

A new chapel...

Completion of the church brought a sequence of milestones over its first few years. A register of services was not started till Easter Sunday 1913 which fell on 23 March. Prior to that, there is a scanty record of services in the St Peter's register till 1911.

On 30 April 1911, there is a margin note in the St Peter's register.

Mission at St Kilda Services

Sunday

- 8am Holy Eucharist
- 11am MP and sermon
- 3pm children's mission
- 4pm address for men
- 6.30pm mission preaching

Weekdays

- 6.15am Holy Eucharist
- 7am Morning prayer
- 3pm women's service
- 4.15 children's mission
- 7.15 open air preaching
- 8pm mission preaching

Missioners

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| The Rev the Vicar of Caversham | [Rev ED Evans] |
| The Rev the Vicar of Riverton | [Rev J Morland] |

Between April 1911 and Easter Sunday 1913, 53 services were listed as occurring at St Kilda, including the four services held on 26 May 1912 when Holy Cross was first used. Rev Morland only conducted one service during that time. Rev Evans records that three curates conducted services at St Kilda between 28 May and 30 July 1911: Charles H Statham, Angus Ross and Charles H Fleming. Christmas Day 1911 was celebrated with 7.45am Holy Eucharist and 58 communicants in the St Kilda Masonic Hall. The 11am Morning Prayer on 31 December was conducted by a curate, WA Hamblett. In 1912, the services tended to be shared between Rev HH Bedford (in Rev Evans' absence from 19 February to 30 September) and Rev Robert George Coates, who was appointed assistant curate of St Peter's on 26 October. Other celebrants included Rev AJ Petrie, the Primate (Bishop Nevill) and Rev EL Woodhouse, who returned upon one occasion.

When the service register began for Holy Cross in 1913, services continued to be shared among the clergy. Its first entry on 23 March 1913 shows services that day were 9.15am Sung Eucharist with 84 in the congregation (75 communicants) led by Rev Evans, Children's Service at 3pm and Evening Prayers at 6.30pm with 150 in the congregation, both led by Rev RG Coates. From 23 March to 28 December 1913, 86 services were held at Holy Cross led by thirteen men. St Peter's curate, Rev RG Coates conducted the most services, numbering 29 followed by the vicar, Rev ED Evans with 23. The most popular service seemed to be 6.30pm evensong and the biggest recorded congregation of 160 assembled at 6.30pm on Sunday, 7 September.

Even before the register of services began, Holy Cross celebrated its first wedding. On 25 March 1913, 28 year old Margaret Rebecca (Ruby) Robertson married 31 year old Hugh Francis (Frank) Titchener. The 1911 Dunedin South electoral roll lists Margaret Rebecca Robertson, spinster living at 44 Eskvale Street, Musselburgh with James Gatheral Robertson, grocer and Louisa Robertson, married. Presumably Louisa Robertson is the Mrs Robertson referred to as helping to run the Refreshments Stall in the 1910 bazaar. The Titchener family was a prominent family in the Anglican community and had associations with the Hellyer, Gore and Talboys families at Holy Cross.

Baptisms began at Holy Cross in October 1913 and like the first marriages, were registered at St Peter's. The **Church Chronicle** of October 1913 noted

A memorial font has been offered and accepted for Holy Cross Chapel. The need of administering Baptism at the Chapel has been felt for some time, but it is not merely convenience that will be served. It is also desired to make the Chapel more completely the spiritual home of those who live in Musselburgh and St Kilda.

Frank and Elsie Kettle donated the font to Holy Cross in memory of their 18 year old daughter, Elsie Amelia Kettle who died on 31 August 1913, the same day that Rev EL Woodhouse was instituted to the charge of St Mary's, Mornington and during the weekend of the Dunedin Competition Society annual competitions.

Evening Star, 1 Sept 1913 p5

The sympathy of all who are connected with the Dunedin Competitions will be extended to Mr Frank Kettle and his family in regard to the death of his daughter, Miss Elsie Kettle. This young lady was one of the prominent pianoforte candidates last year, and competed in the chief piano contest, and this year she was to have played with Miss S Paterson in Friday's duet, but illness laid her aside, and she died yesterday.

The first person christened at Holy Cross was six week old Violet Vivienne Sophia Wills, daughter of Aubrey & Edith Halsted Wills of Queen's Drive on 26 October 1913. The sponsors were Miss M Hook and Mr FV Fisher and the celebrant was Rev ED Evans. Offertories at the service totalled £2.7.4, an amount only exceeded in 1913 at Rev Woodhouse's evensong service on 13 April and Christmas Day.

Financial income was an ongoing issue for the St Kilda mission. The **Church Chronicle** for May and June 1913 compared the weekly offertories of St Peter's and Holy Cross.

	St Peter's			Holy Cross		
	£	s	d	£	S	d
April 16	5	8	6	1	14	10
April 13	5	0	6	4	0	0
April 20	6	11	9	2	17	5
April 27	6	3	5	2	10	9
May 4	4	19	7	1	18	8
May 11	4	18	6	2	8	0
May 18	7	0	10	2	12	8
May 25	7	4	3	3	8	2

In August 1913, the focus was upon the Clergy Stipends Fund and a fundraising drive was organised with members to canvass allocated streets.

Queens Drive Mr EC Walmsley Mrs Titchener Mrs Jamieson Mrs Wyatt Mrs Goodere Mrs Gore Mrs Esquilant Mr AH Allen Mrs Napier	Princes St (became Ascot Street) Miss Tyson Mrs Anderson Miss Donne Mrs Chrystall Mrs Broad Mrs Knox Mr Hellyer Mr Priest Major Parker Mrs Parker Mrs J Harris
Grove St Mrs R Stewart Mrs Collins Mr Clark Begg St Martin	Musselburgh Rise Mr Hart Mr Dunning Mr Orr Mr Ellis Mrs Hart
Gourley St Mr Address Mrs Lambourne Mrs Snyders Mr Jacobson Mr T Grant	Victoria St (became Culling Street) Mr Wedderburn Miss Brown Mrs Woods Mr Sagar Tainui Mrs A Wilson
Prince Albert Road Mrs Boulton Mrs Hartley Mrs Dunstan Mrs Anderson	King Edward Road Mrs Scott Mr Stephenson
Eskvale St Mrs Dickie Mrs Joyce Mrs Whilton Mr M Scott Mrs Fletcher Booth	New St Nurse Fielder Mr Brent Mrs Fitzgerald
Normanby St Mrs Jones Mrs Ferguson Mrs Trythall	Richardson St Mrs Pickard Mrs Aitken Mrs Higginson
Market St Mrs Stuart	St Clair Mr Holmes
Larkworthy St Mrs Sims	Hall St Mrs Brady
Jackson St Mrs Rayner Mrs Scott	Bay View Road Mrs Johnson Mrs Strong

Mrs Martin	Mrs Didham
Douglas St Mr C West Mrs Slowley	Mrs Kennedy Mrs McCurdy Mrs Pullar
Alma St Mrs Simkin	Mrs Hodges Mrs McConnell
Plunkett St Mrs Rogers Mrs Baker	Mrs C Anderson Mrs Jack
Macandrew Road Mrs Vernon Mrs Blackie Mrs King	Moreau St Mrs Maddox Mrs Leithley Mr Bain Mr Rope Mr Hastings Mr Moore
Melbourne St Mrs Buddicom Mrs Jones Mrs Pearce	Calder St Mrs King Mrs Halliday
Bridgeman St (became Freyberg St) Mrs Brown	Young St Mrs Niven
Cutten St (became Churchill Street) Mr Vickery	Driver St (became Bellona Street) Mrs Greenhaigh Mr Salter Mrs Thompson
Andersons Bay Rd Miss Walker	
McBride St Mrs Wilson	Dalgety St Mrs Longworth
Oxford St Mrs Foley	

from Mission committee minute book (AG-805/044, Hocken Library)

Financial records indicate that 71 people contributed to the Clergy Stipends Fund in 1913, 17 of whom were men. Over half of the contributors do not appear in the list above and addresses for the contributors are noted intermittently. People contributed anything between 12 shillings and £3.3.0 per year.

For the 1914 calendar year, 179 services were held at Holy Cross. Twelve men conducted the services, with St Peter's curate, Rev RG Coates leading 80 of them. The largest congregation of 170 people attended Rev Evans' 6.30pm service on 9 August, five days after New Zealand followed Britain and declared war on Germany. Offertories exceeded £2 in one service on six occasions in 1914, with the greatest amount taken on 9 August, £2.15.3. The annual bazaar was opened two days later on 11 August in the St Kilda Town Hall.

Rev Evans conducted his last service at Holy Cross on 23 August and Rev Coates on 15 November 1914 as both men left St Peter's soon afterwards. Rev Evans went to Baltimore in the United States of America while Rev Coates became vicar at St Michael's, Andersons Bay from 1 December 1914 till 1916. Rev Coates was vicar at Wakatipu from 13 August 1916 till 31 August 1919. From 1921, his name appears as an officiating minister in Auckland where he died in 1953. Rev EL Woodhouse's association with the St Kilda congregation also came to an end in 1914.

Edward Liversey Woodhouse arrived in New Zealand with a friend, Rev WAR Fitchett in 1902. Born 1876 in Blackburn, his father and two of his brothers were also vicars. He was appointed assistant curate at St Peter's on 20 June 1902 and ordained a priest on 21 December 1904. Rev Woodhouse obtained an MA from Cambridge on his return to England in 1909 and formally severed his ties with the St Kilda congregation when he was given the Balclutha parish in the latter half of 1910. As mentioned above, he returned to Dunedin in 1913 when he was appointed vicar of St Mary's, Mornington and went on to conduct seven services in Holy Cross, often in conjunction with Rev Coates.

Rev Woodhouse was last seen alive at 3pm on Friday, 19 June 1914, walking from Stirling to Balclutha in order to catch the 5pm train to Dunedin. Synod was in session at the time and a memorial service was held on 25 June at St Paul's Cathedral. His body was recovered from the Molyneux River on 27 July and he was buried in the old Balclutha Cemetery the following day.

Suddenly thrust into the position of editor after only six issues of the new diocesan publication the **Church Envoy**, Rev WAR Fitchett wrote about his friend, *For some years he has been examiner for the Diocesan Sunday School Union examinations, and he was active in advocating Sunday School reform. ... He was Diocesan Secretary of the CEMS, a Boy Scout Chaplain, and he not only edited, but to a large extent created, "The Church Envoy."* Holy Cross paid tribute to him with the central stained glass window in the sanctuary.

Evening Star 18 Jan 1915 p4 c4

At Holy Cross Chapel of ease, St Kilda, yesterday afternoon, the Primate (Bishop Nevill) dedicated a window to the memory of the Rev EL Woodhouse, MA, who for some years had worked in the parish of St Peter's Caversham, of which St Kilda forms a part. There was a crowded congregation, and the service consisted of evensong, the anthem being the solo 'The Lord is Mindful of His Own,' sung by Master Luscombe. The Primate preached from St John v, 24, and afterwards dedicated the window, which is a fine example of modern English work, and represents an angel, after Burne Jones, bearing a cross. It was designed by Mr J Brock.

It should be pointed out that the dates are incorrect in the window. Rev Woodhouse was born in 1876, not 1836. Furthermore, the inquest found that he died on 19 June 1914, his watch having stopped at 3.05 upon falling into the Molyneux River. Rev Wingfield pointed out the erroneous birthdate at a vestry meeting in November 1919 and said that he would look into it but nothing seems to have eventuated. In his monthly report to the **Church Envoy** in February 1915,



Woodhouse memorial window with Canon King's memorial cross in front.

Rev JL Mortimer commented that the window was *executed by Messrs Smith and Smith, of Dunedin*. In February 1915, St Mary's Young Men's Bible Class financed a memorial oak reredos for St Mary's, Mornington in tribute to Rev Woodhouse. A brass memorial tablet was also unveiled at St Mary's on 4 July 1915, based upon public subscription.

After the various departures during 1914 and notwithstanding the upheaval of World War One, 1915 seems to have been a year of consolidation for the St Kilda congregation. Gladys Stoneham resigned as organist at the beginning of the year and was succeeded by Cecil Higginson with an annual salary of £10. Gladys Stoneham married Arthur Tyndall at Holy Cross on 5 July 1916. Arthur Tyndall became the chief judge of the Arbitration Court and was knighted in 1955. In his St Peter's parish notes to the **Church Envoy**, Rev Mortimer noted that boys had joined the choir in April commenting, *This is a step in the right direction, and we hope soon to welcome more*. In July, he acknowledged the Holy Cross Sanctuary Guild's gift of a red chasuble to the church.

The number of services in 1915 decreased to 115 but the administration of services was far more settled with the new vicar at St Peter's, Rev John Laurence Mortimer officiating at 41 services and the new assistant curate, 24 year old Rev Alfred Laurie Canter officiating at 58. Offertories never exceeded £2 at a single service throughout 1915 and there seemed to be a slight decline in church attendance as the year progressed. St Peter's correspondence records reveal that there was tension within the Caversham parish over the form of services.

letter from Edward Trythall to vicar-nominee, JL Mortimer, 29 Sept 1914
At S. Peters Holy Eucharist services, vestments are used, servers in plain surplice, two altar lights but no incense; the other services are plain. At Holy Cross, vestments, servers, altar lights and incense are used at the HE services; we have lost a good many of the congregation in consequence of the use of incense, and several others strongly object to it. If the priest-in-charge would carry out the services efficiently without the use of incense we believe our people would be perfectly satisfied. The present condition of the parish necessitates our being guarded against a sudden change or advance that might – from the financial standpoint among others – have dangerous results. For example, for several months now we have had Sung Eucharist every Sunday at eleven o'clock and this we understand is an essential in the teaching Mr Evans gave us; strong exception is taken to the entire lack of plain choral matins. We are emphatic that in this parish much plain catholic teaching should precede the use of advanced ritual, and that any further step within a year or even two years would be decidedly impolitic.

Apparently, Rev Mortimer continued the practices of Rev Evans, implemented at Holy Cross by Rev Canter (who later converted to Catholicism and became a horse racing commentator) and this in turn aided the push for Holy Cross to form its own parish. Over 30 years later in his written recollections of Holy Cross, William Jacobsen claimed that most of the choir at St Peter's resigned in protest over the form of Rev Mortimer's services and Holy Cross choir consequently gained about ten members – *thus giving us the finest choir we have had*.

The Ladies Guild had its own tribulations in 1915, recorded on the front inside cover of its minute book.

The house of Miss Wright the Secretary & Treasurer of the Ladies Guild of Holy Cross Chapel, St Kilda, having been burnt down on Wednesday the 29th September 1915, the works and records of the Guild (which were in her possession) and all monies held by her on the Guild's account were utterly consumed and lost.

ES Trythall, Hon Sec, pro term

Evening Star 30 Sept 1915 p1 c8

The fire which destroyed Mr JH Wright's 7-roomed residence at Grove street, Musselburgh yesterday afternoon was caused by a tin of tar boiling over on the range and catching fire. Mr Wright had one of his hands rather severely burned, and Miss Wright had her hair singed. The house was insured for £500 in the Standard Office, and the furniture for £250 in the Victoria Office. Mr LC Buist's house adjoining also ignited, but was extinguished before much damage was done. Mr Buist's house was insured for £350 in the Guardian Office and the furniture for £115 in the same office.

At the ensuing meeting on 13 October, attended by Mrs Hart (President), Mesdames Dickie, Esquilant, Wilson, Jamieson, Woodhead, Thompson, Sims, Anderson, Hammond, Trythall and Miss Hart, Miss Wright tendered her resignation as secretary and was replaced by Mrs Ethel Trythall. At the annual meeting held in February 1916, Miss Wilson stated her intention to refund the £5 of Ladies' Guild money lost in the fire. While JH Wright had also been active on the Building Committee neither his name nor his daughter's appear again in association with activities at Holy Cross.

A main focus throughout 1916 was the Sunday school facilities and the council decided to build a new infant classroom adjacent to the church at a cost not exceeding £200. Proceeds from the annual bazaar, amounting to approximately £110 went towards the new building. Nevertheless it was not till July 1917 that a tender of £228 for the first Sunday school building, submitted by Mr Naylor was accepted. By that time, the St Kilda congregation had separated from Caversham.

Church Envoy, vol iii no 3, 15 March 1916 p87

Mr Cecil Higginson has left the Holy Cross district and has had to give up his work as organist and Sunday School teacher. We very much regret his loss. Mr F Kettle has kindly consented to play the organ at the chapel for the present.

We have sustained another loss at the Chapel in the departure of Miss A Hastings, who has been a Sunday School teacher for upwards of seven years. A small presentation was made to her before leaving.

The choir had presented Cecil Higginson with a Doulton vase in December 1915 in recognition of his recent marriage.

At a general meeting called at the beginning of November 1916, Rev JL Mortimer successfully put forth the motion that St Kilda should separate from Caversham. Two months later, the church council agreed to petition synod, requesting the formation of a parochial district with £225 to be offered as a stipend. Excerpts from St Peter's annual report in March 1917 give an insight into activities within the St Kilda district for the previous year.

It has been a year of quiet progress both at the Parish Church and at Holy Cross Chapel. For the greater part of the time I have been able to give the Holy Cross District the whole services of my colleague and the result has been such that it

seemed to me that the time has arrived when that part of the parish might be formed into a separate parochial district. I have made suggestions in this direction with the result that the members of the Holy Cross congregation have made a petition to Synod for separation. This, I may say, has been done with the full concurrence of St. Peter's Vestry.

from Rev Mortimer's report

At Holy Cross the offertories and stipend collections both show a very satisfactory increase, the Vicar's decision to have his curate residing in this part of the Parish no doubt contributing to the result. On the expenditure side an item of £26 appears for Holy Cross, which represent two years rates on the section belonging to the Chapel, and which the Vestry were reluctantly compelled to pay after making every protest and taking legal advice on the matter. A further sum of £4:14:0 appears in this connection, being the cost of a new entrance to the section, which we have been assured will result in the property being exempt from future rates.

from the vestry report

The active role of the curate is evident in the analysis of services for 1916 and 1917. Of the 113 services held at Holy Cross in 1916, Rev Canter conducted 72 of them and Rev Mortimer conducted 19. In the first six months of 1917, Rev Canter conducted seven services prior to his removal to Christchurch in February (he returned to the diocese in 1925) and his replacement, Rev Alfred Douglas Mitchell, who resigned from the charge of Middlemarch on 31 December 1916, conducted 65. Rev Mortimer officiated at two. During this time, offertories exceeded £2 at one service upon eight occasions and £3 twice, at evening prayer on 15 October 1916 (180 present) and on Christmas Day 1916 at 9.15am (61 communicants), both with Rev Canter presiding.

With regard to the vestry report's reference to rates, St Kilda Borough Council minutes indicate that a number of local organisations sought rate exemption. In the case of Holy Cross, a letter tabled at the borough council meeting of 9 October 1916 protested that *the vestry have authorized the removal of the fence between the church and sections 10/12 Blk 4 St Kilda Driver St and have made a roadway from Driver St through the said sections to the chapel and this is in general use by the members when attending divine service. That as this property is now practically the church and grounds in one paddock and is in conformity with the law it will be exempt from rates and returning rate notice to be amended for half-year from 1 April to 30 Sept.* The borough council did not agree with this sentiment and demanded full payment, including a 10% penalty for being overdue.

Synod divided two parishes in June 1917. Roxburgh and Miller's Flat was cut off from the Parish of Dunstan and St Kilda separated from St Peter's. St Peter's farewelled Holy Cross in its parochial notes to the **Church Envoy** one month later.

Church Envoy, vol iv no 7, 15 July 1917 p171

The district surrounding Holy Cross Chapel has been formed into a separate charge. The boundary line of Caversham now runs from Anderson's Bay Road, up Oxford Street to Kirkcaldy Street, down Kirkcaldy St of Bay View Road, along Bay View Road to Main Avenue [Kings Avenue], and thence through Forbury Park to the sea – leaving that part of S. Kilda south-west of the middle of Forbury Park in the Parish of Caversham. We wish the new district God-speed.