

Another Caversham connection...

The three vicars who served at Holy Cross between 1971 and 1986 had two major things in common: their connection with St Peter's and Holy Cross was their last cure. Both Roger Taylor and John Teal began their ministries in Canterbury. Roger came from a prominent family of pacifists. His father, Frederick and brothers, David and Humphrey were all Anglican clergymen. John Teal succeeded Roger Taylor at St Peter's in 1962 before moving to Holy Cross in 1982. Between the two men at Holy Cross from 1977 to 1982 was Des Erwin.

Des Erwin became a licensed layreader at St Peter's with Les Steele in August 1955 and was ordained a deacon at the cathedral at the end of 1957.

Church Envoy, vol xlv no 11, Dec 1957 p127

The Archdeacon of Dunedin (Ven R Newcombe) presented the candidates, and the Rev RP Taylor sang the Litany, all too rarely heard.

The following year, Des Erwin became Roger Taylor's assistant curate at St Peter's and purchased a house at 13 Josephine Street. Des was ordained to the priesthood in 1959 and was appointed vicar of Milton in 1960. At the start of 1964, he moved to North Otago, moving around three cures till his appointment to Holy Cross in 1977.

Back in 1971, the congregation at Holy Cross quickly found out what Neil Hansen meant when he said that Roger Taylor was a 'traditionalist'.

Mouse, Aug 1971

It is good to have so many people who come to weekday services in this parish. But I notice that some, who are not invalids, come on Wednesdays, INSTEAD of on Sundays. This was never the intention of the Church. Weekday services are for extra devotion and privilege. Sunday remains the Lord's Day on which the Lord's people come to the Lord's own service.

St Kilda Anglican, May 1972

Do you like the new title, "St Kilda Anglican", as expressing what the paper is, better than "The Mouse"? If you do not like the change tell me. I am open to persuasion.

DIVORCE *You will know that the Anglican Church officially altered its teaching about this recently, (in New Zealand, the Anglican Church in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland retains the old strict stand). A divorced person may get permission from the Bishop and may be remarried in an Anglican Church, after enquiry into the case. BUT there is a conscience clause. Those priests who cannot in conscience perform such remarriages are not required to do so. I am one of these. As I have had to explain this twice since I have been Vicar of Holy Cross, I write this to let people in general know.*

On the first point, Roger was obviously open to persuasion as the title of the newsletter reverted to the **Mouse** the following month without any further comment. He was intransigent on the point of

divorce, however and during his 5½ years in the parish he conducted only thirty marriages. While Roger Taylor's successors have married divorcees, the number of marriages has only hit double digits once since 1972, with ten marriages celebrated in 1985.



Roger Taylor, ca. 1970 (photo from Michael Taylor)

The Sewing Guild began to be called the Ladies' Guild again under Roger Taylor and continued to bolster parish funds with sales of work. At the same time, the Women's Fellowship was raising money through members hosting monthly bring and buy sales or afternoon teas. Fierce competition can be read between the lines of the *Mouse* as it reported on the income of each Guild and Fellowship event. Not surprisingly however, the Guild disappeared within a few years as the same women tended to run the two groups and both groups were raising money for the parish.

A major event within the diocese in 1972 was a referendum on a Plan for Union between the New Zealand Christian churches. Baptised people aged 16 and over associated with the 34 parishes in the diocese were eligible to vote. Out of the 4249 people who enrolled to vote, 46.8% were in favour and 53.2% were against. Voting occurred at Holy Cross between 1 and 13 September, with 35 voting for and 83 voting against union.

Ron Clarkson resigned as church organist at the start of 1972 and was replaced by Alan Edwards with an annual honorarium of \$150 to be paid quarterly. Ron continued on vestry as treasurer and in

March 1972, the parish bank accounts were transferred from the National Bank to the Bank of New Zealand, mainly because Ron's local National Bank branch had closed in Green Island. At the same special meeting, vestry agreed to transfer its insurance from National to State because premiums would cost 30% less. Financial pressure was increasing within the parish.

In his vestry report to the annual meeting on 8 April 1973, Gordon Jenner wrote, *Although we have been in financial difficulties this year most of the difficulty is due to the small number of committed Anglicans in the Parish, some 150 in spite of 400 families on the roll and thousands calling themselves Anglicans at the census.* Earlier in 1973, the 10.30 morning service moved to 10am and at the annual meeting, Roger Taylor reported that the total acts of Communion were down about 700 on the year before.

Total acts of Communion for the year, 4684. This includes 319 sick Communion, an average of about 6 a week in the homes of those unable to be at Church. Weekday services: a good congregation every Wednesday morning at the Holy Communion; a faithful small congregation at Holy Communion for 1 or 2 or 3 people at Evensong at 5.15 every day of the week. Sundays: 15 to 25 at 8am and 50 to 80 at 10am every Sunday; Sunday nights, about 12 to 22 people, nearly all of whom have already been to the Holy Communion in the morning as well.

The following year, the acts of Communion decreased again to 4530. Put simply, while less people were giving more to the church, Holy Cross' income could not keep up with the rate of inflation. It was to be an ongoing problem for the parish in the years to come.

The rate of inflation in the first half of the 1970s can be viewed through the expenditure on vicar's stipend with allowances (excluding travel, car depreciation and travelling) and the diocesan assessment for the years ending 28 or 29 February.

	1972	1973	1974
Vicar's stipend + allowances	\$2305.61	\$3032.70	\$3687.08
Diocesan assessment	\$1500.00	\$1200.00	\$1802.16

An extra source of income for the parish from this time was a rental property, 10 Richardson Street that vestry purchased in 1971 for \$3200, financed by a cash deposit from the building fund and a \$2000 mortgage. The property was improved by the installation of an inside toilet at a cost of \$654.85. In the year ending 1972, 10 Richardson Street provided a net income of \$252.92, \$406.49 in 1973 and \$211.32 in 1974. Increasingly, however the parish was relying on extra income from bequests. In the same period 1972 to 1974, the parish received legacies totalling \$1850.02, \$408.78 and \$1384.96 respectively.

Mouse, Nov 1973

The final payment from the estate of Miss Annie Green received last month was \$650.62, which means that the late Miss Green bequeathed to the Parish a total of \$2928.70.

Annie Green only appears in the Holy Cross registers once, upon her death at the age of 80 years in May 1968 when she was living at St Barnabas. Her association with Holy Cross goes back to 1917.

Church Envoy, vol iv No 9, 15 Sept 1917 p219 under St Mark's news

A social was tendered to Mr ER Green and family by parishioners on August 20th.

They have been so long and intimately associated with S Mark's that their loss will be much felt, but our loss will be St Kilda's gain.

Annie was the only child of Edward and Mary Ann Green. Edward was a butcher and the family lived at 29 Queen's Drive. Mary Ann died on 6 August 1918 aged 52 years while Edward died in 1946 aged 82 years. Both of their funerals were held at Holy Cross. Annie succeeded Ella Hastings as superintendent of the junior Sunday school in 1918, a position she held till she moved away from Dunedin in 1925 or 1926. It is unclear when she returned to Dunedin.

It was another single woman who made history in the parish in 1973 when Marilyn Dunn became the first female vestry member at Holy Cross. She took over the administration of the mission boxes upon the death of Hilda Tyrell later in the year. The spiritual leaders of Holy Cross were less comfortable over the issue of women holding spiritual positions of responsibility in the Anglican church, however.

The Synod of the Diocese of Dunedin passed a motion supporting the ordination of women in 1974 with a vote of 56 votes for and 28 against. Among the people voting against the motion were the three men from Holy Cross, Roger Taylor, Bill Harvey and Ron Preston along with other clergy associated with St Kilda, Des Erwin, Neil Hansen and Alan Jaquiere. The laity did not always vote in a block with their vicar but John Teal's two colleagues from Caversham voted with him in favour of the motion. At the time, two out of the three layreaders at St Peter's were married women.

Mouse, March 1974

Mr Arthur Rockliff has formally resigned from being a member of Holy Cross Parish. The Rockliffs have lived at Ravensbourne now for some years. But now they have decided that they must be members of the Parish where they live.

Mr Rockliff has been choir member, boy and man, server, sidesman, vestry member at Holy Cross. Mrs Rockliff was formerly a member of Young Wives, and a faithful member of Holy Cross congregation. The very good wishes of the Parish are with them both, and their family.

The choir had sung at Arthur Rockliff's marriage to Margaret Scott at St Mark's, Green Island about a decade beforehand.

As part of the 1974 Stewardship Campaign 18 people each visited ten houses, resulting in \$6488 per annum being pledged. Increasingly though, it was becoming evident that money was tight as the September 1974 **Mouse** reported that there were 347 Anglican houses on the parish roll but only 50 of them had anyone under the age of 20 living in them and 149 of them had sole-occupants. The situation had not improved 2½ years later when there were 307 Anglican houses, with only 51 houses having at least one person under 18 years of age and 106 of them being single person dwellings (usually widows).

A feature of the **Mouse** in 1974 was that younger members of the congregation began to be named, beginning in the June edition with Cathedral '74, a school holiday programme held 13 - 16 May. It involved 120 children between the ages of nine and thirteen from around the diocese, including

Kim Tunui, Duncan Leckie, Clare Dawson, Karen Bradley, Juanita Bradley and Kathleen Turnbull from Holy Cross. A further 20 unnamed young people attended the Young Anglicans' camp at Aramoana, 3-5 May. In January the following year, the successful Kewley catechism results for 20 students, ranging from Standard 1 to Form 2 were printed.

Mouse, Nov 1974

In spite of the very wet weather a bus load of parishioners went to Maheno on Tuesday, Oct 8th. The outing was that of the Women's Fellowship which was joined for the day by several men of the Parish. Parishioners from Maheno provided soup and extras for the lunch in the hall. The Vicar, the Rev JD Erwin showed the very lovely Church of St Andrew and spoke of its history and its special beauties. A service was held in the Church. After afternoon tea the bus returned – still in the rain! When it arrived home at about 5pm everyone agreed that the day had been most enjoyable.

The event described in the previous paragraph was marred at its beginning by the most unfortunate accident that happened to Mrs Pritchett. She, who is the leader of the Fellowship, and had enthusiastically arranged the outing, was hurt in a car accident just outside Holy Cross, on her way to catch the bus. Happily the news was able to be given to the passengers, after the bus had stopped at the Hospital, that Mrs Pritchett, though suffering from a nasty cut and bruises, was not seriously injured.

Mr RS Masetti, in his kindness, gives six elderly people from the south Dunedin churches, an excellent lunch in the pleasant surroundings of the Harvest Court Restaurant, every Monday. Holy Cross Parish gets its turn about every six weeks. Now the Restaurant has changed hands. The gift of the lunches is to continue at the same restaurant, but they are to be charged to La Scala. The Parish says, "Thank you, Mr Masetti".

In the same issue, Norman Croft was congratulated upon his re-election and Morrie Dunn for his first election to St Kilda Borough Council. Norman Croft was deputy mayor for St Kilda from 1973 till 1979, being first elected in 1964. Morrie Dunn remained on St Kilda Borough Council till its amalgamation with Dunedin City Council in 1989, succeeding Norman Croft as deputy mayor for two terms. Earlier in 1974, Holy Cross vestry lost the services of former borough councillor, John Dean after 17 years of service. It was a double loss for vestry as Gordon Jenner resigned at the same time, due to a combination of ill health and work commitments. Norman Stevens and Young Anglicans' leader, Bryan Alderson joined vestry for one year before the number of women on vestry tripled in 1975 with Mesdames Ara Connell and Edwards joining Marilyn Dunn. Vestry also lost the services of another experienced member in 1975 with the unexpected death of Cyril Powell.

Mouse, Sept 1975

Cyril Powell was choir member, vestry member, and lay reader. He was willing always to help whether the job was mowing a lawn, painting a spouting, or a parish canvass for funds. He loved singing, and was blessed with a fine bass voice, the like of which is uncommon indeed.

Vestry minutes, 7 Aug 1975

His passing has been a severe shock and a sad loss to the Holy Cross Parish. This gentleman gave up his time and service to the church most happily and willingly. The parish and the vestry thank God for the life of such a sincere churchman and pray that his family will have strength and faith in the future knowing that the husband and father served God well.

The following month Bishop Walter Robinson died suddenly.

The financial situation was fairly grim for the parish throughout 1976 as it struggled to balance its books. The diocesan assessment increased by 25% from \$8000 in 1975 to \$10000 in 1976. By this time, the church and hall were being cleaned free of charge, usually by members of the Croft or Dunn families. The Young Anglicans had also disappeared completely. The Methodist Education Division ran a stewardship campaign for Holy Cross in November 1976, resulting in pledges totalling nearly \$180 promised each week and a reminder,

Because inflation will be with us for some time yet, it will be necessary to keep reminding people constantly of the need to keep their commitments to the Church proportionate to their level of income. An opportunity will occur in the first quarter of next year to remind beneficiaries that the new superannuation laws will apply to many now reaching 60 and upwards, and a substantial number will henceforth receive benefits; many not having previously benefitted.

The benefits of national superannuation to Holy Cross were limited, however, because as the vestry meeting on 13 June 1978 succinctly put it, *Pensioners are fairly good givers but are conditioned by money values of 25 years ago, and therefore are not proportional givers.*

At the time of Roger Taylor's retirement at the end of February 1977, Holy Cross was approximately \$2000 in arrears with its diocesan assessment. The new vicar, Des Erwin clearly outlined his feelings in the July 1977 issue of the **Mouse**.

To say that we have problems would be an understatement. We ought to realise our problems then face up to them in faith.

Problem No. 1 is the Church Building itself. Urgent structural repairs will have to be carried out, and a great deal of money involved. Then we cannot be certain that the Church itself has sufficient life to warrant heavy expense. We await the final report from our Structural Engineer.

Problem No 2 Our present income is not paying our assessment. We have no spare money to but the everyday needs of the Parish and our debt to the Diocese is increasing. On top of that there is quite some maintenance work to be done to the Hall and Vicarage which will have to be carried out!

What's to be done about it? For a start, we must redouble our prayer life. Both at home and at Church. If we are genuine with our prayers then God will find a way. Present attendances at Church suggest that the full prayer-power of the Parish is not being marshalled. To those who have a deep affection for Holy Cross this must be a real challenge. So start praying now!



Shirley and Des Erwin

This letter from the vicar was preceded by a letter from the bishop, Peter Mann advocating prayer and followed by an article outlining the importance of prayer. The power of prayer became a recurring theme in Des Erwin's writings in the *Mouse*.

In the July 1977 issue of the *Mouse* it was also noted that there were *only* two Sunday schools meeting, under the care of Ruby Hammond, Brenda Barnes and Lyn Smith. Other groups for young people included a Monday Catechism Class for children in Standards 2-4 (Years 4-6) run by Murray Davidson and a Junior Youth Group for children in Forms 1-3 (Years 7-9) also on Mondays, which included a half hour lesson from the vicar followed by recreation with Peter Hand, with the note *Church attendance is expected for this group.*

It was also reported that attempts were underway again to form a senior youth group to meet on every second Sunday night, the Indoor Bowls Club was being re-formed and a Bible Reading Fellowship had been re-established.

Archdeacon Neville Selwood spoke to vestry in September 1977 about possible options for the future of the parish. These included using the Methodist church in Queen's Drive for services while retaining the hall and vicarage; applying for inclusion of St Peter's the Less in the parish; and redeveloping the parish site by selling the rental property at 10 Richardson Street. Vestry decided to write to Standing Committee, asking for a revision to take in St Peter's the Less by moving the parish boundaries to Forbury Road and into Tainui. The request to Standing Committee was declined and Holy Cross was informed in a letter dated 7 December 1977, *as a rearrangement of the parish boundaries would not lead to any reduction in the costs of ministry in the South Dunedin area as a whole, there would be nothing gained in making any changes to the existing boundaries.*

The financial situation continued to deteriorate.

***Mouse*, July 1978**

Crisis ... our present debt to the diocese is \$3636 and gets worse each month. If this state continues we will not be able to carry on, and the parish of Holy Cross will be no more – and that within six months!!!

It was noted that the parish was receiving \$179.51 per week on average with 100 envelope subscribers giving \$156.69 but a total of \$285.95 was needed to be financially viable. By October, there were 31 new subscribers, 30 people had increased their subscription by between 33% and 100% and 25 people had increased their subscription by up to a third. Vestry still needed \$40 more a week however, to cover expenses. Consequently, a fair was scheduled for Saturday, 11 November 1978 which raised \$1930, cutting the parish debt in half.

For all its financial woes, Holy Cross was an active parish in the late 1970s. In 1979, St Matthew's ran a mission of support for the spiritual life of Holy Cross. The women had their branch of AAW with its monthly get-togethers continually raising funds for the church, and Sanctuary Guild. Small Bible

study groups were in operation for different age groups. The Indoor Bowls Club was revived, with the enthusiastic participation of the vicar and was holding exchanges with other Dunedin parishes. Holy Cross children attended the annual diocesan May school holiday camps, held throughout the diocese. And the choir got a new lease of life under the able direction of Alan Edwards.

Alan Edwards served as Holy Cross organist and choirmaster from 1972 till 1986. He joined vestry in 1973 and became vicar's warden in 1976 holding the position till 1986 when he moved away from the area and into the Roslyn parish with his wife, Helen and two sons. By the late 1970s, the choir had developed closer relationships with the cathedral and neighbouring church choirs. For instance, the combined choirs of St Michael's, St Peter's, St Mark's and Holy Cross (totalling 48 voices) sang evensong at Holy Cross' patronal festival on 16 September 1979 and Holy Cross' choir went on to sing at St Michael's patronal festival evensong shortly afterwards. Around the same time, some members of the choir took part in a Royal School of Church Music choir day at Knox Church.

Another prominent group in the parish was a senior youth group. It raised money for the church, through events like cake stalls and bottle drives, and for charities like World Vision through the Forty Hour Famine. The group formed links with neighbouring parishes and competed in the annual diocesan Top Parish competition which was held for a few years in the late 1970s. Vestry recognised the importance of the group when it invited the youth group leader, Donna Banks to join vestry in September 1978.

It was also a sad time for the congregation in 1979 due to vandalism and theft in the church. In May, the altar candlesticks and book were stolen and the brass lavabo bowl was damaged. On Sunday 17 June, paint was poured down a window and wall. Three days later, several panes were broken in the Woodhouse memorial window along with two windows in the choir room. Consequently, the church was locked at night and the church ornaments were locked away when it was open during the day. These events were exacerbated when the parish once more fell into debt in the latter half of 1979. By this time, the parish newsletter was coming out every two months in an attempt to reduce expenditure.

The financial situation was outlined in the November-December issue of the **Mouse**. For the six months to 31 August 1979, expenses had exceeded income by \$1294 (nearly 17%) and the parish still owed the diocese \$2000 from shortfall over recent years. The parish fair at the end of 1979 raised over \$2200 which went towards debt reduction and at the start of 1980, Des Erwin wrote in the **Mouse**, *I have been instructed to inform you that there is NO TRUTH in the rumour circulating that Holy Cross Church is going to close down.*

minutes from annual meeting, 16 March 1980 with 22 in attendance
The vicar stated that the total person giving of the parish is a wonderful achievement particularly taking into consideration the age of so many parishioners, there being many 60 years and more. The vicar read his report which was a splendid coverage of the previous year's activities. His concern was the lower parish roll now 226 from 328 also the acts of communion were down, these two factors give course for concern.

Vestry had taken advantage of a Department of Labour scheme for tertiary students over summer to paint the parish hall. This only revealed further problems, however with the discovery of dry rot. Consequently, the hall stage was demolished and a renovation fund was launched to upgrade the

hall. By the middle of 1980, the fund had already reached \$500, predominantly from two donations of \$100 and one donation of \$180. Bigger problems had emerged by this time, however.

At the 1980 annual meeting, the churchwardens, Norman Croft and Alan Edwards reported that the parish roll had dropped about 50 “family units” to 226 over the previous year and only 15 of these units had children in them. By the last **Mouse** of 1980, the parish was down to 218 units, with 130 of them financial subscribers and, *Each week we need \$395 to cover the whole running of the Parish. Each week we average \$270 in giving.* Financial pressure had increased substantially during the year.

Mouse, June-July 1980

The new Diocesan assessment with an increase of 30% came as a great shock to the Vestry. ... At the time of writing, the future for Holy Cross is ominous indeed.

In response, vestry sent a letter to Standing Committee pointing out how difficult it would be for the parish to pay its new assessment and Standing Committee responded by appointing a Diocesan Commission on South Dunedin Parishes and Related Matters chaired by Philip Gaze. The Commission considered the future pastoral care of Corstophine, Caversham, St Clair and St Kilda but was fairly inconclusive as it *feels that nothing should be done until the Vicar of St Kilda retires and only then if the St Kilda parish has become non-viable.* A copy of the report was sent to Holy Cross in February 1981, five months after its final report to Standing Committee the previous September.

Despite all this uncertainty, activities continued in the parish. In the November 1980 **Mouse**, it was reported that the Women’s Fellowship had a bus load of 40 women, two men and three children on its trip around the Taieri Plains on 9 October; the Patronal Festival evensong had 50 choristers from five parish choirs; and Holy Cross choir attended a combined Patronal Festival evensong at St Michael’s, Andersons Bay. By this time, the 10am family service on the first Sunday of each month used the 1970 Liturgy *and comments have been very favourable.*



Des Irwin with David & John Tempest, 1982 (Photo from Eleanor Tempest)

Mouse, Dec 1980 – Jan 1981

Servers: It is pleasing to have such a renewed interest in serving at the Altar. Besides Murray Jane, John and David Tempest we have Ann-Marie Weaich, Colin Dassen and Patricia Lancaster.

Ann-Marie Weaich was the first female server and a year later, Colin’s younger brother, Gerard also became a server. Three further servers were appointed in November 1982: Melissa Harlick, Philip Sunitsch and David Flint.

There were some ripples among young parishioners at the time, however. In 1980, the youth group consisted of twelve members, under the leadership of Wayne Johns from St Matthew’s and John Tempest. It held a camp at Pukerau and came fourth in the Top Parish Competition. The following year, Wayne Johns resigned and the group dropped to four members, led by John Tempest and Donna Banks. Nevertheless, the

Holy Cross youth group continued to be active, raising funds for forty new copies of *Songs of Praise* and it raised \$1160 in the 1982 World Vision Forty Hour Famine. By the end of 1981, the youth group had eleven members while its junior equivalent (Standard 3 to Form 3) had thirteen. Both groups had more boys than girls.

Mouse, May-June 1981

Mr and Mrs Ron Preston were guests of the Vestry for a special supper held in the Vicarage after the meeting. Mr Croft thanked Mr Preston for his many years of service to the parish in various capacities including many years as Synodman. A presentation of a silver tray was made and Mr Preston in reply said they were happy years. Mr & Mrs Preston move permanently to Palmerston in about a month's time. Ron is well involved in the East Otago Parish as Synodman, Churchwarden and Lay reader. We wish them both a happy retirement.

Later in 1981, St Peter's vestry wrote to Holy Cross vestry about having a dual usable hall for both parishes and was sent the reply *that at this time this parish could not see any merit in this suggestion*. Holy Cross had not long finished the refurbishment of its hall at this time. The church was burgled again on Tuesday 2 October 1981 when the altar candlesticks were stolen but the burglars were foiled by the newly installed locks when they returned three days later.

An interesting sidelight to the September 1981 Patronal Festival was the clergy in attendance at evensong. The vicar of St Matthew's, John Meadowcroft gave the sermon and Archdeacon Neville Selwood, Canon John Teal and the Rev Paul Williamson were in attendance. The three latter men all developed a closer association with Holy Cross. At the end of 1981, the Women's Fellowship proudly announced that it had the highest financial membership in Otago.

Church wardens' annual report for year ending 28 Feb 1982

Like many parishes, Holy Cross has great difficulty in keeping up with its financial commitments, the arrears in our Diocesan assessment payments have increased again (to 3 months, or some \$4800) in spite of increased giving by parishioners and another successful fair (over \$1800), not to mention coffee mornings and bring and buys organised by individual parishioners, donations from bowling club, youth group and other organisations who use our hall. We are also indebted to many parishioners and friends who give so freely of time, skills and goods and keep our properties in repair. We are particularly grateful for donations of new service books and ladies choir robes.

We did not receive any bequests this year. In previous years these have often enabled us to come close to meeting our financial commitments. On the other hand it is pleasing to report that the average giving of envelope subscribers has exactly doubled since 1977, (although there are only 112 on the list as against 140 in 1977). This increase is a little ahead of inflation....

The major achievement has been the complete interior redecoration of the house at 10 Richardson St which is now let at a much more realistic rate. Our thanks to the many willing workers who put in some 200 hours of hard labour.

Further vandalism resulted in a smashed vestry door and the theft of two large brass candlesticks (insured). A new lawnmower was purchased. A magnificent lectern Bible was bequeathed by the family of the late Mrs Longworth.

By this time, Des Erwin had announced his retirement and his successor, Canon John Teal had been announced.

Mouse, Dec 1981 – Jan 1982

The parish is indeed fortunate to have a vicar of the ability and experience of Mr Teal, especially in these days of financial difficulty. John is keen to give of his best to Holy Cross and it is most encouraging that he has so much to offer. At present he is an examining chaplain, a member of the Diocesan Council for the Ministry, a member of the Selwyn College Board of Governors and the Social Services Board. He is keenly interested in the Ministry of Healing and is President of the Diocesan Guild of St Raphael. He is a fine scholar and a capable administrator. It was very sad that he lost his wife last year, but John has carried on his ministry with great courage. It is good to know that he can look forward to the loyalty that Holy Cross people give to their vicars, and that our sincere prayers will be offered for his ministry.

Des and Shirley Erwin were farewelled at a parish function on Sunday, 18 April 1982 and John Teal was installed on 11 May at 7.30pm.

Many Holy Cross parishioners were familiar with John Teal as he had been appointed to St Peter's in 1962. Many of them would also have been aware that in 1976, John Teal and the Rev Gerald Mountfort had recommended to Bishop Johnston that South Dunedin should work as one unit with three clergy, that is, two vicars and a curate. The relationship between St Peter's and Holy Cross rapidly became the central issue upon John Teal's appointment, with the return of a Commission of Standing Committee (consisting of Archdeacon Neville Selwood, Michael Haggitt and Gordon Allan) attending the June 1982 vestry meeting.

According to vestry minutes, the main purpose of the Commission of Standing Committee was to listen to vestry concerns. Unlike the 1981 Commission, pastoral care in Corstorphine was not discussed. The vicar's warden, Alan Edwards pointed out that *the giving per unit at Holy Cross was 6th in the diocese* but the catchment area too small and there were too many pensioners *as against earning families*. Discussion followed about geographic boundaries, the merits of the diocesan assessment system and possible amalgamation. John Teal spoke in favour of a team ministry for South Dunedin while Gordon Allan suggested *a combined parish with two priests to cover three parishes* – the three parishes were not recorded but going by later documents, they seemed to be Holy Cross, St Peter's and St Matthew's. Neville Selwood said that Bishop Mann had appointed another group of men to investigate the possible amalgamation of Holy Cross and St Peter's but, in the meantime Standing Committee recommended the sale of 10 Richardson Street so that arrears could be repaid, with the surplus invested. The irony of this recommendation was that Michael Haggitt had earlier commented that Holy Cross had not *put away as capital* the legacies it had received. There *followed extensive discussion on all the alternatives*.

The Commission's report to the bishop contained four recommendations

1. for St Kilda and Caversham to be amalgamated into one parish of South Dunedin. This recommendation was to be taken to St Peter's and *hopefully agreement could be reached for amalgamation, say by 30 September of this year with ratification at the 1983 Synod.*
2. for 10 Richardson Street to be sold so that diocesan arrears could be paid.

3. for diocesan funds to be used to refund half of the \$228.53 account for shifting John Teal's furniture to Holy Cross. (*The Parish itself had transported the soft and study items*).
4. for a stewardship canvass to be undertaken *at an early date with a view to lifting current income by at least 15%. (Present regular giving is \$14,000)*.

Holy Cross vestry agreed to investigate the possible sale of 10 Richardson Street and to hold another stewardship campaign. In a letter to Bishop Peter dated 6 August 1982, John Teal commented, *it is necessary to realise that this parish is a peculiar socio-economic unit, it should be regarded as a field of Home Mission and should qualify for annual grant from that fund to remain viable*. In the same letter, with respect to the proposed stewardship campaign, John Teal added *NB nothing has been done since they employed the Methodists [in 1976], so the present state may not be laid at my door, as I get the feeling*. Nevertheless, John Teal threw himself whole-heartedly into the stewardship campaign.

Mouse, September 1982 – A Letter from the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

I didn't expect when I was inducted as your vicar that my first major task would be to organise a Stewardship Campaign. There are many other things I would rather do – but it is a challenge.

A Challenge to myself, to the vestry, to the parish, for if we don't rise to this challenge, there is no possible way that I will be a full time vicar of St Kilda – at present there is income for half time.

The situation can't be put more clearly than that, it means that our parish income has to be doubled if you want to keep your vicar on a full time basis.

For this to happen many are going to have to multiply their giving to catch up with inflation. It you were giving \$1 a week five years ago, and are still giving it, it is now worth 43.72 cents, less than half its value. In the meantime it takes \$1.69 to pay for one dollar's worth five years ago. We all know this to be true, but our giving has not increased to meet this fact.

Please accept the invitation of those who will invite you to their homes, join us at the parish festival with an act of thanksgiving and commitment.

In the same issue, it was noted that the debt to the diocese was \$7000 and the following month, it was up to \$8000.

Mouse, Oct-Nov 1982

The death of the people's warden, Fred Tempest was a sad occasion for all of us, the Revd Des Erwin likened him to a modern S. Barnabas – 'he was a good man', Des hit the right note. We have tried to let Eleanor, John and David know how we felt, at a recent parish meeting we placed on record our deep appreciation of Fred's service to the parish. We held our meeting to fill Fred's place and after a ballot Morrie Dunn was elected.



Fred Tempest re-pointing the brickwork, Jan 1981 (*photo from Eleanor Tempest*)

There was some good news in this issue, however. The stewardship campaign had lifted the parish income by \$200 a week to \$487, *but what is more important the average promise is \$4 a week, which must be about the best in the diocese. ... Now we want some more land to draw some more parishioners into our fellowship.* Nevertheless, the parish needed \$574 per week to break even.

On 29 October 1982, a Commission of Enquiry into Diocesan Resources met with vestry to discuss the future of Holy Cross. Notes from the discussion indicate a fairly hostile reception, presumably due to a letter the vestry had lately received from the bishop recommending that Holy Cross revert to a parochial district.

Members of the Vestry made clear their concern that the parish had been given a year to come to grips with its difficulties, and although only four months had passed, they were beginning to get somewhere. ... A canvas has been conducted and is now nearly finished; yet they feel that Standing Committee has already drawn its own conclusions and that the year's grace was a political gesture only. ... Admittedly, in the course of six months, there has been some increase in the indebtedness to the diocese, but it is not a great deal more than it was. The house [10 Richardson Street] is on the market but at the moment could only be sold at a sacrificial price. Vestry protested about the recent decision of Standing Committee to charge interest [17% at the time] on the arrears.

At the same time, Holy Cross vestry *strongly supported the idea of getting rid of divisions between parishes and reducing overheads by combined work.* There are fairly extensive notes from the meeting, without any decisions being made.

In November 1982, vestry asked John Teal to write a paper of points of discussion with St Peter's, in preparation for a meeting in February 1983. The following data is about Holy Cross.

Year	Acts of communion	Households on roll	Subscribers
1975	4767	287	132
1976	4709	316	140
1977	4552	285	101
1978	4902	286	137
1979	4605	226	130
1980	4601	215	103
1981	4715	223	112

Average contribution per subscriber per week had doubled between 1977 and 1981 from \$1.15 to \$2.30.

According to the 1976 census, Holy Cross parish contained 7% of Dunedin's potential Anglicans, compared to the average 10% in remaining Dunedin parishes.

"Some facts and figures", from John Teal's papers held at Holy Cross

John Teal was in favour of closer relations with St Peter's, *Sooner or later both parishes will have to give up their identity and become merged with a new name – the parish of South Dunedin* but he made it clear that it would be a gradual process, *first we will need to learn to cooperate before we can coalesce, we must make sure we meet the needs of the people of the parishes, our care of the*

elderly must not be allowed to falter. The February 1983 meeting began a process of closer ties between the two parishes, although with some obvious misgivings from St Peter's about what Holy Cross could offer the relationship and joint-parish initiatives quietly fell away over the succeeding year. St Peter's misgivings were not surprising as Holy Cross became a parochial district later in 1983, despite all of the fundraising efforts.

While John Teal favoured working with St Peter's, he worked hard to help Holy Cross financially. The stewardship campaign diminished the deficit between income and expenditure. John recommended that Holy Cross celebrate its 70th anniversary in December 1982, resulting in over \$1500 being raised through associated appeals. The 1982 church fair on 7 November brought in just under \$2000 (on the same day that there were 16 fairs being held elsewhere in the city) and by February 1983, *debt destruction* had reached the sum of \$4671.66. In response to Holy Cross' efforts, the diocese gave a grant of \$750 from its Home Mission account. The rental property, 10 Richardson Street was sold for \$12000 and by May 1983, the parish was debt-free. Consequently, attention turned to deferred building maintenance.

Vestry felt that it could finally go ahead with a new hall roof in 1983, at a cost of \$4500. Perpetual Trustees had already donated \$500 for it and the diocesan office lent the parish \$2500 interest free, with \$500 to be repaid each year for five years. A system was devised of issuing a sheet of five \$5 coupons for parishioners to finance the roof and a midwinter dinner on 25 June raised \$300.

Vestry minutes, 2 June 1983

Our pledges are now well in excess of our assessment. ...

A number of pledges towards the roof, including one from the diocesan registrar (personal) are now coming in. The ladies are bringing in \$80-\$100 a month from morning coffee parties.

The diocesan registrar at the time was Stan Amsden who had married Glenise Robertson at Holy Cross on 8 December 1956. Also on a positive note, the June meeting recorded that the chalice, paten and pyx stolen from Holy Cross a few months previously had been returned.

The flurry of activities generated to raise money seemed to energise the congregation. There were a number of activities undertaken with other churches in 1982. For example, a morning service was held at St Patrick's at 11am on Sunday, 26 September; Pancake Races were held with St Peter's on Shrove Tuesday; and there was a community carol service in St Kilda Town Hall. Also in 1982, a Pet Service was held at St Francistide, complete with the attendance of a Chinese silky bantam called Jock, a parish office was set up in the Lennox Room and Holy Cross' AAW donated a gestetner copier. The youth group was going through a transition stage at the end of 1982 but re-emerged midway through 1983, participating in an inter-parish soccer competition on Saturday afternoons. Changes were also occurring with the provision of church services.

In April 1983, Sunday morning services were changed so that the New Zealand liturgy was given at 10am services on the first, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, with the English prayer book on the second and third Sundays – the early service was vice versa. The early service was 8am in summer and 9am during the winter months. Provision was made for a youth evening service on the fifth Sunday of a month, starting on 31 July. Nevertheless, Holy Cross continued to struggle to meet its financial demands.

Vestry minutes, 13 Oct 1983

The poorer congregations of recent months have begun to show up in our finances. We are \$700 down on our assessment. In comparison with 1981 and 82 we are up. 130 people out of 199 are giving.

John Angell and Ruth Kennedy left legacies to the church in 1983 and in 1984, Cecil Higginson donated \$2000 in recognition of the 80th anniversary of his confirmation. By September 1984, Holy Cross was two months in arrears with its assessment payments but fortunately, the diocesan office ceased charging interest on overdue money from that time.

The annual report for the year ending 31 March 1985 noted that the hall kitchen had been rebuilt, *with a wall removed and relocated to triple the floor area of the kitchen; and the brick arch over the chancel was recapped, repointed, reflashed and in part rebuilt.* On the other hand, Holy Cross owed the diocese assessment account \$3970, *in spite of our total income being over \$38,000.* There were 208 households on the parish roll with 111 envelope subscribers. *Other income came from the Fair [\$2513], regular coffee mornings (afternoons) in parishioners' homes, the Flower Show, a grant from Perpetual Trustees toward the Hall Roof, a thank-offering from Mr Higginson on the 80th anniversary of his confirmation, and many very generous donations toward the church roof appeal including one from the Bishop and one from National Insurance.*



Canon John Teal in fundraising mode for a new roof, 1985

In February 1985, vestry had been cheered by the prospect of a new assessment scheme where parishes would negotiate with the diocese over their contributions to diocesan budgets, after

meeting their own essential operating costs. The reality was that Holy Cross could not meet the costs of a full-time vicar, however and vestry looked for support elsewhere.

Vestry minutes, 7 March 1985

Bearing in mind the current Caversham vacancy, the Churchwardens were asked to speak with the Bishop, to suggest that possible future rationalisation of ministry in South Dunedin should be borne in mind when making an appointment to St Peter's. Points to be made were to include the desirability of adjusting Holy Cross boundaries to match those of the St Kilda Borough and the possibility of placing a part- or half-time priest in the Holy Cross Vicarage.

Nothing seems to have eventuated from this idea and any talk of co-operation between Holy Cross and St Peter's disappeared from this time. On the St Peter's front, the appointment of Carl Somers-Edgar as parish priest put St Peter's on a different path. Carl was a traditionalist while John Teal was leading Holy Cross in a new direction, with greater female involvement.

In line with a movement towards greater lay participation in church services, three new layreaders were licensed to Holy Cross near the end of 1984, with Mick Cross, Marilyn Dunn and Helen Edwards joining Murray Davidson, Morrie Dunn and Bill Harvey. The church had lost its senior layreader, Gordon Jenner the previous year when he moved to Auckland with his wife, Margaret. The appointment of female layreaders reflected the changes which had taken place in Holy Cross vestry by this time, with a membership of six men and seven women in 1983/84 and eight men and five women the following year. Keeping in mind that John Teal had one male and two female layreaders at St Peter's in 1974, he must have felt it was well-overdue.

By 31 July 1985, Holy Cross owed the assessment account \$6495. In an effort to raise funds, a recipe book was compiled with 400 copies printed and it returned a profit. John Teal also became a prison chaplain which entailed about ten hours of work per week, including Thursday afternoons and a discussion group on Friday evenings. His salary of approximately \$5000 became part of his \$21,864 stipend. Parishioners were trying to be positive but it continued to be a difficult time for Holy Cross.

Vestry minutes, 3 Oct 1985

The Patronal Festival was pronounced a success, with a very large display of high quality handcrafts done by parishioners on the Friday evening, a smallish breakfast on the Sunday morning (about 50) and excellent music from the choirs of St Peter's, St Michael's and Holy Cross in the evening.

Annual meeting, 4 May 1986 at 11am with 24 present

There are not enough children to make a genuine family service worthwhile at present.... The Vicar commented on the unfortunate reduction of communions over the year. The sadness experienced by Parishioners over the memorial gifts lost in recent burglaries was noted. The Prison Chaplaincy takes a quarter of the Vicar's time, which is more than he had envisaged. Parochial Districts have been removed, so our status has changed once more. The Vicar thanked all those who worked so hard and faithfully over the last year. He said that it is the church's job to grow. It is important that the morning and afternoon teas continue. They are so valuable in bringing parishioners and outsiders into our homes.

The diocese's removal of the parochial district label was an indication that Holy Cross was not alone in its difficulties. Two legacies of \$1000 each later in 1986 were very welcome but John Teal's impending retirement was looming. Vestry also lost two significant members in 1986, Alan Edwards at the start of the year and Mick Cross at the end. Consequently, vestry looked towards a neighbouring parish for support.

In October and November 1986, vestry suggested an affiliation with Andersons Bay, with the possibility of someone living in the vicarage and serving the parish halftime. *Holy Cross was adamant that the "joining" would be to St Michael's and not to St Peter's.* At a special meeting on 6 December, Bishop Peter Mann informed vestry that St Michael's was not interested in extending its territory and St Peter's was *much more sympathetic. ... The Bishop suggested we accept a part-time priest for a year or two. We guarantee to provide a half stipend. The decision was that we will have someone to start in March. We will pay the rates of the vicarage where the part time priest will live and be fully responsible for half stipend. We will be designated a mission district and will be under the jurisdiction of the bishop. However the discussions with the other parishes must continue.*

Bishop Mann appointed John Candy as half-time priest and he commenced duties in March 1987. Somewhat ironically, in light of the comments above, John Candy came from St Michael's where he had been serving in the interregnum between Les Steel and Derek Lightbourne, from June 1986. During his time at Holy Cross, John Candy continued at St Michaels, as half-time assistant priest.

Vestry minutes, 5 Feb 1987

Rev Candy has fitted in with our needs. We are very happy that he enjoys parish visiting. The contract for the position will be for 1 to 1½ years. He will be licensed as priest in charge on Sunday, 15th March at the 10am service. The Rev Candy will be moving into the vicarage on March 13th.

At the same meeting, it was decided to close the Holy Cross Young Anglicans' account, with its \$84 balance to be paid into parish funds. A minute of appreciation for Canon Teal concluded,

John's vitality in all areas of his work, kept the parish alive and optimistic about the future. We all welcomed his friendliness, we look forward to his participation as a member of this parish in the future and we wish him all God's blessings in his retirement.

Past and present vestry members at 1987 reunion

Back: Ron Preston,
Murray Davidson,
Morrie Dunn
Middle Bryan Alderson,
Richard Deighton,
Marilyn Dunn, Ngaira Devlin,
Judith Urquhart
Front Alan Edwards,
Phyl Croft, Norman Croft,
Eleanor Tempest, Pat Cross



HOLY CROSS CHURCH, ST. KILDA: A. A. W. MEMBERS 1984.

Meeting: 2nd. Thursday of each month, Church Hall at 2 p.m.

All New Members Most Welcome.

LEADER:	CROSS,	Pat. Mrs.	62 Atkinson Street	51-287
Secretary:	LECKIE,	Eleanor, Mrs.	38 Motu Street	877-859
Treasurer:	DUNN,	Betty, Mrs.	14 Hargest Cres.	54-956
'Circle':	POWELL,	Lee, Mrs.	36 Normanby Street	55-632
Social Concerns:	DUNN,	Lyn, Miss	80 Moreau Street	54-961
Committee:	ADAMS,	Margaret, Mrs.	6 Hargest Cres.	54-813
	GEORGE,	Edna, Miss	44a Jackson Street	52-569
	PRITCHETT,	Evelyn, Mrs.	8 Magdala Street	45-435
	TEMPEST,	Eleanor, Mrs.	25 Hargest Cres.	55-075
	WALL,	Anne, Mrs.	93c Prince Albert Rd.	51-597
Members:	ANDREWS-BAXTER,	Ethel, Mrs.	97 Cavell Street	45-767
	ANNISON,	Burma, Mrs.	36 Victoria Road	52-861
	BENNET,	Cath, Mrs.	48M Ravelston Flats	51-386
	BLAIR,	Audrey, Mrs.	55 Calder Street	55-755
	BROADLEY,	Ethel, Mrs.	200 Bay View Road	51-592
	CHRISTIAN,	Margaret, Mrs.	10B Marlow Street	54-872
	CROFT,	Phyllis, Mrs.	52 Grove Street	52-264
	CONNELL,	Ara, Mrs.	28A Hargest Cres.	877-930
	CORRY,	Gladys, Mrs.	154F Macandrew Rd.	53-575
	CARDNO-DICK,	Fran, Mrs.	26A Freyberg Street	51-411
	DAVIDSON,	Patricia, Mrs.	55 Playfair Street	878-316
	DASSEN,	Shirley, Mrs.	29 Ascot Street	54-792
	DAWSON, F.	Dulcie, Mrs.	321 Main Rd. Brighton	23-665
	DUNCAN,	Sylvia, Mrs.	8 Rona Street	54-421
	ERWIN,	Shirley, Mrs.	219 Tomahawk Road	42-265
	GLADSTONE,	Ethel, Mrs.	93A Prince Albert Rd.	53-320
	HARVEY,	Ann, Mrs.	83 Oxford Street	55-669
	IDOUR,	Marion, Mrs.	178 Bay View Road	53-227
	JANE,	Win., Mrs.	28A Normanby Street	54-984
	LEE,	Enid, Mrs.	13, Victoria Flats	54-361
	LUNAM,	Linda, Mrs.	17, Victoria Flats	52-494
	MASTERTON,	Millie, Mrs.	17 Lochend Street	44-465
	MILWARD,	Betty, Mrs.	198 Bay View Road	51-430
	MOORE,	Isabelle, Mrs.	5 East Avenue	51-527
	McARA,	Vida, Mrs.	49A Richardson St.	52-315
Indoor Mem:	McHUGH,	Mrs.	90 Musselburgh Rise	42-012
	McINTOSH,	Doris, Mrs.	33 Cranley Street	43-866
	NIVEN,	Evelyn, Mrs.	14 Tedder Street	54-491
	O'LEARY,	Margaret, Mrs.	118 Macandrew Road	51-852
	O'LEARY,	Rose, Mrs.	242 Oxford Street	54-927
	ROSE,	Vida, Mrs.	37B Queens Drive	55-409
	ROWLEY,	Letty, Mrs.	45 Bellona Street	52-474
	SCOTT,	Audrey, Mrs.	28 Freyberg Street	53-213
	STEVENS,	Flo., Mrs.	267 Oxford Street	53-244
	STEWART,	Mattie, Mrs.	58 Douglas Street	52-404
	SPEIRS,	Edna, Mrs.	43/3 Tedder Street	55-520
	SUTHERLAND,	Edna, Miss	64 Royal Crescent	54-553
	UREN,	Isabel, Mrs.	73c Atkinson Street	55-959
	WILLIAMS,	Roxy, Mrs.	58A Ascot Street	53-808
**	HALL,	Margaret, Mrs.	14A Royal Crescent	52-269

PROGRAMME for March - July, 1984:

- 8 March Meeting at 1.30 p.m., to Olveston.
- 12 April - The Symbolism of Lent - talk by the Vicar.
- 10 May - Accidents & Compensation - with sister Churches of St. Kilda.
- 14 June - Book Reviews.
- 12 July - Luncheon; commencing with Holy Communion 11.30.
Speaker - Miss Jean Ballard who will speak on her recent visit to China.