

CHAPTER 11

The fifth 20 years

The first Parish Council Meeting of 1970 was on 5th January and showed a balance of \$826.50 in the bank, which was very encouraging for the beginning of the year, but this total included the following:-

Donation from St. Andrew's Cronulla	\$50
Mr. T. Jolley	27
Miss Kaylock	10
St. Andrew's Roseville (towards Catechist's stipend)	200
H.M.S. Contribution to Catechist's stipend	27
Hire of Church Hall for Referendum	<u>28</u>
	\$342

and the outgoings for the same month were \$861.98. In view of the fact there was to be no meeting later in January only the accounts which were considered essential totalling \$602.27 were paid and the other accounts had to be left until February.

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd February, 1970 showed \$105.85 had been received from the Lands Department for the small triangular piece of land on the corner of Gurner Street, not \$100 as previously advised was the amount to be received.

By March amounts totalling \$148.19 were outstanding.

At the Annual Vestry Meeting of 28th April, 1970 Mr. V. Ollis spoke of a front-page article in a recent issue of the "Wentworth Courier" which had stated St. George's Church was being considered redundant in the Diocese by the Inner City Area Committee and he moved a motion that this meeting write a letter to the Standing Committee of Synod requesting clarification of the matter and that, when a reply was received, it be made known to the parishioners at a special meeting called. The Rector replied by saying that, "whilst he deplored the fact that the article had appeared in a paper which was read by a number of our parishioners who would take

it to be based on fact and thus think that it was likely that St. George's Church's days were numbered, there was no doubt whatever in his opinion that the best way to defeat any proposal that envisaged the inclusion of St. George's Church in the scheme for the reduction of Parishes in the Inner City area was for everyone who claimed to have the best interests of St. George's truly at heart to get solidly behind the Church and work wholeheartedly for an increase in attendance at services and greater support both spiritually and financially for the work of their Church in this Parish." The financial statements read at the meeting showed a credit balance of \$51.91 in the General Fund, \$894.20 in the Organ Fund and \$2,621.01 in the Tamblin Estate Fund.

At the meeting of 2nd June, 1970 Mrs. O. Perry's resignation as Treasurer was read out, but the Rector said: "in view of the faithful and valuable work carried out by Mrs. Perry since 1936, the meeting should not accept her resignation and it was felt that, because of future development and the problems associated with that, a Treasurer who lived in the parish should be appointed". (N.B. Mrs. Perry's resignation was withdrawn at the next meeting).

The following future activities were announced:

Saturday, 20th June - Market Day from 8 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Thursday, 25th June - Professor Ayscough of the University of N.S.W. will address the Men's Fellowship at 7.45 p.m. at the Rectory. The subject will be "Science and Religion".

A Special Vestry Meeting was called on 12th July, 1970 to elect a Council member to replace Mrs. Thomas who had died. Mr. Paul Woodhart was nominated by the Catechist Mr. Neville Newett and seconded by Mr. Mort, Mr. V. Ollis nominated Mr. Ian Hamilton and Mr. Griffiths seconded the nomination. Voting was by secret ballot, the two Synod representatives Messrs. John Adams and Keith Cleland counting the votes and Paul Woodhart was elected.

During this meeting, one of the Churchwardens, Mr. John Cowling explained that discussion had been held with Messrs. W.P. McElhone & Co., Solicitors, regarding the development of a "Mini-Arcade" at ground

level on the property at present occupied by the two Church Halls and the shops with provision for a Church Hall at first floor level, to provide for say, 11 lettings. Mr. McElhone is convinced that the Church is not yet ready for that type of development. It was then suggested that a two-year new lease for the two shops be entered into as this would not prejudice future development. Mr. Cowling was authorized to negotiate the new lease.

At the same meeting the Rector reported it had been suggested that the Parish name be changed from "St. George's, Glenmore Road" to "St. George's Paddington". This was approved unanimously.

The large Hall was let for a most unusual purpose from 5th - 8th August. An auction sale of Antique Furniture was held on the three days and the auctioneers paid \$65 for the three days rental, with the promise of additional money if the auction sale were a success and further auctions would be held. The auctioneers had to enter into an agreement with the Church that: All goods sold or not sold to be removed by 8 p.m. on 8th August, Hall to be left in the same state of cleanliness as when originally occupied and a bond entered into against cost of cleaning, the lessor to carry insurance against damage, loss, etc." Apparently the sale was not a success because the hall was not let for this purpose again.

The new lease for two years was arranged for the shops and it was agreed that the tenant could construct an archway between the two shops at her own expense, plans to be submitted to the solicitors of the Church Property Trust before work begins; also the tenant will improve the shop front and complete all work so that the shops can be readily reconverted into two separate shops. Mr. Cowling stated he would prepare the lease in order to obviate legal fees.

At this stage there was a credit balance of \$392.28 in the bank.

At the meeting of 4th August, 1970 Council decided that the Ladies' Guild should make a charge for the Annual Tea Meeting on Friday, 25th September. However, the Ladies' Guild were not in favour of this, but agreed to have a collection plate placed on a side table to receive any contributions anyone may care to make. The Guild also

agreed that one or all of the Churchwardens could speak at the Dinner to tell those present what were the Church's future plans.

A quotation for \$495 for painting the church was tabled at the meeting of 6th October, 1970 at which it was decided that members of Council should visit as many Anglican homes as possible asking the people to come to a very special meeting to be held on 5th November. The idea was to ask those who attended the meeting in November if they would be willing to promise \$1 per week for five weeks (or perhaps 10) to form a Church Restoration Fund. One of the Churchwardens suggested special meetings once a month to renew interest in the church and Mr. Woodhart said he had already arranged for the Rector of St. Barnabas Church of England, Fairfield to come one Sunday and the Rev. Harry Henningham to come another Sunday and to bring his choir. This would be an informal service consisting mainly of singing and Mr. Henningham's address and the offertories at both services would be devoted to the Church Restoration Fund.

The Rector pointed out that Mr. Holland who was restoring the organ hoped to complete the work during the Christmas school holidays, so it was necessary to have the painting of the organ loft carried out before then. It was suggested that perhaps the painting contractor would accept part payment on completion and quarterly payments for the remainder.

The Rector advised the following special meetings had been arranged:-

- 8.11.70 Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
- 22.11.70 Special Sunday School Service - Sunday School prizes will be presented and children will perform a pageant in the Church followed by a farewell to Miss Gillian Davies, who had been in charge of the Sunday School for the past 37 weeks.
- 29.11.70 Pupils of the Musical Department of Jannali High School will sing sacred songs and Christmas carols.
- 6.12.70 A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at Mr. and Mrs. Cleland's home.
- 13.12.70 Bible Society Sunday - Mr. Harry Cottrill-Dormer of the Society will be present at every service and give a brief address. (It was moved by Mr.

Cowling and seconded by Mr. Paul Woodhart and carried unanimously that a retiring offertory be given to the Bible Society).

At the same meeting it was announced the Ladies' Guild Fete on 31st October, 1970 had raised \$445.05.

The renewal of the shop roofs, alternatively the painting and repairing of the roofs and the renewal of the Rectory garage roof were quoted by three contractors and as the prices varied considerably, the Council moved that a decision be made by the Churchwardens and the Rector.

New Liturgy: The Rector sought permission to use the new Liturgy at least once per month and to renew his decision at the end of three months. This was approved by Council.

At the meeting of 1st December, 1970 it was reported the firm chosen to carry out the painting of the church was extremely busy with Government work during the school holidays, but it would be willing to do the work after 16th January on the understanding they would receive whatever payment the church could afford when the job was finished, further payments to be made when funds were available.

The cash in the bank at the end of November was \$296.02.

It was reported that a lease for the two shops for three years had been finalized which would be an increase of about \$520 in revenue over a full year.

The first meeting in 1971 was held on 2nd February and the Treasurer advised St. Andrew's Church of England, Roseville had sent \$100 towards the support of a Catechist for the year.

A circular was read regarding the National Evangelical Anglican Congress to be held at the Monash University in August, 1971. It was moved and carried unanimously that, if Mr. Woodhart wished to attend the Congress, the Church would pay the \$38 Congress charges and travelling expenses, etc.

Mr. Cowling moved that the Rector receive an increase in stipend ruled by the Diocese of \$293 per month.

It was announced the Tamblin Estate had been wound up with the final payment being \$2,086, so that the total amount received was \$4,686. This amount will be invested and the interest received used for repairs to the Rectory, in line with the wishes set out by Mr. Tamblin in his will.

1. In March, 1971 the R.S.L. Association made a donation of \$100 towards restoration of the church so far carried out (That was the painting). When writing to thank the R.S.L. for the donation, the Secretary was asked to advise there would be a special service held at St. George's on Anzac Day.

Mr. Cowling moved that discussions be carried out with the Woollahra Council about re-opening the Church grounds to the public in exchange for Council help in maintenance and beautification of the grounds and buildings. One of the Churchwardens, Mr. Ken Hunter-Kerr seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

It was decided the Annual Vestry Meeting would be held on 4th May, 1971. As there appeared to have been a dissident group that had previously endeavoured to disrupt the proper conduct of Vestry Meetings, Council suggested the Wardens request that a competent observer attend from the Diocese to observe the proceedings first hand.

At the actual meeting the Rector reported the financial position was better than it had been for over 30 years. He congratulated the Ladies' Guild on the financial help it gave the Church - this year \$570, the Sunday School continued to grow and the "Charlie Brown Club" was a great success. The Rector said about 40 children attended each Friday at 5.30 p.m. He said the idea of the Club was promoted by his son Paul, who, having been with Beach Mission Teams over a number of years, had gained much experience in working amongst the younger set.

It was announced that Mr. Raymond Holland has commenced the rebuilding of the organ. He hopes it will be ready for use in three months.

Fortunately the meeting concluded without any disruption by the "dissident group".

The Ladies' Guild had set itself quite a programme for 1971, which was:-

*20 th April	Sarah Coventry Jewellery evening
29 th April	Luncheon
7 th June	Home Mission Society Tea
*19 th June	Market Day
*24 th July	Street Stall
? August	Luncheon
*4 th September	Street Stall
*24 th September	Parish Tea
*30 th September	Fete
*? December	Street Stall

The functions marked with an asterisk were to raise funds for the Church. In addition to the above the Church had arranged two special services for the year:-

23 rd April	St. George's Day
7 th November	82 nd Anniversary of St. George's Church

In the Rector's report for the year, he said the ladies in the Guild had done a grand service. They managed all the events they had planned, including the Parish Tea for 80 people and through their efforts they were able to contribute \$1,000 to the Church.

In October it was found the Anchor Bar of the shop awning was so badly rusted that the awning was in danger of falling down, so it was moved and seconded that Dewar Structures Pty. Ltd. carry out the necessary work for \$148.30 in an urgent sense.

At the Council meeting in October it was announced \$456 was the cost of repairing the storm damage to the shops and the back gate. It was moved that the money be borrowed from the Organ Fund.

Nothing noteworthy seems to have happened early in 1972, except that Mr. Anthony Jeffreys of Price, Waterhouse & Co. Pty. Ltd., who was a very capable and full member of the Chartered Accountants Association of Australia had agreed to be our Honorary Auditor. The financial report for 1971 showed a credit balance of \$1,051.76, but as that included \$421.13 Restoration Fund and \$773.19 Organ Fund amounts, there was really minus \$142.55 in the General Fund.

However, the two halls seemed to have been much in demand. Ballet lessons were booked up to 22nd May, 1972, the Nimrod Theatre Group paid \$50 for use of the big hall for three weeks and as they used

the hall every day and some nights, it was suggested an increased rate should be charged. The Nimrod Junior Group used the small hall on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday night and it was thought the rate for them should also be increased.

A Mr. Linnie of Bondi wanted to hire the hall for Karate Lessons on a permanent basis. He was prepared to pay \$24 for the 1st month then \$30 for the 2nd month, increasing to \$50 per month. Mr. Linnie was advised he would be responsible for any damage done.

Mr. Ted Reynolds who had joined the Council in March moved that one-tenth of the Shop and Hall rents be paid to the British and Foreign Bible Society for a period of three months. Then the tithing of the Shops and Hall rents for the following three months could be given to another worthy society. He said if we try to help others, we shall be helped. AS vote was taken on this proposal: six were in favour and three against.

The financial statement at the end of May showed a deficit of \$28.72.

The financial statement for the month of June showed a surplus of \$75.32. (\$300 had been raised at a Market Day held on 17th June, 1972 by the Ladies' Guild).

At the Parish Council meeting of 1st August, 1972 Mr. John Mort proposed the following:-

1. The Church Council delegate him to approach the Paddington Society to seek their assistance in drawing up a plan for the renovation of the Church property, including the halls and shops.
2. That this plan be presented for approval to the Church Council and subsequently to a vestry meeting for authorization to proceed.
3. That upon this authority being given, the Church Council appoint a committee of three, including the Rector as Chairman, to raise the necessary funds by means of a public appeal and to expend the funds in accordance with the approved plan.

The proposal was fully discussed by the Council members. It was then moved by Mr. Mort, seconded by Miss D. Le Page and agreed upon unanimously.

The financial statement for the seven months of the year showed a surplus of \$129.13 - not much, but it was a surplus!

At the meeting of 5th September, 1972 it was announced Mr. Keith Cotter had promised to draw up plans and present them to Mr. Mort. Mr. Cottier was doing this work voluntarily, although he was an extremely busy architect.

Mr. Woodhart was always thinking of some new type of service which might interest people to come to St. George's - hopefully in a regular sense. At this time he decided to hold a Special Church Service for all hospitals in and around the Eastern Suburbs. Invitations were sent to the Hospitals and other organisations such as Meals on Wheels, Ambulance Brigade, etc. The service was to be Morning Prayer on 22nd October, 1972. At the meeting of 7th November it was announced this service was a great success "in spite of the weather" and it was decided to hold a service each year.

The Association for International Co-op and Disarmament wished to hire the halls and grounds for a fete to raise funds. It was decided to charge \$5, provided the halls and grounds were left clean.

Mr. Wyllie and Mr. Woodhart had attended the Synod meeting during which there was a discussion about the Inner City Area and the closure of some churches, as some churches could not pay their way. There was a bit of concern for St. George's as it is in that area. The Rector went on to explain that we had no cause for alarm and that we should appoint a representative from our church so we would have first hand knowledge to know our position and problems. Mr. Wyllie who is one of our Synod representative does not live in Paddington or come to our church, nevertheless we are very grateful to him for attending on our behalf and advising us of any business which could be of interest. The Council agreed that Mr. Mort's name be given to the Committee for the Inner City Churches, Mr. Mort having been proposed by Miss Le Page and seconded by Mrs. Orr.

In the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December, 1972 one paragraph reads: "A donation was received from Mr. Barraclough for \$10, also from Mr. and Mrs. Melville a most generous offer of \$140 and last

but not least the Ladies' Guild, that small band of ladies who are always there when needed, a most wonderful effort of \$636. Thank you, Ladies. At the Pleasant Afternoon held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cleland a total of \$13 was collected.

At the Annual Vestry Meeting of 1973 the Rector in his report for the previous year said it was very pleasing the amount the Church was now giving to Missions. Since the Church has tithed its rent monies there has been sufficient and more to cover all our debts. Besides contributing \$1,000, the Ladies' Guild has contributed in many other ways.

Mr. Woodhart said that he regretted that his son had to resign from leading the Youth work. He is now living out of the district and is in his final year studying for his B.Sc. Degree. We pray that he and his wife Jenny will be happy in their new home.

The Rector said the Church was indebted to St. Philip's Church, Eastwood for contributing \$1000 to pay the stipend for an assistant part-time minister.

It was also announced Mr. Holland is moving towards the completion of the first section of the restoration of the Church Organ.

Voluntary workers were now attending to the cleaning of the Church, which saved at least \$520 per year. Thanks are also due to the Ladies' Guild for their efforts, Mr. and Mrs. Orr for keeping the church grounds so well and Miss Le Page who cleans the brass in the church, is a district visitor, distributes literature, etc. In fact, few know what great work she did.

(The writer imagines it would not be in order for a minister to praise the work done by his wife, but *she* can. Mrs. Woodhart was the president of the Ladies' Guild throughout the whole 20 years of Mr. Woodhart's ministry and she was an inspiration to everyone.)

At the Parish Council Meeting of 3rd April, 1973 it was decided the next quarter's tithing should be sent to the Home Mission Society and all were in agreement. Another suggestion was made by Mrs. Melville that we should have a hostess to stand at the church door and

welcome parishioners and show visitors to their seats. She nominated Miss Le Page, but she said others should take turns.

In July it was decided the next quarter's tithing should be sent to the Mission to Seamen. At that meeting, after all bills were paid there was a credit balance of \$1,572.71! And the church was never really in need of money again. Ted Reynolds had said in May, 1972: "If we try to help others, we will be helped".

The plans for the church grounds had been received from Mr. Cottier, but before anything could be done in this regard, we would have to have the plans approved by the Diocese and Church Council and if the plans were approved, they could be put before the public. It was decided that when Mr. Cottier returns from overseas, he be asked to give an estimate of cost and the matter further discussed at the next Council meeting.

At the Vestry Meeting of 10th July, 1973 the most important decision to be made was what form of services were to be held in the church.

After some discussion it was decided:

Holy Communion Service	The 1969 Liturgy to be used until such time as we receive the revised 1969 edition
Evening Service	The Modern English Service (John Scott).

The Rector reserved the right to use the 1662 Prayer Book on occasions. He also mentioned the above decisions could be revised at the next Annual Vestry Meeting.

It was announced in August that Mr. Cottier was so busy following his trip overseas he would be unable to let the Church have an estimate for the re-development of the Church and Grounds for a few months.

A roster was to be drawn up to include all parishioners willing to do some church cleaning, so that each worker would only need to work once a month. This would save the church quite a lot of money.

It was decided the next quarter's tithing would be sent to the Gamut Trust, New Guinea.

At the Annual Vestry Meeting of 5th March, 1974 Mr. Cowling resigned as Treasurer owing to other commitments and Brian Gallie, was chosen as the Rector's Warden. The Rector also chose Mrs. O. Perry and Miss E. Cohen as his nominees and others elected to the Council were Mrs. Orr, Miss Le Page, Mrs. Tomlin, Mrs. M. Smith, Mr. L. Hayes and Mr. J. Adams. Mr. A. Jeffrey of Price Waterhouse & Co. was again elected as the Church's honorary auditor for a further twelve months.

The Treasurer's report showed a credit balance of \$1,572.71 after all payments had been made.

Tithing: The Rev. Woodhart suggested the next quarter's tithing should be paid to the Festival of Light. However, it was moved by Paul Woodhart that \$40 be sent to the Festival of Light and the balance to Moore College. The majority was in favour of this distribution.

The insurance cover on the Church property was increased as under:-

Shops	From \$4,000 to \$14,000
Church, Hall & Rectory	From \$31,000 to \$62,000

The Rector announced the reconditioned Organ would be dedicated on 2nd June, 1974 by Dr. Barton Babbage and there would be a small plaque reading "Restored 1974 R.J. Holland" and also another reading "Commemorating the dedication of the Organ by Dr. Barton Babbage on 2nd June, 1974 and Mrs. Woodhart's service as Honorary Organist since 1955".

In the minutes of the meeting of 9th July, 1974 it was reported a bearer in the small hall had been badly affected by white ant activity and it was proposed that this should be braced. Mr. Woodhart advised that Mr. Floyd had expressed his willingness to help with the replacement of certain timber in the halls and therefore timber is to be purchased for this. Dampness in the Organ loft must also be attended to, as well as rusty guttering and downpipes on the shop awnings.

Members of Council were advised Mrs. Hitchings had donated \$20 for the purchase of a new speaker for the amplifying system in the Church.

The wording to be engraved on the silver salver to be presented to Mrs. Perry was then decided upon and the date for the presentation set for Friday, 2nd August at the Rectory. Mrs. Perry had been an active member of the church for nearly 38 years!

The Treasurer's report showed a bank balance of \$1,047.22.

During the August meeting, Mr. Woodhart said he had a personal interview with Mr. Davies, the Town Planning Officer at Woollahra Council and he had discussed with him the proposed improvements to the Church approach and also the advisability of a second pedestrian crossing at the Five Ways. Mr. Davies had suggested our plans be submitted to the Council in letter form and had also given the name of a building contractor whose work was recommended by the Council. This contractor had already inspected the church property and was preparing a quotation for several small jobs. However, the ventilation of the Organ loft was urgent and for this he had quoted approximately \$80. It was moved and seconded this work be carried out as soon as possible.

At the same meeting Mr. Woodhart advised that St. Peter's, Watson's Bay had offered us a fairly large quantity of secondhand red Axminster carpet, if it would be of any use to us. The ladies of the Council were asked to lay it out on the church floor to see if it would be sufficient for our needs. It certainly was, so the church had it professionally cleaned and laid at a cost of \$85, all of which was donated by various members of the Council and a letter expressing our very grateful thanks was sent to St. Peter's, Watson's Bay.

A letter was received from the Christian Broadcasting Association advising it hoped to secure a licence to broadcast a religious programme on FM radio in the near future and asking our financial support and prayers for this venture. It was decided to donate our next quarter's tithing to this Association.

Mr. Winslow who was a local resident and an airways pilot offered to paint the roof of the large hall during his annual holidays, if the paint were supplied. A local shopkeeper supplied the paint and Mr. Winslow applied several coats of paint and did a really first-class

job, so it was decided to present a silver salver to Mr. and Mrs. Winslow as a token of appreciation.

In October our church received a gift of \$330 which the parishioners of St. Philip's Church, Eastwood had sent to us. They also received a letter of grateful thanks.

Regarding the \$4,686 received from the Tamblin Estate: Mr. Woodhart suggested the amount be made up to \$5,000 and let out on a 12 month's mortgage. The Treasurer, Mr. Gallie thought this was a very good idea and said he would be able to obtain 12% interest. Miss Le Page seconded the suggestion and all were in favour.

The bank balance as at the time of the meeting was \$1,700 and accounts amounting to \$187.62 were outstanding, so it was moved and seconded that all accounts be paid.

At the November meeting Council was advised Synod had approved an increase in clergy stipends as from 1st November, 1974. The Treasurer said, that after paying the Rector's stipend and other accounts there would be a credit balance of \$1,747.73. It was therefore moved by Paul Woodhart and seconded by Mrs. Tomlin that all accounts be paid.

It was moved by Miss Cohen and seconded by Miss Le Page that the next tithing to be allocated be sent to the Home Mission Society. All were in agreement.

At the meeting of 3rd December, 1974 the Rector advised a tender for the painting of the large hall for \$450 had been received. The Treasurer said the bank balance of \$2,854 and sundry expenses amounted to \$385.43, not including the Rector's stipend, the amount of which had not yet been worked out. It was moved and seconded all accounts be paid.

The Secretary advised a letter had been sent to Mr. Holland thanking him and the members of St. Mark's Choir for the rendition of organ and choral music on the occasion of the dedication of the rebuilt organ and the celebration of the church's 85th anniversary. Mr. Holland was requested to thank all members of the choir on our behalf.

The Secretary was asked to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Dear's son, who had re-painted the noticeboard and was going to re-paint the Wayside Chapel sign in the near future.

In January 1975 Council was advised by the Rector that he and Paul Woodhart had erected a new timber fence at the Rectory, the timber costing approximately \$85 and there would be no charge for the labour.

The Treasurer submitted a draft of the annual figures, in lieu of the usual monthly statement. This showed approximately \$1,000 in the banking account and Mr. Woodhart stated he did not remember the Church ever having such a favourable report.

Letters Received were: (1) From the Church of England Diocese of Sydney advising of the Encounter '75 Programme and requesting our congregation to register and participate in it. An attached leaflet headed "A Call to the Church", which was signed by the leader of all Protestant Churches, stated that Encounter '75 is designed to make best use of each congregation's resources in a meaningful programme of evangelism.

(2) The second letter was a copy of a letter to the Archbishop by Mr. Woodhart tendering his resignation from the parish as from 1st May, 1975. Attached to it was the reply from the Archbishop accepting the resignation and stating that the necessary procedure for the appointment of a new Rector would be put in hand.

This news came as a great shock to most of the Council. Mr. Woodhart explained that, having attained retirement age, he felt he should step down in favour of a younger and perhaps more active member of the clergy.

Mr. Woodhart advised the next meeting would be the 4th March. This would be the Annual Vestry Meeting, at which office bearers for the ensuing year would be elected.

As Council was not aware of the details of the Encounter '75 Programme, Miss Cohen suggested Paul Woodhart make further enquiries of the Evangelism Department, which he agreed to do.

It was moved Miss Le Page and seconded Mr. P. Woodhart that the Treasurer pay the accounts amounting to \$336.21 which were outstanding.

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held on 4th March, 1975 at 8.15 p.m.

The meeting opened with prayer by the Rev. Norman Woodhart who presided at the meeting.

Firstly, the Treasurer briefly summarized the financial transactions for the year ending 31st December, 1974, which showed receipts at \$9,700 and outgoings \$8,793, so that as at the end of the year Accumulated Funds amounted to \$907 and there was a balance of \$662 in the Organ Fund and the Tamblin Estate stood at \$5,512.

In the Rector's report, Mr. Woodhart said the year 1974 should have been a year of encouragement in faith, as the Church had never experienced a better financial year - more had been contributed to Missions and more had be done to the Church. Nevertheless, at the present time, our finances were particularly low. Mr. Woodhart then went on to explain why he thought it better for him to resign. He said that, up to the end of 1973, he had been able to visit people in the parish both day and night, but during the last year he was not strong enough to continue this work, which is of first importance and therefore he thought it was time for a younger man to serve as Rector.

He thanked all those, who had worked for the Church - the Churchwardens, members of the Church Council, the Ladies' Guild, the Sunday School Teachers and the Synod Representatives and he mentioned the great service, which had been rendered to the Church by Mr. Holland in restoring the Church Organ and also by Mr. and Mrs. Orr, in keeping the Church grounds orderly and tidy.

Mr. Woodhart advised Mr. Gallie would continue as Rector's Warden and then nominations were called for two People's nominees. Mr. Woodhart was nominated by Miss Cohen and this nomination was seconded by Mr. Gallie. Mr. L. Hayes was nominated by Miss Le Page and seconded by Mrs. Orr. As no further names were nominated, Mr. Woodhart and Mr. Hayes were elected.

It was moved by Miss Le Page and seconded by Mr. Gallie that Mr. A Jeffrey of Price, Waterhouse & Co. be asked to continue as Hon. Auditor and this motion was unanimously accepted.

A discussion was held as to whether there should be three, six or nine People's nominees on the Council and it was decided there should be 6. The 5 nominees who had been on the Council during the preceding year, namely, Mesdames Orr, Tomlin and Smith and Misses Le Page and Cohen were nominated in block by Mrs. Woodhart and seconded by Mrs. Wrigley. Miss Whitford was nominated by Miss Cohen as the sixth nominee and seconded by Mrs. Woodhart. As no further nominations were received, Miss Whitford was elected. The Rev. Woodhart is due to select two other members for the Council.

The possible formation of a Church Committee was then discussed. It was moved by Mr. Gallie and seconded by Mr. P. Woodhart that the duties of a Church Committee be vested in the Parish Council and this was unanimously accepted.

Mr. P. Woodhart suggested that the three Wardens and two other members be elected as Parish Representatives. This motion was seconded by Miss Le Page and unanimously accepted.

It was moved by Mrs. Woodhart and seconded by Miss Whitford that Miss Cohen be elected and it was moved by Mr. Gallie and seconded by Mrs. Orr that Miss Le Page be elected. In the absence of any other nominations Miss Cohen and Miss Le Page were elected.

Mr. Gallie suggested that the time of the Sunday Evening Service be changed. After discussion, it was resolved that the matter be taken up by the Parish Council, when the new Rector had been appointed.

Mr. Woodhart expressed a vote of thanks to Miss Whitford for having taken over the supervision of the Sunday School and also to Mr. Paul Woodhart, who although now living in another Parish, was willing to serve as Churchwarden and to continue his association with the Charlie Brown Club - a Youth group.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.25 p.m.

The last meeting at which the Rev. Woodhart presided was the Parish Council Meeting of 8th April, 1975.

Apparently the congregation had already been advised in the church that the Rev. Bruce Wilson would be the new Rector, although this is not mentioned in Minutes except that Paul Woodhart, when

speaking about the Encounter '75 Programme said: "A lot could be said about this Programme, but I think it best if it were left to the Rev. Wilson to handle."

The Treasurer said the books were at present at the auditor's, but the balance sheet could be included in the Parish Paper, providing it were stated the figures quoted were subject to audit.

Mr. Woodhart said there was a small balance in an account in his name amounting to \$22.50, which was actually the balance of the bus outings account. This he would have transferred to the Church Fund, but he would ask that it be included in the amount to be tithed.

A letter from the Rev. Craven Sands of the Mission for Seamen N.S.W. advised the critical state of their financial affairs and asked for our support to help them continue their very worthwhile services. It was moved by Mr. Gallie and seconded by Miss Le Page that the amount of tithing to be allocated be sent there.

Paul Woodhart then spoke of the necessary refurbishing at the Rectory and he submitted estimated costs for the work to be carried out, which were:-

Repainting	\$1,000 - \$1,200
Tiling of Kitchen	300
Carpet in two Front Rooms	500 - 600
Clothes Line	50
Kitchen Cupboards	125
Extra Power Point	30
Half cost of removal fees	100

Paul said Ted Reynolds had offered to put in a telephone extension.

Messrs. Brian Gallie and Paul Woodhart suggested the churchwardens be allowed to seek a loan from the Commonwealth Bank for an amount of \$2,500, which amount plus interest would be repayable over a period of 2 years. All were in agreement.

The Rev. Woodhart asked whether he would replace the old gates at the entrance to the Church or leave them off and it was decided they be replaced.

FAREWELL TO REV. AND MRS. WOODHART

The farewell to the Reverend Norman and Mrs. Woodhart took place in the large hall on Friday, 18th April, 1975 and the evening must have

conveyed to them the respect and esteem in which they were both held. Over 200 people attended the Farewell, including several members of the clergy. First of all there was a concert - five performers led by Miss Shirley Atkinson, a local girl, and a pianist presented three scenes from three popular plays or operettas. Then there was a short speech from an Alderman of the Paddington Council, Mr. George Warnecke who represented the Mayor. Incidentally Mr. Warnecke had been of great assistance to the church on many occasions, when a truck was needed to move something or have something delivered. Then Mr. Hunter-Kerr, one of the churchwardens, spoke briefly about the Woodhart's contribution to the community and the Secretaries of the Church Council and the Ladies' Guild presented Mr. Woodhart with a leather wallet, not filled with notes, but a cheque and Mrs. Woodhart with a largish silver tray suitably inscribed.

The Woodharts were obviously delighted with the evening and whilst supper was being served, they mingled with the crowd exchanging a few words with everyone.

The food for the supper had been brought by parishioners and there was just so much left over that arrangements had to be made with the Salvation Army Officer who was present to take it to one of the Army's shelters. One lady who was asked if she would bring a cake, brought five! The fact that everyone was so generous with money for the presentation and food for the supper showed the esteem and affection everyone felt for the Woodhart family.

No one could doubt Mr. Woodhart's integrity or fail to admire his efforts to improve St. George's in every way he could. His main ministry was visiting parishioners in their homes and this he did day and evenings five days a week and anyone who knows the district will know what an arduous task that must have been, especially as he did not have a motor car. He was highly respected by everyone, but he was a minister of "the old school" and did not readily accept change.

It was not until his funeral that the writer learnt what wonderful work he had done for the church. The funeral was held at St. Philip's Church, Church Hill, where his grandparents had been married.

There were very many members of the clergy present, including Bishop A.J. Dain. The address was given by Canon M.C. Newth. He spoke of the many different centres, including Norfolk Island and Arnhem Land, in which Mr. Woodhart had served for the Church Missionary Society and he said Mr. Woodhart had loved the Aborigines and "They responded with confidence and admiration". He taught them how to build their huts and shelters and was ever ready to minister to them in their different capacities. The writer said to Mrs. Woodhart after the funeral: "Why didn't Norman tell us about all these things?" and she answered: "He was a very humble man". That would be a most suitable epitaph!

The induction of the Reverend Bruce Wilson was performed by Bishop John Reid assisted by Archdeacon Cameron on Tuesday, 6th May, 1975 at 8 p.m. Several parishioners from St. Mark's Church, Darling Point, where Bruce had been curate and many students or former students of the University of N.S.W. where Bruce had been chaplain attended the service, plus of course members of St. George's Church.

It was a very solemn and impressive ceremony. After the singing of the hymn "O God, our help in ages past", the Archdeacon with the newly-instituted Rector were led to the church door by the churchwardens and the Archdeacon said:

"I now induct you into the real, actual, corporal possession of the parish of St. George's, Paddington, with all its rights and privileges and may the Lord keep your going out and your coming in now and for evermore."

The group then proceeded to the Font, the Prayer Desk, the Pulpit and Lectern and finally the Holy Table, at each of which the Archdeacon sought assurances from the Rector that he would carry out his duties faithfully and the people quoted passages from the Bible. Bishop J.R. Reid gave the address, after which a hymn was sung, followed by a prayer and the Benediction.

After the service supper was served in the large hall and one of the writer's clearest memories of that part of the evening is of two dear little fair-haired children aged four and seven sitting very quietly together near the stage and looking up at the crowds as it

moved about. They were Anthea and Richard, Bruce and Zandra Wilson's two children.

The first Parish Council meeting at which Bruce Wilson presided was held on 27th May, 1975. He thanked members for the welcome they had given his wife and him and for the supper they had arranged on the Induction night, also Paul Woodhart for the hours and hours of his time which had been given in arranging and helping in the preparation of the Rectory.

With regard to the Encounter '75 Programme: He said he and the congregation should concentrate on consolidating themselves, but evangelical work would be given priority in the following year.

Bruce said the refurbishing of the Rectory had actually cost \$2,655.66 and members of Council were invited to see what had been done.

It was then announced the church services in future would be:

Sunday	9 a.m.	Parish Communion
	7 p.m.	Evening Prayer
		Communion service - one Sunday per month.

Tea or coffee would be served after each service to allow the new members and older members of the congregation to get to know each other better.

Mr. Wilson announced he had made tentative arrangements with a young lady organist to play at each service on Sundays. She would play in a voluntary capacity for two months, thereafter for a small remuneration of \$20 per month, if the church's financial circumstances permitted this. The offer had been made as she was keen to make a contribution to the Church and also to get practice in organ playing.

It was suggested that members of the congregation both day and evening be asked if they would help with the church cleaning each week, as it was not fair for the members of the Ladies' Guild to do it at all. At the meeting of 8th July, 1975 it was announced four parishioners had volunteered - two girls and two young men.

As Bruce Wilson thought it would be preferable for the church to be represented at Synod meetings by members of our congregation, a special vestry meeting was held for the election of two

representatives. Paul Woodhart and Eve Cohen were chosen. Mr. Wilson asked that a letter be sent to Messrs. T. Evison and Mr. A. Wylie thanking them for the years they had represented St. George's at Synod, but two members of the congregation had now been chosen.

At a latter meeting Bruce Wilson announced that several of his former parishioners had stated they would be happy to help the church financially, if it were necessary. He therefore suggested the secretary write to those who had offered assistance stating it would of course help the church if the \$2,500 borrowed from the bank for the refurbishing of the Rectory could be liquidated. In response to this appeal a total amount of \$1,300 was donated.

During the course of the meeting of 19th October, 1975 the Rector advised that Bishop Dain who was head of the Glebe Administration Board and our Area Bishop had visited St. George's and it was his opinion that the small hall would have to be demolished and possibly the big hall. He suggested we think about building a small hall with possibly 6 - 8 small flats on top, the rental of which would help pay off the large debt which would be incurred. Mr. Wilson said this suggestion was in line with thoughts he had had concerning the future of Church properties and he asked everyone to consider this proposal very carefully.

At the meeting of 10th February, 1976 Colleen Stewart offered to act as Editor for a proposed quarterly paper to be produced by the church which would be delivered to every house in the parish by members of the congregation. This offer was accepted and the Church paper has been produced ever since, but of latter years it has been produced only three times per year - Spring, Easter and Christmas.

During the above meeting Paul Woodhart asked Bruce Wilson if he would leave the meeting for a short time so that we could discuss a matter vitally concerning him and he would be spared any possible embarrassment. During Mr. Wilson's absence from the room Paul announced Bruce had been invited to present a paper at the National Lausanne '74 - Australia '76 Conference, which was to be held in Melbourne on 16th - 18th February. As it was an honour to our Rector to

be asked to speak on such an important national occasion, Paul thought our church might like to contribute something towards the expenses, which would be approximately \$120. After discussion, it was decided that the Church contribute \$60 and the Ladies' Guild \$60, there being sufficient members of the Ladies' Guild present to ensure that a motion that \$60 be contributed would be passed at the next Ladies' Guild meeting. In advising Mr. Wilson of the Council's decision, the Secretary said the Council was very pleased and proud that he had been honoured in this way.

At the April meeting Council was advised that the following three possibilities should be considered:-

1. The Rectory and perhaps the shops be sold and a Hall, Rectory and Flat to be built.
2. The present Rectory to be retained and a Hall and Flat erected.
3. A Hall only to be built.

The Rector said he favoured the inclusion of a flat in the project as this could have three benefits. It could be let to a Christian family possibly a Youth Group Leader and the rental would be a source of income. Whilst he knew a new Rectory would not be as attractive as the present Rectory in many respects, there would be an advantage in that there would be a garden area for any children living in the rectory. He suggested that the Church Hall should have minimum dimensions of 40' x 30' and in addition to that area, provision must be made for a small kitchen, storage space and toilets.

On 4th May, 1976 Council was advised that David Morgan and Bill Kersley had spent the equivalent of three whole day's work in surveying the properties and the plans had been sent to Desley Campbell (an architect who was also a member of the congregation) who was now working on them.

Six stalwart men of the congregation literally pushed over the small hall. It was so white-ant eaten that no one had dared to go inside for some months, for fear of falling through the floor. The men did not just push the building over, but they gathered up all the

timber and stacked it in neat piles and arrangements were made for the debris to go to the tip.

After Bruce Wilson had been 16 months at St. George's he wrote "A Pastoral Appraisal" which was distributed to all members of the congregation. First of all, he said there were really three separate groups in the church (1) those who had belonged to St. George's for many years; (2) those who had joined the church after some past association with the University of N.S.W. where he had been Chaplain and (3) those who had joined us in their search for truth and God, but belonged to neither of the groups. He said in number the groups were roughly equal in size. He felt it was quite exciting when he saw spontaneous conversations breaking out after services, but some people were still left out - which was a problem. A second problem was that of building up knowledge and confidence in the Christian faith in an open exploring atmosphere. Series of sermons and twice weekly Th.A seminars had given a great deal of satisfaction and hope in this area. Congregation participation in services had also helped in this direction. A third problem had been outreach. The Parish Paper, the Senior Citizens' Action Group, together with hospital visitation being undertaken by some of the women members were signs of some health there. But there was no Youth Group, although people had already expressed their desire to share in the running of a Youth Group.

He deplored the fact that in his 16 month's ministry in Paddington, he had performed only one baptism and one marriage ceremony for non-church members and nearly two-thirds of the children at Glenmore Road School had been designated by their parents as "non-religion".

He then spoke of having had dinner with the new rector of St. Saviour's Church Redfern, the Rev. Geoff Huard, who had experience in inner urban ministry in London where churches had been divided into two parts forming a church and a hall under the one roof and the land on which the hall had stood being sold to pay for alterations. He had invited the Rev. Huard to address the congregation the following month.

As a result of the Rev. Huard's talk it was decided at the Special Vestry meeting held on 14th December, 1976 that the church would be divided, the old hall pulled down, the old rectory sold and a new rectory would be built on the old hall site.

The church area was to be at the street end and the former front porch was to be the vestry, whilst the hall was to be furthest from the street and the former vestry was to be a kitchen. The organ space was to be used as a crèche room for very small children during the delivery of the sermon.

At the Parish Council meeting held on the same evening a vote of thanks was expressed to all members responsible for the rebuilding of the stone wall, tiling the toilet floors, the brickwork at the entrance, repairs to the roof of the toilets, the new door for one, painting, etc.

At a subsequent meeting a plan was submitted by Desley Campbell (she and her husband Jack were both architects and members of the congregation) which would allow seating for 150 in the church and the hall would approximate the parish requirements. The Worship Action Group said it had been trying for some time to get the congregation to sit closer together and it was thought this new seating arrangement with the church-in-the-round would achieve this. A special vote of thanks was expressed to Desley and Jack and also to David Morgan for the time and effort the three of them had expended on the plan submitted.

On 21st January, 1977 Bruce Wilson sent an outline of all the Church property to the Diocese and a plan for the new Church/Hall and details of the plan to sell the Rectory and build a new Rectory on the old hall site. He had at that time already received the Woollahra Council's approval of the changes proposed, but the Diocese stipulated no attempt was to be made to sell the Rectory until the new Rectory plans had been approved by the Diocese.

Some time later Bruce spoke to a meeting of the Parish Council about the old Organ. He said it would cost \$10,000 to restore it fully so he asked whether it were realistic to think that it would ever be

restored, particularly in view of the fact that to store it would require a considerable amount of space. Bruce added about \$25,000 had been spent in having the organ at St. Mark's restored, but the church now has an electronic organ. It was therefore decided to sell the organ. It was sold to the highest bidder in answer to an advertisement in "The Sydney Morning Herald" for \$1,400.

In January, 1977 Bruce advised he had been offered what might be called a promotion, but he refused it to remain at St. George's where he said he intended to remain for some years. Naturally everyone was delighted to hear his news.

It was decided the furnishings in the new Church area would compromise 14 pews cut in church-in-the-round shape, one lectern, two bishop's chairs, two short communion rails and the existing communion table, but with the three front panels covered with material in the colours of the church year which enable the wood carvings to be shown and give the whole table a lighter appearance.

A further six pews would be required for the hall, but this left about 20 - 13'6" pews for disposal. These were to be shortened as it was thought the very long pews would not be suitable for home use. Later these 20 pews were sold for \$2,283 and the shortening of the lengths had cost about \$400.

It was also decided the floor space in the church area would be completely carpeted and the hall floor would be sanded and polished. To cover all the expenses involved \$15,000 was borrowed from the Commonwealth Bank for a 10 year period at 10.35% interest.

At the meeting of 12th July various methods of filling the space between the top of the dividing partition which was 14' high and the sloping roof of the church were discussed, but no satisfactory answer could be found. Then several methods of warming the church were discussed and it was decided under-carpet heating would probably be the most efficient method.

A member of the congregation who wishes to remain anonymous very generously lent the church \$8,000 interest-free to pay off part of the

\$15,000 borrowed from the Bank and thereby reduce the interest payable each month.

The four large standing lamps, one of the special features of the new church, had been donated by "her nearest and dearest" as a memorial to the late Mrs. Hitchings who had been a great worker for the church for many years, as her husband had also been. There is a table in the church hall dedicated to the memory of Albert Leslie Hitchings "for many years Rector's Warden. Died 1963". Amongst those "nearest and dearest" was their daughter Thelma, who had married Arthur Parry, whom many will remember as he had been the chemist on the corner opposite the church for 38 years!

The new Church/Hall and the lamps were dedicated by Bishop A.J. Dain at the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, 18th December, 1977.

With the church/hall project finished, it was then time to concentrate on the sale of the Rectory for the building of the new one. The young men of the church immediately began dismantling the big hall and stacking up the debris, until it was essential to get professional wreckers to remove the heavy girders and it was not long after - in fact by 1st March, 1978 - that all trace of the large hall had completely disappeared.

Prior to that date an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting was called to discuss the suitability of a Pettit & Sevitt design to the new rectory. The Rector thought only very slight alterations would have to be made to make the building just what was required and all were in agreement that our architects should outline what the required alterations would be. Subsequently the revised plan was submitted to a



Interior of 'old' Church



Interior of 'new' church

firm accustomed to building homes to Pettit & Sevitt designs and a quotation requested. The amended plan was subsequently approved by the Woollahra Council and the Diocese.

Out architects, Desley and Jack Campbell said the house should be built on the site of the large hall, but the east wall of the house extending about 25 cms. from the former wall of the hall. They submitted 3 plans for a garage, two for a double garage very close to the pathway beside the church, the third for a single garage at the back of the house with access from White Lane. This was the one chosen by the church.

In addition to the price quoted by the builders, various other expenses had to be taken into consideration - rented accommodation for the Rector's family for about 20 weeks, plus two lots of removal expenses and floor coverings for the new rectory, so it seemed as if \$75,000 would be required when selling the Rectory otherwise the church would be in more debt.

Bruce Wilson stated at a Council meeting that a parishioner named Albert Tamblin had bequeathed approximately \$5,000 to the Church, specifying that the money be invested and the interest used for repairs to the Rectory. He asked members of Council if they thought it would be discharging our moral obligation to use this money for the new Rectory. The secretary said she did not think it right that Albert Tamblin's name should disappear from the Church records - at least not whilst anyone who knew him was still alive. She said he was a not-well-educated Barnardo boy who had come to Australia from Cornwall, but he had been most generous to the church with his money and his labour. Then the Rector asked: "What if the new Rectory is dedicated to the memory of Albert Tamblin?" and she replied: "Oh yes! Albert would love that" and all those who remembered Albert Tamblin agreed.

In view of the necessity to sell the Rectory in Broughton Street, certain repair work had been done to enhance the value for sale e.g. painting of exterior woodwork, roof repairs, broken window frames to be repaired and a Roll-A-Door fitted to the garage. Also, Bruce and

Zandra Wilson had painted the ground floor rooms during the holidays, for which the Parish Council expressed its thanks.

On the day the Rectory was advertised for sale, the first would-be buyer to come was very keen, but he did not have anything near the required price. He kept coming back offering a little more each time, but the Rector made it very clear we had to get the asking price, otherwise it would not be possible for us to build a new rectory. Finally the man came back with a proposition, which the Church was willing to entertain. He would leave a balance of \$11,500 as an interest-free second mortgage in consideration of the Rector and his family being allowed to remain in occupation at the rate of \$100 per week until 1st August. If they were not able to move out by that date, they would be permitted to occupy the premises for a further month at \$150 per week, but they must vacate the premises by 1st September. There was also a penalty clause in the contract with the builder who was to build the new rectory, so it appeared the Wilsons would be able to move before 1st September.

The contractors commenced the building operations on 1st March and of course as the building progressed certain extras were incurred, also there was quite a lot of rain during the building period, so at one time it appeared the building might not be finished in time, but actually the Rector and family took up residence on 1st August, 1978. Regarding the extras: these were met in a very strange way.

The Rector was not very pleased with some of the tuck-pointing in one wall in each of two rooms (Bruce Wilson being an absolute perfectionist). He told the builder he would have to have the walls done again. The builder, realizing what this would entail, offered a fairly substantial sum as compensation, to which Bruce finally agreed. This sum allowed the extras to be covered and also was enough to buy two lovely tapestries to cover the walls in question.

Then the landscaping had to be done. David Morgan was again very busy drawing up the plan for the ground levels and two sumps in connection with the landscaping to be done between the church and the rectory. The cost of the landscaping was \$3,910, but it made a

tremendous difference and really enhanced the appearance of the church and rectory.

Then Jennie Whitfield who had been in charge of the garden for quite a few years planted lovely flowering shrubs and climbers as well as large pots with colourful flowers, which further enhanced the appearance of the church.

It was truly remarkable that within the space of 14 months so much had been achieved - a very different and lovely Church and Hall and a brand new Rectory with an extra parish room suitable for small meetings or housing one of the Sunday School classes on Sundays.

Quite early in the arrangements for the new Rectory Bruce Wilson said: "It is miraculous how things have worked out. It is only a month since the advertisement appeared in the "Herald" and already the sale has been negotiated and the demolition of the old hall commenced and strange to say, the buyer is one, who inspected the rectory on the first day it was open for inspection." He said there was definitely a spiritual element involved in the building of the new rectory - it was not just a more modern dwelling for the rector and his family, but it gave the Church a greater sense of community life, even the children playing in the church grounds or the people coming to meeting in the Parish room would let people know that the church is part of the community. Everything had been and was working out so well that he felt we can very legitimately see God's approval for what had been done.

Bishop A.J. Dain dedicated the new rectory in memory of Albert Tamblin on 11th February, 1979 during the 9 a.m. service and there is a small brass plate on the side wall of the rectory signifying this.

During the whole of 1978 we had been lucky enough to have the services of Jennifer Farrell, a Theology student who had been a tremendous help to the Rector during this busy time, but unfortunately she said she had to leave at the end of the year. The Rector said her aim was to become a full time minister with fully accredited status and as it would appear it would be years before she could attain her objective in Australia, as far as the Anglican Church was concerned,

she had to look further afield. She could have gone to New Zealand, where women had been ordained, but her friends and interests were in Australia, so she had no alternative but to switch to the Uniting Church, which she arranged to do. The Rector spoke of the wonderful help Jennifer had been to the parish, especially in relation to the Youth Club and it was felt it would be very hard to replace her in this field.

The Inner City Committee which had been paying Jennifer's salary informed the Church it would be unable to help the next year, due to its sponsoring full time workers with Aborigines and various welfare groups.

The Treasurer at that time was David Morgan and he said he thought it was the Parish Council's responsibility to appoint a person or persons to assist the Rector, to lead the Youth Group and to visit parishioners, which Bruce with his many commitments was unable to do. As it would be preferable to have a female Youth Worker, he said, it may be necessary to employ two part-time workers. Some time later in the year it was announced Vic Branson had been engaged to work as Catechist four days per week and Heather Thomson would work two days per week with the Youth Club. Vic was prepared to work for \$90 per week with free accommodation, which was much less than he could obtain elsewhere and Heather was to work for \$40 per week and she had given up a two day per week job at which she was earning more. With regard to the free accommodation for Vic: Bruce explained his father had recently given him some money, with which he made a deposit on a flat in Paddington, which he and Zandra planned to buy for their retirement and it was this flat he was offering to Vic rent free. A number of members of the congregation had pledged a certain amount of money each month to cover Vic's salary.

At the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 13th March, 1979 Bruce Wilson appointed Eve Cohen as Rector's Churchwarden, the first woman churchwarden for St. George's and one of the first women churchwardens in Sydney, as it was only during the Synod sitting of the previous

October that it had been decreed that women could be made churchwardens.

At the same meeting it was announced another member of the congregation who wished to remain anonymous, had made a very generous offer to elderly Paddington residents. He proposed to purchase a house which would accommodate seven or eight to be let at rentals within their means. This offer was reported to the Senior Citizens Group which received the news enthusiastically. Not long after that a three-storey large terrace house was purchased and renovated. It consisted of three flats for three married couples and two single rooms with kitchenettes. This arrangement worked very satisfactorily for some years. All except one of those who lived in the house are now dead and the one remaining has been in a rest home for several years. She is visited weekly by a member of the Senior Citizens Group.

Whilst on the subject of Senior Citizens, the church has a "Get Together Club" for senior citizens. It meets every Monday morning (public holidays included) at 10 a.m. Carpet Bowls are played until 11 a.m., then there is morning tea which lasts about 40 minutes, after which cards are played until 1 p.m. About 10 members attend regularly.

Early in 1980 Bruce Wilson was offered a University Grant to carry out research and to write a paper on the History of the Church. Bruce said he thought he would be able to do this with Vic Branson's and Heather Thomson's help in the Parish work.

About this time Paul Woodhart who was the only son of the former Rector, the Rev. Norman Woodhart, left St. George's to go to Nottingham University, England to study for the ministry. He was ordained a few years ago and is now rector of the church in Gunning which has seven centres which he visits each month. He is the first member of St. George's to train for the ministry.

In March 1981 Vic Branson left St. George's where he had been a full time Catechist for two years to take up a teaching post.

Towards the end of 1980 Bruce said that "out of the blue" he and Zandra had been offered the opportunity of a trip to England all expenses paid. Whilst he was trying to work out how he could take

advantage of this offer he received a letter from a clergyman in Fiji who said he was coming to Sydney for a period of six weeks and he was wondering if Bruce could find him a locum position for that period. Bruce knew the clergyman very well and said he could not have wished for a more suitable replacement and so it was that Bruce and Zandra left for England on 12th December, 1980 and returned on 25th January, 1981 during which time the Rev. John Pryor was at St. George's and the congregation also could not have wished for a more suitable replacement.

In March 1981, a young Church Army trainee, Flavia Huggins came to be leader of the Youth Club and to teach one of the classes in the Sunday School. She also worked on a few surveys for the church. She said she was not at all happy with St. George's during her first six months, but after that she hated the thought of leaving at the end of the year, so she begged the Church Army to allow her to spend her two year's training with St. George's, which was quite contrary to the usual procedure, but she must have been very persuasive for she did stay two years.

One of the surveys she did was an up-date of the parish register, which revealed:-

<u>Listed in Register</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>Paddington</u>	<u>Eastern Suburbs</u>	<u>Elsewhere</u>
Males	34	53			
			79	41	9
Females	50	76			

During 1981 the \$8,000 which a member of the congregation had so generously lent to the church was repaid.

It was found the Sunday School had grown to such an extent another classroom was definitely required. As it was possible for another parish room to be built at the back of the existing one, it was built through the generous donations of members of the congregation, so that the church was saved from increasing its debt to the Bank.

During 1982 Mrs. Joan Talbot came to St. George's as a parish assistant. She did quite a lot of visiting in hospitals and private homes and she held a Bible Study Group on Thursday mornings for the older folk and she also helped as Lay Assistant at some church

services, as well as giving sermons on occasions. She was training to become a deaconess and she was loved by everyone with whom she came into contact.

During this period Bruce Wilson was given 1-1½ days per week to develop a "brain-child" of his - the Eremos Institute. The writer has had difficulty in trying to define the purpose of the Institute, so perhaps it could best be described by a sentence from the introduction of Bruce Wilson's second book "Can God Survive in Australia?" printed in 1983, which said: "The Eremos Institute, an organisation designed to help Christians understand and contribute to Australian society and to deepen spirituality". No doubt Bruce Wilson's own words were quoted.

His first book "The Human Journey" received the Australian Christian Book of the Year Award in 1981. Incidentally, the word "Eremos" is the Greek word for desert. Bruce founded the Institute in co-operation with two close friends of his, both of whom have degrees in Theology.

All members of St. George's knew they would not be having Bruce Wilson with them for very long and they considered themselves very lucky to have had him for eight years, nevertheless they were very sorry when they were told he would be leaving at the end of the year. They were of course glad when they heard he was going to Canberra to become assistant to Bishop Owen Dowling and Principal of the College of Ministry, which trains the ministers of the future.

At the meeting of 8th November, 1983 it was realized Bruce was entitled to five week's holiday, so it was proposed that he takes the five weeks leave before going to Canberra. It was also arranged that there could be a "brunch" in the Church Hall on 18th December, at which we would say our farewells to Bruce and Zandra and their two lovely children. The Christmas pageant would take place that evening. It was further arranged that Bruce would officiate at the one service on Christmas Day, which would be his last day at St. George's.

The churchwardens had arranged for the Rev. Bruce Kaye, Dr. Stuart Barton Babbage and the Rev. Fred Wandmaker to take the services whilst Bruce was on holiday.

During that period the five elected Council Representatives were approaching members of the clergy, whom they considered would be suitable replacements and the name or names of a possible replacement had to be considered by four members of the Synod Presentation Board and the Archdeacon or Bishop of the Area. A vote is then taken and if anyone receives a majority and the approval of the Archdeacon or Bishop of the area, the clergyman's name is then presented to the Archbishop, who asks the clergyman if he is prepared to accept the post.

In the minutes of the meeting of 10th January, 1984 one of the churchwardens said she thought, when the history of the church was written, some mention should be made of the Christmas Pageants and the considerable time and effort required to produce them. Mrs. Jennie Whitfield, who wrote and produced all the pageants, said everyone involved made a tremendous effort to make the pageants the success they were and therefore she did not think it fair to mention anyone in particular. She said everyone deserved praise. The pageants certainly are a wonderful success each year and extra chairs have to be put at the back of the church, along the aisles and even in the doorways, so it would appear the pageants are appreciated by many of those who live in the area. Jennie Whitfield is not only responsible for these successful functions, but she is also responsible for the lovely garden in the church grounds which all people in the area have enjoyed for the last 14 years.

Another suggestion made by the same churchwarden was a report should be included in the church history about the *Church House Parties* held annually and the *Ladies' Guild*.

The first *House Party* was a suggestion of Dr. Bernard Stewart, a lay assistant of the church, and it was held in the Church Missionary Society's Conference Centre at Katoomba from 4th - 6th February, 1977. There were 47 adults and seven children at that event. There have been ten House Parties since then either at the C.M.S. Centre in Katoomba or the Anglican Conference Centre at "Gilbulla", Menangle, except the one held in March, 1989 which was at Stanwell Tops down the south coast. Attendance at these events has ranged between 54 and 86.

The Ladies' Guild: Actually the work of the ladies of the church has been very important even before the church was built. Their first effort was to raise money for the building of the church at the Sale of Work on 21st - 23rd August, 1889 and a Sale of Work was held each year thereafter which helped considerably with the church finances. As early as 1892 there was a Ladies Auxiliary and Young Ladies' Guild. It is unfortunate the books showing the results of their labours have not survived - the only records available commence from 1970. However, they show the amounts collected by the Guild played a significant part in keeping the church afloat. During the Rev. Bruce Wilson's term at St. George's the Ladies' Guild contributed \$17,640 to the church or church-associated charities.

The Parish Paper was another important innovation since the Rev. Bruce Wilson came to St. George's, for it is different from the usual type of parish paper telling of church services, baptisms and marriages and perhaps a special message, but they were thought-provoking articles written by members of the congregation or the Rector. The first three year's issues had been edited by Colleen Stewart but after that various members of the congregation produced the paper. It is really the only outreach to the general public in the parish and it has received very favourable acceptance. We have been lucky enough to have Margaret Ackland, a former parishioner and now well-known artist to supply drawings for the various articles published. Margaret married Vic Branson who was the Catechist in 1980-1981. Margaret and Vic and their two sons come to St. George's occasionally, but they now live in another suburb.

Mentioning other suburbs - some of our regular parishioners live in Cremorne, Summer Hill, Ashfield, Kensington, Castlecrag and Haberfield.

Very high in the list of the many attributes for which Bruce Wilson could be praised is his ability to pick assistants for the church: Firstly there was Jennifer Farrell, then Vic Branson and Flavia Huggins and finally Joan Talbot. Each one was just the right person for the job for which they were engaged, but on Joan Talbot's shoulders

fell the responsibility of living in the rectory, arranging for visiting clergy to officiate at the services for the whole five months the church was without a resident rector. She also handled all the counselling of whoever rang for help, as well as visiting hospitals. It was a tremendous job and she handled it perfectly. Some time later Joan was ordained as a Deaconess and she was appointed as Anglican Chaplain at the Children's Hospital at Camperdown. She also visited St. Luke's Hospital and "Lulworth House" the nursing home attached to St. Luke's. More recently she was appointed Chaplain at Westmead Hospital, the largest hospital in Sydney and she still visits St. Luke's.

At the meeting of 13th March, 1984 the churchwardens announced the Rev. Colin Dundon was to be our new rector. He, his wife Joy and their three children had attended a House Party held at "Gilbulla" early in the year, so the congregation had that opportunity of getting to know the family in an informal way.

The Dundon family would not be moving into the rectory until 30th April and in the meantime certain alterations had to be carried out to make a fourth bedroom, floor coverings and furniture in the form of Ikea wardrobes and bookshelves had to be purchased, so that the total cost was about \$7,000.

The induction ceremony was to take place on 3rd May, the Area Bishop John Reid officiating at the service. The parishioners of St. Paul's Lithgow, where the Dundons had been previously, must have been very sorry that Colin Dundon was leaving them because about a dozen came to Sydney to be present at the Induction Ceremony and after supper most of them went back to Lithgow by car. They said they expected to arrive home about 3 a.m. One young lady and her mother came to Sydney especially to hear Colin's first sermon at St. George's - the young lady said it was her Mother's Day gift to her mother.

Although Colin Dundon hasn't any building operations to worry about, he still has plenty to keep him occupied. Apart from the Sunday morning and evening services to prepare, there are weekly Theology Seminars, two sessions of Scripture at the local school, counselling

whenever required, attending Council meetings and occasional meetings of rectors in the area, as he has been appointed Area Deacon. In addition to these activities, there are also Eremos Seminars to attend or lead and of course there are always all the unexpected things like sick parishioners or funerals. Nevertheless he always seems to be in good spirits, which the parishioners hope means he is happy at St. George's.

Colin's ministry has been quite varied. After being a curate at Dapto and Parramatta during 1966-1968 he taught Church History at Ridley College in Melbourne. Then he did a period of missionary training at St. Andrew's Hall for the Church Missionary Society and after that he went to Africa to become Principal and Teacher at the McGregor Bible College, Weighaga, Kenya and during the years 1976-1980 he was Head of the Department of Biblical Training at St. Paul's Unity College, Limuru, Kenya and his last assignment before coming to St. George's was Rector of St. Paul's at Lithgow.

The first Council meeting at which Colin presided was on 8th May, 1984. During the course of the meeting he announced he had arranged for the Rev. Colin Buchanan, Principal of St. John's College, Nottingham, Liturgical expert and writer to speak at the evening service at St. George's on 3rd June. We were particularly fortunate in having the opportunity of hearing Colin Buchanan as he was spending only a few days in Sydney.

At the meeting of 12th June, 1984 it was announced Bruce Wilson had been appointed Assistant Bishop in the Canberra/Goulburn diocese and the secretary was asked to write to Bruce expressing St. George's joy at learning of his appointment.

On 27th October, 1984 the consecration of Bruce Wilson as Bishop by Archbishop Donald Robinson took place in St. Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn at 9 a.m. It was a very solemn and colourful service and quite a number of St. George's parishioners attended the service.

In April 1989 it was announced in a TV news report the Right Reverend Bishop Bruce Wilson was to become the 8th Bishop of Bathurst. Later it was learnt his enthronement would take place on 19th August,

1989 in Bathurst Cathedral at a service commencing at 1.30 p.m. He will be responsible for the second largest diocese in N.S.W. as it stretches from Bathurst to the Queensland border to the north and to Bourke in the west and it covers 37 churches.

It is only 14 years since Bruce Wilson came to St. George's which was his first church as a Rector and as such it will always have a special place in his memory, as he will have in the memory of all parishioners of St. George's who know him.

1970 - 1989 (to end of April only)

Marriages	57
Baptisms	212