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " J. Sperring
1943	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " J. Sperring
1944	" J. Sperring	" A. McVey; " K. Gilpin
1945	" K. Gilpin	" A. McVey; " - Evans
1946	" A. McVey	" K. Gilpin; (none elected)
1947	" A. McVey	" E. Chaffer; Mr - Evans
1948	" A. McVey	" E. Chaffer; Mr - Evans
1949	" A. McVey	" E. Chaffer; " - Evans
1950	" A. McVey	" E. Chaffer; " K. Luke
1951	" A. McVey	" E. Chaffer; " K. Luke
1952	" A. McVey	" E. Chaffer; " K. Luke
1953	" A. McVey	" E. Chaffer; " K. Luke
1954	" A. McVey	" E. Chaffer; " K. Luke
1955	" A. McVey	" C. Mason; " K. Luke
1956	" E. Chaffer	" C. Mason; " K. Luke
1957	" W. Foulds	" C. Mason; " M. Unicomb
1958	" W. Foulds	" C. Mason; " M. Unicomb
1959	" W. Foulds	" C. Mason; " M. Unicomb
1960	" W. Foulds	" M. Unicomb; " G. Walters
1961	" W. Foulds	" M. Unicomb; " G. Walters
1962	" M. Unicomb	" W. Foulds; " S. Morrison
1963	" - Shand;	" A. McVey; " W. Foulds
1964	" H. Gorick	" A. McVey; " W. Foulds
1965	" H. Gorick	" M. Unicomb; " W. Foulds
1966	" H. Gorick	" J. Spargo; " W. Foulds

(continued over)

YEAR	MINISTER'S WARDEN	PEOPLE'S WARDEN
1967	Mr. W. Foulds	Mr. J. Spargo; Mr. W. Raisin
1968	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; " W. Raisin
1969	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; " W. Raisin
1970	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; " W. Raisin
1971	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; " H. Gorick
1972	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; " F. Mellor
1973	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; (none elected)
1974	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; " R. Cooke
1975	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; " H. Gorick
1976	" W. Foulds	" J. Spargo; " H. Gorick
1977	" T. Gillespie	" J. Spargo; " R. Mellor
1978	" T. Gillespie	" J. Spargo; " R. Mellor
1979	" H. Gorick	" J. Spargo; " R. Mellor
1980	" J. Spargo	" T. Gillespie " R. Mellor
1981	" G. Blackwell	" H. Gorick; " R. Mellor
1982	" G. Blackwell	" H. Gorick; " R. Mellor
1983	" R. Cooke	" H. Gorick; " G. Blackwell
1984	" G. Blackwell..	" R. Cooke; " P. Atha
1985	" R. Cooke	" P. Atha " H. Gorick

SOME EARLY HISTORY OF

ROOTY HILL

Kevin Moore. F.B.D.H.S

Behind Rooty Hill is a long and significant history. Rooty Hill was named many years before Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth or Adelaide. It was an old name when Richmond and Windsor were named, and a very old name indeed when modern Blacktown came to get its name.

Both Rooty Hill and Eastern Creek had been popular camping places with the Aborigines for anything from 30,000 to 50,000 years, so we are comparative new-comers. During all these tens of thousands of years the Eastern Creek was the home of fresh-water fish, mussels, water-fowl, platypus etc. Then came 'Progress' and in a mere fifty years or so the creek has all but died. This is something to think about.

The first explorers through the district were a party led by Captain Tench of the Marines, and consisting of Surgeons Arndell and Lowes, two marines and one convict. They passed through Rooty Hill late in the morning of June 26, 1789, on a route now closely followed by the Great Western Highway. Tench was not one of those who sprinkle their own and their friends' names on the map, and the district remained without a name till some time after 1802.

In 1802 Governor King reserved for government use an area of land which had almost the same boundaries as the present City of Blacktown; the only significant differences were in part of the eastern and western boundaries. This land was used as a run for the government's herds of cattle, and at least the south-western part of it came to be known as 'the Rooty Hill run.'

In later years Governor King's son, Captain P. King, recalled that in 1806 he and other settlers along South Creek had been given permission to let their cattle feed on 'the Rooty Hill run'. The reason for the name has puzzled historians for many years, mainly because the clue lies not in Rooty Hill but on Norfolk Island. Governor King had been in charge of the first settlement there in 1788, and had noted that the hillside where he had built his Government House had been difficult to dig because of the tree roots that infested the ground. The hill on Norfolk Island became known as 'the rooty hill', and is still called Rooty Hill.

When King built the headquarters for his government reserve of 1802 he did so at the foot of a hill which reminded him of the Norfolk Island Rooty Hill, and there is no doubt he named our Rooty Hill in memory of that on Norfolk where he had spent the happiest and most productive years of his life.

Incidentally, as far as we can find 'our' Rooty Hill and the Rooty Hill on Norfolk are the only two in the world to bear that name.

For many years Rooty Hill remained the 'capital' of the stock reserve. In 1815 Governor Macquarie up-graded the accommodation for the superintendent at Rooty Hill, with rooms for himself to stay in while travelling in the district. In the 1820's this accommodation was also made available for people of importance to stay in for a night or weekend when travelling to or from the Blue Mountains. Sydney to Rooty Hill, or Parramatta to Rooty Hill was considered a fair day's journey, according to whether the traveller was on horseback or travelling by wagon.

It is Governor Macquarie's 'Government House' that now lies in ruins at the foot of Rooty Hill. Submissions have been made to Blacktown Council to have the ruins preserved and featured in a Memorial Park. It seems to be the oldest building in Blacktown City, and is certainly the only structure of Governor Macquarie.

About the same time as Macquarie was building his 'Government House' at the foot of Rooty Hill, Mr William Dean was settling where the Western Highway crossed Eastern Creek. William Dean was always known as 'Lumpy' Dean as he was enormously fat, weighing twenty stone ten pounds (say 140 kilos.) He was also, what often goes with it, a very jolly and popular man.

He opened an Inn by the creek crossing about 1817, which he named, in an obvious joke about his size, 'The Corporation Inn'. 'Lumpy' Dean had arrived in Australia as a convict in 1799, but by hard work and honest trading he became a large land-holder at Eastern Creek. When he died in 1847 the 'Sydney Morning Herald' wrote of the esteem and respect in which he was held, and of the numerous attendance at his funeral.

In spite of his weight Dean lived to be 78. He had eight children, and many of his descendants still live at Rooty Hill.

During the 1820's and 30's the land of the old Rooty Hill Run was offered for sale, at first by an arrangement by which the income was to be used to support the Anglican churches and schools in the colony, then later with profits going to the Crown. However, the land between the Western Highway and the Richmond Rd remained very sparsely settled, mainly because of the lack of good roads and reliable transport.

Perhaps the most profitable enterprise at that period was bush-ranging, travellers along the two roads being a lucrative source of income. Among the district's bushrangers at this time was a certain John Donahoe, the original 'Bold John Donahoe', the Wild Colonial Boy, whose song has made him famous around the English-speaking world.

The great turning-point in Rooty Hill life was the coming of the western railway in 1861. This fast, inexpensive and reliable form of transport made the local land valuable to farmers who needed to get their produce to market. Hundreds of acres in the

district now known as Plumpton were bought by the wealthy horse and cattle breeder and businessman, Walter Lamb. By 1875 Walter Lamb had large herds of horses and cattle grazing on his fields at North Rooty Hill. In 1876 he sold 'Greystanes', where he had been living, and moved into his new home, 'Woodstock', which is still standing.

The terrible drought of 1875-6 caused Lamb to sell his horses and cattle, and soon he turned his attention to fruit-growing and canning. By the 1880's and 90's Rooty Hill and Plumpton were covered with beautiful and productive orchards and vineyards. In Cannery Rd a large cannery employed hundreds of girls in the busy seasons. Meanwhile, the vineyards of Minchinbury extended across the Western Highway and reached the railway line at Rooty Hill.

It was no doubt the increase in population and wealth that came from Lamb's enterprise that led to the building of the church of St Alban in 1885.

By the turn of the 20th century the orchards and vineyards were destroyed by drought, by plant diseases, and by competition from the inland irrigation areas. The district must have gone through a depressed period, though there was an echo of its former importance when the Blacktown Shire Council held its inaugural meeting in the Rooty Hill School of Arts.

This brings the story of Rooty Hill to the beginning of the times that become 'living memory': the seemingly endless round of wars and peace, prosperity and depression. In every new cycle a new challenge to be met with faith and hope - and with charity to all.

CENTENARY OF ST. ALBAN'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH

NORTH ROOTY HILL

OCTOBER 8th 1885 OCTOBER 8th 1985

The first Church of England in Rooty Hill, as far as records show, was in 1828, but all trace of the 1828 church has disappeared. Fifty seven years later the church of St Alban was built, in 1885.

Records show that Church of England services were held in an old brick cottage a few doors down from the old Rooty Hill Post Office on 'Windsor Rd, Nth Rooty Hill'. Windsor Rd is now known as Rooty Hill Rd, North Rooty Hill.

Although there is no record, one could surmise that this old cottage could have been the old 1828 Church of England.

In later years this cottage, having become the property of the late Mr and Mrs Cable, was sold and demolished. Mr W. Cable was Secretary and Treasurer of St Alban's Church of England for many years. It is also interesting to note that, that one of our present Church members, Mrs Grace Jeffreys, was born in this cottage early in 1900.

The late Walter Lamb, who gave the land on which the church of St Alban is built, was every Sunday, driven down by his coachman from his home 'Woodstock', on the corner of Woodstock Ave and Windsor Road North Rooty Hill, to attend the services held in this cottage. Incidentally, Walter Lamb's home, 'Woodstock', is still standing.

In the late 1930's and 1940's a portion of his estate was used by the live-hare coursing association for what was known as

the 'Plumpton' races; these are now prohibited by the Animal Welfare Laws. "Live-hare coursing consists of dogs chasing a live hare or rabbit around a circular track."

In 1885 Walter Lamb gave a parcel of land between Westminster Street and Sherbrook Street, facing Windsor Road, North Rooty Hill, for the church of St Alban to be built on. When St Alban was completed in October, 1885, Mr Walter Lamb collected two shillings (20c) from each of the people employed by him towards the Church funds.

In 1888 a Sunday School was opened in the church of St Alban with an enrolment of fifty five children in four classes with four teachers.

The following extract is taken from The Nepean Times of 19/10/35 when the church was celebrating its Jubilee. The particular interest of the extract is that it quotes from the Times account of the opening of the church in 1885. It reads:

Nepean Times, 19/10/35.

'A CHURCH JUBILEE

In view of the recent celebration of the Jubilee of St Alban's Church, North Rooty Hill, the following, from The Nepean Times of the 17th of October, 1885, should be of some interest:

"Opening of the Church of St. Alban at North Rooty Hill

We can safely say that not half the residents of our town know the beauties of this charming village. With the exception of the few who visit Woodstock in the coursing season, there are scarcely any of the good people of our town who have ever seen it at all.

Since Mr Walter Lamb threw open the greater portion of his magnificent Estate for sale the place has progressed with wonderful rapidity and buildings are being erected in every direction.

The soil being particularly suitable for orchards and vineyards, large tracts are now being laid down for such purposes. The roads, too, are first class and some of our Road Trusts would do well to take a lesson in the art of road-making from the Rooty Hill Road Trust. Of course, Mr Lamb owning the principal portion of the district has had much to do towards raising it to its present position, and to him the Church of England congregation should be especially thankful for the generous gift of land on which the church stands, and for the amount subscribed by him towards the building.

There are two other gentlemen who deserve very special mention for their generous exertions on behalf of the church, and foremost stands Mr York, the station master, who has been instrumental in collecting most of the amounts for the building funds, and Mr Bowing, the contractor, has also been particularly energetic in getting all the work done to time. Besides the piece of land presented by Mr Lamb for Church purposes, he has also granted seven acres in a central position for a recreation ground and half an acre for a School of Arts.

The new church of St Alban just completed is of Gothic architecture. Built of weather board and lined throughout, it stands on brick piers and is a most substantial building. The whole cost of the building when completed and furnished throughout will be £770/-/- (\$1540), and considering that £650/-/- (\$1300) of that amount has already been subscribed and promised, the congregation has done well."

The Times also reported, 'The two collections, the first, we are informed, came to nearly £20/-/- (\$40) towards the building fund. Two special services were conducted here on Sunday last. The Rev. George Brown preached in the morning and the Rev. J. Morgan in the afternoon.'

At the 1887 Annual Vestry Meeting held on Easter Tuesday, the following resolution was passed :- 'The incumbent was requested to initiate steps for the partition of the Parish of St Mary's and St Stephen's as soon as convenient, and the general opinion was expressed that the time had come when this ought to be done.'

The Bishop granted the request the same year, and St Mary's with Rooty Hill was made a Parish. The Rev. A.C. Corlette became the first incumbent, and was inducted to the charge of this new Parish on Sunday 6th November, 1887, by the Rural Dean, the Rev. George Brown.

CHURCHES OF THE DISTRICT

1. In 1885 St Alban was the first branch church to be built in the Parish of St Mary's with Rooty Hill. St Alban was built of weatherboard and was licensed on Thursday 8th October that year. It was Consecrated on Tuesday 16th August, 1910. It is interesting to note that the first recorded Baptism in St Alban's was of Rachel Ellen Taylor on Sunday 11th October, 1885, only three days after St Alban was licensed.

The first marriage was on Wednesday 26th December, 1888, when Charles Jason and Mary Jane Sheather were joined in Holy Matrimony. The first recorded burial from St Alban was on Wednesday 13th November, 1889, when Mr Samuel Golding, aged 70, was laid to rest.

2. In 1899 St David's church, Llandillo, was erected by the St Mary's Parish, though it is legally within the Parish of St Paul's, Emu Plains. The church, built of weatherboard, was opened by Bishop Langley on Saturday 22nd July, 1899. It was erected by voluntary labour; James Ransley, Arthur Bird and the Rev. Dixon Hudson are names mentioned in connection with the erection. The material was purchased with money raised by concerts, lantern lectures and cantatas.

3. St Paul's, Erskine Park, was opened free of debt in 1900. The Sunday School was opened in the church on Sunday 2nd June, 1901, with an enrolment of forty children. The last service held in St Paul's was in 1960, conducted by the Rev. E.J. Storey. St Paul's was later demolished and the land sold.

4. On Saturday 22nd September, 1906, St Aidan's church Werrington, a small weatherboard building, was opened for Divine Worship. It was not licensed until Wednesday 1st August, 1928.

5. The next church to be built was the brick church of St John the Evangelist, at Mount Druitt. The corner-stone was laid on Saturday 16th September, 1916, by the Rural Dean, the Rev. T.J. Heffernan. St John's was officially opened and dedicated by the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Wright, on Saturday 11th November, 1916, in the presence of the following clergy: Revs. T.J. Heffernan, E.G. Hinsby, A. Noble Burton, A.A. Yates, and W.R. Bowers.

6. In 1917 a further addition was made to the Parish with the erection of a Church Hall at Plumpton. The site was Lot 5, Section 1 of the Woodstock Estate, which was transferred to the Church authorities on Saturday 10th March, 1917. This Church Hall later became the church of St Columba at Plumpton, and was licensed on Tuesday 4th December, 1928.

After four years of Divine Worship in St Columba, and after much discussion by the Church Committee and the Parish Council, it was decided to approach the Archbishop and ask him if they could have the name altered to St Mark. On Thursday 24th November, 1932, their request was granted as follows:-

'The Most Reverend the
Archbishop this day in accordance with a resolution by
the Church Committee of the church of St Columba, at
Plumpton, within the Parish of St Mary's with Rooty Hill,
requesting that the name of the said church be altered

from St Columba to St Mark , ordered and directed that the said church of St Columba be henceforth known as the church of St Mark at Plumpton.'

On Wednesday 14th October, 1936, a social evening was held in the Parish Hall for the switching on of the electric light and power in both the Church and Parish Hall; the old kerosene lamps were sold for ten shillings (\$1) each.

7. In 1938 the seventh church to be built in the Parish was the Log Cabin at Colyton, so called because of its unique ti-tree construction. It was built by voluntary labour at the cost of £35/-/- (\$70). It was opened on Saturday 17th December, 1938, by the Rev. R.B. Robinson, who was the father of our present Archbishop, The Most Reverend Donald William Robinson.

On Thursday 15th November, 1951, the Log Cabin was destroyed by a bush fire. The Church Committee decided to give whatever was saved from the fire to the other churches in the Parish.

The following distribution was made:-

St Mark, Plumpton the Altar Cross.

St Aidan's, Werrington ... the Communion Chalice, Pyx,
and Paten.

St Paul's, Erskine Park ... the Communion Cloth.

The Parish Church Hymn and Prayer Books.

The Log Cabin itself was never rebuilt.

(Taken from the Log Cabin
Minute Book)

THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD IN THE 1930's

The following extract is taken from The Nepean Times, 7/3/36:-

ST ALBAN'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The Annual Meeting of the Women's Guild of St Alban's Church of England was held in the Hall on Tuesday the 3rd inst.

The Annual Report presented by the Secretary indicated the strenuous year the Guild has just completed, and the programme arranged for the coming year promises to be just as strenuous as the last. This little band of workers is a tower of strength to the church, and the officers of St Alban's are pleased to have such a body behind them, especially as the Wardens, Committee and Guild work together so harmoniously.

Much energy in the near future will be expended in preparing for the Bazaar which is being held this year on November 27th and 28th, also for several entertainments these ladies are providing.

So satisfactorily were the duties of the executive officers carried out that each officer was re-elected to her position unopposed. The following are the office-bearers for the ensuing twelve months: Vice-Presidents, Mrs Bigg and Mrs Lawson; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Sperring; Hon. Secretary, Mrs McVey.

THE REPLACE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST ALBAN

- 1961 -

On Friday 24th February, 1942, during a severe wind storm the church of St Alban was destroyed beyond repair. In 1943 permission was given to demolish the old church and prepare for the building of another St Alban.

After nineteen years (1942 - 1961) of prayer and hard work by the parishioners and St Alban's Women's Guild - who organised fetes, street stalls, concerts, dances, luncheons, etc. - nearly £6,000 had been raised. This amount, which included loans and donations, was about 50% of what would be required for the building of the replace church of St Alban.

In March, 1960, the Church Committee received a letter from the Parish Council granting permission to borrow the necessary finance for building the replace church of St Alban. It was decided to go ahead and approach the Diocese for permission to borrow £5,000 from the Bank; their request was granted.

On Saturday 8th October, 1960, the foundation stone of the replace church of St Alban was laid by Archdeacon Graham Delbridge. The church was completed in ten months at the cost of £13,000. The members of the Church Committee were: Rev. E.J. Storey, Mr W. Foulds, Mr M. Unicom, Mr H. Gorick, Mr S. Morrison, Mr G. Walters, Mrs D. McVey, Mrs Luke, Mrs Lister, Mrs E. White, Mrs E. Mason, Mrs D. Seale, and Mrs M. Walters.

Mr John Noller and Son of Parramatta were the Architects, and Mr Keith Evans of North Rooty Hill was the builder.

Meanwhile, from Sunday 26th February, 1942, until Sunday 30th July, 1961, all services were held in the parish hall.

The replace church of St Alban was opened and dedicated on Sunday 30th July, 1961, at 3.00 p.m. by His Grace the Reverend Hugh Gough O.B.E., M.A., D.D., Archbishop of Sydney, and consecrated on Sunday 29th August, 1971, by the Most Reverend Marcus Loane, M.A., D.D., Archbishop of Sydney.

The Rev. E.J. Storey was rector of St Alban when the new church was completed, and his name is on the foundation stone. He also established the first robed choir in St Alban's; Mrs Aldershaw was choir mistress.

Over many years numerous groups of young people were formed:- Bible Study groups and prayer meetings, some of which were held in the homes of parishioners and still are to this day; Junior and Senior Fellowship; Girls' Friendly Society; Girls' Physical Culture Club; Girls' Brigade; Share and Care Groups; C.E.B.S., Anglican Boys' Society; Anglican Men's Society (AMS); Karate Classes. At the request of the Rector, Rev. R.G.B. Ashcroft. St Alban's Ladies' Guild was revived in 1932.

Unfortunately, most of these groups have ceased, owing to the loss of their leaders, who have either married or have left the Parish. Those that are still active are:- St Alban Ladies' Guild, now known as St Alban Ladies Fellowship Guild; the Bible Study Groups and Prayer Meetings; CEBS Anglican Boys' Society; the Anglican Men's Society; the Share and Care groups and the Karate classes.

On Friday 1st October, 1965, St Alban became the Provisional District of St Alban Rooty Hill with St John the Evangelist at Mount Druitt Constituted (Detached from St Mary Magdalene, St Mary's).

Rev. John Baxter licensed as curate-in-charge of the Parish.

On Tuesday 1st July, 1980, St Aidan's, Werrington, became detached from St Mary Magdalene, St Mary's.

There are now only three churches remaining in the Provisional District of St Alban, Rooty Hill with St John's Mount Druitt:- (i) St Alban, North Rooty Hill; (ii) St John's, Mount Druitt; (iii) St Mark at Plumpton.

Late in January, 1969, a Rectory was erected on the south west corner of the church grounds facing Westminster St, North Rooty Hill. It was completed in May of the same year at a cost of \$13,700.00. The Rectory was opened and dedicated by the Venerable R.G. Fillingham, Archdeacon of Parramatta with North Sydney. At the time Rev. G.L. Wainwright was Curate-in-Charge of the Provisional District.

Mrs M. McDonald in October, 1972, opened an Opportunity Stall in the church grounds, facing Rooty Hill Rd North. Mrs McDonald with the help of other ladies looked after the stall, winter and summer. When the mower shop moved from the old post office at 71, Rooty Hill Rd North, the Opportunity Stall moved into the old post office and opened as St Alban's Opportunity Shop on Thursday 2nd December, 1976.

When the old post office was sold and demolished in 1981 the Parish Council at its monthly meeting agreed unanimously that the ladies be allowed to use the lower hall of the Parish Hall as an opportunity shop, for which the ladies were grateful and thanked the Parish Council. During the past thirteen years the opportunity shop has helped the church's finances considerably, and many people, including the Home Missionary Society, have benefited with much-needed clothing.

On Friday 7th April, 1972, St John the Evangelist at Mount Druitt detached from Rooty Hill: as a Provisional District, leaving only two churches in the Provisional District of Rooty Hill, (i) St Alban, North Rooty Hill, and (ii) St Mark, at Plumpton.

In 1974 extensions were made to the Parish Hall, consisting of a Conference Room, Kitchen and Toilet Block, at the cost of \$17,598.65. Rev. John Livingstone turned the first sod at a special ceremony on Saturday 20th April, 1974.

On Thursday 7th July, 1977, Rooty Hill was raised to the status of a Parish. Rev. C.R. Flateau was Curate-in-charge of the Parish 1974-1977, and Rector 1977-1978. The Rev. Elwyn Sheppard was inducted and licensed as Rector of St Alban on Tuesday 29th August, 1978.

Over the past one hundred years, from October 1885 to 1985, the church of St Alban and the Parish of Rooty Hill have seen many changes - the coming of the railways, both steam and electric; motor transport replacing the much-loved horse; the supply of electricity and gas ... And the experience of two major wars, 1914-1918 and 1939-1945; the years of the Depression, 1930-1939, and the present recession, all bringing much sorrow and hardship to the people.

HISTORY OF ST. ALBAN'S PARISH HALL, 1934

It was recognised that the spiritual and social life of the Church should not be separated, and that although the Rector and his Wardens attended to the former, the latter was unfortunately neglected. A basic problem was that there were no means whereby the Parishioners could assemble at any social functions.

It was also realised that satisfactory instruction could not be given in the Sunday School, as the number attending had increased considerably and accommodation in the church was limited.

The Church Committee at a meeting on Friday 2nd March, 1934, empowered the Church Wardens to proceed with the erection of a Sunday School Hall when money was available.

A building fund stood in credit £94 (\$188), and a loan was forthwith obtained from the church building loan fund of £175 (\$350).

Tenders were then invited for the erection of the hall, and the lowest tender, Mr L.D. Gilpin, of £265 (\$530) was accepted.

The building was officially opened by the Venerable Archdeacon Johnstone on Saturday 28th July, 1934. The Rev. Alan Setchell, Curate-in-charge of the Parish was chairman. A tea meeting arranged by the Women's Guild was a suitable function on this auspicious occasion.

The Committee during the first twelve months was very gratified with the result of their work, and the loyalty and cooperation of the Parishioners and friends were most encouraging, and both the social and financial side of the Church work received a considerable impetus.

During the first twelve months of the opening of the hall the financial position enabled the Committee to meet all the commitments falling due, and in addition to complete the lining of the hall, add a supper room to the southern end, seating accommodation for 300 people, and all necessary conveniences including presses and cupboards at a cost of over £160 (\$320).

(Information from the Jubilee Book,
1885-1935).

I have tried to write and relate the events of the past 100 years that St Alban's has been in Rooty Hill, and what I have written is true to the best of my knowledge.

Harold Alfred Górick.

Hon. Verger and Sacristan.

ECHOES OF THE PAST

From The Nepean Times, 8/6/35

St Alban's Church of England
Rooty Hill

First Annual Ball

Will Be Held
in

St. Alban's Hall Rooty Hill

Friday 9th August, 1935, at 8 pm

Mrs Barretts Orchestra

Excellent Supper ... Dancing

8 till 2 am Tickets 2/6 each

From The Nepean Times, 12/10/35

St. ALBAN'S JUBILEE

A Dedication Service to
celebrate the Jubilee of St.
Alban's Church, Rooty Hill,
was held on Tuesday evening at
7.30 p.m. in the Church.

The Rector, Rev. G. Williamson,
assisted by Rev. S. Fleck and
Rev. A. Setchell Dedicated a
Cross from the Parish.

OLD TIME DANCE

St. Alban's Hall Rooty Hill

Boxing Night 27 Dec. 1935

Mrs Barret's Orchestra

Good Supper

Admission 1/-

C E M E T E R Y

The Church of England portion
of the General Cemetery on the
Western Highway between Mount
Druitt and St Mary's was
Dedicated by the Crown in the
year 1881.

On the 10th October that year
the following gentlemen were
appointed trustees:-

Rev. Dixon Hudson; J.B. Neale
G. Turner; J.H. Sainsbury;
J.H. Beecroft; and J. Hall

Further Items Overleaf ..

1935 - ST ALBAN CELEBRATED

THEIR JUBILEE

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

An Anzac Day service was held in St. Alban's Church on Sunday last, 29/4/37.

A special effort was made to recognise the day, and what it stands for, by the Committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

The Annual Picnic of the Sunday School was held on the 29/6/36 at Parramatta Park.

For many years now the Sunday School's Picnics have been held in St. Alban's Church grounds.

Mr Robert Cooke is the Sunday School's Superintendent.

M E M O R I A L S

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>	<u>DONOR</u>
Holy Table	Arthur Dudley McVey	Mrs McVey
Lecterns	Sarah Ann Watson (Luke)	Mr & Mrs A. Luke
"	Clara Amelia Tonkin	Mr & Mrs A. Luke
Vases (2)	James Douglas	Family
Alms Plate	John Alfred Gorick	Mr & Mrs H.A. Gorick
Clock	Ada Elizabeth Gorick	Mr H.A. Gorick
Font	Arthur Dudley McVey	St Alban's Ladies Guild
Font Bowl	Samuel Hess	Daughter, Grace
Chalice	Stanley Gordon Boughton	Freda Boughton
Paten	Mable and Frederick Biggs	Freda Boughton
Pyx	Louisa Shaw	Miss Ivy Shaw
AWA PA System	William Cable	Mrs C. Cable
Four-sided Notice Board	Mrs C. Gilpin	Family
Book Cupboard	Alma Elsie Hutch	Beecroft Family
Prayer Desk	Eva Doris Chaffer	St Alban's Women's Guild
Play Area	Mrs Walker	W/O Walker

G I F T S

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DONOR</u>
Altar Cross	St Alban's Congregation
Communion Cloth	St Alban's Women's Guild
Communion Rail	Mr & Mrs Wheadon
Credence Shelf	Rooty Hill Primary School Mothers' Club
Carpets	St Alban's Women's Guild
Pew Bibles	Mr Bruce Fink and others
Bible	Mr & Mrs Lavender
Prayer Book	Mr & Mrs Robert Cooke
Kneelers	Mr & Mrs Try
Visitors' Book	Mr & Mrs H.A. Gorick
Bell Tower	Mr Fitzgerald
Flag Pole	Mr Ian McCrae

FOUNDATION STONE IN WEST WALL

This Stone was set by the Venerable Graham Delbridge,
Archdeacon of North Sydney with Parramatta, on the
seventy-fifth anniversary.

St Alban's Church Rooty Hill

The Rev. E.J. Storey, Rector

8 October, 1960

- P E W S -

<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>	<u>DONORS</u>
John Waiton Sperring	Family
S. & N. Harman	
Mr & Mrs Adams	Jack Adams
Grace Olga & Stanley Patenan	Their Families
Mr & Mrs W. Cable	Their Family
Harold Townsend	
Alfred & Agnes Luke	Family
Kenneth Elmer Gilpin	Family
Grace White	
Florence Grace Sperring	Family
Eva Doris Chaffer & Daisy Rose Chaffer	Edgar and Family

OTHER DONORS

Mr & Mrs Hair & Family (3 Choir Pews)	
Mrs Oldershaw	St Alban's Sunday School
Mr W. Morrison	Mr W.C. Evans
Mr & Mrs Mason & Family	R.G. Jeffery
Mr C.C. Unicombe & Family	Mr Cee & Family
Mr & Mrs L. White	

P L A Q U E S

This Church of St Alban was opened and Dedicated by
His Grace The Most Reverend Hugh Gough O.B.E., M.A.
D.D., Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia
on Sunday 30th July, 1961

This Church was Consecrated by the Most Reverend
Marcus Loane M.A., D.D., on Sunday 29th August,
1971

Rev. J.R. Livingstone
Curate-in-charge.

To The Glory of God

This Rectory was opened and Dedicated by The
Venerable R.G. Fillingham, Th. L., Archdeacon
of Parramatta with North Sydney on 31st May, 1969

Rev. G.L. Wainwright
Curate-in-charge.

To The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Arthur Dudley
McVey 17/6/1895 - 8/10/1954.
Annie Jessie Rebecca (Dot) McVey 23/10/1894 - 26/7/1979
Who faithfully served in this Church for many years.

P L A Q U E S

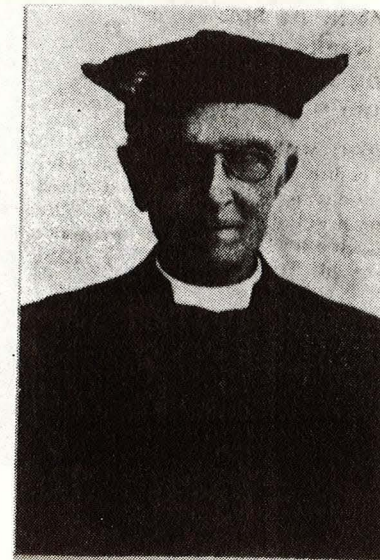
To The Glory of God and in Memory of William
Warren Foulds who faithfully served God in this
Parish for over 35 years and was C.E.B.S.
District Commissioner at the time of his
passing on 29th June, 1981.

To the Glory of God and in memory of Ivy Selena
Gordon Shaw 24/4/1893 - 1/12/1981 an active
member of this congregation.

MEMORIES AND PORTRAITS

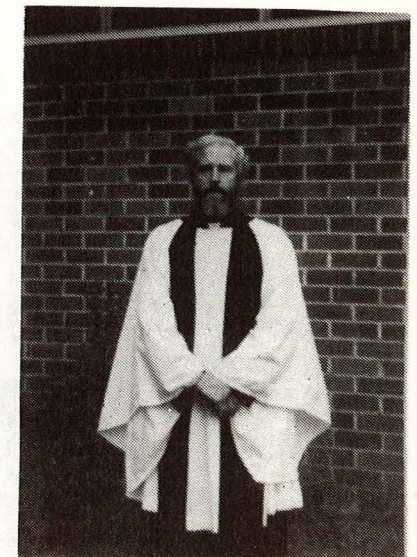
On the following pages are photographs of churches within the Parish of St. Mary's with Rooty Hill, and some of the people who have served in them.

The First Incumbent



Rev. A.C. Corlette.

1887 --- 1898



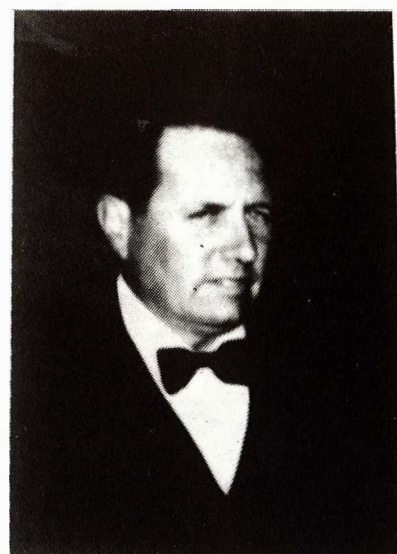
Rev. E. Sheppard.

1978 --- 1985

THE THREE LONGEST SERVING WARDENS OF ST. ALBAN'S



Mr Arthur McVey
39 years



Mr Warren Foulds
20 years



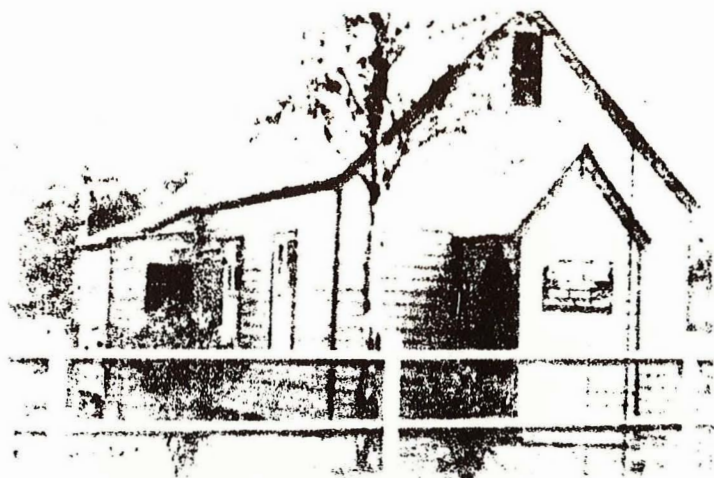
Mr Kenneth Gilpin
17 years



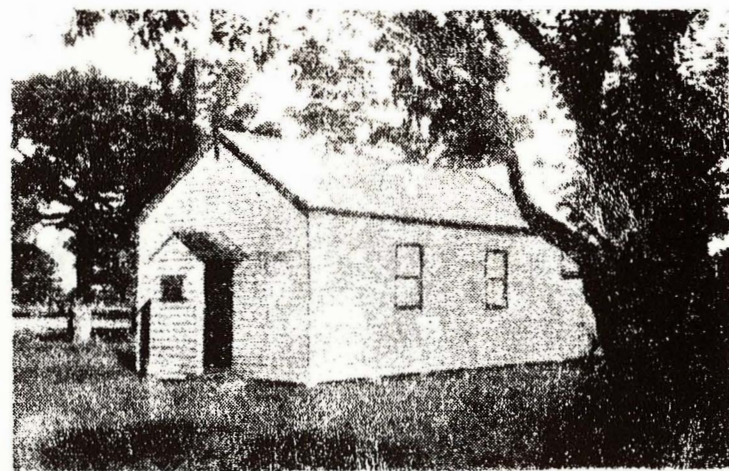
St. Mary Magdalene, St. Mary's, 1837



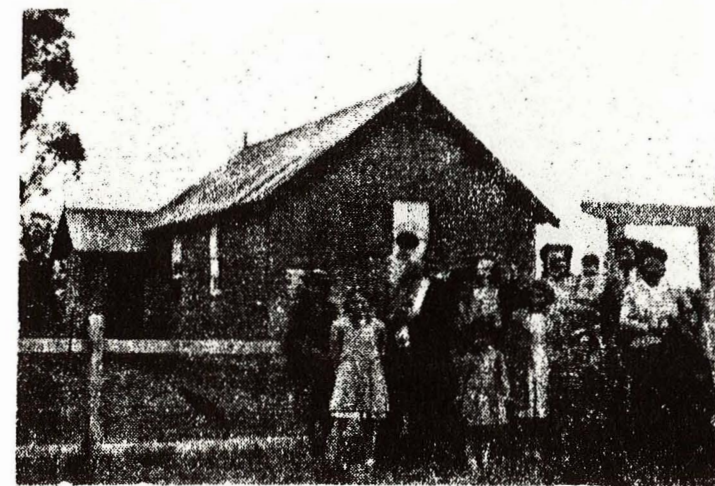
St. Alban, Nth Rooty Hill, 1885



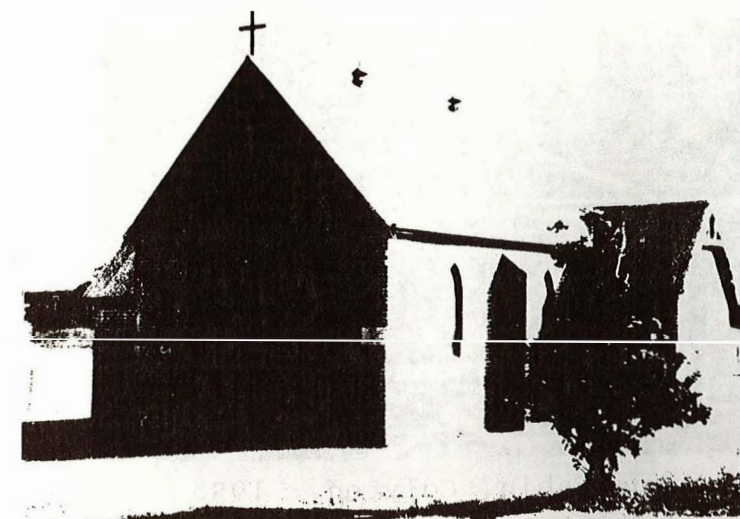
St. David's, Llandillo, 1899



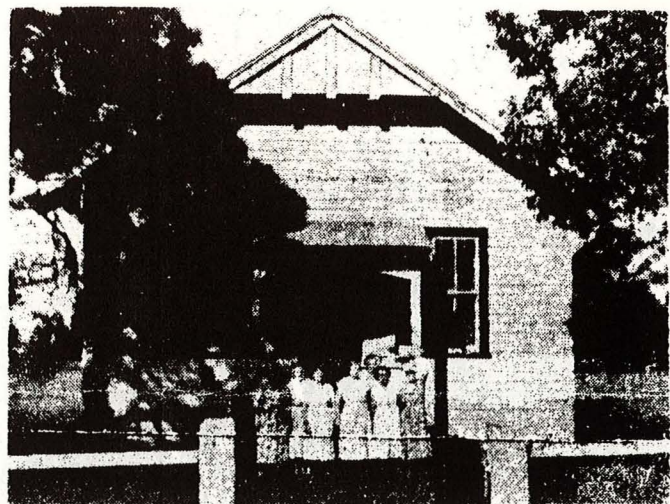
St. Paul's, Erskine Park, 1901



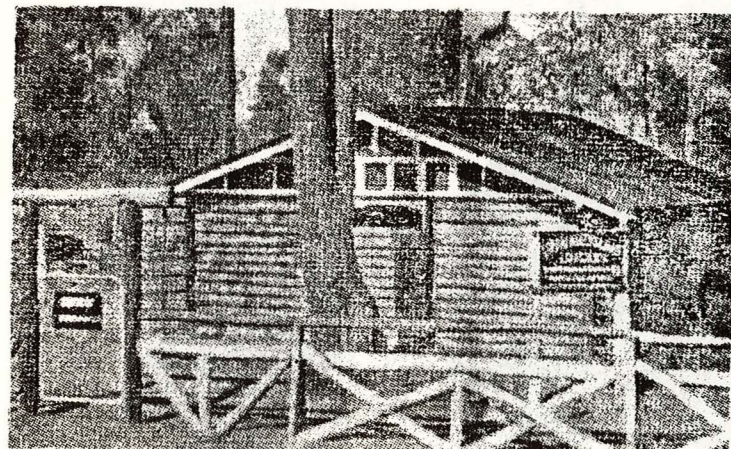
St. Aidan's, Werrington, 1906



St. John's Mount Druitt, 1916



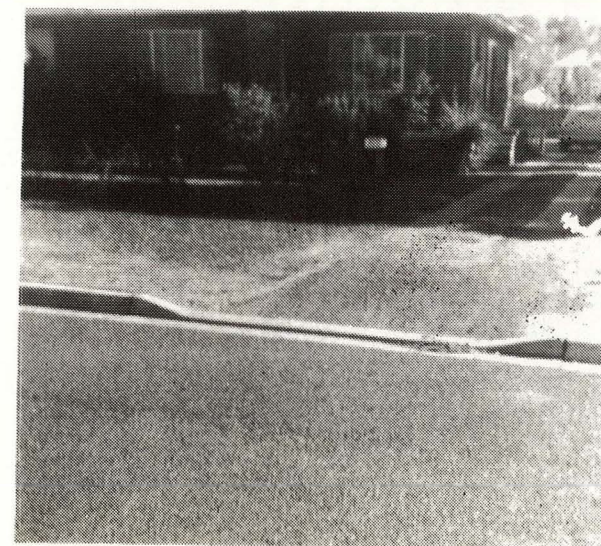
St. Columba, Plumpton, 1917
St. Mark, Plumpton, 1932



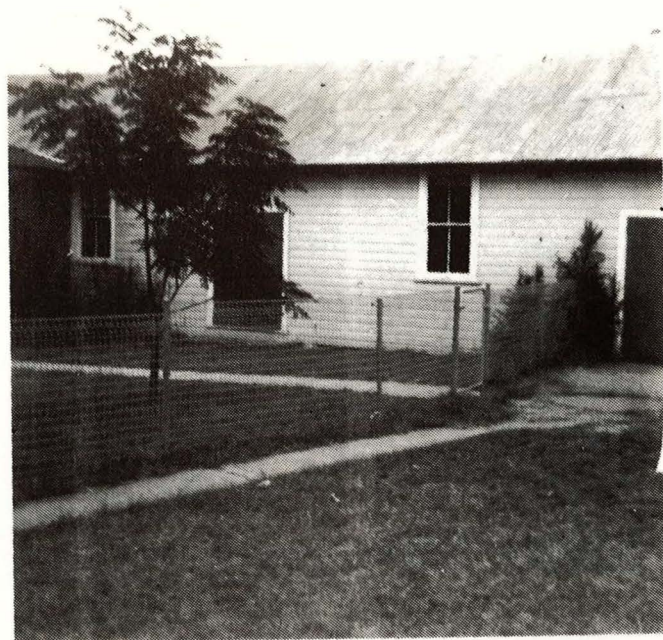
The Log Cabin, Colyton, 1938



St. Alban's Church, 1961



St. Alban's Rectory, 1969



St. Alban's Parish Hall, 1934



St. Alban's Women's Guild, 1960



St. Alban's Choir, 1961



