



FROM THE PARISH ARCHIVES

Number 19 February 2012

Timeline of 150 years of Ministry and Service

Welcome to the nineteenth edition of "From the Parish Archives". We hope that you will enjoy reading about the history of the Parish. This is especially so with us in our 150th year.

The "From the Parish Archives" aims to be factual. However, any opinions expressed are personal and may not be necessarily shared by other parishioners.

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Introduction

This issue is published to coincide with the 150th Anniversary Celebrations Grand Event held Sunday 26 February 2012. It departs from the usual practice and provides a timeline of some of the events important to the life of the Saint Margaret's over 150 years.

Timeline

1853 August 15: The Church of England denominational school is opened.

1857 Henry Dendy, his wife Sarah and son Henry, move to Eltham and purchase a Steam Flour Mill.

1860 June: A temporary church is established in a dedicated building until the new church is built.

1860 Friday May 26: A Public meeting at the Fountain Hotel is called to propose building a church in Little Eltham.

1860 August 6: Nathaniel Billing, architect is asked to make the drawings and specifications for the new church.

1860 Dixon Bertram, a Lay Reader, is appointed to the parish as its first fulltime minister.

1861 Tenders to build the church are called and George Stebbing is the successful tenderer.

1861 April 4: Consecration of the Church of England section of the Eltham Cemetery and the laying of the foundation stone of the church.

1861 December 12: Opening of the church for Divine Service. The anniversary date.

1864 June 1: The Revd. Robert Mackie commences as first fulltime ordained minister.

1866 The Reverend Josiah Hollis is appointed to the parish.

1868 19 November: A public meeting held at the Fountain Hotel is called to propose building a parsonage on the church site donated by Henry Dendy.

1870 October: The Parsonage (now called Dendy House) is completed.

1871 The Revd. Andrew Brown is appointed to the parish.

1872 Church of England Denominational School closes when state aid is withdrawn.

1874 The Revd. Arthur Joseph Pickering is appointed to the parish.

1876 May 16: The church is consecrated by the Rt. Revd. Bishop Thornton of Ballarat.

1877 Erection of a Library attached to church, north-east corner.

1880 The Revd. John Boyle Gason is appointed to the parish.

1882 Wednesday 1 March: The newly completed Sunday school building is opened with a tea meeting.

1888 The Revd. William Thomas Price is appointed to the parish.

1890 The Revd. Arthur Pelham Chase is appointed to the parish.

1897 The Revd. Thomas Wakelin Davis appointed to the parish.

1904 The Revd. William Green is appointed to the parish.

1911 December 12: Fifty years anniversary of St. Margaret's.

1915 The Revd. Thomas Henry Sapsford is appointed to the parish.

1917 July 17: A Faculty is granted for an Honour Roll of the Great European War.

1918 The Revd. Sapsford chairs the Eltham Home Coming Committee for WW1 service personnel.

1918 A Faculty is granted for a pair of stained glass – St. Margaret and St. Paul

1920 A Faculty is granted for St. Cecilia stained glass.

1922 The Revd. James Arthur Peck is appointed to the parish.

1925 The Revd. Frederick Edgar Henry Tolhurst is appointed to the parish.

1925 January: Dedication and consecration of the altar as a memorial to the WW1 service personnel associated with the parish.

1931 The Revd. Tamillas Robert Mappin, WW1 hero, is appointed to the parish.

1936 December 12: Seventy- Fifth anniversary of St. Margaret's, celebrated in July.

1940 The Revd. Arthur Thomas Roberts is appointed to the parish.

1940 The Parishes of Eltham and Panton Hill are combined.

1940 Friday 24 May: Opening of the new church hall, replacing the one burnt down in 1939.

1949 The Revd. Robert George Long is appointed to the parish.

1951 The Revd. John Fenton Gibbins is appointed to the parish.

1954 April 27: A faculty is granted for the stained glass – Samuel.

1956 The Revd. David Brooke Warner is appointed to the parish.

1958 May 18: Dedication of the Vicarage by Archbishop Frank Woods.

1958 St Andrews, St Andrews and St Marks, Hurstbridge separate and become part of the Parish of Diamond Creek.

1960 The Revd. William John Carter is appointed to the parish.

1961 Commemoration of the Centenary of the church held on the 10 December.

1963 September: The altar and altar rails are moved out from north wall where they remain today.

1964 May 17: First worship service is held in the new Church of the Transfiguration Research.

1964 The Revd. Claude Donald Hutton Longfield is appointed to the parish.

1964 July 23: Fire destroys the church at Research.

1966 December 18: Dedication of the re-built church at Research.

1969 July 8: The Revd. Kenneth John Brierty is inducted to the parish.

1970 April 4: A Faculty is granted for a Vicar's Name Board.

1970 April 27: A Faculty is granted for a Memorial Garden book.

1970 October 21: Archbishop Woods gives permission to hang the Matcham Skipper Crucifix above the altar.

1972 The Revd. Ian Frederick Brown is appointed to the parish.

1973 Consecration of the Church of Transfiguration, Research.

1975 A Faculty is granted for stained glass – the Resurrection.

1978 October 28: Dedication of the “Mud Brick Hall” by Bishop James Grant.

1979 The Revd. Ronald Dowling is appointed to the parish.

1981 The church and parsonage are classified by the Heritage Victoria.

1988 Panton Hill becomes a separate Parish again.

1989 The church and parsonage classification is upgraded by Heritage Victoria.

1989 The Revd. Valentine Hiliary Rogers is appointed to the parish.

1997 The commissioning of the Revd. Erica Ann Mathieson. The first female priest at Eltham.

1998 Heritage Victoria revises its classification of the church and parsonage.

2001 The Revd. Elizabeth Joy Delbridge is appointed to the parish.

2004 February 21: A service of thanksgiving for the Church of the Transfiguration, Research

2004 February 28: Services of closure and transformation for the Church of the Transfiguration, Research.

2007 A service of thanksgiving for St. Faith’s, Montmorency.

2007 June 3: Services of closure and welcome for St. Faith’s, Montmorency.

2011 December 11: Service of thanksgiving and ground-breaking liturgy, presided over by Archbishop Phillip Freier for the 150th anniversary of St. Margaret’s.

Conclusion

An understanding and appreciation of Saint Margret’s history is important to knowing who we are. It is also a cause of much thankfulness for the faithful people and clergy who have given ministry and service, to the parish and the wider community over 150 years. However, we must follow the example of our forebears in faith and seek out further opportunities to bring in God’s kingdom. To that end it is planned to redevelop the site whilst carefully preserving our heritage.