



23

THE PARISH OF RINGWOOD

1957

EVERY MEMBER CANVASS

1957

Dedication

We dedicate this booklet to the Glory of God.

To those whose loyalty to the Church in this place in bygone days made possible the achievements of the past.

To the men and women of the present generation whose duty it is to maintain and extend the work committed to us.

To future generations who will inherit the benefits of our labours, and the responsibilities of the future.

To the work of the Church throughout this country, and amongst those across the seas who are being taught the Gospel of Christ by missionaries from our land.



Rev. RONALD F. ADAMS

Our Vicar's Message

The Vicarage,
RINGWOOD

Dear Friends,

In writing this letter as an introduction to our Brochure, my mind visualises the pleasant situation of our parish. The river and hills of Warrantyte, the hills and two highways of East Ringwood, the hills and fine views of the Dandenongs from Heathmont, the lovely homes built and being built in them, and at the heart lies busy Ringwood

with its problems of trying to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population and industry, and where again we find some lovely homes and gardens.

One is reminded that in the beginning of time God planted a garden and caused man to dwell in it. But man forgot God's command and spoilt the setting.

Today we are faced with a challenge. If God is not given an adequate place in this lovely area it, too, will be spoilt. The pioneers of this district built places of worship and we have to build on those foundations. They little knew how this district would grow, but they did give us a start. For the time being the spiritual trust which was theirs is now in our hands and we have to pass it on to generations yet to come. What will be the verdict of those generations as they look back to our time?

We do stand in a grand tradition and have a priceless heritage, and whether it will be worthily preserved and used in this time of opportunity depends on our response to need as shown in this Brochure.

If only we could catch a glimpse of the tradition in which we stand, see the great opportunity of today, and perhaps try to picture something of the future, we would feel impelled to give of our best that God's work may be adequately provided for in the whole world in general and in this our own area in particular.

Look back over a hundred years to the early days of Melbourne, when St. James' Old Cathedral was built and even before. Look back to Sydney to the first church built in Australia of wattle and daub, to Chaplain Richard Johnson who came with the convicts. Look back to old England, back to the first Elizabeth, back through the Reformation, back to King John and Magna Carta, which had as its first clause "the Church of England shall be free", back to Augustine, back before that to the old British church brought to Britain at a period which the mists of time have obscured, back to the times of the journeys of St. Paul and finally back to Jerusalem itself, to our Lord and Master, to God Himself. Yes, we have a place in that line, and may God grant that it be an honoured one.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

RONALD F. ADAMS,

Vicar.

Our Heritage

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH RINGWOOD

Seventy-six years ago on October 15th, 1879, St. Paul's Church, Ringwood, was licensed by Bishop Moorhouse as a place of public worship.

Services had been held in the district before this date, but this was the first time the Anglican residents had their own building in which to worship.

The little wooden Church was situated in Mt. Dandenong Rd., a few yards from what we now know as the Maroondah Highway, and was in an area which was part of the Parochial district of Croydon, Ringwood and Mitcham.

For thirty-five years the spiritual needs of those living in the district were served by this Church, but in 1914 the Vestry felt that it would be desirable to secure a new site for the Church nearer Ringwood railway station; also that the increase in the number of parishioners and the development in the area justified the erection of a larger Church.

Accordingly, the work of the construction of a new Church was commenced early in 1915 on a site at the corner of the Maroondah Highway and Pratt Street. On the afternoon of April 24th, 1915, the new Church of St. Paul was dedicated by the Archbishop. At a reception which followed, the Archbishop congratulated all concerned on the erection of the building, expressing the hope that he would shortly be opening a new hall intended to be built adjoining the Church.

On the following day, April 25th, 1915 — the first Anzac Day — the first service was held. Towards the end of the same year the proposed parish hall was completed.

In 1919, severance took place from Croydon, and the district became known as the parish of Ringwood and Mitcham.

During the years that followed, it became apparent that the site occupied by the Church was becoming unsuitable for many reasons and efforts were made to acquire land in a more convenient



ST. PAUL'S ON THE MOVE — 1924

area. About this time the State Government offered for sale the State School site in Ringwood Street. This land and the school building thereon was bought by Mr. A. T. Miles, and he, in turn, offered it for sale to the Church. His offer was accepted, and in 1924 the Church was moved from Pratt Street to the position which we know so well today. The old State School was renovated and added to for use as a Parish Hall and a Vicarage erected.

The year 1925 saw the separation of the districts of Ringwood and Mitcham, and so Ringwood became a parish in its own right.

Since then, rapid growth has taken place. With the inclusion of Warrandyte in the parish and the building of new Churches at East Ringwood and Heathmont, we now have four centres of Christian activity.

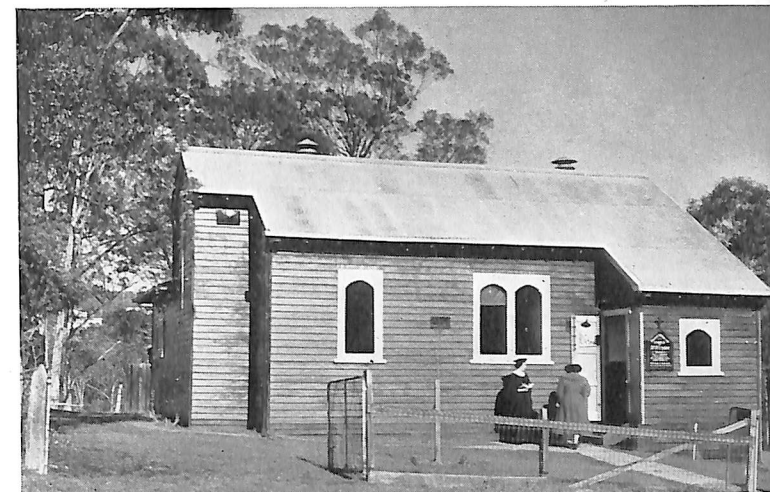
Each centre has its own history — we have seen what has been done in Ringwood — so let us look at the histories of the others. Each account we believe to be a witness to the conviction of men and women that where they gather together in communities, the Church must be there for their guidance and instruction in the Christian way of life.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH WARRANDYTE

In the middle of last century there was no established church in the area known as Anderson's Creek. Services were held in the open when the weather was favourable, and records reveal that on 17th August, 1851, the Revs. J. H. Gregory and Cheyne visited the Goldfields and conducted a Church Service in the tent occupied by Mr. Louis Michel, who was granted a reward by the government for the discovery of the first gold in Victoria, and Mr. Habberlin.

In October, 1856, Henry Frencham wrote to the Argus in Melbourne and complained that no Minister of Religion visited Anderson's Creek and that the children were devoid of any chance of obtaining a proper education, and as a result on the 3rd December following, the Church of England established a Goldfields School there.

Services were held in the home of Henry Frencham until the first Anglican Church was built about 1870 on the site of the present St. Stephen's Church, the Government of the day having granted the land for this in December, 1869. It resembled a small room and was later replaced by a larger wooden building. The tragic bush fires of the 13th January, 1939, destroyed this church, where Services had been held regularly since the 16th December, 1906.



ST. STEPHEN'S — WARRANDYTE

Soon after the destruction of the church, the parishioners, spurred on by the energy of the Rev. Ebbs from Croydon, had the present somewhat smaller building erected. Later, Warrandyte became a division of the parish of Ringwood.

Descendants of the Frenchams and Littledales, whose graves are the oldest in the Warrandyte cemetery, still attend St. Stephen's and have in their possession the old harmonium and psalter used for the early Services.

HOLY TRINITY RINGWOOD EAST

The area served by Holy Trinity has developed as quickly as any in Melbourne. With this growth came the need for a Church. Land was purchased by Archdeacon R. H. B. Williams and Rev. F. E. Lewin, and on 3/12/52 ten ladies of the district met with the Vicar (Rev. Lewin) and formed a Ladies' Guild with the aim of raising funds for the erection of a Church Building. These Ladies also inaugurated a system of weekly giving through an envelope system which is still operating today, though now administrated by the Vestry.

On June 14th, 1953, the first Anglican service in Ringwood East (Holy Communion) was conducted by Rev. J. Bishop in the grounds of Mr. and Mrs. Mullens' home at 77 Mt. Dandenong Rd. Bi-monthly services were continued in the



HOLY TRINITY — RINGWOOD EAST

Mullens' home for 12 months and then transferred to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Page in Freeman Street. Whenever practicable services were held in the open air.

Sunday School Classes which commenced on 7th June, 1953, were held in Mr. and Mrs. Mullens' home until transferred to the Church Hall — a period of approximately 2 years.

The First Anniversary Service, Trinity Sunday 1954, was held on the Church Site in a hired Marquee, when the presence of over 100 people again emphasised the need for a permanent building.

The Building Committee first met on August 26th, 1953, and was responsible for the erection of a Hall which was capable of use for social functions yet would provide a dignified setting for Church Services. This Hall was dedicated by His Grace the Archbishop on the Eve of Trinity, 4th June, 1955.

Early in 1956 we had the pleasure of welcoming the boarders from Tintern Church of England Girls' Grammar School to our Services.

The first Vestry for Holy Trinity which included two Vestrywomen was elected at the Annual Meeting in February this year (1957) and the General Committee ceased to exist.

Later in the year the Vestry purchased land to the East of our building. This purchase was made possible by an unsecured loan of the full purchase price from one of our parishioners. A tentative scheme for development of the land has been adopted by the Vestry and is illustrated in this brochure.

A great deal has been achieved, but the district is still developing, and much more is needed.

We must continue to advance with the Community.



CHRIST CHURCH — HEATHMONT

CHRIST CHURCH HEATHMONT

Only ten years ago Heathmont was a sparsely populated outlying district of Ringwood, and a bus subsidised by the Vestry of St. Paul's transported Anglicans from all distant parts of the Borough to services at St. Paul's.

When it became obvious that the growth of the district was inevitable, land on the Handy-syde Estate was reserved at the suggestion of the Rev. F. E. Lewin. This site on Canterbury Road was finally purchased on January 12, 1950.

The formation of the Ladies' Guild on December 9, 1952, saw the beginning of a concerted attempt to raise funds to build a Church Hall and it is largely due to their efforts that the work was commenced.

The Sunday School, with two teachers and thirty pupils, was started at the Heathmont State School on April 19, 1953, and in July of the same year, the Rev. John Bishop held the first Anglican service in Heathmont, also at the State School.

A provisional Church committee was elected on February 24, 1955, to organise the building of a church in Heathmont. The first service in the Church grounds was held in a marquee on July 11, 1954, to mark the anniversary of the commencement of Anglican services in Heathmont. At this service the Rev. F. E. Lewin named the future church "Christ Church" and a number of children were baptised.

Work was begun on the block on July 9, 1955, and the men of the church were organised by Mr. Colin Clark to take part in working bees. This helped to minimise the cost of the building which was erected by W. D. Roberts & Company. Mr. Phil Jones donated all his work on the electrical wiring of the building and a large amount of the furniture was privately donated.

Sunday School was held in the Church Hall from the beginning of 1956, and the completed building was dedicated by His Grace, Dr. J. J. Booth, Archbishop of Melbourne, at a special service held on Easter Eve, March 31, 1956.

In December, 1956, the Young People's Fellowship was commenced by Miss Linda Washusen and Mr. Roland Robin, who were soon joined by Mr. Herbert Walker.

At the annual meeting on February 14, 1957, the provisional committee ceased to exist and the first Church Wardens and Vestrymen for Christ Church, Heathmont, were elected.

So much we have attained through the work of a few zealous people, but we have only begun the work of God in this place.

A Message from the General Chairman



Mr. J. F. CORR

In our Parish as in most others, many of us laymen and women have been content to be just Church of England and have never followed our words by action.

For too long we have allowed and expected our Vicar to carry the burden of administration in addition to his task of ministering to the spiritual needs of each and every parishioner.

This campaign provides an opportunity for each of us, to indicate in some tangible way that our faith is not merely nominal — that as partakers of the same hope, we will be sharers in the responsibilities.

Let us remember the blessings we have had — our health, our homes, our loved ones, our friendships, all that we have and own — all God given.

Let us then try to repay this debt by acknowledging our stewardship — by giving in return of our time, talents, and worldly possessions for the maintenance and extension of God's Kingdom, not only in our own Parish, but in the widest sense.

Let us strengthen the bond of fellowship by closer association with our Anglican friends and neighbours, and bring about a realization that we are all one big Christian family.

Such are the purposes of the forthcoming Canvass, and for them we ask for your prayers and practical support.

J. F. CORR

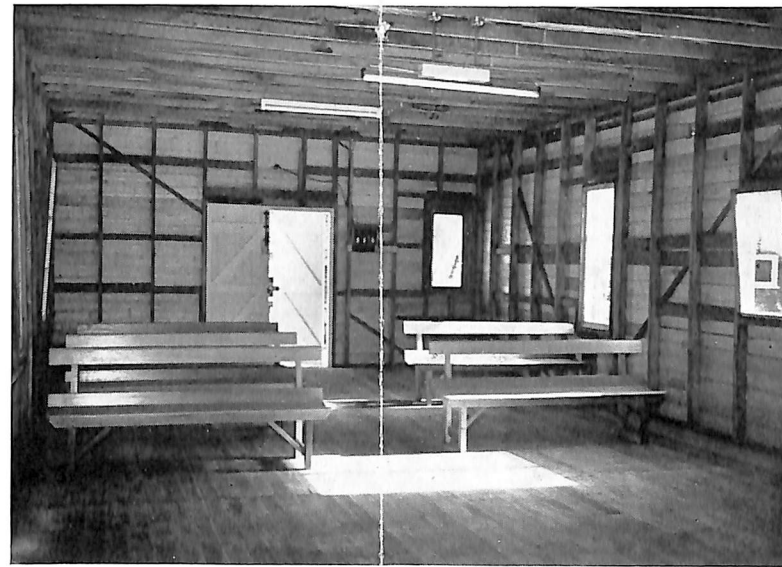


SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES IN PRIVATES HOMES

Can God's Work Be Done Under these Conditions



INADEQUATE VESTRIES



INCOMPLETE BUILDINGS

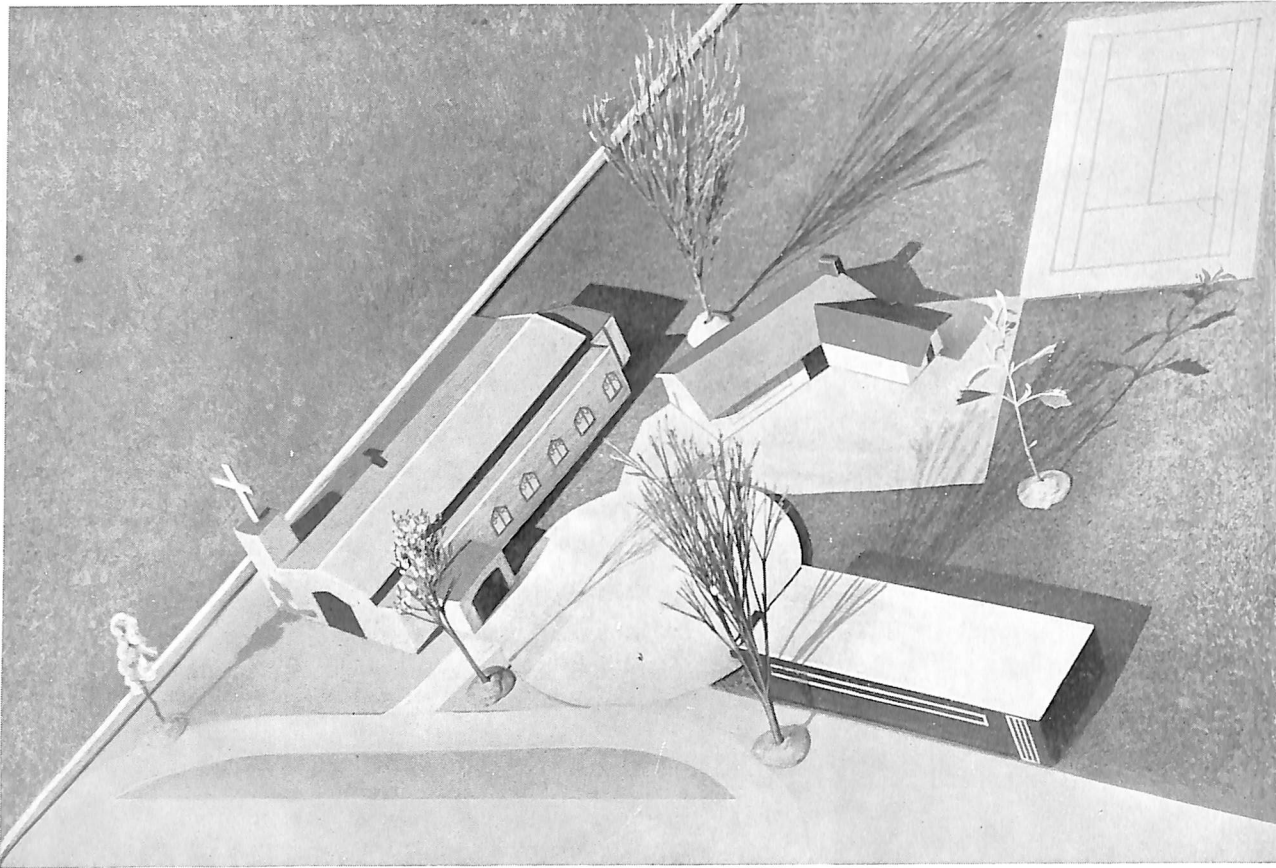


HALL KITCHEN SERVES AS CLASSROOM

An Adequate Sense of Stewardship
Will Achieve our Goals



OVERCROWDED AND UNFURNISHED



This is what

EAST RINGWOOD

Hope to Achieve

Our Parish Plan . . .

To accept the challenge presented to us by the needs of our parish we intend to conduct:—

AN ORGANISED
INTENSIVE
PERSONAL CAMPAIGN.

We will endeavour to bring to people a realisation of the importance of the Church in the community — of OUR responsibility to share in its maintenance and extension by giving proportionately of our

TIME,
TALENTS and
MATERIAL POSSESSIONS
which we hold in trust.

In short to bring about an awareness of our
STEWARDSHIP.

THE CANVASS



St. Paul's
Ringwood

Census: Mr. E. R. McCLEAN Treasurer: Mr. H. G. GIRAUD Envelope Secretary: Mr. P. J. ROSE
Arrangements: Mr. W. D. ROBERTS Organisations: Mr. D. ASTLE Resources: MAJOR-GEN. L. E. BEAVIS

Publicity: Mr. W. N. BRUSH Junior Hostess: Miss J. TAYLOR Hostess: Mrs. P. VERGERS Proposals: Mr. R. O. SPENCER



St. Stephen's
Warrandyte

Mr. R. GOLDING Mrs. E. McEWIN Mr. R. MAHONEY

COMMITTEES



Holy Trinity
Ringwood East

Publicity: Mr. R. COUPER Hostess: Mrs. F. ARCHER Proposals: Mr. P. ROWLANDS
Arrangements: Mr. B. HOWELL General Chairman and Organisations: Mr. F. ARCHER
Absent—Resources: Mr. D. SCARFF Junior Hostess: Miss P. BUTLER



Christ Church
Heathmont

Arrangements: Mr. R. CROSBY Proposals: Mr. L. SPENCER Stewardship: Mr. D. WALKER
Publicity: Mr. D. EDDY Organisation: Mr. C. CLARK Census: Mr. H. WALKER
General Chairman: Mr. N. BANKS Hostess: Mrs. J. HARPER Resources: Mr. A. GODFREY
Absent—Junior Hostess: Miss L. WASHUSEN

There are Two Seas

THERE ARE TWO SEAS in Palestine. One is fresh and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it, and stretch out their roots to sip its healing water. Along its shores the children play.

The River Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build their houses near it, and birds make their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The River Jordan flows on south into another sea. There is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travellers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavily about its waters and neither man nor beast nor bird will drink. What makes this difference in these neighbour seas? Not the River Jordan. Not the soil in which they lie; nor the country round about.

This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives, but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it, another flows out. The giving and receiving go in equal measure. The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. The other sea gives nothing. It is named the Dead Sea.

There are two kinds of people in the world.

There are two seas in Palestine.

Bruce Barton.

The Volunteer Canvasser

In a short time one of our visitors will call upon you to talk of the plan we have for developing the Church. We know that this project demands our very best efforts. It means sacrifice and consecration of time and money. It means that each of us must look to his inner own self and decide how much he can do for his Church. It means faith in God, in our fellow Churchmen, and in ourselves.

The volunteer canvasser who will knock on your door will be one of many. He has spent many hours preparing himself for the task. He believes in his Church and its work, and is proving his faith by calling on others. This is not an easy task, no matter how deep his sincerity. HE can do only half the job, the other half you must do. Please help him by extending him a welcome when he comes, and by listening to his presentation.

The responsibility for our Church and the opportunity to work for it are ours. Let us face this challenge with determination and give of our best.

Canvasser Prayer

HEAVENLY FATHER, we ask Thy blessing and guidance for the Every Member Canvasser in our Parish. Fill us with such love towards Thee and our fellowmen that we may gladly share whatever gifts Thou hast entrusted to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.