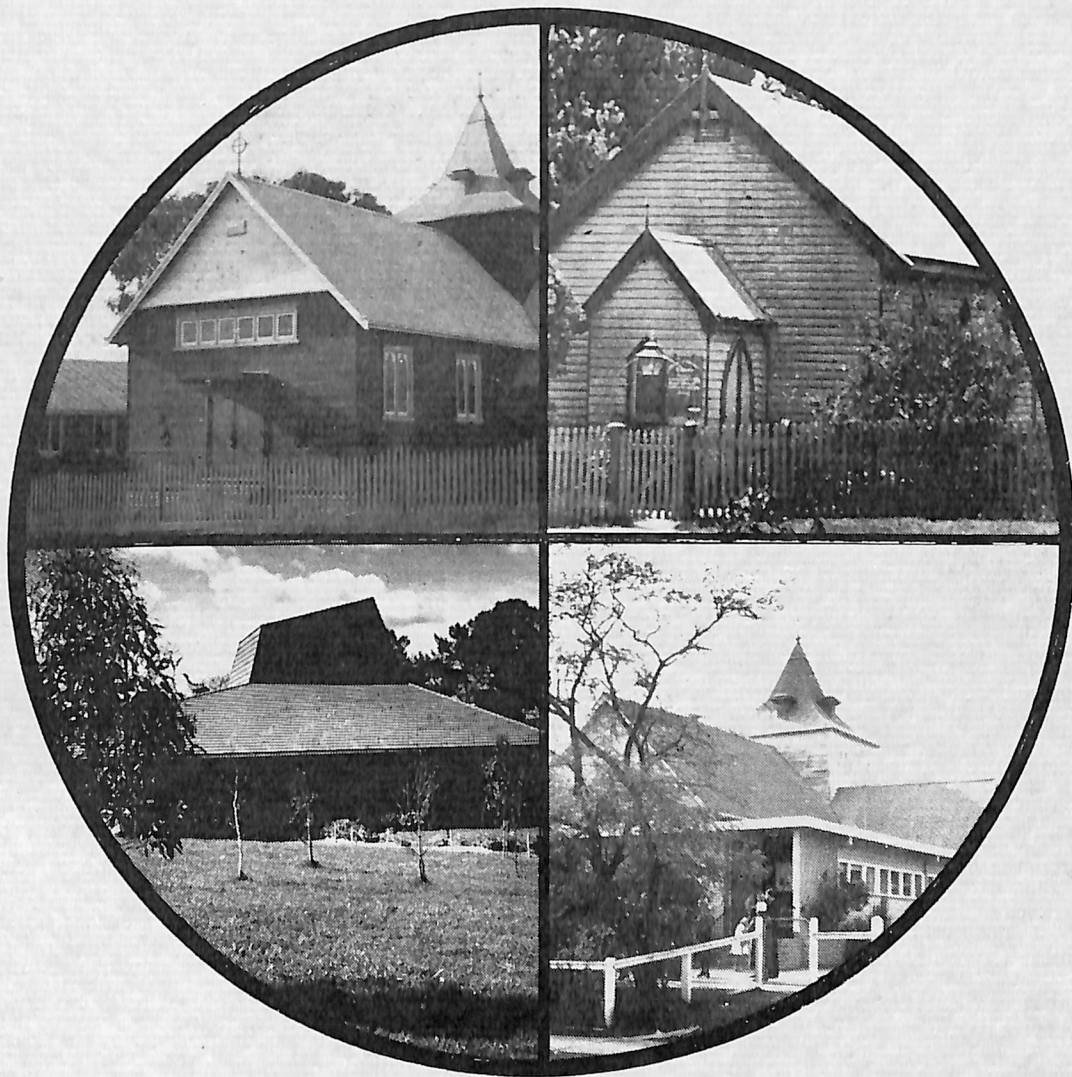


**ST. PAUL'S**  
**ANGLICAN CHURCH, RINGWOOD**  
**CENTENARY**  
**SOUVENIR HISTORY**





St Paul's Anglican Church  
40 Warrandyte Road  
Ringwood

Vicar:  
The Revd. Bill Potter.

Curate:  
The Revd. Tom Stokes

Chairman of  
Centenary Committee:  
Mr. Jack Snow

Basic history text  
compiled by Stella Badger  
Design, Charles Miller.

Price: \$4.00



The Vicar

Why Celebrate a Centenary? In a sense a Centenary day is like any other day. It stands between yesterday and tomorrow. About yesterday we can do nothing for it has passed. About tomorrow we can do nothing for it has not yet come. It is today that I live and it is what I am today that I take into tomorrow.

But I remember yesterday, and I have hope for tomorrow. This is why I celebrate Life today. This is why I celebrate a Centenary. For it reminds me that for the past hundred years, here in Ringwood, men and women, day by day, have lived and loved, been born and died, fought and forgiven, built up and broken down, looked outwards and inwards as is happening at this moment on this day.

Among them were those who recognised the finger of God, not only in history but in the story of their lives. Like Abraham, who followed in faith, they moved from place to place. The Spirit of God led them as they lived through years of war and peace, prosperity and depression, anxiety and hope. They had built a place where they could gather. They had the courage to move where ever led. Because of them, St Paul's and its people are where they are today, as a symbol and witness to the divine dimension in the world.

So we celebrate this day with faith and hope, and thanksgiving. We proclaim that the God of their history, who is the God of our history, will by his Spirit daily lead us further on our journey. We pray that as each day we become part of the history of the generations to come, they too will find in us some message of hope that they may celebrate in hope.

*Bill Potter*



## OUR BEGINNINGS

Ringwood in 1879 was a tiny place. A few pioneers came to establish orchards in the none too promising clay soil in the area. To eke out a living meantime they engaged in cutting timber for which there was a great demand. Though few in numbers, these fine people felt the need for a church as a centre for their common life and in 1877 they bought land near the intersection of what is now Maroondah Highway and Mt. Dandenong Road. Because of the discovery of antimony close by in 1869 and the presence of the Club Hotel built in 1877 this area became the village centre. The land was purchased by the Rev. S. Alden in September 1877 from Mr. Pierce Boardman who with the Smith brothers, discovered antimony nearby.

Energetic steps were taken and a small church

was built and licensed by the Dean of Melbourne the Very Reverend Hussey de Burgh McCartney on 15th October 1879. It was placed under the pastoral care of Archdeacon Stretch during the eighties. This became the parochial Reader's district of Croydon, Ringwood and Mitcham. The Church was called St Paul's from the beginning and was the first church in Ringwood. It was a modest little wooden building and served the community well from 1879 until 1915. A significant step forward was taken on 20th March 1905 when Archbishop Lowther Clarke licensed the Rev. George Chapman as the first vicar. After severance from Croydon in 1919 the district was known as the parish of Ringwood and Mitcham.

Committee Meeting  
April 11<sup>th</sup> 1888

Present: D. R. Hewton in the chair  
also Messrs Smallman Watson and the  
Treasurer Mr. Cannon =

The Treasurer Reported that Collections  
up to 31<sup>st</sup> March had amounted  
to £5-6-9 and that he had up to April 11<sup>th</sup>  
received £7 return from the recent social.

1<sup>st</sup> Res. = Pro. by Mr. Smallman Sec. by Mr. Watson  
that £1-6-9 the debt owing to Mr. Saddler  
be paid forthwith. = (Carried.)

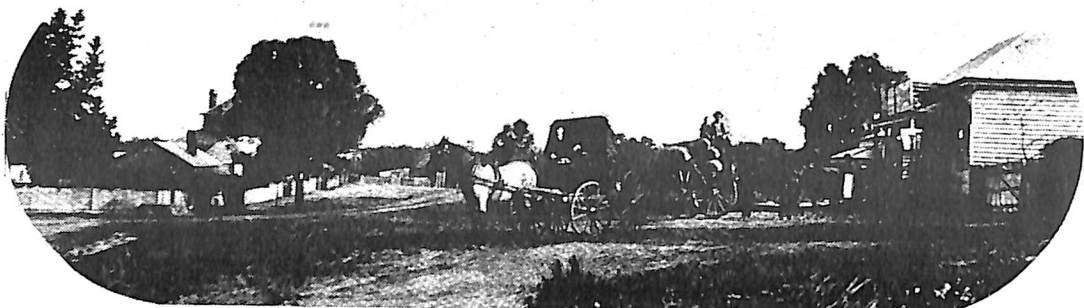
2<sup>nd</sup> Res. Pro. by Mr. Watson Sec. by Mr. Smallman  
that amount owing to Mr. Hewton for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter  
stipend = £7-16-0 be paid. = (Carried)

The following accounts were then presented  
for payment -

Mr. Hewton for Preachers Books =	£ - 4 - 6
Miss Smallman for Cleaning Church	1 - 5 - 6
Balance to Mr. Hewton for Bell after deducting amount paid by subscription	15 - 6
Printing and hire of hall. and Piano for social conferred	1 - 10 - 0 3 - 15 - 6

A page from a vestry minute book, 1888.





View near site of the First St Paul's.  
Club Hotel on left.  
Assistants at a Bazaar, 1885



Looking West from Warrandyte Rd and Maroondah Highway junction, 1908





## MOVE ONE

The coming of the railway in 1882 was crucial in Ringwood's development for a new town centre sprang up around the railway station; St Paul's was now at the periphery. After much consideration it was decided to find a more central site. Land was bought on the corner of Pratt Street and Whitehorse Road and a more commodious church was built to meet the needs of a growing congregation. Work began early in 1915 and with furniture and fittings installed the new church of St Paul's was ready for dedication on Saturday 24th April the same year, with accommodation for some 150 worshippers. It was a handsome little building constructed entirely of Tasmanian hardwood, to the design of the architects Messrs North and Williams; the contractor was Mr. H. Jones of Northcote. "A rather original feature of the Gothic style was a central tower surmounted by a spire of proportionate dimensions, the whole having the picturesque rustic effect characteristic of many small churches in rural

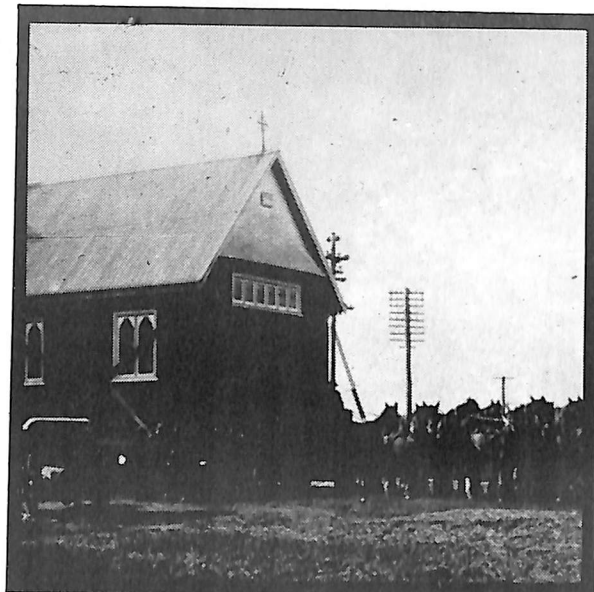
parishes of England." The internal fittings were also of Tasmanian hardwood, fumed and waxed polished, thus effecting a complete and pleasing harmony with the rest of the building. The architects also prepared designs for a parish hall and Sunday School in the same material and this was built some time later.

At a social gathering after the dedication ceremony the Archbishop of Melbourne Dr Lowther Clarke congratulated all concerned in their enterprise in erecting this church, singling out the vicar Rev. T.H. Justice for special praise for the energy he had displayed in this and other works in the parish. He mentioned that the total cost, including internal equipment, was £800. The following day the Dean of Melbourne preached at the opening services which were well attended, with 70 communicants at the mid-day celebration of Holy Communion.

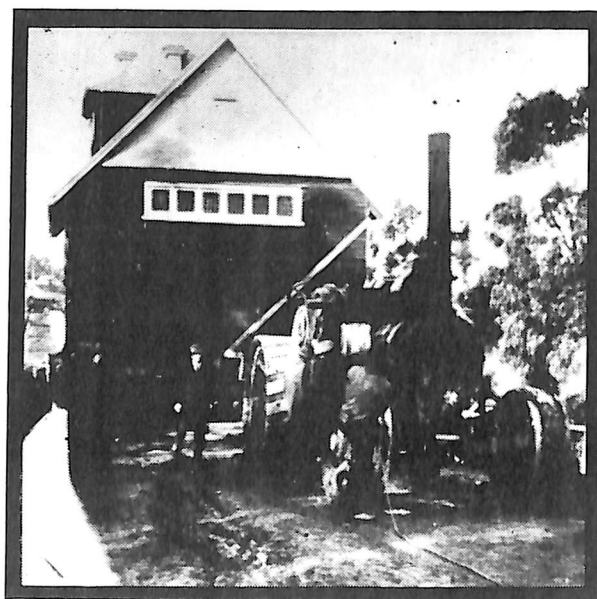


St. Paul's in Pratt St, about 1920

# MOVE TWO



The move to Ringwood Street



Stuck on the bridge over Mullum Creek



Interior of St Paul's about 1920

With subsequent shifts in population, the Church authorities once again thought it desirable to move to a more convenient position. Captain E.T. Miles who had previously bought land in Ringwood Street, including the old State school building and grounds, offered it for sale to the Church of England and this they bought. A contract was let for the removal of the St Paul's building to the new site and this was effected in 1924, not without difficulties as it stuck on Mullum Creek bridge in Warrandyte Road. The land in Pratt Street was sold for £1245 and subdivided as six shop sites and the original Hall was transferred to Boronia. The old State school at Ringwood Street was renovated and enlarged for use as a Parish Hall. A vicarage was erected on the corner of Civic Place and Ringwood Street in 1924-5. In 1925 Mitcham separated from Ringwood.

Among many dedicated and devoted people who served the parish faithfully and well the name of the Miles family occurs often in its history. Charlotte Eliza Miles, wife of Capt E.T. Miles a regular worshipper and liberal benefactor, died in 1929. In 1930 a Manborg organ was presented to the Church by members of the Miles family in memory of a devoted wife and mother. A daughter, Mrs J.W. Barrett was a member of the St Paul's branch of the Mother's Union when it was first formed in the early 1920s and was honorary secretary for many years. Her husband, Mr J.W. Barrett was on the vestry for 25 years and served as secretary or treasurer for much of that time.



Easter Day, March 31<sup>st</sup>



## The Celebration of Holy Communion

WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

S. Paul's, Ringwood	-	-	-	5 a.m.
Christ Church, Mitcham	-	-	-	6 a.m.
South Warrandyte	-	-	-	7.15 a.m.
Wonga Park	-	-	-	8.30 a.m.
S. John's, Croydon	-	-	-	9.45 a.m.
S. Paul's, Ringwood	-	-	-	11.15 a.m.

### Monday in Easter Week—

Christ Church, Mitcham - - 8 a.m.

### Tuesday in Easter Week—

S. Paul's, Ringwood - - - 6.30 a.m.  
S. John's, Croydon - - - 8 a.m.

—  
"Christ our passover is sacrificed for us,  
therefore let us keep the feast."

Easter, 1918



The Vicarage, Church and Hall (formerly State School) 1955.

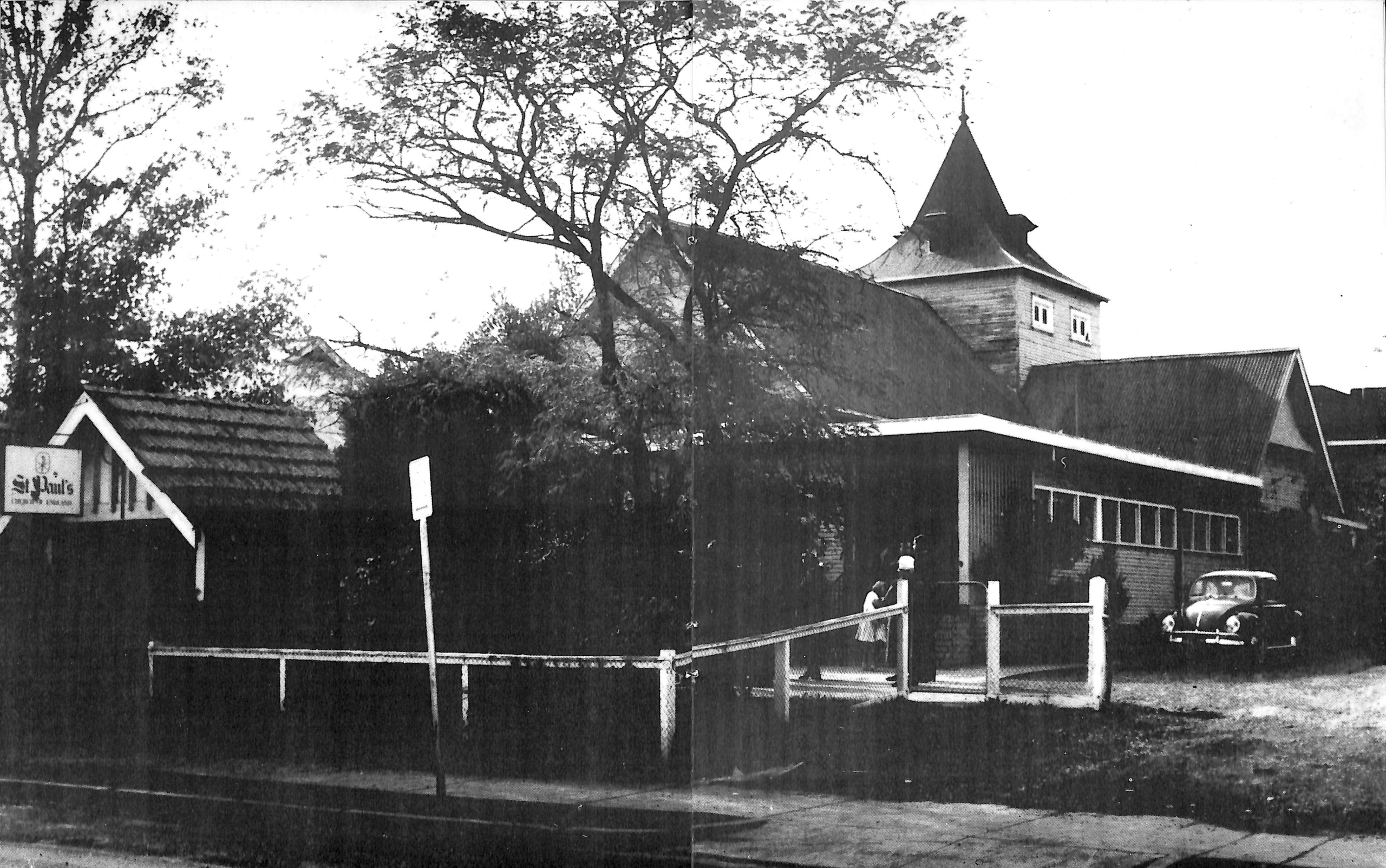
## MOVE THREE

With the post war expansion of Ringwood the parish grew apace, Warrandyte was attached to Ringwood, and, with the erection of Holy Trinity Ringwood East, in 1955, and Christ Church, Heathmont, in 1956, there were now four centres of Christian Activity.

A vigorous Every Member Canvass was organised to enlist membership and stimulate

financial support for its growing needs. The congregation was once more outgrowing the church, so that the building was moved again. This time only a matter of a few feet so that extensions could be made and a new hall built along the East boundary. This fine brick hall facing Civic Place was blessed by Archbishop Woods in 1958.





St. Paul's  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Harvest Festival, April 1967.

## MOVE FOUR

It became apparent that the buildings at Ringwood Street would be inadequate in the near future, so under the farsighted and vigorous leadership of the Rev. David Warner a planning committee was formed. In 1963 the vestry bought "Glamorgan" the property of the late Capt. E.T. Miles and family at 40 Warrandyte Road. The fine large red brick house was set in 6½ acres of an old world

garden. This purchase was financed by the sale of Ringwood Street property which in 1967 realized \$196,000.

In response to the challenge of M.R.I. presented by Bishop Sambell following the Toronto Conference, the parish at the annual meeting pledged 10% of this money for extra-parochial use. St Paul's, however, was not left homeless even though the old buildings were demolished



The buildings just prior to demolition. The Parish Hall on the left is now incorporated into the shops.

after the sale. The generous Methodist Church invited St Paul's to share the facilities of their church in Bedford Road. The house on the property in Warrandyte Road was used as a vicarage; one large room was used as a chapel in the interregum period and the Sunday School was conducted there.

The last services at Ringwood Street were held on Trinity Sunday, 21st May 1967 with family Communion and the delicensing ceremony at 9.30 a.m. A working bee then removed all furnishings and records from the property. (Two stained glass memorial windows and the altar adorn the Narthex of the present church Building. All the memorials are recorded in a

special Memorial record book which is also in the Narthex, while the furnishings are in use in other churches). At 7 p.m. a combined service was held at the Methodist Church, where the Rev. L. Turner welcomed St Paul's congregation. For the next three and a half years the Methodist Church accommodated St Paul's and a very happy relationship developed. Anglican services were held at 8 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. and the Methodist and Anglican services were used alternately at the evening service. As an expression of gratitude to the Methodist Church a low relief column of Christian symbols, designed by sculptor Charles Miller was fixed on a wall in the Bedford Road Church.





E.T. Miles at front gate of "Glamorgan". (Present exit)

There was much discussion about the form the new church should take and about its exact location on the Warrandyte Road site. In 1965 the Rev. David Chambers became vicar and the vestry decided in 1968 as a first step to build a new vicarage. This was built at a cost of \$20,150 and opened and blessed by the Archbishop in May 1969. In that month the architects, Gerd and Renate Block were engaged to design a new church and the firm of N. W. & B. Moore made a successful tender early in 1970 for the building. The work proceeded rapidly and amid great rejoicing the building was consecrated by Archbishop Woods on 21st November 1970. The cost of church and fittings together with alterations to what

was now known as the Parish House, was \$119,655 and a further \$5,025 was spent on ground works, landscaping etc. The designer of the beautiful memorial garden was the late Ellis Stones.

The architecture was suited to its period and was the result of careful planning and thought about the uses it should serve. It is very open and flexible in plan with no fixed furnishings. By an ingenious system of screens it can be used to meet the needs of smaller or larger congregations. Its proportions are excellent, its surroundings beautiful allowing worshippers to look beyond the altar to the trees and shrubs outside.

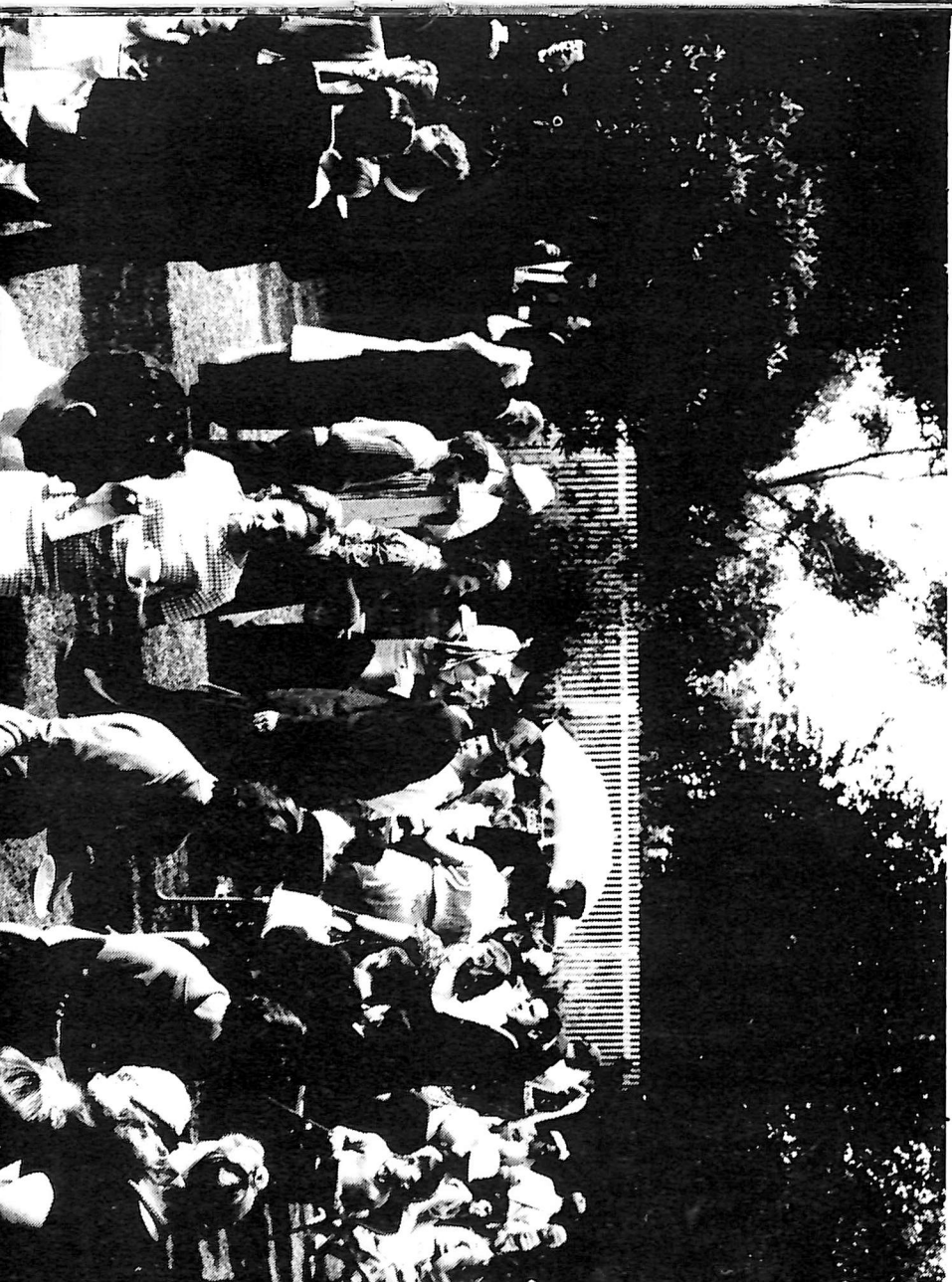
The building is enriched by many gifts and memorial tokens which link it with the old church and which are recorded in a special book kept in the Narthex. Two especially beautiful modern works which are to be seen in the Church are a pottery Pilgrim Bottle by Dulcie Herd, and a sculpture, "Christus Rex", by Charles Miller.

By this time, Holy Trinity Ringwood East and Christ Church Heathmont had been separated from us to become parishes in their own right. Now St. Stephen's Warrandyte also became independent, taking within its boundaries Park

Orchards, whose Church of Emmanuel had been the latest to be built in the region.

The life of the parish is vigorous and the congregation continues to grow. The last five years have been notable for experimentation with new liturgies. Of especial delight is the Children's family Eucharist, in which the children take a meaningful part in the worship, reading lessons, leading, often with parents as a family, in prayers and intercessions, and the offertory procession, distributing the children's bread, and chatting with Fr. Bill in their own "talk-time" segment. Modern hymns and an

Garden Party in Parish grounds, 1964







Consecration, 21st November, 1970.

enthusiastic Christian Music Group add to the joyous atmosphere. A programme of instruction follows the service.

Within the congregation, branches of the Mothers' Union, Young Members' Department, Girls' Friendly Society, and Church of England Boys' Society are active, also a ladies guild, St Paul's Seekers, (for young children) and St Paul's Club (for youth). Other areas of interest and service are family bush walks, vegetable gardening, hospital visiting, and support for Ringwood School Leavers' Employment Opportunity Service.

In addition to the Sunday Services, Bible Study groups meet on week-day mornings and evenings, and celebrations of the Eucharist on one week morning and two evenings involve the Healing Prayer Fellowship and the Neo Catechumenate Community.

Each year the Parish select a particular project as a point of outreach outside Ringwood. This year our project is the Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission and the Scripture Union's venture in the Western Suburbs.

In this Centenary year our theme has been Joy, Celebration, Rededication, and Outreach. In

addition to our usual project activities a number of special activities have been going on. The first event of the year was the outstanding exhibition "Art in Worship" which brought together the works of many leading Victorian artists and attracted several hundred people from far and wide. The organisers were themselves artists, and their work was among the exhibits.

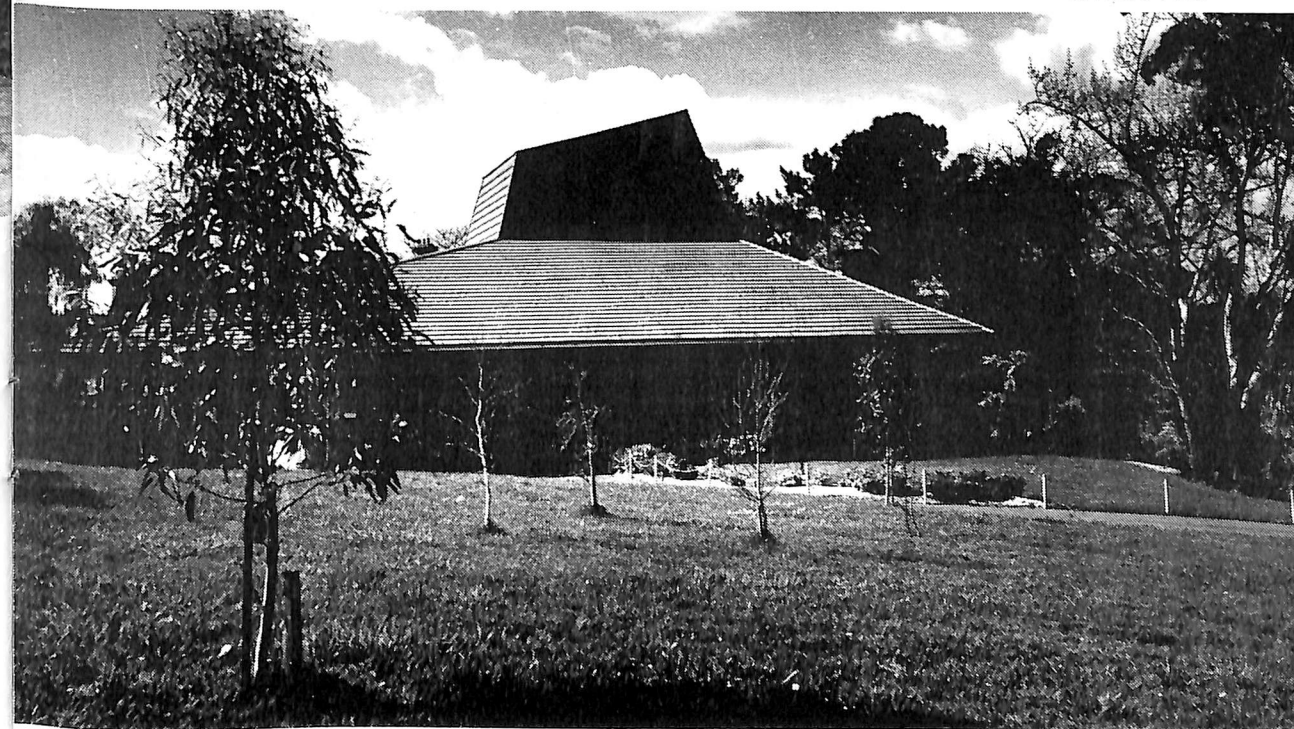
During the year the Grounds have been beautified and enhanced by the completion of a bush track, named the Ashlin Track, as a

tribute to Mervyn Ashlin whose inspiration and effort brought it into being. It is the special offering of the Church Community to the Community at large.

The month of August saw the gathering of Young and Old for our Centenary Dinner Dance, while in October, our Centenary Month we bring it to a climax with a Youth Concert, a Family Fun day, and on the Sunday special Services of Thanksgiving and Dedication. So we move into our Second Century.



St Paul's 1979



# VICARS OF ST. PAUL'S

Rev. Geo. Chapman  
1905 – 6

Rev. W. Moorhouse  
1907 – 8

Rev. H.M. Hawkins  
1908 – 13

Rev. T.H. Justice  
1913 – 18 (war service 1916)

Rev. A.J. Thompson (L.T.)  
1917 – 18

Rev. A.J. Thompson  
1918 – 20

Rev. C.P. Lee  
1920

Rev. P. Webber  
1920 – 24

Rev. C.J.T. Martin  
1924 – 28

Rev. E.E. Robinson  
1928 – 34

(L.T. Locum Tenens.)

Rev. G.G. Tymms  
1934 – 35

Rev. V. Carver  
1935 – 41

Rev. T. Wilkinson  
1941 – 44

Rev. F.E. Lewin  
1945 – 53

Rev. J.E. Holt (L.T.)  
1948

Rev. H.A.W. Bishop  
1953 – 56

Rev. R.F. Adams  
1956 – 60

Rev. D.B. Warner  
1960 – 65

Rev. D. Chambers  
1965 – 72

Rev. W.R. Potter  
1972 –

# NOSTALGIA

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

The CEMS activities in the early fifties. They met in the old original Ringwood State School which was our Parish Hall. It was a very active group of 36 men. The beach picnics at Somers, the packing of vegetable orders before the fetes, the breakfasts and the sing-songs were great fellowship.

The awakening in the early sixties to a new challenge of Service and commitment. This was helped as a result of studies such as Forward in Depth in which Archbishop Woods called us all to a deeper commitment to God and His work in the world. Out of this came the idea of the Parish Project – to support some cause outside the Parish.

The feats of the choirs at St Paul's 20-30 years ago? How they would sing an anthem every week and perform special works such as 'The Crucifixion' each year. The good tenor who swallowed a raw egg before singing a solo.

The joy of singing with the Methodist Choir.

The Parish Retreat held at Cheltenham – run by the Sisters of the Holy Name. And the Parish life mission led by the Rev. Doug Dargaville in 1961. These were wonderful periods of growth in christian faith for many of us. We were helped to focus our lives in a new direction. Missions and sharing/study groups at St Paul's each seem to have their own special significance of renewal to different members.

The problem of getting rid of the goat that the parish acquired along with the Warrandyte Rd property. Although a special sub committee was formed to get rid of him, he persisted for quite some time terrorising the Warner girls?

The Parish Picnic at Ferny Creek. The clouds came down and we could scarcely see. Races were run, the competitors disappearing out of sight. Football was a sight not to be seen.

## SHE REMEMBERS

The large faded Union Jack and Australian Flag that hung on the rafters – so high that they could not be dusted.

The Pulpit with the brass book rest and its light which helped the congregation – looking up, to see the number of pages to be turned over.

The robed choir with black mortar boards and collars. Coming in in pairs – the congregation standing – they walked up to the Altar, bowed, then divided one to the right and the other to the left. When the service ended they proceeded out first in the same manner.

The special little blue velvet bags used by the choir to discreetly put their collection in – one for each side, they were collected last as the sidesmen took the offering to the Altar.

The blue fleur-de-lis carpet in the aisle and over the two steps, past the choir stalls, on to the communion rail and around the altar. There were bare boards where we sat.

The small porch where you entered and took your books if you did not have your own Book of Common Prayer and Hymns A & M (Revised). Later the porch was removed and the church extended where the roof was known to leak when it rained heavily. On these occasions the leaks were caught in whatever vessels could be found, adding noise of plopping water to the service.

Hats were worn and noticed – and often blocked a view.

If you were late you sat on the side near the Vestry, unable to see a thing and strained to hear.

It was a dear little church and had a lot of charm and atmosphere that only age can make. At the last service when the church was being stripped many wiped away tears.