

Consolidation...

By the end of 1926, there were four churches operating out of St Kilda.

Rateable land value of churches within St Kilda Borough Council, ca. 1926

No	Name	Description	Cap. Value	Unimp	Imp	Notes
174	Presbyterian Church, St Clair	Lot 106 Sub 4 FP	£3440	400	3040	Church
175	Presbyterian Church, St Clair	Lot 107	£420	400	20	Section
549	Anglican Church	8 10/12 Blk IV St K	£2340	290	1750	Church
1323	Presbyterian Church, Musselburgh	18/19 Blk VI Muss	£2000	400	1600	Church
1658	Methodist Church	Pt 2 Blk XX Muss	£865	115	750	
1659	Methodist Church	3/4 Blk XX Muss	£2120	620	1500	

(SKBC 1995/95 Forms and Procedures, DCC Archives)

Decisions about property came to dominate the latter part of the 1920s at Holy Cross. The building opened in 1912 was built as a hall which would serve as a church till the erection of a purpose-built church. The roof had to be reinforced with steel ties in 1913 and by the end of 1925, cracks were appearing in the brickwork of the building. This led to ongoing discussion about the future use of the building.

On 1 December 1926, a special meeting was held with Archdeacon Fitchett present in the chair.

The meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the future policy of the church, its legal and other aspects, particularly in regard to building operations.

After free questioning and discussion the Archdeacon advised the following points:-

- 1. The Church Vestry to have complete and exclusive control of all church money and property.*
- 2. The present Building Fund to be tied up as a Parish Building Fund, to which might be added, from time to time, amounts such as the vestry might deem possible without placing the parish in debt.*
- 3. The purpose as to how this money to be expended to be left for later consideration*
- 4. Outside advice from a special committee, consisting of Bishop and representatives of clergy and laity, ought to be taken*
- 5. That in the best interests of the education of the children, and of the parish as a whole, a church and not a Sunday school ought to be built. This is to be regarded as Archdeacon's personal opinion after an inspection of the buildings & grounds, and consideration of the general condition of the parish.*

Parishioners were not prepared to commit themselves to building a new church, however. At the subsequent vestry meeting on 8 December 1926, a motion was carried by five votes to three *that it be a recommendation to the Parishioners that all building fund monies be devoted to the erection of a Sunday school.* This was followed up at the annual meeting on 28 April 1927 when it was agreed *that all Building Fund monies be devoted to erection of a new Sunday School.* After considerable discussion during which the Vicar read a long letter from the Bishop on the subject the motion was carried by 14 votes to 12. Financial uncertainty seems to be the main reason for these misgivings.

While Holy Cross was debt-free by the early 1920s, its income tended to decline in its first decade. This is evident in the annual financial reports for the financial years ending 31 March.

Year	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
Stipend	91.7.9	146.17.4	149.16.9	152.17.0	141.10.0
Offertories	212.2.6	313.11.1	327.4.6	363.3.8	398.18.9
General	335.16.6	322.19.6	501.8.9	460.2.1	489.4.3
Total income	£639.6.9	£783.7.11	£978.10.0	£976.2.9	£1029.13.0

Year	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Stipend	146.13.0	143.4.0	143.14.0	120.17.0	137.7.9
Offertories	382.5.7	334.3.11	334.0.2	331.17.11	306.10.8
General	403.3.6	301.10.4	337.15.3	432.6.10	328.5.5
Total income	£932.2.1	£778.18.3	£815.9.5	£885.1.9	£772.3.10

There were no encouraging signs of financial improvement either. During the 1920s, it was not uncommon for Douglas Harris Hastings to comment in the *Church Envoy* that Holy Cross was a small parish and that it suffered due to the proximity of other churches in the area. Unfortunately for Holy Cross, population growth within the St Kilda borough also occurred near these neighbouring churches.

On the south-western boundary, St Peter's reported a growing congregation in St Clair at church services and Sunday school in the gymnasium of St Clair School.

Church Envoy, vol xiv no 4, 1 April 1927 p59 under St Peter's news
In order to meet a need at St Clair Evensong is held in the gymnasium every Sunday at 6.30. An early celebration of Holy Communion on second Sunday of the month at 8am with shortened Matins and Holy Communion every Sunday at 11am. We earnestly hope that Church-people in St Clair will respond to this real effort to supply spiritual ministrations in this part of the parish.

On Christmas Day 1927, the first services were held in St Peter's the Less in Hargest Crescent. The church building had previously served as the Catholic Apostolic Church in Maclaggan Street which opened in January 1898. It shut in 1920 and the trustees sold the building to St Peter's seven years later. They donated the furniture and organ.

Beyond the eastern boundary, St Michael's congregation was also growing. The emerging "Township of Tainui" was part of Dunedin City Council and its Anglican population tended to attend St Michael's. On 28 September 1924, a new church was dedicated in Elliot Street, replacing the old school building which had been occupied since 1893.

With increasing private car ownership, Anglicans could attend the church which provided their preferred form of worship. St Clair residents, Percy Priest and William Kingston definitely moved

away from St Peter's for religious reasons and became active in Holy Cross, both men declaring their church membership at Holy Cross on 26 April 1922. Presumably, some St Kilda people also chose to attend other parishes. Consequently while the population of St Kilda was increasing, there was a slight decline in the number of baptisms, marriages and burials at Holy Cross over its first twelve years.

Calendar Year	Baptisms	Marriages	Burials
1918	34	12	20
1919	30	10	13
1920	39	8	14
1921	27	11	12
1922	47	6	26
1923	36	11	24
1924	46	11	7
1925	30	6	12
1926	31	8	19
1927	16	10	20
1928	20	10	11
1929	21	6	6

By the latter half of the 1920s, most of the men prominent in the early days of church were no longer members of vestry. Douglas Harris Hastings resigned as vicar's churchwarden at the 1927 annual general meeting and was replaced by Percy Priest. People's churchwarden, longtime vestryman and Percy Priest's brother, Maurice Priest also resigned in 1927. The men serving on vestry in 1927 are listed below, along with the dates they joined and left vestry.

Percy Priest	vicar's churchwarden	1922-38
William Jacobsen	people's churchwarden	1917-52
James Dickie	secretary	1926-42
Cecil Oaten	treasurer	1918-51
James Craven		1925-28
James McKee		1926-28
George Pope		1927-48
William Pullar		1921-36, 1942-9
Malcolm Scott		1917-31
William Talboys		1926-28
Charles West		1926-41

The three men who replaced Messrs Craven, McKee and Talboys in 1928 were Surrey Carpenter (1928-30), Thomas Clarkson (1928-31) and Robert Steele (1928-29). Ultimately, vestry would decide the future direction of the parish.

In his final people's churchwarden report to the annual meeting in 1927, Maurice Priest wrote

It is worthy of note that at this time when all Churches are concerned over their financial matters, the Duplex Envelope system is being inaugurated by several parishes, and our opinion is that if this system can be successfully adopted at St Kilda, then our financial troubles would be at an end. Briefly, the suggestion is that if 150

supporters will undertake to give 2/- every Sunday, or if 200 will give 1/6 each Sunday, we should be able to meet all our current expenses, do away with all Church offertories, sales of work, and Stipend collections, and put away some £250 per annum towards our Building Fund, besides allowing £50 per annum for repairs and maintenance. At present our Stipend supporters number 110. Surely we can make up the number required? The scheme, a most desirable one, has proved a huge success in many parts of the world, and there is no reason why it should not prove a success in St Kilda.

In its January 1927 issue, the **Church Envoy** reported that Captain TF Watson travelled around New Zealand for two months promoting the Duplex system. Three months later in the St Peter's notes, it was noted that 80 people had signed up for the Duplex system and at its May 1927 meeting, vestry decided to introduce it at Holy Cross.

Adopting the Duplex system immediately brought good results for Holy Cross. The eleventh annual report released in 1928 showed a credit balance of £81 for the year, up from £28 the previous year.

We are pleased to state that the Envelope System, which was only started last November, is working to our satisfaction and it is anticipated that when all our people take it up much greater results will be obtained, and in this direction we would press upon one and all to give this matter their earnest consideration.

Presumably it was the prospect of improved income which led to further indecision about what building programme the parish should undertake.

At its June 1927 meeting, vestry decided by eight votes to three that it should *take immediate steps to ascertain cost of making suitable alterations and additions to existing Church buildings in order to accommodate all the pupils of the Sunday School and the present Church accommodation be made more comfortable in order to serve until such time as a new Church can be erected.* Building plans were subsequently presented to vestry at its July 1927 meeting but put to one side for implementation at a later date.

Church Envoy, vol xiv no 4, 1 April 1927 p60

The annual Sunday school picnic was held at Opoho on Saturday, February 26. There were 240 children present as well as a large number of parents and others interested in the Sunday school. Several members of the vestry came and assisted to entertain the children. Several races were arranged for the children and some for the adults. One of the ex-All Blacks had a rather easy win in the men's race. The vicar and several teachers accompanied the children to the grounds. Other members of the staff came up in the afternoon. The picnic was a great success.

At its April 1928 annual meeting, it was reported that the Sunday school and vicarage had undergone *extensive repairs*. Rev Wingfield urged the people present to build a church and consequently, the motion *that all Building Fund monies be devoted to erecting a new Sunday School be rescinded* was carried by forty votes to five. On 27 November 1928 a special meeting was called to discuss the advisability of laying down the foundation of a new church – unfortunately, no records were kept for this meeting and it was not reported in the local press. A new foundation stone was not laid.

Church Envoy, vol xv no 7, 1 July 1928 p104

A most successful grand concert and cantata was held in the Coronation Hall on June 14, in aid of a new piano for the Sunday school. The hall was filled to overflowing, the keenest interest being taken throughout. The first part of the programme consisted of songs and recitation given by the kindergarten and senior pupils of the Sunday school assisted by boys from the Boys' Memorial Home. Miss Hobbs trained the senior girls. All the items being very much enjoyed. The second part consisted of a cantata "Soot and the Fairies." All those who took part carried out their parts remarkably well, and their efforts were much appreciated by all. The children were trained by Miss Alma Pullar, assisted by Miss Gore and Miss Carpenter and many others assisted in various ways. Mrs East played the piano very acceptably for all the practices, and for the cantata during the actual performance.

Vestry minutes record that all Sunday school classes were *now housed in the Church buildings* by February 1929. Obviously it was a fairly rudimentary building as within months, the teachers asked for it to be lined and the Ladies' Guild requested the erection of a kitchen and conveniences. The Young Men's Club had lined the Sunday school building by June. In February 1930, William Dunning's plan for alterations and additions to the building was approved and one month later the lowest tender was accepted, that is Mr Knowles' for £320 with an additional £3-17-6 *for a window that had been omitted.*

Plans were also underway for the interior of the church. Back in August 1918, the **Church Envoy** had reported on Rev Wingfield's hope *that it would be possible to enlarge the chancel, bring the choir down from the gallery, and have a surplice choir.* His wish was partly to come true over a decade later. Vestry placed a motion before the annual meeting on 23 April 1929

that pews be obtained for use in the present Building in which we hold our Church Services. The said Pews to take the place of the chairs now used and to be of such proportion and length as to be entirely suitable for the new church when built and if possible Choir stalls be erected in the Church.

The motion was carried unanimously and on 24 June 1929, William Dunning's plan for the interior of the church was accepted at a special meeting. This plan formed the interior layout of the church familiar to many: seven rows of pews in front of the baptistery; nine rows of pews on the eastern side; choir stalls facing each other between the congregation and chancel; and all pews provided with book boards. William McLennan Limited of Dunedin provided the lowest tender of £114-12-6 for the pews and stalls and was awarded the work, along with any necessary repairs. Over 100 chairs from the church were sold as a result of these alterations.

In addition to the new pews, the organ was moved, a new curtain was hung for the organ and altar rail, a new aisle carpet was laid, the font was moved to the back of the church, the World War One honours board was shifted to the new baptistery, and the pulpit, reading desk and altar rails were varnished in keeping with the new pews. The roof of the vestry also had to be renewed, along with repairs to the main building roof.



The renovations were completed in time for the church's Dedication Festival on 15 September 1929 when the choir men and boys wore their cassocks and surplices for the first time.



Church Envoy, vol xvi no 9, 1 Oct 1929 p141

The large congregations deeply appreciated the alterations made in the seating accommodation, new pews having replaced the old and uncomfortable chairs, which had served their day. The robed choir and the organ in its proper place downstairs, together with other proper church appointments, provided a church atmosphere for choir and congregation which were much appreciated. Our best thanks are due to several members of the ladies' guild who, under the able and helpful guidance of Mr Robert Steele, who cut out all the cassocks, made all the cassocks. To Mr and Mrs Steele especially we all owe our best thanks.

It is with heartfelt and deep regret that, after writing the above, we have to record the death of Mr Robert Steele, who died suddenly but peacefully in the early morning of September 17. He was in the choir at both services on the previous Sunday and was overjoyed at the great improvement in the church and at the robing of the choir. He was a faithful member of the church and a member of the vestry and choir. He will be much missed here. We extend to Mrs Steele – a faithful and valued worker at Holy Cross – and to Murray and Ron our deepest sympathy and assure them of our prayers and kind thoughts....

Two months later, the death of another prominent parishioner, also aged 52 years was reported.

Church Envoy, vol xvi no 11, 1 Dec 1929 p162

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Maurice H Priest who was laid to rest on November 23, He, with other members of the Priest family, was for some years connected with S Mary's, Mornington. In later years he was a member and faithful worker at Holy Cross, St Kilda, where he was one of the parish trustees, treasurer, and latterly a valuable member of the vestry. We

extend to Mrs Priest and family and to other relatives our deepest sympathy and assure them of our prayers and kind thoughts. "Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace."

By 1930, there were a number of youth groups operating out of the parish. The Girls' Club was a popular institution formed about 1925 with its Mothers and Daughters Banquet an annual highlight.

Church Envoy, vol xv no 10, 1 Oct 1928 p152

The "Mother and Daughter" banquet in connection with the girls' club was held in the schoolroom on September 3. The attendance was very large, several visitors from other parishes being present by invitation. The company sat down to what was indeed a banquet, the good things provided being lavishly displayed. The evening was altogether a very happy one and reflects credit on those who made the arrangements.

<u>"MOTHER & DAUGHTER BANQUET".</u>	
Toast Mistress.....Miss Batt	Lyrics "Club Celebrities" Quartette
	Piano Solo "Remembrance" Gwen Shanks.
	Toast "Vice-Presidents" Phyllis Anderson
	Reply Mrs. Dickie
	AddressMiss Whitehead.
	Toast "Our Visitors" Alma Pullar
	Reply Miss Richards
	Recitation "Mrs. Caudle's Family Umbrella" Eileen Munn.
	<u>Closing Hymn:-</u>
	Abide with me fast falls the eventide, The darkness deepens Lord with me abide When other helpers fail & comforts flee Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
	Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes, Shine through the gloom & point me to the skies Heaven's morning breaks and earth's dark shadows flee In life - in death - O Lord abide with me.
	Amen.
	<u>Benediction</u>Rev. Wingfield.

<u>PROGRAMME.</u>	
Banquet.	8 p.m.
	<u>Grace.</u>
	Be present at our table Lord, Be here and everywhere adored, These creatures bless & grant that we May feast in Paradise with Thee.
Piano Solo	"Ave Maria" Margaret Collins
Toast	"The King" Rev. Wingfield
SongMrs. Ombler
RemarksRev. Wingfield
Piano Solo	"Minuet" Violet Wingfield
Toast	"Mother" Joan Turner
	Reply Mrs. Pullar
Recitation	"The Knight's Toast" Alma Pullar
Toast	"President" Florence Greenhalgh (Mrs. Wingfield.)
	Reply.....

1928 programme

The Girls' Club also entertained children from the Anglican orphanage on a regular basis, especially around Christmas time. A corresponding Young Men's Club was formed in 1928, operating under the *four square principle*, that is, spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially.

Young Men's minute book, 9 November 1928

The final social of the Young Men's Club was held this evening in the schoolroom, there being a very good attendance of between 60 and 70 persons present, several wearing dress, the prizes for which were awarded to Miss Lilian Ombler of the Girls' Club who was representing a lady of the early Victorian times, and to Mr K Litloff of the Young Men's Club who was dressed as a Mexican. The dresses were judged by Mr and Mrs Fraser and the prizes were awarded by the vicar of the parish. This evening terminated a very successful year of the Holy Cross young Men's Club, which, although this ended only its first year, it gave promise of many more successful years to follow.

The group proudly announced in 1930 that they had formed the first men's basketball club in Dunedin *playing the English style* and defeated the Musselburgh Presbyterian Boys' Club on 25 August (but lost the handball competition on the same day). The Young Men's Club disappeared during the 1930s, however as employment took significant members out of the parish. Young men were also encouraged to join the Servers Guild and act as sidesmen.

Church Envoy, vol xviii no 7, 1 Aug 1931 p106

The following young men have been appointed Sidesmen, and are giving valuable assistance to the Vestry:- L Anderson, M Steele, O Dickie, R Steele, E Hutchins, H Litolff, S Longworth, M Stewart, F Longworth, T Shanks, R Gain, R Roseveare. Since our last notes appeared Mr HHF Grant has been appointed leader of the young men's Bible Class, and Miss Vera Gore leader of the young women's Bible Class.

For the sports-minded, there was the Tennis Club with courts at Musselburgh School from 1921 and in 1930, a boys' cricket club was formed. In 1929, a boys' choir was formed under the tutelage of Rev Wingfield and assistant organist, Miss Muriel Clarkson. Within a year, it was a mixed junior choir and Mrs Clarkson's prizes for good choir attendance were awarded to Muriel Sturgeon and William Irvine in September 1930. These same prizes were awarded to Mona Hutchings and Roy McArthur the following year. During this time in April 1931, the **Church Envoy** reported *the boys are now properly robed, collars and bows having been provided recently*. The significance of the vestments to church pride had been indicated the previous year.

Church Envoy, vol xvii no 7, 1 Aug 1930 p109

The choir is busy practising the music which is to be sung at the forthcoming Synod service. Now that we have a surplice choir we are able to take our place on special occasions, with the other choirs in the city, at the Diocesan services in the Cathedral.

Another significant source of parish pride was the collection of money for missions. Mission boxes were distributed and sisters, Vera and Gladys Hodges administered them for Holy Cross from 1921. Assistant organist, Muriel Clarkson became the administrator in 1928 and Gerald Anderson at the end of 1931. Holy Cross vestry minutes show that the mission quota for the year ending 30 June 1924 was £75 and in 1926 it was £68. In 1925, Holy Cross collected £26 for missions and £41 in 1926.

From the late 1920s, each parish's mission quota for the year ending 30 June was listed in the **Church Envoy**, with occasional updates on each parish's progress. The following table gives some idea of the distribution of quota for Holy Cross and its neighbours over a seven year period.

Parish	1928	1929	1930	1934	1935
St Kilda	£62	£50	£55	£58	£58
Caversham	£64	£75	£80	£83	£83
Mornington	£57	£52	£55	£58	£58
Anderson's Bay	£27	£27	£29	£33	£33

NB Anderson's Bay was a parochial district at this time, still paying off its new church.

Holy Cross' financial records indicate that the parish never met its quota during this time, with the greatest amount of £47.18.3 being given for the year ending 31 March 1931. The lowest amount of £16.14.10 was given in 1934. This nadir is not surprising as the Great Depression was having a severe impact upon St Kilda at this time.

Church Envoy, vol xvii no 5, 1 June 1930 p72 Electoral roll, 25 March 1930

Parishes –

- 1 *S Paul's Cathedral District and Middlemarch;*
- 2 *All Saints', Dunedin;*
- 3 *S Matthew's, Dunedin;*
- 4 *S John's, Invercargill;*
- 5 *S Luke's, Oamaru;*
- 6 *Tuapeka;*
- 7 *S Peter's, Caversham;*
- 8 *S John's, Roslyn;*
- 9 *S Mary's, Mornington;*
- 10 *Gore;*
- 11 *Bluff and Stewart Island;*
- 12 *S Kilda;*
- 13 *Milton;*
- 14 *S Martin's, NE Valley;*
- 15 *Dunstan-cum-Pembroke*

Districts –

- 16 *Waikouaiti (Waikouaiti, Goodwood, Puketeraki, and Warrington Districts)*
- 17 *Palmerston;*
- 18 *Waitaki (Kurow, Duntroon, Otekaike, and Ngapara);*
- 19 *Hampden (Hampden, Maheno, Herbert, and Moeraki);*
- 20 *Anderson Bay;*
- 21 *Taieri Plain, Green Island, and Brighton;*
- 22 *Gladstone;*
- 23 *Riverton (Riverton, Thornbury, and Orepuki);*
- 24 *Winton (Winton, Dipton, Limehills, and Ryal Bush);*
- 25 *Waimea Plains, Waikaia-cum-Athol, and Garston;*
- 26 *Wyndham (Wyndham, Fortrose, Edendale, and Waikawa);*
- 27 *Maniototo (Naseby, Waipiata, Ranfurly, Oturehua, and S Bathans);*
- 28 *Port Chalmers-cum-Ravensbourne;*
- 29 *Roxburgh (Roxburgh and Miller's Flat);*
- 30 *Balclutha (Balclutha, Kaitangata, Stirling, and Catlins District);*
- 31 *Tapanui (Tapanui, Clinton, Waikaka);*
- 32 *Queenstown and Arrowtown;*
- 33 *Leith Valley and Peninsula;*
- 34 *Otautau (Otautau, Wairio, Ohai, Tuatapere)*

At the end of 1933, Bluff and Stewart Island was reduced to a parochial district due to *the unfortunate state of the oyster and fishing industries at Bluff.*

The difference between a parish and a parochial district were primarily financial.

Church Envoy, vol xiv no 11, 1 Nov 1927 p187

The most important [differences between a parish and a parochial district] are these: 1 A parish is self-supporting, and does not depend upon any grant from the Diocese towards the vicar's stipend. 2 A minimum stipend of £300 with a house, or £350 without a house, is fixed by Statute. 3 All travelling expenses are provided by the parish. 4 A parish elects two representatives to Synod against one elected by a parochial district. 5 A parish has a voice in the appointment of its vicar, while the vicar of a parochial district is appointed by the Board of

Nomination. There are other differences, as, for instance, the added authority and responsibility of church officers, etc.

The effects of the Depression must have come as a shock to Holy Cross as its annual income reached an all-time high of £1204.7.3 for the financial year ending 31 March 1931. Everything seemed positive within the parish. At the beginning of 1931, Mrs Emily Longworth had the chalice electroplated to match the paten which she had paid for earlier. The parish was holding its own financially.

Church Envoy, vol xviii no 4, 1 May 1931 p55

The appeal on behalf of the Waiapu earthquake fund met with a liberal response from the parishioners. Ere these notes appear we hope to hand in £50, and to be able to make arrangements to hand in the balance to make up the £93 assessment expected of us. ...

Mr William Tayles, an old friend of the Vicar, and for some years a parishioner of this Parish, entered into rest on March 21. Mr Tayles with his usual liberality bequeathed to Holy Cross Parish the sum of £500. This liberal bequest will be a great help to us here. Our Parish, being very small, with limited giving power, will be much helped by his generosity.

Vestry accepted GW Davies' tender of £105-14-1 for a coke heating system. A rally was held at Holy Cross on Sunday, 30 August for the New Zealand Anglican Young Men's Bible Class Union and five days later, a combined young people's social was held at the church. On 9 September, an inaugural admission service was held for a Mothers' Union at Holy Cross. Alma Pullar staged a cantata entitled *Tangles* in the parish. By the June 1931 annual meeting however, there was public acknowledgement that all was not well.

Evening Star, 25 June 1931 p3

The financial position of the church, unfortunately, is not as satisfactory as it was last year, owing partly to the general depression which is being felt throughout the world, and also to the falling off of subscriptions and collections. We started last year with a debit balance of £87 18s 5d, and this year, the debt has been increased to £182 9s 8d. This is accounted for by the fact that £11 per Sunday is required to meet the ordinary expenditure of the church, whereas only £8 per Sunday was received last year. ... Several subscribers have dropped out of the envelope system, and very few have taken their places. An endeavour should be made to secure more subscribers. Alterations and additions were made to the Sunday school during the year, the cost of which was £339. This amount was borrowed from the reserve fund, and is being paid back at the rate of £10 per annum, plus interest on the balance owing.

Any talk of building a new church disappeared altogether. In December 1931, vestry regretfully accepted the vicar's offer of a percentage of his stipend *to help the financial strain that is upon the church at this time* and within months, Muriel Clarkson refunded a portion of her organist's salary. Vestry also gratefully accepted a £100 bequest from Frances Mary Hart's estate.

Church Envoy, vol xix no 1, Jan-Feb 1932 p7

The death of Mrs Hart of Musselburgh Rise, which took place recently, removed another of our old and highly respected parishioners from this Parish. Mrs Hart was for several years president of the Ladies' Guild, and a most regular attendant at Holy Cross. We extend to Mr Hart and family our deepest sympathy. It is with deep regret that we record the death by accident of William Ross Talboys, 10 years of age. He was a particularly bright and happy boy. We extend to Mr and Mrs Talboys and to other members of the family our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement. We desire, too, to express our sympathy to Mr James Holmes on the death of his wife, and to Mrs Wyatt of Musselburgh, on the death of her husband. ...

Widower, Edwin Hart died six years later. He was a past vestryman and trustee for Holy Cross. Billie Talboys was killed by falling rock. A son of past vestryman, William Talboys and Gertrude (nee Gore), he had dug out a cave in the soft rock by his Gourley Street home and it collapsed on him.

Holy Cross women participated at the Dunedin Town Hall sale in aid of the Unemployed Fund and created parcels of articles for distribution among the unemployed in 1932. Several women also belonged to an unemployment committee, of which 75 year old Douglas Harris Hastings was honorary secretary and helped at a local depot. Nevertheless, churches had to become more security-conscious. In May 1930, the **Church Envoy** reported that two chalices had been stolen from St Paul's and Richard Brent donated and installed a lock on the front door of Holy Cross in April 1932.

The severity of the financial situation was presented at the vestry meeting on 11 April 1933,

the sub-committee appointed to investigate the financial condition of the Parish presented its report, which showed that contributions are gradually dwindling down. £10.0.0 per Sunday is required to meet current expenses whereas the average amount received during the current year is only £6.15.0 a loss per Sunday of £3.5.0.

Consequently, in October 1933 insurance on the vicarage, church and contents was reduced.



The congregation always valued its members, however. In March 1933, church architect, William Dunning died at the age of sixty. Born in Tasmania, William moved to South Africa where he practised as an architect after the war. William moved to New Zealand in 1905 with his wife, Kate and two children. They shifted to Dunedin in 1909. William's other buildings in Dunedin include St Peter's Church vicarage, Stafford House at 2 Manse Street and the National Bank building at 193 Princes Street. Kate lived in Timaru presumably close to her daughter, Enid Morrison at the time of her death in 1946 and her funeral service was held at Holy Cross.

Photo from <http://www.geni.com/people/William-Dunning/600000021443885127>

Later in 1933, a member of the Young Men's Club, Murray Steele died.

Church Envoy, vol xx no 7, 1 Aug 1933 p106

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Murray Robert Steele. Murray was one of our most faithful church members. He was for a long time a member of the choir and a server at the altar. Murray had a loveable disposition, and his passing was regretted by a large circle of friends. To his mother, Ron (his

brother), and to other relatives we extend our deepest sympathy. The choir attended the first part of the burial service in the church and sang the special psalm and the hymn "Rock of Ages." At Evensong on the following Sunday the Vicar made special reference to Murray's faithfulness to his church and love for God's work, and his gentleness and thoughtfulness in his home life. Two of Murray's favourite hymns were sung by the choir and congregation – "Rock of Ages" and "Hush'd was the Evening Hymn."

Another young man active in the parish, Keetley Litolff had died three years earlier. The Litolff family had come from St Mary's, Mornington, with Louis and Jessie Litolff becoming Holy Cross members in June 1927. Jessie was a daughter of the prolific Henry and Catherine Harraway family of St Mark's, Green Island. Both Louis and Jessie were active at Holy Cross, Louis dying in 1934 and Jessie 38 years later on the 42nd anniversary of Keetley's death on 17 August 1972 at the age of 93 years. Their funerals were held at Holy Cross, as was the funeral of their daughter, Evelyn Pritchett who died 20 August 1988. Four other Harraway children and their families also had links with Holy Cross.

People continued to move in and out of the parish during this time. In early 1929, the church welcomed two licensed lay-readers who moved into the area, Harry Grant, a chemist from Gore and Ernest Newman of Palmerston. Both men became active in the parish with both of them serving on the vestry and in the choir. Around this time, Mr and Mrs Parsons shifted to Gore.

Church Envoy, vol xviii no 2, 1 March 1931 p27

We require two capable Bible Class leaders. ... Owing to departures from the Parish, our junior choir has become small in numbers; we hope the parishioners will send their boys and girls along and bring up the junior choir to full strength.

One month later, it was reported that the junior choir numbers were up. Also in 1931, the church welcomed back Miss Winnie Jones to the Sunday school staff but lost the newly widowed Mrs Kingston as she moved away with her daughter, who had secured employment as a teacher at Woodside School. Mission box collector and Sunday school teacher, Gerald Anderson moved to the country in 1932. Gerald had been baptised as a seventeen year old in 1926 and confirmed two days later by Bishop Richards. He returned to Holy Cross for his marriage to Gwen Shanks on 27 January 1936 and his funeral was conducted in the church fifty years later on 14 May 1986. Gwen's funeral was held at Holy Cross on 15 October 2001.



In February 1934, Crawford Miller from St Luke's, Oamaru was welcomed into the congregation. He became a leader of the Boys' Club and a boys' Bible Class but left the area within eighteen months as he received promotion in the Government service. Later in 1934, the parish farewelled one of its Servers' Guild members, Albert Pitts and a member of the Young Men's Club, James Dales, both of whom shifted to Wellington. Like Gerald Anderson, James Dales had been baptised days before his 1928 confirmation, as a fourteen year old.

Holy Cross made a slow financial recovery from the Depression.

Year (ending 31 March)	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Stipend	28.16.6	17.19.0	16.9.0	16.12.6	25.9.0
Offertories	407.19.7	480.8.0	194.15.10 ¹	182.15.11	160.4.6
			130.9.5 ²	100.16.1	125.10.10
General	417.3.0	658.2.0	494.18.11	413.7.0	417.6.8
Missions	37.4.8	47.18.3	33.7.6	26.11.6	16.14.10
Total income	£891.3.9	£1204.7.3	£870.0.8	£740.3.0	£745.5.10

NB from 1932, offertories was split into envelopes¹ and cash²

Through its adoption of a Penny Scheme in 1933, the parish showed its appreciation of every financial contribution and in December 1934, a letter was sent to Mr King and the Penny Scheme Committee thanking them for their contribution of £18 towards church funds. In comparison, the annual bazaar raised less than £60 in 1934. The Penny Scheme remained in operation for a number of years at Holy Cross.

Church Envoy, vol xxiii no 4, May 1936 p56

At the annual parishioners' meeting in 1933, a committee consisting of C Oaten (Convenor), F King (Hon Secretary), Mrs Cardno (Treasurer), Mesdames Denton Leech, East, Green and Kennedy, Messrs E Newman and DH Hastings, was set up to endeavour to suggest a scheme to help the finances of the Church. This committee decided to start a "penny trail." A recording clock was erected in the porch and suitable slips holding twelve pence were distributed amongst the parishioners who were also urged to contribute pennies to the collection box in the porch. This committee also undertook the organisation of concerts, plays, etc to augment the penny fund. Up to date the clock has recorded 24,200 pence. Up to the end of the last financial year the committee has handed over £70 to the Church Treasurer. So far £17 has been given this year. The thanks of the parishioners are due to this committee who have done so well, and it is hoped that they will continue their labours. Without unduly stressing the point it must be admitted that the success is in the main due to Mr King's efforts and his regular attendance at the door at every service and also thanks are due to the other members of the committee, especially Mrs Cardno, who organised the various entertainments.

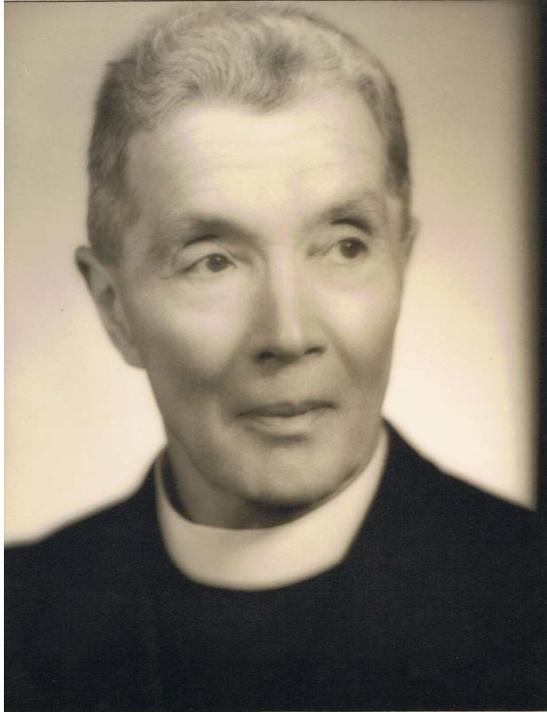
By the end of November 1936, the scheme had raised over 27,000 pence, rising to 28,000 by May the following year.

Times were changing at Holy Cross, however. After successfully guiding the parish through the Depression years, Rev Wingfield resigned in December 1935.



Holy Cross children entertaining children from St Mary's Orphanage
Photo from Joan Berry (nee Rasmussen)

A new vicar...



Rev Wingfield conducted his last service at Holy Cross on 23 February 1936. Two days later on Shrove Tuesday, over 250 parishioners packed into the St Kilda Coronation Hall for his farewell social. Rose Wingfield was unable to be present due to ill-health. While church officers attributed his *premature* retirement to ill-health, partly because *the church had experienced a difficult period during the depression*, Rev Wingfield replied that he was not retiring due to ill-health but *to give another man a chance to carry on the work of the parish*. Parishioners presented the Wingfields with a *well-filled* wallet of notes and an illuminated address.

Albert and Rose Wingfield moved to Seatoun in Wellington. Albert died on 9 January 1941, one month short of his 71st birthday and Rose donated his portable communion set to Holy Cross. Albert and Rose are buried together at Karori Cemetery.

Rev Wingfield (photo courtesy of Blair Wingfield)

A fortnight before the Wingfield farewell, vestry received a letter from Bishop Richards appointing Cyprian Edmund Parker Webb vicar of Holy Cross. Rev Webb did not take up his duties till the end of April so Rev JL Anderson was paid £2.2 each Sunday to conduct services at Holy Cross in the interim. During this period, the vestry proposed that a choral communion be held on the third Sunday of each month, in addition to the existing service on the first Sunday. The vicarage was renovated and the tenant of the vicarage garage was informed that his tenancy would expire at the end of April although it is unclear how the garage was used upon Rev Webb's arrival as he never owned a car at Holy Cross. Also during this time, past vestryman, Malcolm Scott died and his service was taken by All Saints' Rev R Newcombe - his wife, Elsie left the parish shortly afterwards as she moved to Christchurch. A farewell function was also held for layreader and Young Men's Bible Class leader, Watson Roseveare as he left the area. Watson Roseveare went on to become one of the first men from Holy Cross to undertake holy orders.

Church Envoy, vol xxxvii no 10, Nov 1950 p113

The Rev WJW Roseveare, MA, BD, has recently passed the degree of master of Theology, University of London. Mr Roseveare, who grew up in the parishes of Holy Cross and S Michael and All Angels, Dunedin, left New Zealand in September, 1948, on a Rehabilitation Bursary tenable at King's College, London. Ordained deacon by Bishop Cruickshank in 1945, and priest by the Bishop of Aotearoa in 1946, Mr Roseveare served as Assistant Curate at S John's Cathedral, Napier. While studying in England he has also gained some insight into English Church life by assisting with services each week at the churches of S Mary, Hayes,

Middlesex, and S George the Martyr, Central London. For the next year he has accepted a lecturing appointment at Oak Hill Theological College, London.

Rev Webb was inducted as vicar of Holy Cross on 30 April 1936.

Church Envoy, vol xxiii no 5, 1 June 1936 p72

The Rev FV Fisher preached the sermon and reminded the older members of the congregation that he really commenced his ministry at Holy Cross Church, having been a layreader and Sunday School teacher there shortly after the building had been dedicated. ... The Mayor of St Kilda (Mr JJ Marlow), the Revs CL Taylor (Presbyterian), and T Skuse (Methodist) gave Mr Webb a hearty welcome to the Borough. A hearty vote of thanks to the Rev JL Anderson for his services during the vacancy was carried.

Cyprian Webb was born in Dunedin in 1884, educated in Australia and trained at Selwyn College. Like Rev Wingfield, Rev Webb was active in Southland, his first sole charge appointment being to the Winton, Dipton and Otautau parochial district in 1911 and his last appointment prior to Holy Cross was as vicar of Gore in February 1932. He married Mary Cockburn in 1918.

Rev Webb quickly made an impact at Holy Cross. In the July **Church Envoy**, it was reported that Rev Webb had introduced Holy Communion every Wednesday at 10am and

A meeting was held recently to reorganise the Servers' Guild. A rota was drawn up for the following servers: Keith Grant, Jim Race, Colin Warwick, Bob Watts, and Harold Robinson. It is hoped to join up with the Dunedin Chapter of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.

Harold Robinson had taken over administering the mission boxes and in the April 1936 issue of **Church Envoy**, parishioners were encouraged to make an effort with their boxes. Obviously people did make an effort because by August it was reported that the mission quota had been exceeded by £2, *a very gratifying state of affairs especially as few can remember when this happened before.* Also in August: John Cardno was thanked for fitting *the outsides of the pulpit with figured red pine, an improvement that was badly needed;* Mrs Litloff was thanked for the gift of a carpet sweeper; and Mesdames Kingston, Litloff and Miss Hutchins hung new curtains on the west side of the church to shield the choir and part of the congregation from the blinding sun. The vestry minutes for September 1936 recorded its appreciation for a new lectern.

This piece of Church furniture has been beautifully executed by Mr Andrews in collaboration with Mr Dunstan and the Vestry desire to place on record in the Minutes their deep sense of appreciation to these gentlemen for their excellent workmanship, their gift to the Church of time and talent.

Rev Webb suggested an innovation for the 1936 Patronal Festival, a parish breakfast. It was taken up by the vestry and so began a tradition at the church which is still popular in the 21st century. For many youngsters in those first years (and perhaps for many years afterwards), the breakfast was most memorable for seeing the male vestry donning aprons and serving the parishioners. Reporting on the Patronal Festival, the **Church Envoy** happily noted in October, *At the full choral Evensong there was even a larger congregation, the gallery, which is now rarely used, being half full.* Offertories for the day totalled over £20.

By the end of 1936, Rev Webb had christened 27 people, including six Wilson children aged between three months and eleven years on 17 August and six Lewis children aged between eight and eighteen years on 30 August. This was the highest number of christenings since 1926. More significantly, 19 males and 18 females were confirmed at Holy Cross by Bishop Fitchett on 29 November, making it the largest ever group confirmed in the church.

The financial situation continued to be positive with £125 in gross takings from the annual bazaar on 13 - 14 October and the annual meeting in 1937 noted *a marked increase* in church attendance. The only negative thing around this time seemed to be an outbreak of infantile paralysis at the end of the year which kept children away from church activities. Looking at church records, no funerals were held for anyone under the age of fifty between the start of November and the end of February.

In accepting the position of vicar, Rev Webb's family became active in the parish. Mary Webb joined the Ladies' Guild. For the month of November 1936, John Webb was awarded Best Choirboy. His elder sister, Dorothy was awarded a Lohse Scholarship at the beginning of 1937. The Lohse Scholarship was available to children of clergy nationwide and was worth £100 per annum for three years at university. Seventeen people applied for the scheme in 1937 and three scholarships were awarded, all to women from Christchurch, Otahuhu and Dunedin. Dorothy joined the Sunday school staff of Holy Cross in 1937, along with Misses Beatrice Collins, Royce Carman and Marjorie Brain.

The infantile paralysis epidemic kept the Sunday school shut till the end of March 1937. At the end of 1936, John Seddon resigned as superintendent and was replaced by Arthur Andrews. When the Sunday school opened in 1937, enrolments were up and a call for larger facilities was made. Jim Race joined the Sunday school staff during 1937 but arrangements to alter the Sunday school were not implemented till the end of the year when a delegation of Mesdames Glue, Race and Webb attended the December vestry meeting. The sum of £24 was allocated to make the *urgent necessary alterations*. Nevertheless, voluntary labour was also relied upon in carrying out the alterations as Messrs Andrews, Glue and Race were sent a letter of thanks in May 1938 and Messrs Oaten, Dunstan, Andrews, West, Dickie and Jacobsen formed a working bee to finish painting it.

Church Envoy, vol xxv no 2, 1 March 1938 p30

During the last month Parish working-bees have been operating to the advantage both of the grounds and the buildings. One group undertook the cutting of the grass and cleaning up the Church grounds. Another composed of a number of the Junior Bible Class boys swept the ceiling and rafters of the Parish hall ready for a men's gang, superintended by Mr Watts, who calsomined the walls. The main working-bee under the direction of Mr Glue has been for some weeks working on Saturdays and spare week day evenings redesigning the whole building. The kitchen and ladies' cloak room have been enlarged and a porch added which can be used as a men's cloak room. When the work is completed it will be of great benefit not only to the Sunday Schools but to all the Church organizations. The thanks of all the parishioners are tendered to those who have freely given so much time to this work. Messrs Briscoe and Co have made a start upon the church roof renovations which has been badly needed for a long time.

Four significant deaths of past or current parishioners occurred in 1937. The two women, Kate Thompson and Margaret Buddicom had been part of the original Forbury Mission. Kate Thompson

had moved to Andersons Bay with her daughter's family a few years beforehand but Margaret had remained with the church.

Church Envoy, vol xxiv no 5, 1 June 1937 p75

At their request before death, the first part of the funeral service in both cases took place in our Church. A joint memorial service for these two ladies was held in Holy Cross Church on the first Sunday evening last month. The Church was crowded and the beautiful service, which was fully choral, appealed to those present. In addition to the deceaseds' favourite hymns, the anthem, "The Radiant Morn Hath Passed Away," was rendered by the choir. The service was in every way a splendid token of respect and regard from the parishioners.

The church register noted that the service was held on Rogation Day and a congregation of 144 people attended the memorial service. Seventy six people attended the 11am Holy Communion service earlier that day with 64 communicants.

The other significant deaths were those of William Higginson and Margaret Buddicom's son-in-law, 48 year old Frank King, both buried on 10 June 1937. William Higginson of 21 Richardson Street was a retired butcher and former parishioner whose connection with Holy Cross also dated back to the Forbury Mission days. His wife, Harriet was buried from Holy Cross in 1933, along with two of their eight children, Ivy Frame in 1968 and one time church organist and Sunday school teacher, Cecil in 1989. A cutter by trade, Frank King had declared his church membership at Holy Cross with his wife only in May 1935 but he was the prime force behind the Penny Scheme, which had raised over £107 at the time of his death.

A series of parish socials was held throughout 1937 in the Sunday School Hall on Mondays starting at 8.45, including 12 April, 7 June, 19 July and 29 August. At its July social, the choirboys acted a three act tragi-comedy with postlude under the direction of Muriel Clarkson: *The play was a tremendous success and was greeted with applause and roars of laughter.* The senior boys' Bible class entertained the Girls' Club at a social on 11 August and together they had visited the Anglican Memorial Home on the evening of 24 July. Holy Cross also hosted a vestrymen's social for the diocese on 24 May. Nevertheless, the main social event of the year came in September.

At its September 1937 Patronal Festival, Holy Cross celebrated its silver jubilee.

Evening Star 20 Sept 1937 p11 c7

Holy Cross Church - Silver Jubilee Celebrations - Special Services Yesterday

The silver jubilee of the dedication of Holy Cross Church, St Kilda, was celebrated yesterday, the Sunday in the octave of Holy Cross Day, September 14. ...

The jubilee ceremonies commenced with a sung eucharist at 8.30am. The church was filled, there being 180 communicants. The Ven Archdeacon Whitehead assisted the vicar in the celebration.

After the service a parish breakfast was held in the school hall nearby, all the congregation attending. The ladies of the parish voluntarily supplied sufficient food for the large number of guests. The vestrymen acted as waiters and made a success of their job.

At the conclusion of this meal the vicar expressed his pleasure at the success of the function and was pleased to note that everybody seemed to have enjoyed

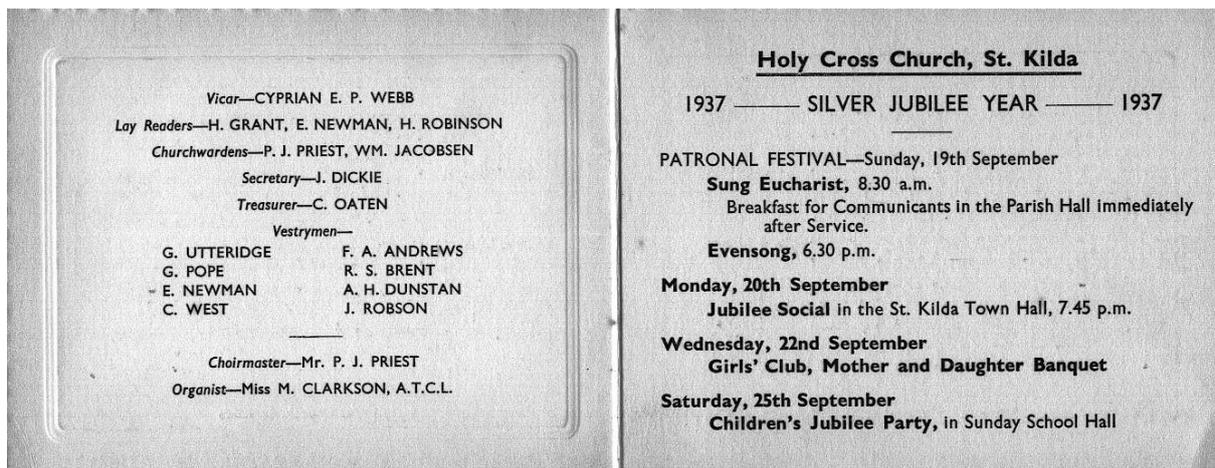
the occasion, He also read some apologies, including one from Bishop Fitchett, who regretted that he would be out of town, but would endeavour to be at the parish social to be held this evening, and from Mrs Falconer, the president of the Otago branch of the Mothers' union.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather the church was crowded in the evening, when full choral evensong was held. The musical parts, which naturally were the most important of this service, were of a high order, and had evidently been well practised. The canticles were sung to a special setting. The anthem was 'I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes to the Hills from Whence Cometh My Help' (Whitfield), and Mrs I Clark sang Gounod's 'There is a Green Hill Far Away.' The hymns chosen were all popular and well-known ones, and the congregational singing was very hearty. An innovation which was pleasing to the congregation was introduced in the rendering of the hymns 'We Love this Place O God.' The congregation joined in the first two verses and the choir boys sang the next three, proceeding to the font, the altar, and the lectern, where special prayers were read by the vicar.

The vicar in his sermon referred to the good work done by the pioneers of both sexes, and said it was due to them that the church and parish held such a high place in the diocese. He gave a short but interesting address on the Anglican Church from the earliest days down to the Reformation, which in his opinion should have been called the 'Restoration.'

The celebrations will be continued to-night with a social in the St Kilda Town Hall.

The parish social held the following day was attended by Bishop Fitchett, the Mayor of St Kilda (Mr JJ Marlow), the minister of the St Kilda Methodist Church (Rev T Skuse), the chairman of the Otago Hospital Board (Mr JW Dove), and Anglican clergy from other parishes and was reported on by both the **Evening Star** (p11) and the **Otago Daily Times** (p7). At the social, the jubilee cake was cut by Mrs Anne Hastings, as the most senior female parishioner.



SERVICES:	
SUNDAYS—	
Holy Communion every Sunday, 8 a.m.	
Matins and Litany, First Sunday in Month, 11 a.m.	
Sung Eucharist, Second Sunday in Month, 11 a.m.	
Matins, other Sundays, 11 a.m.	
Evensong, every Sunday, 6.30 p.m.	
Holy Communion, every Wednesday, 10 a.m.	
The Mother's Union meets Second Thursday in Month, 2.30 p.m.	
The Ladies' Guild, Wednesdays, 2.30 p.m.	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Senior Department	9.45 a.m.
(Superintendent—Mr. F. A. Andrews)	
Bible Classes	10 a.m.
Kindergarten Department	2.15 p.m.
(Superintendent—Miss V. Gore)	
Boys' Club—Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m.	Girls' Club—Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m.



Holy Cross Church, St. Kilda

The following week on Monday, 27 September, Holy Cross hosted the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary when three Holy Cross servers were admitted as full servers. **Church Envoy** reported that twenty servers and three clergy were present, despite a wintry night of hail and sleet and some Holy Cross parishioners served *a very welcome supper of hot pies, cakes, etc.*

At the end of the year, Percy Priest resigned as choirmaster due to ill health and was presented with an attaché case in appreciation for his work.

Church Envoy, vol xxiv no 10, 1 Nov 1937. p153

Mr H Grant, who has had considerable experience with choirs and who at one time was choirmaster at Gore, has consented to become Mr Priest's successor. We are grateful to Mr Grant as we know that it is very difficult for him to undertake the work, and it means he has to sacrifice one of his very few free evenings to help us.

On 5 July 1937, Harold Robinson joined Ernie Newman and Harry Grant as licensed layreaders for the parish. The Sanctuary Guild membership was also bolstered at the end of 1937.

Church Envoy, vol xxiv no 11, 1 Dec 1937 p168

In response to the Vicar's appeal for an increase in the membership of the Sanctuary Guild the following girls have joined: - Mary Race, Vera Belcher, Ainsley Grant, Doreen Hobbs, Dorothy Bond, Nancy Garbutt, Irene Longworth, Joan Tavendale, Frances Anthony, Florence Robinson.

The vicar's stipend was increased to £320 at the June 1938 annual meeting and in the same month, the Girls' Club celebrated its twelfth birthday with a birthday cake lit by its original leaders, Misses Dora Carpenter and Vera Gore and cut by Mrs Frances Dickie who had held the office of vice-president from its foundation. The following twelve months was more memorable for farewells, however and that does not include removal by death.



In June 1938, Senior Boys' Bible Class member, seventeen year old Ray Watts was congratulated and farewelled upon his appointment to the public service in Wellington and Mrs Boulton's resignation as secretary of the Ladies' Guild was marked with an afternoon tea of over forty women at Astor Café, George Street where she was presented with an umbrella, linen handkerchiefs and a Victorian

posy. Later in 1938: the choir farewelled Mrs East with a crystal bowl; the vice-president of Girls' Club, Mrs Fraser moved to Auckland; licensed layreader and vestryman, Ernie Newman was appointed Invercargill stationmaster; Arthur Andrews who had been superintendent of the Sunday school and a member of vestry shifted to Orari as assistant stationmaster; and Miss Muriel Clarkson accepted the position of organist at St Stephen's, Ashburton after six years in the role at Holy Cross and four years prior to that as assistant organist. A social evening was held for Muriel Clarkson on 28 November when she was presented with a suitcase, a hat-box, toilet set, clock and a crystal powder bowl. Percy Priest resigned from the vestry in 1938 and as a trustee in March 1939 as he moved with his wife, Maude to Kenya, joining their two married daughters.

On the positive side in 1938, Holy Cross exceed its annual mission quota by 10%, there were over 200 communicants at the Patronal Festival and ten new members were elected to the Tennis Club at its annual meeting. Near the end of the year, Mrs Hastings donated *hand-made crochet with an ecclesiastical design* and Mrs Denton Leech gifted a tapestry to hang behind the pulpit.

Vestry minutes from this time are full of references to ongoing repairs and maintenance. The name of Mrs Bamber as church cleaner first appears in vestry minutes in November 1921 when she was voted a bonus of ten shillings. From 1932, she was also employed to light the heater each Sunday at 7.30am and paid one shilling per Sunday. Her association with the church as an employee ended in June 1938. Presumably, 78 year old Sarah Bamber whose funeral service was held at Holy Cross on 6 October 1945 is this Mrs Bamber. Her address was listed as Little Sisters of the Poor at the time.

Mrs Bamber's successor as church cleaner seemed to be Mrs Duff, who resigned in November 1939 as her request for a wage increase was not granted. Consequently Mr and Mrs Grimmet were appointed with a salary of six shillings per week, plus an extra annual clean up to occur at a rate of twenty shillings for the church and ten shillings for the Sunday School. The salary was increased to seven shillings per week from 1 November 1942.

Maintaining the church grounds was always an issue, especially with the size of the undeveloped sections. While grass-cutting was not referred to in the early vestry minutes, a new lawnmower was purchased in March 1930. At the end of 1934, *Mr H Robinson who has with great care looked after the church grounds during the year wrote requesting a small donation per week for future work to compensate him for his efforts to keep the grounds tidy.* Vestry agreed to pay him two shillings per week *during the period the grounds require attention.* For the following couple of years, vegetables were cultivated on the section adjoining the Sunday schoolroom. It was reported in December 1937 that *the caretaker could no longer carry on and that other arrangements would require to be made.* It can only be assumed that this caretaker was Harold Robinson. Mr Andrews was thanked for cutting the grass in February 1938 and later in 1938 vestryman, Keith Pritchett arranged for the Boys' Bible Class to cut the grass. In September 1939, a vestry sub-committee was formed to organise the cutting of the grass.

Working bees were a popular method for maintaining church facilities. As mentioned above, a number of working bees assisted with the "conversion" of the Sunday schoolrooms into a parish hall in 1938. In February 1939, Messrs Lane, West, Jacobsen and Dickie repaired the lych gate and fence. Two months later, Messrs Robson and Lane took charge of removing the layering on the belfry and wood was purchased for Charles Andrews to make a credence table and four table tops for the

parish hall. The reliance of the church upon voluntary labour was to be sorely tried, however with the outbreak of World War Two.