

## CHAPTER 9

### *The third 20 years*

Having followed the history of St. George's from 1889 to September 1930 through the minutes of the monthly Churchwardens' meetings and the Annual Vestry Meetings, a thorough search was made to find the Minute Book immediately following September, 1930 - all to no avail. The next Minute Book was dated April, 1938 and it was not until reading half-way through the Minutes recorded in that book that the mystery was solved.

A Mr. H.W. McDonald was the secretary at the beginning of the book but at the Annual Vestry Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1939 Mr. McDonald tendered his resignation as Churchwarden (and apparently as Secretary also) because he, his wife, his mother, father and grandmother were leaving Paddington to live at Maroubra.

At the same time, the Rector, who was then the Rev. John Phair, said there had been a marked increase in the attendances at services, particularly during the current Lenten services and he thanked the Lady Collectors, the Debt Extinction Fund Collectors and the Sunday School Teachers for their services to the Church, Mr. Albert Tamblin for his generosity in donating Hymn Books and Psalters for the use of the choir and Hymn Books for the Sunday School and also Mr. F.W. Wallace for his generous donation of £151 to clear the old debt to the Church Building Loan Fund. (This would have been the balance of the loan for the building of the two shops, leaving only the loan for the purchase of the Rectory outstanding which was about £1,000.)

Also at that meeting it was mentioned that Mr. R. Hadden and Mr. F.W. Wallace had both recently retired from active work in the Public Service of N.S.W., Mr. Wallace after 48 years and Mr. Hadden after 32 years of active service.

After that Mr. Hadden extended the Church's sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. McDonald for his services to St. George's as Churchwarden and Church Secretary and he wished Mr. McDonald every success in the future.

The very next month a special Vestry Meeting was held for the purpose of electing a Churchwarden in place of Mr. F.W. Wallace who had died quite unexpectedly on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1939 in St. Vincent's Hospital. At the meeting it was stated that Mr. Wallace had been elected as a Churchwarden on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1921 and he had taken a very active and prominent role in the Church ever since that time. When it was mooted that a house in Broughton Street which would be quite suitable for a rectory could be purchased at a reasonable figure with a deposit of £150 and a weekly rental of £2/10/-, Frank Wallace immediately offered to lend £100 towards the deposit. Also over the years he had acted as bondsman for many loans the church had arranged with the bank or the Diocese. After his death, his brother Mr. George T. Wallace took over the responsibility for any unpaid loans and he also became a churchwarden and later honorary auditor for many years.

Many people still living in the district must remember Frank Wallace - a tall, handsome man with shining silver hair and a very gracious manner as he ushered parishioners to a seat in church or collected the offertories. It is significant that no less than three former rectors and the resident rector attended Frank Wallace's funeral, namely the Rev. Messrs Harley-Jones, Polain, Le Huray and John Phair. The Rev. Le Huray gave the address at the funeral service and he said: "The church has lost a great friend, a loyal worker and a most generous supporter". A few months later Mr. Wallace's solicitors advised a bequest of £200 had been left to the church in Mr. Wallace's will.

Mr. R. Hadden who was already a churchwarden was elected secretary to replace Mr. H.W. McDonald and he had not been secretary very long before he discovered there was a Minute Book missing from the records for the period 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1930 to 27<sup>th</sup>

April, 1938 and at the meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1939 the Rector was requested to write to Mr. McDonald regarding the missing book.

Two letters from the Rector to Mr. McDonald and two letters answering those letters from Mr. McDonald, plus a letter from the Rector to the Archbishop and the Archbishop's reply are pasted in the Minute Book after the minutes of the meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1934. The substance of Mr. McDonald's letters was that his brother-in-law had stated the missing Minute Book had been inadvertently burnt together with a number of other books at the time the family moved to Maroubra. The letter from the Archbishop started that all correspondence relating to the missing book should be pasted in the current book which was done and so the mystery was solved.

Mr. Hadden resigned as Secretary shortly after this and Mr. Alan R. Palmer was elected as Secretary. The reason for Mr. Hadden's resignation could have been ill health as his death was reported in the minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1939.

It is interesting to note at this point that there is a double stained glass window on the eastern wall of the church near the organ which was erected by the parishioners in memory of Messrs. F.W. Wallace and R. Hadden. Actually the double windows were not installed until 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1941 and the Rev. Le Huray gave an address on that occasion.

Mr. M.B.V. Cox replaced Mr. Wallace as churchwarden, but he was not re-elected at the Annual Vestry Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1940, so his name does not appear in the minutes after that. Mr. William John Ley was elected churchwarden in his place and served the church very well until his death in July, 1944. The book cupboard in the entrance porch of the church, in which the service books are kept is a memorial to Mr. Ley.

In an effort to discover something about the happenings during the period covered by the missing Minute Book, the following pieces of information were gathered from the Registers of Services. These are the books which are signed by the member of clergy conducting the services and it is usual for the number attending each service

to be shown (but unfortunately they are not always shown), however it is obligatory that the amount of each collection be quoted, as the auditors check these amounts against bank records.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1931 the Rev. G.H. Garbett was appointed *locum tenens* and he conducted the services until 4<sup>th</sup> October of that year so apparently the Rev. Harley Jones had six months' leave of absence. Perhaps he made a trip overseas, but there is no way of finding out the exact reason. Anyway, he returned to take up office on 4<sup>th</sup> October and he continued in office until 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1933. Then the Rev. W.S. McLeod or Rev. W.G. Roach conducted the services alternately until 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1933 when the Rev. George Polain was inducted as Rector. The Communion services were reasonably well attended during his term of office, but it must have been rather depressing for him when he had to preach to only two to five parishioners at other services. No doubt that is why he resigned on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1933, just four months after his arrival.

The Rev. C. Johnson was in charge for a couple of months from 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1933 and then the Rev. James Rodwell Le Huray was inducted as Rector on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1933 and he remained as Rector until 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 1937. The Rev. Le Huray was a rotund, jovial man and he was extremely popular, especially with the young folk. He had 5 children of his own and he and his children involved themselves in various sporting activities enjoyed by the young folk of the parish - especially cricket. Mr. Le Huray always said to the children: "Le Huray is a hard name to remember, so just call me 'Mr. Hooray'", and they did that with great gusto.

It is a great pity that the record of the Rev. Le Huray's four years as rector of St. George's has been lost as the writer remembers it was a very happy period in the church's history. She was a Sunday School teacher throughout that period and she remembers the enthusiasm of the children and the joy it was to be associated with them. Unfortunately Mr. Le Huray did not show the numbers attending all his services, so it is not possible to

compare attendances at this period with those immediately before or after.

Much later, two of the Rev. Le Huray's sons were to become ministers themselves.

Somewhere about this time the Holy Table was dedicated in memory of the late John White who had been closely associated with the church since the very first meeting of residents in the district who decided the church should be built. He was also a churchwarden for many years.

The Rev. John T. Phair followed Mr. Le Huray, commencing his ministry on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1937.

Two months later the Rev. Phair asked if he could have the services of Mr. Ken Shelley as Catechist for a period of one month to assist him over the heavy work period of the Christmas season in the Sunday School and for parochial visits. The churchwardens agreed, but actually Mr. Shelley stayed for four months and everyone was so pleased with everything he did, it was decided a presentation should be made to him. A few months later Mr. Shelley returned to St. George's as curate and organist, but he resigned on 31<sup>st</sup> November, 1938 to become Warden of Moore College Hostel. Mr. Phair said Mr. Shelley had won a scholarship for £240 and he intended to go on to the University to obtain his BSc. degree and finally a Bachelor of Divinity when the opportunity arose. He married a Paddington girl, Betty Clark and some years later he was Rector of St. Paul's, Chatswood and later still Rector at Kiama where he died not many years ago. Members of the congregation at St. George's said Mr. Shelley's sermons were an inspiration as was his music. A Mr. T.W. Craven became the organist when Mr. Shelley left.

Sister Mary Holman (later referred to as Deaconess Mary Holman) who had given great service to the church during the terms of four rectors, namely: the Rev. Messrs. J. Poole, C.L. Williams, R. Harley Jones and John Phair over a period of 14 years, died in 1938 and it was decided two brass Offertory Plates and a Ewer for

water to be used at baptisms should be purchased and inscribed in her memory. The two Plates are the ones which are used in the church services every Sunday, but the Brass Ewer we have may or may not be the original one for two reasons: firstly, it is not inscribed in any way and secondly a quantity of the church's brass and silverware was stolen in 1974 and replacements were purchased.

One piece of silverware which was not stolen is a beautifully shaped and engraved claret jug which is inscribed "Presented to St. George's Church, Glenmore Road by Mrs. Dean of 'Flinton' November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1889". About 10 years ago it was decided this jug should be used for Communion Services, but it was found to leak. The leak was repaired and the inside of the jug was supposed to be lined with some coating impervious to wine (for which incidentally the Ladies' Guild paid £100) but those who took Communion said the wine had a strange taste, so the beautiful jug was stored away once more.

Now to revert back to the end of 1938: After Deaconess Holman's death, the Rev. Phair said he really needed someone to assist him and it was thought by the Council that a deaconess would be most suitable. The Principal of Deaconess House was asked if she could recommend someone. She said there was a trainee, Miss Marjorie Appleby whom she could make available for two week-days and all day Sunday. This offer was accepted. Miss Appleby was paid at the rate of £25 per annum from the Home Missionary Society and £5 per annum from St. George's.

At the Annual Vestry Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1939 it was announced the year before had closed with a debit balance of £11/2/2 which, it was stated, compared very favourably with the previous years' balances. This would seem to convey that previous years had shown much larger debit balances.

During the two years and four months Mr. and Mrs. Phair had been at St. George's they endeared themselves to the congregation and during the last meeting at which Mr. Phair presided, a vote of thanks was recorded in the following terms:-

"A vote of appreciation was passed, thanking the Rev. J.T. Phair for his many kindnesses and valued assistance at all times and wishing him the Lord's blessing in his new sphere of labour at Cobbity."

At the same meeting the Secretary was asked to communicate with all the young men of our church who were on active service, namely J. Cuddy, R. Dine and C. Perry and to convey to them the greetings of the church and to assure them they were constantly remembered in our prayers.

On 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1940 the Rev. Frederick Archibald Reed presided at the meeting. He stated he was prepared to agree to the letting of the Parish Hall on the following conditions:-

- 1 No Alcoholic drink to be taken into nor consumed in the hall
- 2 No advertisement to be displayed on the notice board, fence nor the hall
- 3 The hall to be vacated by 11 p.m.

These conditions were agreed to by the meeting and the following rates were agreed upon:-

Week nights (except Saturdays)	15/-
Saturday Nights	30/-
Holiday Week Nights	20/-
1. Afternoons (2 p.m. to 6 p.m.)	10/-
Other Times	1/- per hour.

It was decided the lettings and collection of money would be left to the Verger, Mrs. Dine.

It must have been a very satisfactory period for the members of the Parish Council when rents for the two shops started to be paid into the church's banking account and interest on the loan for the building of the shops could be paid from the rents. The first payments were made in 1939 and the receipts for that year and 1940 were:-

	<i>Rent Received</i>	<i>Interest Paid</i>
1939	£ 19/15/0	£20/ 3/6
1940	£138/ 0/0	130/10/9

The Rev. Reed apparently did not believe it was necessary to hold monthly Council meetings for during the two years and two

months he was the Rector only five meetings were held and 3 of these were Annual Vestry Meetings which are compulsory.

At the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1942 the Rev. Eustace Charles St. Clair Coleman was in the chair and at that meeting the Rev. Coleman advised the Parish Tea had been a great success, £10/-/- having been raised by the sale of tickets and donations, less costs incurred and he also advised the Ladies' Guild would be holding their Annual Sales of Work on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. The meeting was also told that Mrs. Coleman was supervising a branch of the Young People's Missionary Union to meet each alternate Thursday in the Parish Hall and arrangements were already in hand for a concert to be presented using the talent available from the Young People's Missionary Union.

At the meeting in October 1942 the Rector announced the concert had been a great success in every respect and £8/12/- had been raised, which would be used to buy things for the Sale of Work.

At the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> October the Rector announced he had nominated Mrs. McKellar and Mr. Woods as Rector's Councillors and they would therefore be eligible to attend and vote at any St. George Council meetings.

At the Vestry meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1944 the financial statement showed a credit balance of £64/4/9, the Ladies' Guild Sale of Work having raised £135/0/6. At this meeting a special vote of thanks was expressed to Mr. Albert Tamblin for the many repairs he had recently carried out to the church. At this meeting it was also decided that the Rector's stipend be increased by £30 per annum to bring it into line with the minimum amount suggested by the Diocese.

At subsequent meetings it was decided Mrs. McKellar be appointed Verger in lieu of Mrs. Dine, who had resigned, Mrs. McKellar to receive £30 per annum. Also Mr. Tamblin and Mr. Chaplin were thanked for repairing the roof of the Rectory and the Parish Hall after a hail storm. That hail storm occurred when most

people were seated at midday dinner on New Year's Day, 1947 and what a hail storm it was! All the plate glass shop windows on the northern side of William Street, Sydney were broken, hundreds of motor cars had their roofs or windscreens ruined. The glorious glass roof of Central Railway Station was completely smashed by hailstones as large as bricks or even larger. The numbers of roof and ordinary glass windows broken would run into hundreds of thousands and of course it was months before all the damage could be repaired because of shortages of glass and labour. It might give some idea when you learn that 48 sheets of Galvanized Iron were required for church repairs - 40 sheets for the Rectory roof and 8 for the Hall roof.

At the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1947 Mrs. McKellar's death was reported. Mrs. McKellar had been a stalwart worker for the church over a very long period of time. She was tireless in her monthly collection of donations for the Rectory Fund, for years she had been Verger and cleaner of the church without any pay even though it was offered to her, she was a Sunday School Teacher, and a Parish Councillor, as well as being a member of the Ladies' Guild. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Le Huray attended her funeral and a special service was held in the church on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1947 at 7.15 p.m.

Mr. T.W. Craven who had been the church organist for a number of years died on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1947. During Mr. Craven's illness, Mrs. Coleman had been acting organist and it was suggested that Mrs. Coleman be asked to continue for the time being and an allowance of 10/6 per Sunday to be made to her.

At the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1948 it was decided that the Paddington Council would be approached to ask if a scythe could be borrowed so that the grass between the small hall and large hall could be cut!

The Rev. Coleman obviously was another who didn't believe in the importance of having monthly Parish Council meetings - there were only 28 meetings held during the 7½ years he was in charge of St. George's and seven of these were Annual Vestry Meetings, which

meant there was only an average of three Parish Council meetings per year and in the absence of Minutes of Meetings, very little can be learnt of what was happening. Mr. Coleman did hold quite large Confirmation Classes each year and attendances at services were slightly higher during his incumbency, but that undoubtedly was due to the alarming war situation.

Just as a matter of interest, the amount of rent received during the final 10 years of this period was £1,362/9/9 and the interest paid on the loan was £342/0/11, so even in those days, the rent from the shops was an important factor.

*FROM 1930 TO 1949 INCLUSIVE*

Number of Marriages	288
Number of Baptisms	620