

NORTH INVERCARGILL HERITAGE

A. J. De La Mare - 1980

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*Compiled By
A. J. De La Mare*



Consecration of Holy Trinity 14th September 1977
Rev. W. Gaudin, Bishop P. Mann, Rev. B. Robertson

PREFACE

Parish histories tend to be like that little girl who had the little curl right in the middle of her forehead. When they are good they are very, very good - and when they are bad, they are

Mr Alan De La Mare has produced one of the very, very good ones. He writes with the experience of someone who has lived in North Invercargill most of his life as one of the older established church-going families. He is therefore able to speak with affectionate insight about people and events which have shaped the growth of this parish from its early years to its present important standing in our city and in the wider diocese.

For giving us such a readable and concise account of this development, Mr De La Mare deserves our grateful thanks.

W J Gaudin

INTRODUCTION

Fifty years in the life of a church is not long. It is, however, almost a lifetime for most of those associated with the church and therefore makes it important to record the history to date before much of it is lost.

All the minute books remain and have formed the main source of reference. Unfortunately many important church groups do not keep or indeed need written records and as a result information about these groups is limited. This includes some of the Women's groups, the Choir and the Sunday School.

The assistance of Mrs H. Denby who did all the typing involved in an expert manner and Una De La Mare who collated the office bearers and provided the sketch of the church for the cover is acknowledged with thanks.

A.J. DE LA MARE

Invercargill

1980

GENESIS

The year 1930 marked the end of a period of almost fifty years of quiet and slow progress in the affairs of the Parish of Gladstone. The change came in the form of the Reverend K D Andrews-Baxter a young and energetic priest who was a complete contrast to the retiring Vicar the Reverend Canon G Fynes Clinton who had completed a peaceful sixteen years as Vicar of Gladstone and fifty-three years in the ministry.

Mr Andrews-Baxter had entirely new ideas on many aspects of the church and his entry into the Parish came like an immense gust of fresh - and to some, cold - air. The adoption of a cloak and biretta as his normal clerical garb marked him as a figure to be noticed and to many of his parishioners it represented the heights of high church. Today, with his flowing cloak and general demeanour he would almost certainly have been considered some sort of ecclesiastical Batman!

His insistence on the choir being robed and the introduction of candles on the altar were also seen as 'high church' and unacceptable to the conservative element in the church.

An example of the new Vicar's fearlessness is recalled in the Reverend F H Waldron's history of the parish. The Railways introduced Sunday excursions and as Mr Andrews-Baxter considered this affected church attendances he decided to hold church services at the Railway Station.

Another incident is recorded when an organised effort was made early in his ministry to have him removed. He faced a stormy parishioners' meeting which endorsed his appointment as Vicar and later the minutes of the Vestry meeting at which it was decided he was not required were by resolution removed from the Minute Book and burned. High drama indeed, but indicative of the emotions he was capable of generating.

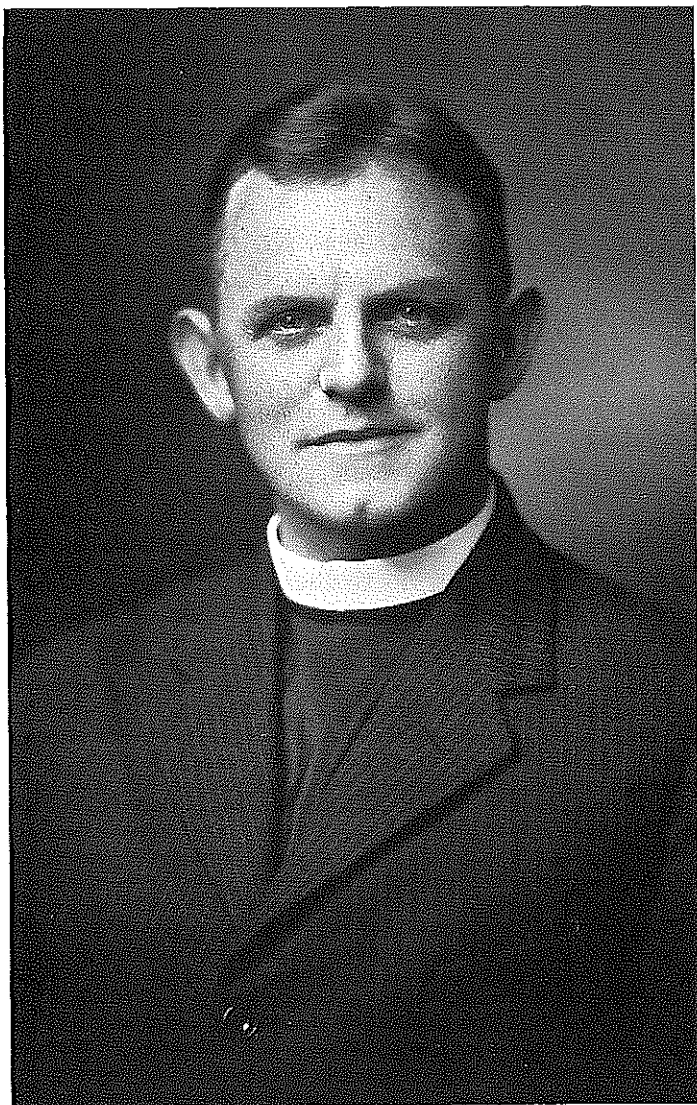
The energy shown by the new Vicar was not confined to the Gladstone area and soon, following some intensive visiting in the North Invercargill area a small band of Anglicans had been gathered together and services in the North School had commenced.

North Invercargill in 1930 was a straggling suburb of small houses all closely linked to the corporation tramline which followed Mary, Sydney and Windsor Streets to a terminus at Herbert Street. The trams formed the only means of getting to and from the city for those who did not choose to ride a cycle and in the days when motor cars were a novelty, formed an important means of transport for residents. The suburb was comparatively new and there were many empty areas.

The year 1930 marked the beginning of the Depression and many were without work and everybody was affected by the downturn in the economy. Although the Depression was to get worse, many at this time were struggling to exist and poverty, want and unemployment were widespread.

To found a branch of the church at this time showed optimism, enthusiasm and faith by the Vicar as well as the people and those who followed owe much to the courage of those who laid the church's foundations.

The first recorded meeting of the church was held in the North School on 3 November 1930. Mr Soar the Headmaster was, with his wife, a foundation member of the church and no doubt assisted in organising the venue.



Rev. K. D. Andrews-Baxter - Vicar 1930-1934

The minutes record the meeting was held 'for the working of the church and to raise funds for a new building'.

The original office bearers who probably included everybody at the meeting were:

Secretary:	Mr C Blomfield
Treasurer:	Mr V Treweek
Committee:	Messrs J F Miller, F Woodward, J Soar, J Archer, W Smythe, J J Stott, Stocker, Robertson Mesdames Cameron, Smart, J Soar, C Blomfield, F Woodward Misses Treweek, Walls, Una Godward
Ladies Guild:	
President:	Mrs Godward
Secretary:	Miss Walls
Trustees:	Miss P Godward, Mrs C Blomfield, Mrs Stocker
Altar Guild:	Mrs Blomfield
Choir Master:	Mr J F Miller
Sunday School:	Mr G Day, Misses Walls and Una Godward, Woodward

It is interesting to record that only Miss Una Godward remains a parishioner of those who were foundation office bearers of the church.

Although the early services were held in the North School this did not prevent the formation of a choir and Sunday School. Choir practice was set down for each Thursday evening at 7.30pm and has continued to be held at this time to the present day. Mr J F Miller, whose son is the Mayor of Invercargill, not only acted as Choirmaster, but for many years supplied the organ and the lectern bible used in services was his also.

As All Saints held services at the traditional times of 8.00am and 11.00am the only time suitable to the Vicar for the morning Eucharist was 9.30am. This time proved convenient to the parishioners and with a minor exception has been retained throughout. The evening services commenced at 7.00pm, the service being read by a lay reader with the Vicar appearing after a 6.30pm service at All Saints in time to give a sermon and the final prayers. There were times when the late arrival of the Vicar resulted in the lay reader introducing supplementary prayers and hymns to fill what seemed to be an interminable period of waiting. The evening services could not have been held without the help of lay readers. Over the years many men contributed to the work of the church in this way.

The second meeting, held a month later, passed accounts 'as far as funds would allow' and despite the apparent lack of finance, appointed a sub committee to procure a section for a church. A financial statement submitted indicates services started in October.

Early in 1931 it was decided to hold services in the North Invercargill Public Hall after an enquiry indicated the charge would be three shillings per Sunday. The public hall continued to be used until the church hall was built in 1932.

One present day parishioner has a vivid recollection of a service in the public hall. Arriving with her sister on a very wet day, they decided to remove their big felt hats which were saturated and dripping. A zealous sidesman promptly made them replace the hats despite the discomfort involved. Attitudes and customs have changed considerably in fifty years!

As there were many empty sections and town planning a thing of the future, the quest for a church site was not difficult, and finally two - one in Bourke Street and a second in King Street - were submitted to a Special Meeting of parishioners.

The Bourke Street section at £140 was declined in favour of the King Street one offered at £175. The King Street site consisting of a quarter acre on the corner of King and Antrim Streets was a prime site and the only obstacle to its purchase was an almost complete lack of funds. Some gentleman's agreement providing for the purchase price to be spread over a period is evident from the minutes and a subscription list amounting to £13.1.0 formed the nucleus of the fund to purchase the section.

The purchase of a section gave direction to fund raising and a newspaper report of the time records an extremely successful two-day carnival and bazaar held in St Johns Hall. The financial results were good for the times.

The general shortage of funds did not prevent the early committee from making a contribution to parish funds and in June 1931 it was raised from £40 to £80 per annum. It is an insignificant amount by today's values but at the time represented about half of the collections.

A further support to the Parish came after the annual meeting held in June 1931 when two representatives from the committee were appointed to the Vestry. Messrs M W Grantham and W Robertson were the first to fill this office which remained until Holy Trinity became a parish.

The enthusiasm and optimism of the parishioners was shown when in December 1931 a special meeting was called to consider building a church. The bank balance at the time was £125.14.1. After discussion a resolution was moved that the question of building be deferred for one year. An amendment was moved 'that providing a loan of £500 could be raised, the building be proceeded with'.

Voting on the amendment produced a stalemate of 14 all and once more the Vicar showed his fearlessness by giving his casting vote in favour. A committee was formed to go into ways and means to find out the cost of building and to call tenders.

A further meeting followed on 11 February 1932 called to consider borrowing £500 to build a church. The voting resulted in 60 for, 40 against with ten informal and gave the committee authority to proceed. Mr R Whyte, a builder and parishioner of All Saints had prepared a plan and specification for a building to seat 200 and this was adopted and arrangements made to call tenders.

The plan provided for a hall, the main body of which remains unchanged to this day. To the south was an altar area which too remains, but in changed form which was capable of being shut off from the hall by a roller type wooden shutter operated by a primitive gearing system. To the west was a vestry and to the east a small kitchen and guild room.

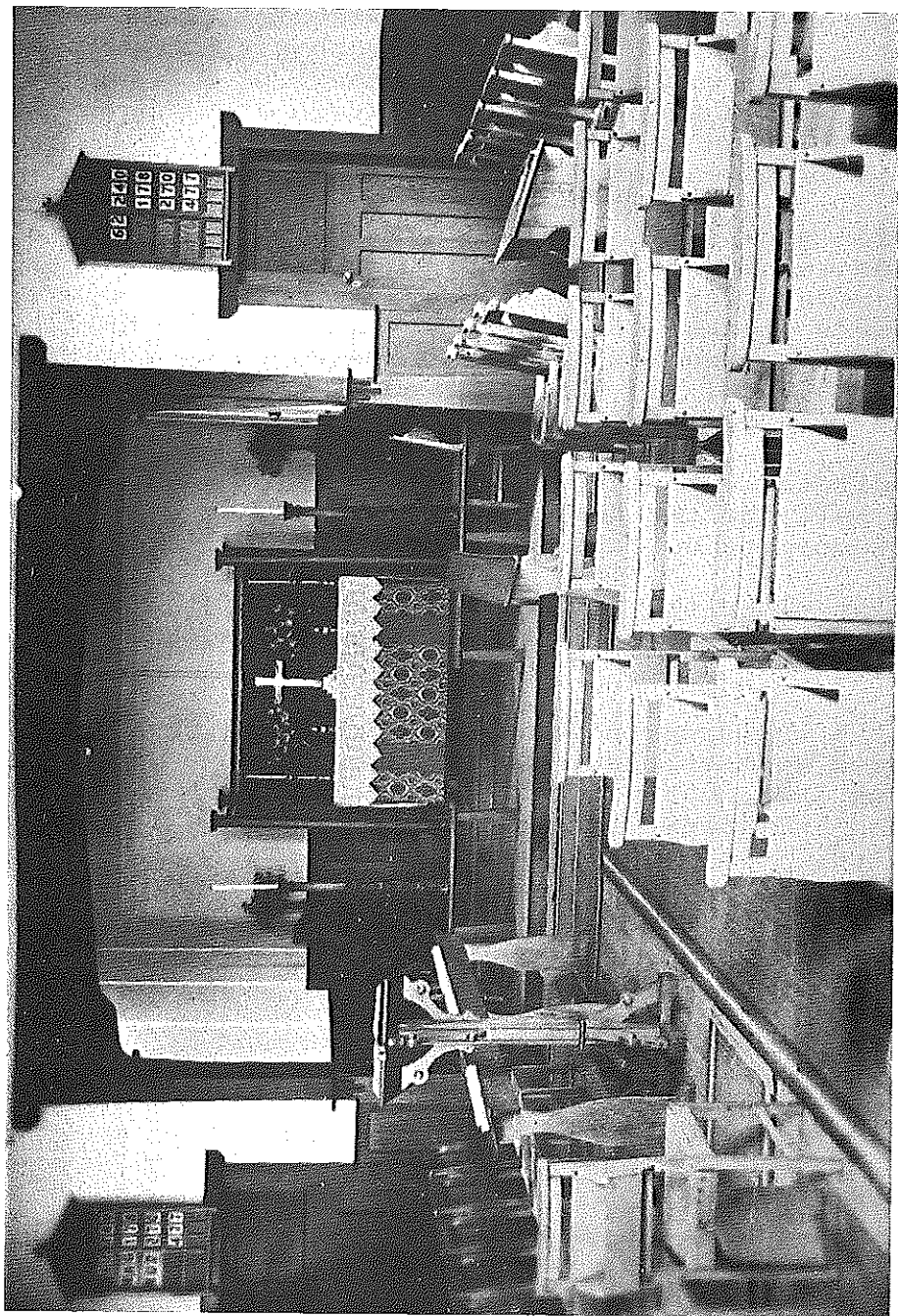
The building was planned to serve both as a church and a hall and the design proved itself by its acceptance and use over many years.

The plan sited the hall on the west of the section, leaving the corner of King and Antrim Streets vacant.

With the building industry suffering from the depression, competition was keen and sixteen tenders ranging from £680 to £1100 were received. It was decided the lowest tender received from Mr R Blue be accepted.

The raising of loan moneys was not easy but the assistance of two Anglican families solved the problem. Mr and Mrs L B Ballard of Dunedin advanced £500 on first mortgage and Mrs J Soar, a parishioner provided £200 by way of second mortgage.

Furniture in the form of reading desk, lectern, hymn boards etc were already provided for but the provision of seating was a major problem. Tenders were called for chairs and once again the depression ensured competitive prices. Tenders ranged from Wm Smith and Company Limited at 7/3d each to the highest at 11/- each. The chairs provided by Wm Smith proved to be a good buy and many remain in use today.



Holy Trinity Church Hall 1932-57

That the building did not go without incident is evident from the minutes of a meeting held on 22 June 1932. The meeting was attended by representatives from All Saints as well as Holy Trinity and obviously was intended to settle a row generated by some remarks of the Vicar concerning extras on the contract. As a result of the meeting harmony was restored.

The new church hall was first used for worship on 19 June 1932 and dedicated by the Bishop at a service on 22 June 1932. The service was held in the evening and attended by 150 parishioners and local clergy including the Reverend W Tanner of North Presbyterian Church. A social followed in the same area indicating the plan to make the building readily adaptable for church and social use was successful. At the social Mr C J Broderick the Deputy Mayor spoke, as did Mr D Cuthbertson representing the parish.

The dedication was followed by a series of functions catering for young and old alike. The morning after the dedication Holy Communion was held at 7.00am followed by breakfast in the hall. The practice of holding a communal breakfast following a communion service held early enough to permit those attending to go to work at the usual time was not uncommon at the time but has long fallen into disuse.

Tradition in the parish has it that the Bishop did not favour the building of the original Holy Trinity and Mr K D Andrews-Baxter in his inimitable style ignored the Bishop and proceeded to build. The story goes on to tell how the Bishop in a conversation with Archdeacon J A Lush asked how the plans for the building were proceeding. To his astonishment he was informed the planning stage was long since past and the building was practically completed.

Whether the story is true or not is not known for sure, but the fact that the Diocesan Office cannot trace the issue of a faculty for the building would suggest it is soundly based.

With the church hall completed the way was clear for full church and social activities. The choir which had been active from the very first meeting appreciated a permanent place to practise and worship and the foundation of the choral tradition of the church was laid. Under the direction of Mr J F Miller who was both choirmaster and organist, a senior choir of about 10 to 15 voices was organised, assisted by a boys' section of about 12.

Servers at the altar were recruited, the first two being Bruce Godward and Ivan De La Mare. A team of women became responsible for the care of the sanctuary and general cleaning of the church.

The Guild which had already held a very successful bazaar at St Johns Church Hall received stimulus from having a room of their own and as a result their weekly meetings were even more enthusiastic.

With the widespread poverty of the times, the only way financial progress could be made was by fund raising. The new hall provided the best means of doing so. Soon two social activities which were also to be regular fund raisers were commenced in the form of weekly dances and Flag 500 card evenings.

The card evenings were to be a feature of the church for the next forty years and their success owes much to a dedicated band who week after week conducted the evenings and provided supper - an important part of the evening.

The dances too were reliant on a small group whose efforts ensured their success. The efforts of Mrs Sutherland, a parishioner who was a first class pianist, providing the music for the dances and all other church functions for many years, will not soon be forgotten by those who knew her. She had a capacity to provide good rhythmic dance music without any other musical assistance, by the hour. Her efforts would make a modern dance band look tired. Many will remember with affection the learners' classes and feel that this is a feature missed by modern youth.

The importance of a piano was illustrated in October 1932 when the committee held a special meeting to decide on the merits of two pianos offered by Invercargill firms. Both instruments were played and discussed by the committee before a decision was made to buy a piano from the Bristol Piano Company Limited at £50 on terms.

The adaptability of the church hall created problems in that some objected to some forms of its secular use. In 1933 Mr Dix a parishioner and trustee of the church objected strongly to the hall being used as a kindergarten. He appeared before the committee with supporters to make his case. Later in the year with a view to resolving the controversy a meeting was held which was attended by Archdeacon J A Lush as representative of the Bishop. After three hours of discussion no finality was reached and the use of the hall continued to dog the committee for many years.

In 1933 Mr and Mrs Ballard sought some repayment of the principal of their loan. The loan was a flat one and the Vicar had promised to use the proceeds of the annual bazaar to reduce the capital. Lack of funds had made this impossible. Promises were given which were not honoured and finally, in August 1934 Mrs Dix took over the Ballard mortgage. Nowadays \$1000 is a comparatively insignificant amount, but not so in 1934. Mr and Mrs Dix made a tremendous personal contribution over many years, but their taking up the loan in a difficult time for the church should be recorded with gratitude.

Holy Trinity proved it was not incapable of keeping up with progress when in the same month the committee agreed to support the parish in providing a car for the Vicar's use at a cost of £65. A special collection was made which realised £11.15.0.

Although the early parishioners were dedicated, extreme points of view sometimes produced temporary discord and two letters in the church's records illustrate this.

One early office bearer in a letter to the church committee wrote:

'Gentlemen, Under unforeseen circumstances I must decline a seat on your committee. I remain, etc' followed by a postscript: 'please take notice your delivering sealed envelopes which is against the law.'

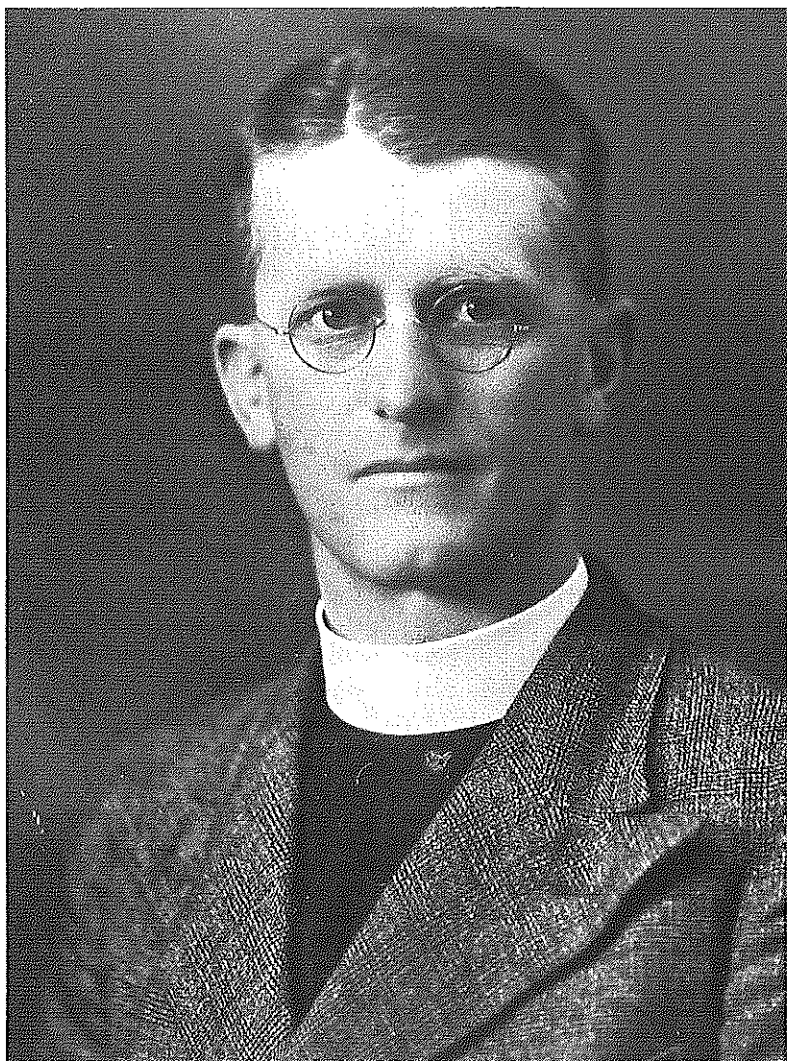
His indignation appeared to not only affect his English, but distorted his judgment.

A year later, another office bearer who had been asked to withdraw his resignation wrote:

'I am not ready as yet to withdraw my resignation.

'The splendid second last paragraph in your letter certainly gives me plenty of food for thought, but on the other hand I have been (to put it plainly) endeavouring to let my 'light shine' and it has been blown out. Under the circumstances I have been advised not to light it myself; that eventually it would light itself. How and when I know not. In the meantime I am contented to await the results of same.'

Shortly after, the offence was forgotten and the office bearer once more returned to resume his responsibilities.



Rev. I. L. Richards - Vicar 1934-37

REVERENDS I.L. RICHARDS AND S.A.G. HURD

The Vicar's service in the parish came to an end when he accepted an appointment in Australia and attended his last service in February 1934. Mr Andrews-Baxter, by his energy and forthrightness, had given direction to an equally energetic and dedicated band of parishioners and established a branch of the church in difficult times. His work in extending the church in this area should not be forgotten.

His successor, who did not take up office till May was the Reverend I L Richards. It would be fair to say that the new Vicar and his predecessor were as alike as chalk and cheese. Mr Richards was the son of Bishop I Richards of the Dunedin diocese and his son in turn, B O Richards, became a priest, completing a family church tradition seldom equalled in New Zealand. Whereas Mr Andrews-Baxter was outgoing and flamboyant, his successor was reserved and studious. Despite the contrast, the Reverend Richards was soon accepted by the parish.

The work of the church, both spiritually and socially continued to expand. The fragile and tentative church of 1930 was now vigorous and healthy. In 1935 a second-hand organ was purchased for £5.10.0, allowing Mr F Miller at long last to return to his home the organ which had for so long been on loan.



Rev. S.A.G. Hurd - Vicar 1937-41

In December 1936 the Reverend Richards accepted the cure of St Luke Christchurch and was to continue his work in the Christchurch area until his death in 1959. His place was taken by the Reverend S A G Hurd who had been Vicar of Clyde. The new Vicar was inducted on 14 April 1937.

The Vicar remained in office until 1941 and although the church continued to expand and the parishioners never lost their enthusiasm, world strife and the approaching war cast its shadow over the country. In September 1939 war came and was to change the life of every citizen for some six years. Very soon young men from the parish were entering the armed services and before long anxious parents saw their sons departing overseas. Soon there were shortages of all kinds and the difficulties of living which had been so evident during the depression returned, though in different forms.

REVEREND A.J.T. FRASER

Despite all the horrors and uncertainties of the war, the work of the church continued and on the return of the Reverend Hurd to Central Otago the Bishop appointed the Reverend A J T Fraser as his replacement. The changeover came at a critical point in the war. The Allies had been pushed out of Greece with serious losses and on the very day that a welcome function for the Fraser family was held, the battle for Crete had reached a critical stage with the loss of Maleme landing field.

Everybody in the community knew some name appearing in the long casualty lists in the newspapers and the distant war became a grim reality close to home.

One of the Reverend Fraser's early problems was to deal with a controversy about the use of the English Hymnal. It had been adopted in 1938 but was obviously still not entirely accepted some four years later. In June 1941 the question was debated at a meeting and resulted in a vote of 17 in favour of using Ancient and Modern and 16 against. The Vicar exercised his authority in respect of church music and opted for continuing with the English Hymnal. Once again the vote of the Vicar had decided a contentious issue and illustrated the need for clergy to be decisive.

All the news was not bad and in December 1941 the mortgage on the hall was paid off. The achievements of Holy Trinity in building and paying off a building in little more than a decade was not inconsiderable and reflected the energy and dedication of the Vicars and parishioners.



Rev. A.J.T. Fraser - Vicar 1941-1950

Despite the difficult times fund raising had continued except that for a period the dances had been cancelled because of the difficulty of ensuring the general conduct of those attending did not offend. The lack of responsibility engendered by being part of an army distant from the usual disciplines of home had introduced an element which was not acceptable to those conducting the dances.

As the costs of running the parish increased, so too did Holy Trinity respond, though it is fair to say that All Saints at all times contributed more than their share of the parish costs. In 1942 Holy Trinity increased its contribution to £104 per annum. At this time the Bishop drew attention to the administration of the parish not being regular in that all finances should be controlled by the central vestry. The matter was debated and as Holy Trinity had always looked after its own finances and wished to continue doing so, it was agreed the Bishop's stricture be quietly ignored.

In 1943 with the property debt free the adjoining section to the south and fronting on Antrim Street became available for purchase at a cost of £150. It was a wonderful opportunity to provide for the future and was quickly taken up. The purchase meant the property was extended to half an acre and made provision for extending the hall to the south and making room for a church on the Antrim Street frontage.

The war finally dragged to an end and with the close of 1945 life was slowly returning to normal. The year marked the arrival of the Booth family in the parish. They were to leave their mark in many spheres. Syd Booth was employed by the Agriculture Department but was more interested in choirs and music. Soon after his arrival he became Choirmaster and brought to the work skills and dedication which were to bring the choir to a high degree of proficiency.

The choir became known far beyond the bounds of the Diocese and was considered one of the best choirs outside the main centres. Syd was joined in his dedication to the music of the church by his wife Helen and one daughter and two sons. The family contribution to the work of the parish covered many fields and Mrs Booth's devotion to providing beautifully embroidered vestments and Altar frontals is evident for all to see. The church owes much to the Booth family and this is covered by a paper prepared by one of the sons, the Reverend Dr Ken Booth, which is produced in full as an appendix to this booklet.

With the finish of the war and a return to normality the ambition of the parishioners was to build a church. Fund raising which had always been a feature of the church was aimed in this direction and gained momentum. The weekly dances were recommenced and the card evenings continued to run smoothly and provided not only revenue but social activity for the community.

The Guild continued to meet weekly, working towards the annual bazaar which contributed a significant proportion of the church finance. The Guild held regular afternoon functions which, besides providing entertainment, also raised finance for the church. A feature of these functions was the skits and brief plays presented by Mesdames Hitch, Booth, Davenport and others.

The secular use of the hall provided a never-ending job for the men of the parish. The dual purpose of the hall was well planned and in practice worked equally well, but meant furniture shifting on a grand scale. For almost thirty years until the church was built, being a member of the church committee automatically meant doing more furniture removing than fell to the lot of most common carriers.

January 1949 marked the death of John Pickard. Mr Pickard had been a member of the church from almost its earliest days and over the entire time of some seventeen years had been People's Warden, Treasurer and Lay Reader. He had also represented the committee on the Gladstone vestry for most of this time. His contribution and that of his wife had been tremendous - more so as it had been made quietly and without fuss. Holy Trinity owes much to John Pickard as does the city of Invercargill which he served in many ways.

The following year the inadequacies of the Guild Room prompted a decision to extend it in an easterly direction some fifteen feet. Two parishioners Messrs John Pedlar a builder, and John Stott, painter, carried out the work and agreed to await payment until the church could arrange finance.

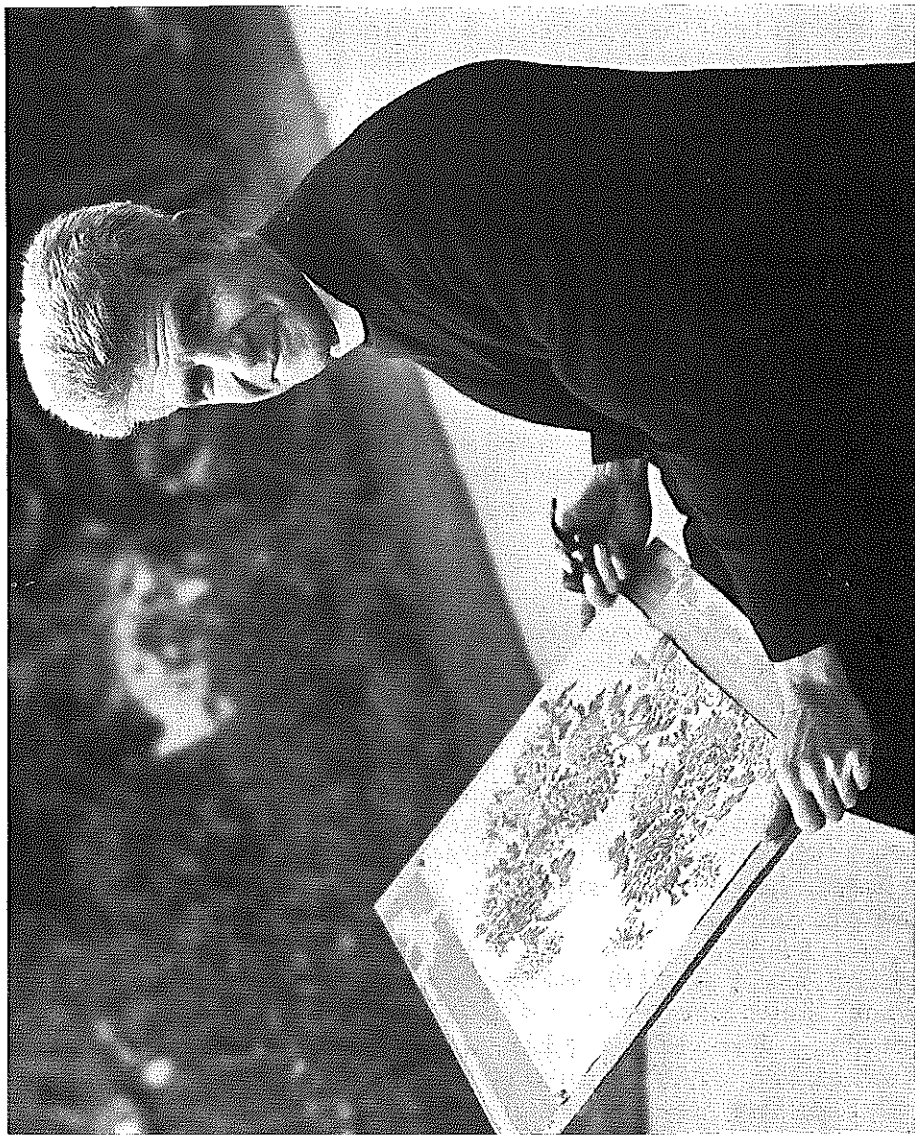
REVEREND F.H. WALDRON

On 25 June 1950 almost nine years to the day since his induction, Mr Fraser held his final service and left for service elsewhere in the diocese. His place was taken by the Reverend F Waldron who was destined to remain Vicar of Gladstone Parish long after Holy Trinity became a parish on its own account.

About the time of Mr Waldron's induction Mr J F Miller who had been organist from the earliest days of the church found it necessary to give up because of ill health. In October he was dead. His contribution to the church was without equal. He had been organist for twenty years and choirmaster for practically the same period. He had also been Vicar's warden for the whole period and without fanfare had helped and supported the Vicars of the parish. His wife and children had played their part in the life of the church and their work is remembered with gratitude.

The finances raised gave hope that a church could soon be provided and in 1951 a sub committee consisting of Messrs J Stott, A Dix, J Pedlar, S W Booth and A J De La Mare was appointed to go into ways and means.

Following their report Mr Alan Ford, Architect, was asked to prepare plans and at a general meeting held in October it was estimated the cost of the church would be £12,000 of which some £2,070 was on hand. A scheme to raise the necessary finance by parishioners contributing over a three year period in addition to normal fund raising was decided upon.



Rev. F. H. Waldron - Vicar 1950-62

In May 1952 Mr J J Stott retired as Sunday School Superintendent and was replaced by Mr W G Miles. Mr Stott had completed 20 years in this position and earned the gratitude of all parishioners.

Under Mr Miles' direction a branch of the Sunday School was established in Surrey Park School and continued at this point for some years.

Under Mr Waldron's guidance the work of the parish continued and at the same time fund raising for the new church was followed vigorously. In February 1952 John Greer, a local grocer who had for some years taken an increasing part in the parish, left to study for the priesthood. All admired his courage in taking this step, particularly as he had a large family to maintain, and it was evident that he and his family were making a heavy sacrifice for their faith. Had the parishioners been able to read the future and know John Greer was to return to become the first Vicar of the Parish of North Invercargill, their pleasure at his move would have been even greater.

In June 1953 celebrations were held to mark the twenty-first anniversary of the dedication of the church hall. A week of festivities was held including a concert in the North Presbyterian church and a Social and Dance in St John's Hall which was attended by the Bishop. Special services were held and the Bishop was the preacher at the Eucharist and the Reverend K D Andrews-Baxter at Evensong. Both must have been pleased at the progress achieved in two decades.

The year 1954 - with more funds in the Building Account some progress in planning for the new church was made. Finally a plan was adopted which met the satisfaction of the parish and Bishop. In June of the following year the Building Committee reported £4,000 was on hand and with it possible to acquire and service a loan of £5,000, about a further £2,000 was required before the building commenced. An extremely competent builder Mr Bob Tyrie had agreed to build the church on a cost plus basis and to use voluntary labour as far as possible.

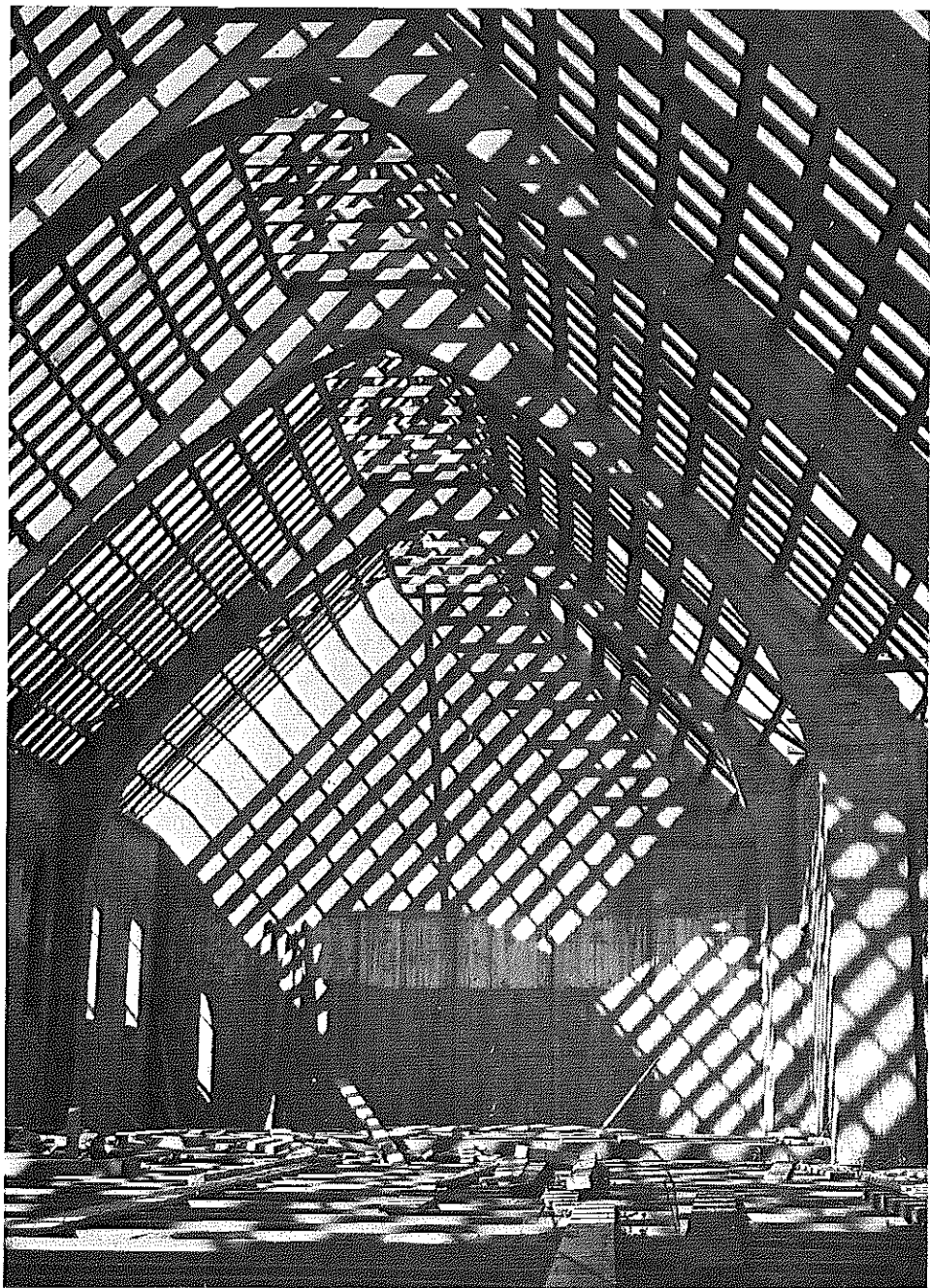
The proposal was a bit unorthodox for the Bishop and his advisers and it took a special visit to Invercargill and much discussion before they were convinced. Finally in October 1955 a faculty was issued and approval to raise a loan of £5,000 was given.

It came not a moment too soon as the builder had his shed and some building material on the site and the Reverend Frank Waldron was very close to following the lead of the Reverend Andrews-Baxter who had built the hall without the Bishop's blessing. The Bishop was present on 26 November 1955 when the foundation stone was laid marking an important milestone in the church's history.

The building of the church showed the spirit of the congregation and the tolerance and willingness to help shown by Bob Tyrie. For the entire contract he planned his work so that the men and boys of the parish would have suitable work to do each Saturday. Mixing and pouring concrete was a task which occupied many Saturdays and other tasks such as sarking the roof and laying flooring gave opportunities for willing but unskilled workers.

The work of building the church took 18 months and almost every Saturday for half a day and frequently a full day, a team of men laboured on the tasks set aside by Bob Tyrie. The willingness shown by all concerned illustrated the great desire to have a church fitting for the worship of God in the area. Although there had been tremendous dedication shown in the past the period of the building of the church produced an effort by all greater than ever before.

Mr George Day, one of the foundation parishioners, gave £500 to provide a stained glass window for the King Street frontage as a memorial to his wife. The window was constructed in Australia and its final cost was about £1,000. Mr Day met the full cost and thereby contributed a striking and beautiful feature to the building and a fit memorial to his wife.



Holy Trinity Church - March 1957

Mrs Smart, another parishioner, gave two tiles which came from the chapel of Cardiff Castle and they were set in the wall of the entrance porch. They provided a small connection with the mother church of England and a link with the past.

The church was dedicated by the Bishop on Saturday 15 September 1957 at a service which packed the new building. The service fulfilled the hopes and prayers of countless parishioners who had worshipped in the church for almost thirty years, and formed a fitting climax to their work and dedication.

A week's celebrations followed the dedication and included a social evening and ball.

Although building on a cost plus basis proved economical, the work cost £12,000 which was more than originally envisaged and it was necessary to have the loan from the Southland Building Society increased by a further £1,000.

A feature of the church to match the large stained glass window is a memorial to the late K D Andrews-Baxter in the form of a hanging rood behind the altar. It depicts Christ Triumphant and is a fine example of the carver's art. Its cost was £264.

The completion of the church enabled greater use to be made of the hall and Messrs R Rankin and J Thomson commenced a Young People's Club which, with some breaks, has continued to the present time.

Another activity was Indoor Bowls. A club was formed which had a good following for many years. It provided sport and sociability for men and women up to 1978 when falling membership caused the club to wind up.

In 1960 with the expansion of the city to the east, consideration was given to acquiring a church site in the area. The City Council were at this time developing the Glengarry shopping area and offered a site for a church and vicarage at a cost of £2175. At first it was thought the site was an ideal one and a church at this point would make a subdivision of the parish practical.

To make this possible All Saints Vestry undertook to meet the cost of acquiring the land.

While the investigation of and discussion concerning an expansion to the east of the city and the creation of a new parish was proceeding, consideration was being given to alterations to the hall. It had served the church for many years and though adequate left much to be desired in the way of convenience, particularly in the kitchen area. After much discussion involving the women of the church, it was decided to shelve all major plans, one of which provided for shifting the hall bodily to the south of the site, and to go ahead with a simple enlargement of the kitchen.

At this time, in March 1962 Mr J J Stott died. His service to the church was outstanding and his passing ended over thirty years of dedication to Holy Trinity. He had served as Sunday School Superintendent for twenty years and had served continuously on the committee for almost thirty years. He had served as People's Warden for several years and represented the committee on All Saints Vestry. For many years he was an active lay reader and had played a prominent part in organising the contract for the erection of the new church and the maintenance of the buildings over the years.

Early in 1962 the Bishop was present on two occasions in connection with the proposal to create a new parochial district of North Invercargill. On the second occasion the proposal was accepted by all concerned, but the site for a church in East Invercargill was changed to Conway Street, to an area to the south of Glengarry. All Saints' offer to pay for the land still held good and it was decided to build a hall and vicarage at this point.

Assistance was forthcoming from the Diocese in the form of a grant of £2,570 and a loan of £2,000 which provided considerable help in finding the capital required.

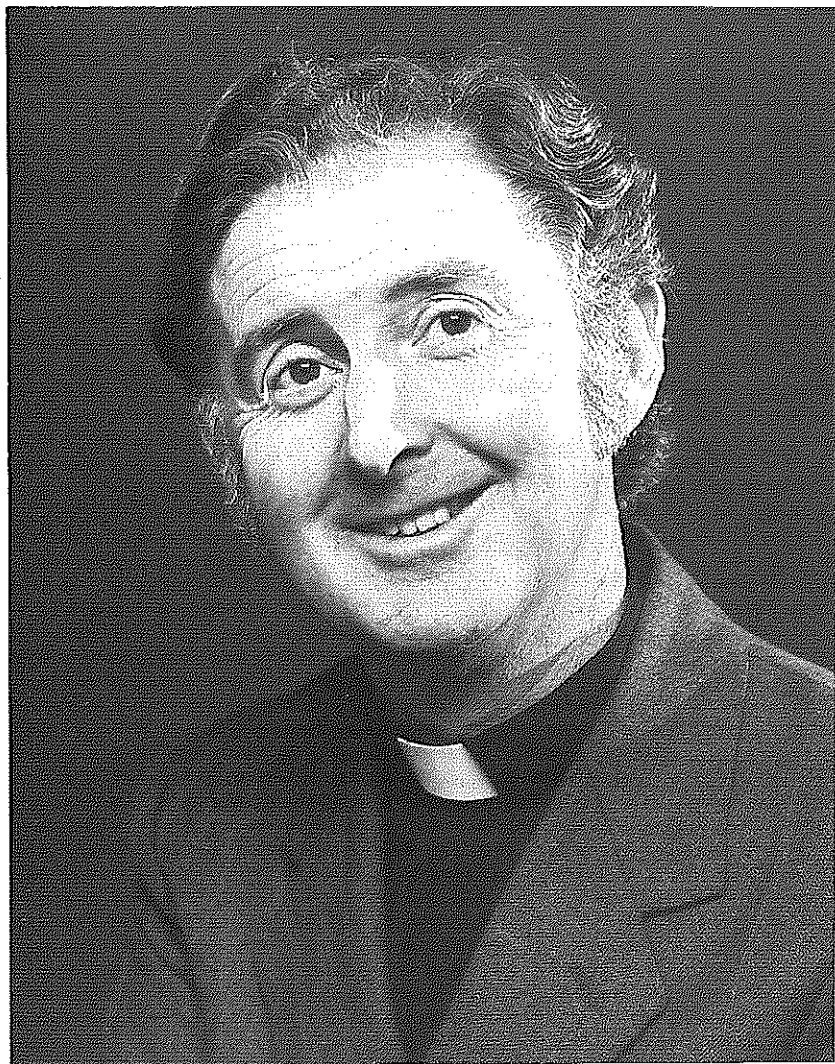
REVEREND JOHN GREER

One aspect of the new parish was the appointment by the Bishop of the Reverend John Greer as the first Vicar. It was less than ten years since John Greer had left the parish to study for the priesthood and he was remembered and respected by many. It seemed appropriate he should fill the post of first Vicar.

The annual general meeting held on 20 June 1962 was the last meeting presided over by Mr Waldron who was yet to serve for many years as Vicar of Gladstone before his ultimate retirement.

A house in Chelmsford Street was rented as a temporary vicarage and services were commenced in the Hawthorndale Hall until St Martins Hall became available. The design of the vicarage and hall were placed in the hands of Mr L Simpson, architect, who gave his services at a nominal fee. The vicarage was built by Mr G A Paddon and the hall by Mr C A Sneyd.

Although both buildings were well designed and served their purposes ideally, it was not long before it was evident that a major error of judgment had been made in placing the vicarage at this point. There had been considerable concern amongst parishioners at the vicarage being placed distant from the main church and it would be fair to say it had only been placed at St Martins because of financial restrictions.



Rev. J. E. Greer - Vicar 1962-71

Despite the drawbacks the new parish under the Reverend Greer continued to expand and the enthusiasm of the parishioners continued unabated. The same arrangements which had applied to Holy Trinity in the past were applied to St Martins in that they were granted control of their own finances and elected two representatives to Holy Trinity vestry.

In October 1964 a decision was taken to purchase a Baldwin electronic organ. The decision gave tremendous satisfaction to the Choirmaster Syd Booth, but sadly he was not to survive to see its installation. In November 1964 he died suddenly. At his funeral service as the casket was carried from the church the choir sang the Nunc Dimittis - surely an appropriate requiem.

The new organ was installed in May 1965 and proved a great improvement on the existing reed instrument and did much to improve the choral side of services.

For the third time a decision was made to alter the hall. The Sunday School was handicapped by there not being provision for separation of classes and after much discussion it was decided to erect three extra rooms on the west. The work was finally completed in the middle of 1966.

A little earlier a striking sculptured mural in concrete depicting St Martin and a beggar was dedicated. It was the work of a parishioner, Mr Harry Walsh, and was sited on the south side of St Martins Hall. Greater than life size and beautifully executed in a difficult medium it continues to give character to St Martins Hall.

Later in the year the Bishop indicated he would have a Curate available for appointment if the parish was prepared to accept the added financial responsibilities. The size of the parish definitely made assistance for the Vicar desirable and it was decided to go ahead and find the additional funds necessary with the increase in the staff. The Reverend Blair Robertson took up his duties late in the year and was immediately accepted by all parishioners.

His easy, friendly manner appealed to young and old alike. He brought a new and more youthful approach to all aspects of church life in such a way that nobody could object.

The responsibilities of maintaining a Curate had been made based on his being single and it therefore caused some concern when immediately on his arrival he announced his impending marriage. The arrival of Mary-Louise to join the parish was an event appreciated by all.

At the annual general meeting in 1966 Mr M W Grantham did not seek re-election after holding various offices for 35 years. In doing so he indicated he intended devoting his time to assisting the sick and aged, which left him insufficient time to carry on his church work. Mr Grantham's withdrawal meant that none of the band of stalwarts from the early days of the church remained. Mr Grantham had been People's Warden for some eleven years and in his inimitable style had kept his finger on every aspect of church life during that time. There are some who would consider that he was intolerant of opinions held contrary to his and was very inclined to dominate. Even if this was his failing, he was a tremendous worker for the church over a long period, including periods as Secretary and Treasurer. Mr Grantham remained a parishioner until his death in 1975. Holy Trinity owes much to his dedicated work.

The hoped-for growth at St Martins had failed to appear, and despite every material advantage it appeared this section of the parish was not going to flourish. The problem of the vicarage being remote continued and involved the Vicar in much costly and time-consuming car running. In 1967 it was decided to make application to the Diocese for authority to sell the Vicarage and spare section at St Martins and provide a vicarage at Holy Trinity.

The Bishop appointed a boundary commission consisting of representatives of all three city parishes to define parish boundaries and report on the request from Holy Trinity. The Commission having recommended the request be granted, the Bishop gave his approval to the proposal. One section was promptly sold for £1900, but it was to take three years before a suitable house came available to make a change in the Vicarage possible.

In 1968 Mr A Dix who had lived in Christchurch for a number of years sought, because of advancing years, to be relieved of his position as Trustee for the church properties. The other Trustee, Mr John Pedlar, agreed to also relinquish his position and the properties were transferred into the name of the Diocese thus conforming with the Diocesan requirements. Messrs Dix and Pedlar had been active in the church since its earliest days, had held office and contributed in many ways to the church's progress over many years. Another retirement at this time was Miss Jean De La Mare from Sunday School teaching which she had continuously carried on for thirty-six years.

The following year, 1969, saw an effort being made to combine the activities of St Martins with those of the Glengarry Church of Christ. Both were suffering from dwindling attendances and the Church of Christ being an entirely separate church, was experiencing financial problems. Combined services were held for some time and were reasonably successful, but finally the Church of Christ parishioners withdrew from the proposal.

This was the period when the new service of Communion was introduced and caused more concern, debate and upset than any other issue in the history of the church. Almost every parishioner had an opinion and they were almost all black or white and not many in the grey area.

The Liturgy was debated on many occasions, sometimes with feeling, and was only introduced gradually. The Vicar was very much in favour of introducing the new service, otherwise it may have had a slow start as happened in a neighbouring parish.

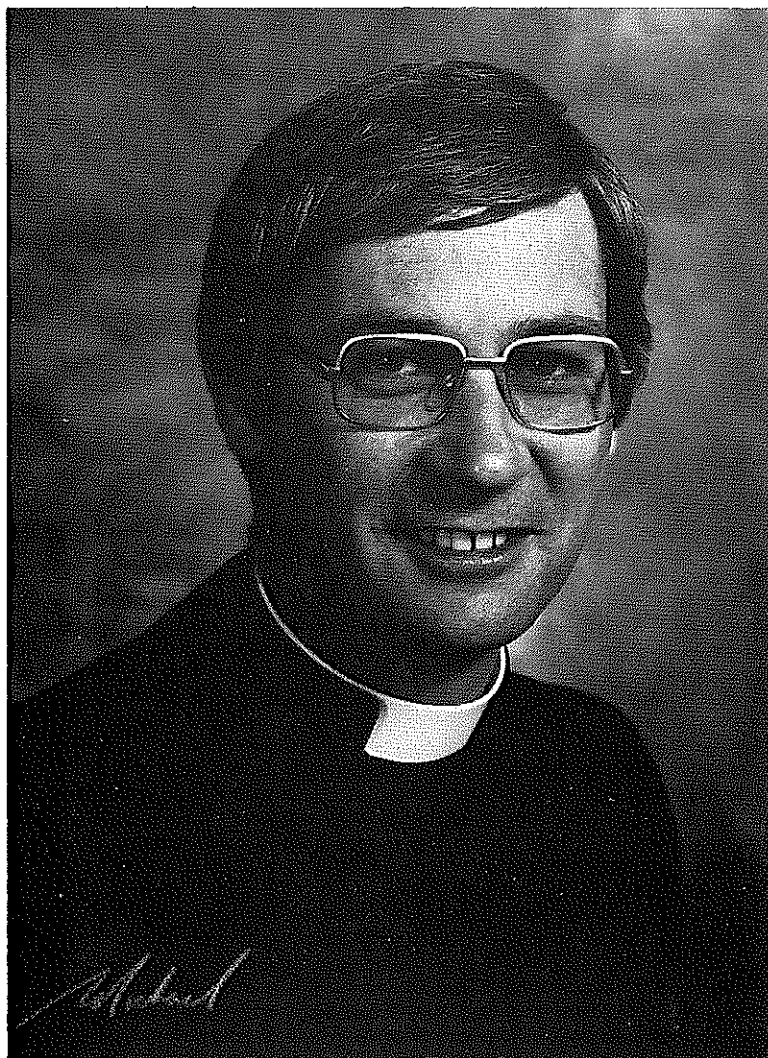
Late in the year the Reverend Blair Robertson was appointed to become Vicar of the Lumsden parish. He and Mary-Louise had been popular with all parishioners and were missed on departure. As the Diocese did not have the staff available, no replacement was made.

THE 1970'S

The year 1971 saw some major changes in the life of the church. First, the Reverend John Greer accepted a parish in New Plymouth and left to take up his work there. John Greer had arrived when the parish had just separated from All Saints some nine years earlier. When he left the parish was in good heart and owed much to his dedication. His position was taken by the Reverend Neil Hansen who came from Dunedin. Mr Hansen was no stranger, having been Vicar of Bluff earlier in his ministry.

The second major event was the decision to end the existing Parochial District and advance North Invercargill to the status of Parish. The difference between the two is not great, but the status of Parish indicates maturity and independence which Holy Trinity, by its size and vigour, had finally achieved. A bill to give effect to the new Parish was passed by Synod and the Bishop then appointed Mr Alan De La Mare the Vicar's Warden at that time, a Warden of the new parish and gave him authority to convene and chair the first meeting of the Parish at which the rest of the office bearers were to be elected. This was held on 8 August 1971 and predictably the previous office bearers were all elected to the same posts.

In the same month negotiations which had commenced some years before were brought to a happy conclusion with the sale of the Vicarage at St Martins for \$17,000 and the house property immediately to the south of Holy Trinity being purchased for \$15,000.



Rev. Blair Robertson - Curate 1965-1969 - Vicar 1973-1977

The new Vicarage required alterations to bring it up to a reasonable standard and a double garage was built at the back of the house with three bedrooms above. Other alterations were made and the work costing almost \$9,000 was completed in 1972. Another section at St Martins was sold at this time, realising \$4,000.

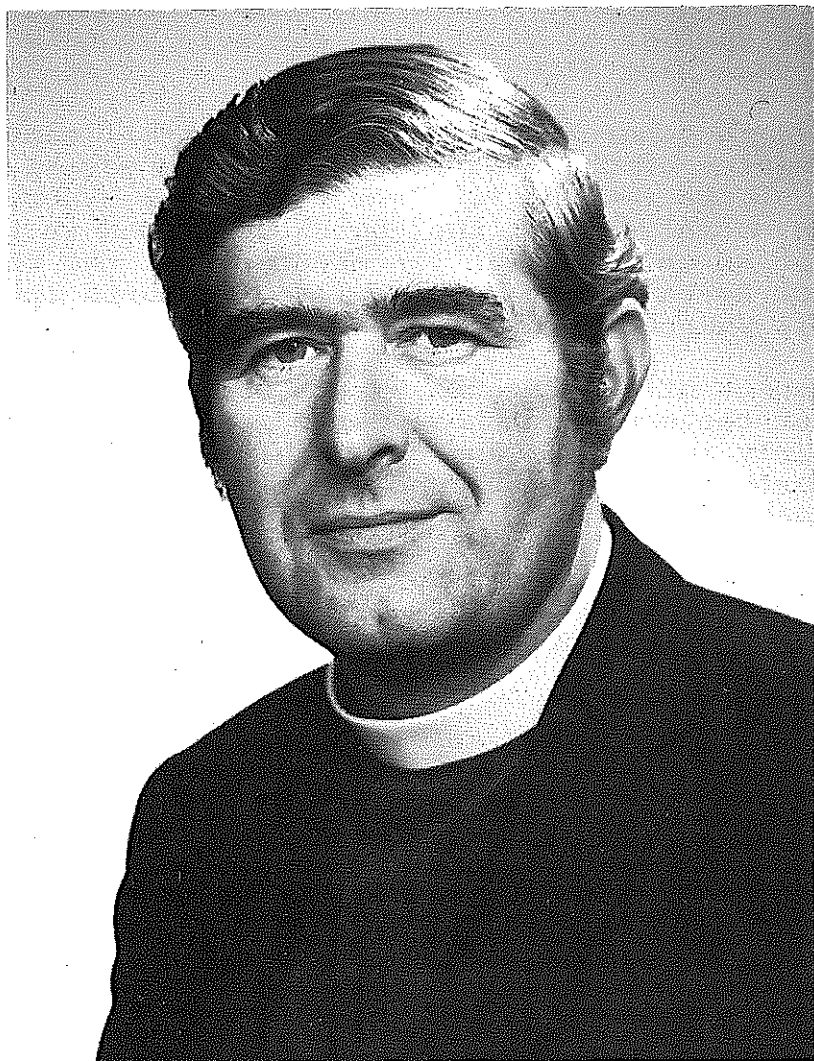
In 1971 the churches in North Invercargill combined in a survey of the area to check on the social needs of the community. From this a new experiment in the social work of the church developed in the form of an organisation representing all the churches of North Invercargill called the North Invercargill Churches' Outreach, or NICO.

One aspect of the organisation's work, namely the care of the aged and those 'shut in' has been particularly successful and the weekly functions in the North Presbyterian Sunday School Hall are well attended.

The hard work of a small band of combined church workers, including some from Holy Trinity, has ensured the continued operation of this worthwhile service.

In 1972 Ron James was appointed Choirmaster and Organist and still occupies the position today. His dedication and outstanding ability has maintained the high standard of the choir set originally by Messrs F Miller and Syd Booth and carried on by Graeme Whisker, Neil McEwan, Kathleen Sutton and Margaret Edmonston.

Laurie Cook, who with his wife had been the mainstay of St Martins from its beginning, died in April 1973. He had been active in all aspects of St Martins activities and it is unfortunate his work was not better rewarded. The church attendances in this section of the parish continued to dwindle and the finances suffered accordingly. In May 1973 at St Martins request, the joint finances of the Parish was arranged.



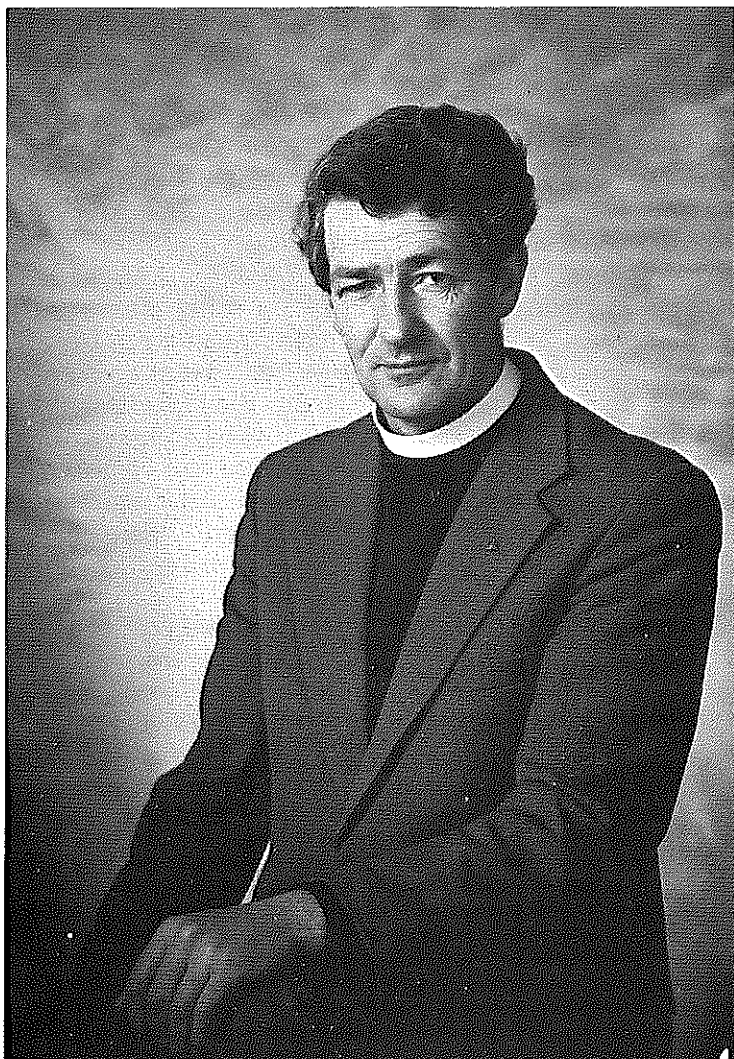
Rev. N. B. Hansen - Vicar 1971-73

March 1973 marked the return of the Reverend Neil Hansen to a Dunedin city parish and the appointment as Vicar of the Reverend Blair Robertson, the previous curate. The Bishop wished to appoint another priest, but the Vestry wanted to have Blair Robertson. The Parochial Nominators were summonsed to meet the Bishop at Balclutha to discuss the matter and exercised one of the few privileges of being a parish by sticking to their guns. The Bishop reluctantly had to agree. The appointment was to last four years and proved a happy period for the parish.

At the annual general meeting in the same year Mrs Joan Whisker was elected to the Vestry, becoming the first woman to be a member of Vestry in the church's history. Men had long dominated the Vestry but Joan Whisker, by her ability and hard work, soon showed women could make as good or better contribution than most men and was elected People's Warden the following year. She has since held this office a further three years.

In 1975 a small but significant part of the church's activities ceased when the weekly cards finished. It had operated from the earliest days of the church's existence and provided entertainment and sociability for many local residents about half of whom did not belong to the church. At the same time the cards had been a modest but regular source of funds. The small group of workers, the last of whom was Les Cox, had brought pleasure to many and a financial return to the church.

The next year brought a major change when the annual meeting decided that in future Evensong be discontinued except for the first Sunday in the month. The decision would have brought opposition in the past, but television and different attitudes made it acceptable almost without dissent.



Rev. W. J. Gaudin - Vicar 1978-

Later in the year the wear in the electronic organ required a major decision as it was established that the existing instrument was beyond economic repair. The question was thoroughly investigated and finally referred to a general meeting. At the meeting approval was given to the purchase of a new pipe organ to be supplied by the Canterbury Organ Company Limited. The cost was to be \$24,000 - by a strange quirk of inflation the same figure as the church had cost some ten years earlier. The organ installation was completed and the dedication held on 6 May 1979.

In between the ordering and installation of the organ a very important event took place in the liquidation of the debt on the church. The fact that a substantial loan was raised on the Vicarage to meet the cost of the organ did not detract from the achievement. The service of consecration was held on 14 September 1977.

With the transfer of the Reverend Blair Robertson to the Balclutha parish mid 1977, the Bishop appointed the Reverend W J Gaudin who was Vicar of Featherston. Bill Gaudin, who was made a Deacon in 1962 had previously served in the Wellington and Christchurch Dioceses. He remains in this position and has shown himself to be a worthy successor to the devoted Vicars before him.

And so to 1980 and the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church draws near. The parish of North Invercargill continues to expand and has reached the position where it is one of the biggest in the Diocese. The parish has survived the perils and difficulties of the past with the help of God and the dedication of countless parishioners.

By the same means it will undoubtedly expand in the future.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

- 3.11.30 First recorded meeting of church in
North Invercargill
Vicar: Reverend K D Andrews-Baxter
26. 3.31 Section in King Street purchased
- 10.12.31 Decision taken to build hall
22. 6.32 Church hall dedicated
6. 5.34 First service of Reverend I L Richards
4. 4.37 First service Reverend S A G Hurd
1. 6.41 First service Reverend A J T Fraser
- 7.12.41 Mortgage on hall paid off
25. 1.43 Adjoining section at Holy Trinity
purchased
2. 7.50 First service Reverend F Waldron
- 7.10.55 Approval to erect church received
- 26.11.55 Foundation stone Holy Trinity church
laid
15. 9.57 Holy Trinity dedicated
18. 3.62 Purchase of land in Conway Crescent for
St Martins Hall and Vicarage approved
3. 7.62 First service Reverend John Greer
14. 2.63 Tender for Vicarage at St Martins
accepted
9. 5.63 Tender for St Martins hall accepted
28. 5.65 Baldwin organ installed
4. 8.68 Boundary Commission recommends sale of
property in Conway Crescent including
Vicarage and establishment at Holy
Trinity
31. 1.71 Farewell to Reverend J Greer
28. 2.71 First service of Reverend N Hansen

8. 8.71 Parochial district replaced with
attainment of Parish status
9. 8.71 Vicarage at St Martins sold and new
house for Vicarage immediately to
south of church in Antrim Street
purchased
28. 3.73 First service Reverend B Robertson
12. 7.77 First service Reverend W J Gaudin
14. 9.77 Holy Trinity consecrated
6. 5.79 Pipe organ dedicated

CHURCH WARDENS 1930 - 80

Vicars' Wardens

Chaplin J	1967-68, 72-73
De La Mare A J	1971
Dix A	1951
Miller F	1931-50
Norris H W	1964
Paddon G	1976-80
Pedlar J	1952-63
Sole D	1969-70
Sutton H A	1974-75
Ward J O	1965-66

People's Wardens

Blomfield C	1933
Collinson E	1972-73
Cox L	1968-69
De La Mare A J	1966-67
Grantham M W	1954-65
Jacquiery M	1977-78
Norris H W	1953
Paddon G	1970-71
Pickard J	1934-48
Robertson W	1931
Stott J	1949-52
Treweek V	1932
Whisker Mrs J	1974-76, 79-80

SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS 1930 - 80

Secretaries

Blomfield C	1930-31
Briscoe W	1967
Chaplin J	1962-64
Crawshaw P C	1973-75
Davenport J H	1938, 43
De La Mare A J	1947-48, 51-61
Grantham W H	1934-37
Harris H T	1932-33
Hitch L	1944-46
James Mrs C	1976-78
Jerome T	1949-50
Knowles T L	1968
Murdoch D	1969-72
Simmons R	1979-80
Sole D	1965-66
Stevens G A	1939-42

Treasurers

Alexander J H	1969-70
Barnett R	1971-72
De La Mare A J	1963-66
Grantham W H	1959-62
Hopson I	1967-68
Miles G	1949-58
Norris H W	1973-80
Pickard J	1932-48
Treweek V	1930-31

PRESIDENTS - LADIES' GUILD

1930	Mrs Godward
1946-49	Mrs A Dix
1951	Mrs W Brass
1953	Mrs Torbet
1954	Mrs Sutherland
1955-60	Mrs H W Norris
1961	Mrs J Davenport
1962-63	Mrs J Davenport and Mrs H W Norris
1964-67	Mrs E Whisker
1968-70	Mrs W Russell
1971-78	Mrs E Whisker
1979-80	Mrs J Jackson

NOTE:

The list is incomplete and unfortunately no records exist which could supply the missing information

ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

	<u>Organist</u>	<u>Choirmaster</u>
1932-45	J F Miller	J F Miller
1945-64	S W Booth	S W Booth
1965-66	A Edwards	G Whisker
1967	A McEwan	A McEwan
1968-70	Miss M McFarlane	Miss K Sutton
1971	Miss M Edmonston	Miss M Edmonston
1972 to date	R G James	R G James

LAY READERS

Booth, Sydney William	24. 8.45
Broomhall, Ian Leslie	14.10.55
Christensen, Sydney Keith	28. 7.76
Ellis, Horace Edward	22.12.47
McNaughton, Brian	25. 7.80
Pickard, John	9.12.36
Rankin, Allan Raymond	25. 2.77
Stott, John James	4.12.46
Taylor, Leslie R	9.12.36
Trim, Howard Collin	24. 8.45
Waymouth, Frank	16.10.30
Wyatt, Alan Herbert James	24.10.33

HOLDERS OF CHALICE LICENCES

Peter Anderson Shields	22.08.62
Harold Arthur Stanley Rollinson	9. 4.63
Horace Algernon Sutton	18. 3.64
Thomas Alfred Tarrant	18. 3.64
Sydney Keith Christensen	28. 7.76
Winifred Ruth Briscoe	25. 2.77
Maryalyce Reed Jenkins	25. 2.77
Ronald George Sutton	25. 2.77
Evan John Cheyne	25. 2.77
Geoffrey William Mannix	4. 9.79
Michael Alfred Doublet	19. 2.80
Brian McNaughton	25. 7.80

HOLY TRINITY MOTHERS' UNION

The first meeting to form a Mothers' Union for Holy Trinity North Invercargill, was held at the residence of Mrs F Miller, Herbert Street, on 2 June 1931 at 2.30pm.

There were eleven ladies present and the Vicar, the Reverend Andrews-Baxter opened the meeting with the litany and afterwards addressed the meeting on the aims and ideals of the Mothers' Union.

The second monthly meeting was held on 7 July and the third meeting on 4 August when the Reverend Andrews-Baxter conducted the admission service, all ladies present being presented with a Mothers' Union card.

	<u>Enrolling Member</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
1931	Mrs Miller	Mrs Cameron
1932 (held in Holy Trinity hall in August)	Mrs Miller	Mrs Cameron
1933	Mrs Miller	Mrs Cameron
1934-37	Mrs Jenkin	Mrs Cameron
1938-42	Mrs Jenkin	
1943-44	Mrs Fraser	Mrs Keating
1945-46	Mrs Hitch	Mrs Jerome
1947	Mrs Hitch	Mrs Jerome
	Mrs Cameron	
1948	Mrs Cameron	Mrs Galbraith
1949	Mrs Cameron	
1950-52	Mrs De La Mare	Mrs Ward
1953	Mrs Norris	Mrs Ward
1954-57	Mrs Norris	Mrs Chatterton
1958	Mrs Norris	Mrs Brass
1959-60	Mrs Ward	Mrs Brass
1961	Mrs Ward	Mrs Shields
1962	Mrs Shields	Mrs Lindsay

APPENDIX VIII
(Continued)

	<u>Enrolling Member</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
1963	Mrs Ward	Mrs Lindsay
1964	Mrs Norris	Mrs Lindsay
1965	Mrs Cameron	Mrs Lindsay
1966	Mrs Ward	Mrs Brass
1967	Mrs De La Mare	Mrs Chatterton
1968	Mrs Norris	Mrs Chatterton
1969	Mrs De La Mare	Mrs Crighton

EVENING MOTHERS' UNION

1963-64	Mrs Cameron
1965-67	Mrs Whisker
1968	Mrs De La Mare
1969	Mrs Brealey

YOUNG WIVES LEADERS

1954-56	Mrs Olive Ward
1957-59	Mrs Joan Whisker
1960-62	Mrs Una De La Mare
1963-64	Mrs Edith Duncan
1965-67	Mrs Margaret Lowe
1968-69	Mrs Bernice Sole

SANCTUARY GUILD

1944-64	Mrs H. Booth
1964-73	Mrs M. Rankin
1973-76	Mrs P. Lockie
1976-80	Mrs J. Whisker

ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN

In 1970 the Association of Anglican Women was formed.

It replaced the Mothers' Union and combined all the women's groups including Ladies Guild, Hospital Visitors, Church Cleaning Guild, Overseas Mission Group, Sanctuary Guild, Pastoral Care, Meals on Wheels etc.

Association of Anglican Women - Presidents

1970	Mrs B Sole
1971	Mrs J Mann
1972	Mrs L Kerr
1973	Mrs J Whisker
1974	Mrs R Duncan
1975	Mrs P Miller
1976	Mrs E McCallum
1977	Mrs J Raines
1978	Mrs R Briscoe
1979	Mrs I Hunt
1980	Mrs G Singleton

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH COMMITTEES

1930 - 1980

(Committee changed to Vestry in 1962)

Aldersley A	1977	Collinson E	1969-72,
Allen G	1974		74
Annear J	1965	Connor D	1968
Archer J	1930-31,	Cook Mrs F	1979-80
	34	(St Martins)	
Armstrong M	1973-75	Cook L	1972
Armstrong R	1972,76	Cook W F	1932-40
		Cox L	1962-67,
			70-73
Barnett R	1971-72	Crawshaw P	1976
Batchelor S	1958-64		
Billett R	1976-78	Darby J W	1953-55
Binnie D	1975	Davenport G	1933-43
Blomfield C	1930-32	Davenport J	1938-47
Blomfield Mrs	1931	Davis J	1968
Booth S	1945-52	Dawson B D	1973-74
Boult A	1963-65	Dawson Mrs A	1979
Bridson D	1956-59	(St Martins)	
Briscoe W	1966-68,	Day G	1947-49
	80	De La Mare A	1941,
Broomhall L	1950-62		47-74
Bruce	1933	De La Mare W	1949-60,
Butler L	1960-63		76-78,
			80
Cameron Mrs M	1930	Denby D M	1979-80
Carrell A P	1980	Dix A	1932-49
Catchpole	1931	Doublet M A	1967-69,
Chaplin J	1962-70		77-78
Chatterton W	1954-55	Doublet Mrs J	1976
Cheyne E	1974-75,		
	77		
Christensen S K	1978-80	Elles H E	1949-53

Church Committees

APPENDIX XI (Continued)

Farrant F	1964	Miller F	1930-32
Galbraith W A	1949-58	Miller Mrs P	1931
Grantham M W	1931, 34-53	Moorcroft	1933
Greer J	1951	Morgan A	1932
Godward Miss U	1930	Murdoch D	1970-73
Harley G	1970-73	Neilson N D	1971-72
Harrington M B	1979-80	Norris H W	1943-80
Harris H T	1932-33	Old A W	1979-80
Hercus C M	1969-72, 80	Paddon G	1964-69 72-75
Hitch L J	1941-46	Pedlar J	1933-39, 41-50
Holloway C	1953, 67-68	Penfold J	1955-62
Hopson I	1965-68	Pickard J	1932-34
Jackson N	1951-52	Rankin R	1959-65, 72-75
Jaquier M	1974-76, 79	Riddell Mrs	1932
James Mrs C	1976, 78-80	Roberts W H	1932
James R G	1974-75; 77	Robertson	1930-31
Jeffs E	1977-78	Robinson J	1977-78
Jerome T	1946-50	Rollinson H	1961-63
Johnston J R	1932-33	Simmons R	1977-80
Keen R A	1973-74	Shieffelbein W	1976
Kemp R	1965	Smart G S	1936-38
Knowles L	1969	Smart Mrs	1931
Lane J	1965-69	Smith M	1971-72
Laytham E	1966-67	Smith N	1969-72
Lockie H H	1973-75	Soar J	1930-31
McNaughton B A	1977-79	Soar Mrs J	1931
Metcalfe L J	1979-80	Sole D	1965-72
Miles G	1949-58	Spencer A	1966
		Stevens A	1939-42
		Stocker	1930
		Stott J J	1930-34, 36-57

Church Committees

Sutherland M	1966-68, 74-78
Swale J (St Martins)	1980
Sworn Mrs	1973-76
Symon S	1935-40
Taylor L	1933-39
Thompson J	1956-61
Titchener J	1934-35
Treweek Miss	1930
Treweek V	1930-32, 40-45
Trim C	1942-46
Walls	1930
Walls Mrs	1931
Walls Miss	1931
Ward J O	1964-73
Waymouth F	1931-32
Wear G	1954-57
Whisker E	1957-58, 66
Whisker Mrs J	1973-78
Woodward J	1930-31, 36039
Wyatt H J	1963-65
Wyeth P E	1953

VESTRYMEN, SYNODSMEN, AUDITORS

Vestrymen - Two to All Saints

Davenport J	1940-46, 48
De La Mare A J	1947
Grantham W	1931
Jerome T	1949-50
Norris H W	1951-61
Pickard J	1932-48
Robertson W	1931-32
Stott J J	1938-39, 49-61
Taylor L	1934-37

Synodsmen

Briscoe J W	1976-80
Chaplin J	1966-69
Cook L	1969-71
De La Mare W	1974-75
Hercus C M	1970-80
Miller Mrs P	1972-73
Norris Mrs M	1968
Rankin R	1962-65

Auditors

De La Mare Miss J	1947-51
Godward Miss P	1930-39
Keating Mrs	1942-46
Middlemass R	1964-74
Piper M	1975-80
Ward J O	1952-62
Woods Mrs	1940
Wyatt H J	1963

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

1932-52	J J Stott
1952-59	Geo Miles
1960-61	L Cook
1962-63	P Shields
1964-68	D Jaquierey
1969-71	A Mahan
1972	M Smith
1973	Mrs C James
1974	E Couch
1975	E Couch and Roy Simmons
1976	C Honore
1977-79	Mrs K Christensen
1980	Mrs F Fields

SERVERS

Sacristan	W L De La Mare	(From 1945)
Assistant Sacristan	G W Mannix	(From 1962)
Tutor	M A Doublet	

Some sixty men and women have acted as Servers. They include three who subsequently were ordained - John Greer, Barry Wilkinson and Ken Booth.

THE BOOTH YEARS AT HOLY TRINITY

1945 - 1965

'Can you sing this note?' The question would be accompanied by a G played on the piano. A small boy of 7 or 8 with a frown of intense concentration on his face uttered a noise that could be said, charitably, to focus around the indicated G. 'Right. Now can you sing this note?' This time it was a C. The boy, trying desperately hard, produced the same note he did last time - somewhere round about a G, that being the only note he could sing. 'Let's try that again.' The results were the same, as the would-be chorister struggled to make the one note in his repertoire sound like the piano, without success. Many people would at that juncture have given the lad a sweet, told him to go home, and later informed his parents that he was tone deaf, but not Syd Booth. 'Can you make a noise like a fire engine?' The boy obliged with a rising wail ending on a sustained note, and then to his surprise found that the piano was now playing the same note on which he had ended. Thus began, as with so many others, an introduction to the mysteries of singing and an entry to the choir of Holy Trinity Church.

Having grown up in and with Holy Trinity choir, it always seemed to me that that was the normal way of doing things, and it was not until I had been away from Invercargill that I began to appreciate the richness and uniqueness of what I had simply taken for granted.

A thriving and competent parish choir of about 40 voices was in itself something of an achievement, though a number of parishes up and down the country must have had fairly good choirs of similar size at that time, but to produce a choir in which the treble line was held by a group of 20 to 24 boys, and perhaps a few younger girls, was something that demanded enthusiasm for the task itself, a dedicated pursuit of recruits, and a resolute refusal to accept the prevailing New Zealand myth that boys cannot sing.

My father was born and brought up in Dover, England, and had himself been a chorister and organist before emigrating to New Zealand, and for him a choir of boys and men was an integral part of the tradition of Anglican worship he loved so dearly. Consequently, against considerable odds, he set to work to reproduce the 'proper' form of Anglican worship in such an unlikely place as Invercargill.

Holy Trinity choir was, without doubt, my father's main interest in life; the job he did to earn an income coming a somewhat distant second. His dedication to the choir produced a sense of loyalty to the choir from all its members. When a choirboy was ceremoniously inducted into the choir on some Sunday morning he would promise, among other things to keep the rules of the choir. Personally I am not sure what those rules were, and cannot recall their ever being invoked to solve a problem. The sense of occasion inspired by such things as the little induction service for new choristers, and the unwritten sense of expectations that Syd Booth conveyed, meant that only those who were serious about the choir bothered to join. Looking back, it now seems just a little odd that members of the choir were expected to wear their cassocks for choir practice, but it subtly underlined the fact that we were engaged in something important. The choir responded to this, whether it was for the hymns for the Sunday services, a complicated anthem for Sunday evening, or a setting of the Psalms.

The normal round of services were reasonably demanding in themselves. There were two practices a week for the boys of the choir, and then a joint practice with the senior choir which also continued after the boys had gone home on Thursday evenings. Then there were the two services on Sunday. From time to time the choir did something special. Stainer's 'Crucifixion' was done several years during Lent, but the annual climax was always the Christmas music for the festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, with some small choir boy singing 'See amid the winter's snow' on a hot and sultry evening in December. Each year too, the choir would sing a selection of carols around the wards of Kew Hospital. About the same time of the year came the prizegiving, rewarding particular boys of the choir for outstanding work, and a speech from my father that always covered the same ground: credit to the hard work put in by the whole choir during the year; an attack on the stupidity of the New Zealand myth about the inability of boys to sing; the need for more recruits for the choir; and the fact that the boys' choir of the present would provide a supply of future men choir members and churchmen in general that could not otherwise be guaranteed.

Recruiting for the choir was carried on without a hint of an apology for the demanding work to which the small boy would be committed. Older members of the congregation would remember the techniques of recruiting well. It was no case of gentle appeals from the pulpit, but of going out into the highways and byways and compelling them to come in. Rumour that a new Anglican family had moved into the District would find Syd Booth on the doorstep within a few days, and the discovery of any boy about 7 or 8 would lead to the question not 'Would you like to join the choir?', but 'Is there any reason why you cannot join the choir?' Protests from boy or parents that the lad could not sing were brushed aside and then proved wrong as outlined above.

Once in the choir, the sense of belonging and of importance provided their own reason for staying in the main. Mind you, there was always the attraction of playing with our fairly extensive train set on winter Sunday afternoons. The fact that this meant 200 feet of railway track covering the floor in the living room, and winding its way up the passage to the front bedroom and then back down the passage, through the kitchen and out to the laundry with all the intervening doors open, was something that never struck me as incongruous in an Invercargill winter until years after.

One of my more bizarre memories is of the time the choir were fitted out with new cassocks. My father had been given a sum of money by someone to do this. Certainly the task needed doing, the previous cassocks having been inherited, as I remember it, from the days of the Reverend K D Andrews-Baxter who reputedly rounded up the local boys he could find on the street of a Sunday morning and put them in the choir robes to decorate the front row of the choir stalls - an ability to sing not being required.

For the new cassocks a bulk supply of suitable black material was obtained, and the mothers of the choristers enlisted to help in the making of them. However a pattern was needed, and I was used as a kind of model on which to fashion the new cassocks. I have the fairly usual human shape, but I do have quite a long neck. Consequently the next boy who was tried in the model cassock nearly had his ears cut off by the collar of the garment that was perfectly alright on me.

The commitment and discipline produced choral work of a very good standard for a parish choir. The pinnacle of the Anglican musical tradition as heard in the best English cathedrals is achieved by having a large school from which to draw the cream of the singers, who practise every day and sing Evensong daily as well as the Sunday services.

No parish choir can ever compete with that, but as parish choirs go, the choir at Holy Trinity under Syd Booth provided a great deal of enjoyment for those in it, and much pleasure to those who heard it. We took our turn in the cycle of churches who broadcast their services over the air. Most of the other parish churches that broadcast had fine-sounding pipe organs and choirs that ranged from good to abysmal. Our choir could be relied on to sound good, but the harmonium that accompanied us always sounded dreadful. To my father it was never anything but 'a kist of whistles'. The only proper instrument for the accompaniment of a church choir was a pipe organ, and Syd Booth would have been delighted with the organ that has since been installed, as he would have been by the knowledge that the choral tradition is still being carried on.

It was not only my father who left his mark on Holy Trinity over twenty years. From the age of 12 until his studies took him away from Invercargill, my brother Ray was organist. The whole family was in the choir at various times and all of us at once for a few years. Even I left my mark on the place - quite literally, since the new church building was put up while I was in the fourth form and I periodically got in the builders' way as they were constructing it.

But it was my mother who left her mark on it in the most permanent way, in the extensive embroidery that was done for the hangings in the church and the vestments.

Embroidery of various sorts had been an interest of my mother's, but it was the new church building that demanded so much work. The Vicar, Frank Waldron, was determined that the new church should be properly furnished, and my mother was very willing to do the work. The altar in Holy Trinity is very long for the size of the church and I well remember patterns for the various frontals lying on our lounge floor, while various patterns for the design in the centre were tried out and considered.

For several years two large embroidery frames stood in the corner by the window where the best light was to be had. The work extended far beyond what was done for Holy Trinity, but it was for this parish that the largest and most elaborate pieces were done. The most complex piece as I recall it, was the super-frontal with the shields of the 12 apostles. Considerable research went into that to ensure that the emblems for each of the apostles were correct. Then each was executed and the whole put together with the linking theme of the vine. It would be impossible to calculate the hours that went into the making of all the hangings and vestments, but the results were superb. It is something that is completely unrepeatable. Fashions in church designs have changed. The work that was done for Holy Trinity came towards the end of a period in which formal designs were executed in embroidery threads and edged with gold or silver thread, and the whole was done on a brocade. Designs have turned more suggestive and impressionistic now and the sheer cost of brocades and gold thread would price such embroidery off the market.

It is not for me to try and sum up what my mother and father did for Holy Trinity. Holy Trinity is where I grew up; it simply was the environment in which I lived. Part of that environment was shaped by the fact that my father was organist and choir-master, that I was a chorister and learned the rudiments of singing there, and worshipped in a church enriched by my mother's work and filled by the sounds of a choir trained by my father.

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