

# Beginnings...

On 13 December 1902, Reverend EL Woodhouse the assistant curate at St Peter's Church, Caversham conducted an 11am service in the Forbury School Gymnasium. No record of how many people attended this service can be traced. This Sunday service, however, created a separate congregation of Anglican worshippers in South Dunedin which within a decade became based in St Kilda at Holy Cross Church.

St Kilda was not a new entity at the turn of the twentieth century. Initially it was called the Township of St Kilda, a subdivision of one thousand allotments put on the market by E de Carle & Co in 1862. It developed slowly due to drainage problems, however and it was not till the end of 1875 when there were approximately 550 residents that the Borough of St Kilda was proclaimed. By this time, it consisted of 414 acres, bounded by Bay View Road, Forbury Road, Victoria Road, a small part of Anderson's Bay Road and Royal Crescent east to Victoria Road and containing the private townships of Musselburgh and St Kilda and Forbury Park.

Despite its borough status, census returns show that St Kilda's population did not really take off till the twentieth century. A regular tram service and connection to the town sewer in 1908-09 would have helped its development. As the number of new residents in the area increased, they demanded services, and this included religious ones.

Year	Total	Male	Female
1881	773	386	387
1886	1078	536	542
1891	1153	584	569
1896	1185	602	483
1901	1700	813	887
1906	2579	1276	1303
1911	4137	2008	2129

At the beginning of 1902, no church facilities for any denomination were available within the Borough of St Kilda: Anglicans could attend services at St Peter's, Caversham; the Presbyterians had a church in King Edward Street; the nearest Catholic Church was St Patrick's Basilica in Macandrew Road; the Baptists had a room in Oxford Street (after meeting in Forbury School from 1873 till 1883); and the Methodists met in private houses. Interestingly enough, there was a reserve set aside for a church and school in the original deed for the Township of St Kilda, in Moreau Street between what is now Council Street and Douglas Street. St Peter's considered the site in 1881 when it was investigating a site for a new church but chose the more densely populated Baker Street site. The reserve eventually reverted to housing.

The Methodists were the first group to move into the Borough of St Kilda. The new St Kilda Town Council Chambers opened in June 1902 and within four months, the Methodists started holding their services in the Town Hall. The indomitable DC Cameron Junior (later Mayor of St Kilda, Mayor of Dunedin and Sir Donald) was a layreader for the Methodists. A letter from Canon King to the St Kilda Borough Council in July 1902 indicates that St Peter's Church was prepared to pay two shillings and sixpence (2/6) to hire the Hall for Sunday school but nothing seems to have come from this offer.

St Peter's, Caversham provided the first Anglican services for St Kilda at Forbury School at the end of 1902, calling it the Forbury Mission. As far back as 1884, St Peter's had had a Sunday school operating out of Forbury School and in 1890, the possibility of operating a "mission room" in Musselburgh was mooted at the St Peter's annual general meeting. It was not till 1902 however that full religious services were held.

Forbury School records indicate that the Anglican mission was to be charged five shillings for a morning and afternoon or seven shillings for an afternoon and evening. The following day,



Canon Bryan Meyrick King

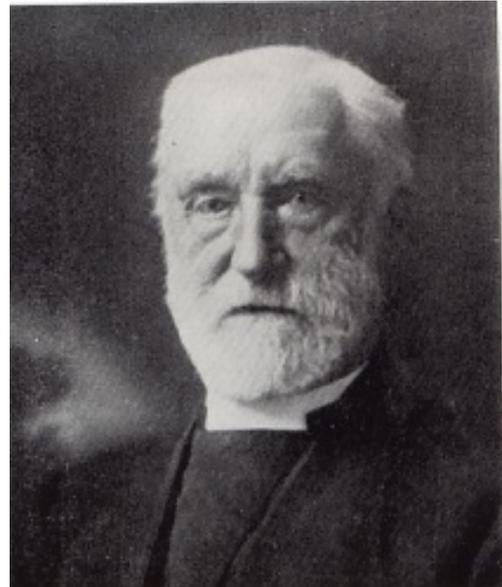
Canon King announced to the St Peter's vestry that the cost was three shillings for a morning service, including the use of a piano. The negotiations continued when the Forbury School Committee considered Canon King's application for the use of the gymnasium hall, with the use of piano in March 1903. The committee decided to charge two shillings for the morning service and two shillings for the Sunday school, without the use of the piano. Financial negotiations between the two organisations seemed to settle after the school's annual general meeting on 27 April 1903 when long-time St Peter's parishioner and St Kilda Borough councillor, William Vickery of 17 Cutten Street was elected onto the school committee and served on its Works Committee and Gymnasium Committee for two years. William Vickery had previously served on the Forbury School Committee during the 1880s and 1890s.

The significance of the piano should not be under-estimated. Music was an integral part of the service at St Peter's and this was extended to the mission. Forbury School records indicate that St Peter's Church paid its weekly two shillings for church services and an additional sixpence for choir practice while St Peter's Sunday school paid its two shillings separately throughout 1904. Nevertheless, it was becoming evident that financial pressures were developing at St Peter's.

At the annual general meeting of St Peter's in 1904, it was decided that the Forbury mission should manage its own affairs with any financial surplus going to St Peter's. The vestry minutes of the time suggest that this decision caused some tension so in September 1904, a St Peter's churchwarden was appointed to the Forbury Mission Committee and the mission was instructed that it should *proceed to arrange for collecting in the Forbury Branch of the parish viz South of Macandrew Road up to Dick Street and east of a line drawn parallel with Dick Street and extended to the sea shore, and that the Committee should be responsible to the Vestry for all collection made outside the Forbury offertories and should not have any right to administer any of the funds so collected.* The financial records from that same vestry meeting recorded a deficit of £68.7.2 for St Peter's.

From St Peter's 1905 annual meeting, the **Otago Daily Times** of 2 July reported, *The Forbury mission work is most gratifying, and the financial assistance from the mission has increased greatly. The average Sunday school attendance has risen from 65 to 73; Mr JL Thompson is superintendent, assisted by 10 teachers.* Money obviously continued to be tight, however as the 1905 synod held in October considered reducing St Peter's to a parochial district.

There was a great deal of financial pressure in the diocese of Dunedin in general during the first decade of the twentieth century. Bishop Nevill was making a concerted push for the building of a cathedral, Holy Trinity at Port Chalmers was opened and declared a parish and St Martin's at North East Valley separated from Selwyn College to become a parochial district. There was also ongoing demand for a city mission. And the Forbury mission continued to grow.



Bishop Nevill

When William Vickery did not stand for re-election to the Forbury School Committee in 1905, his place was taken by another member of the Forbury mission, Australian-born John Lawrence Thompson of 6 East Avenue. Ironically enough, Thompson was not at the 12 June 1905 meeting when the headmaster *drew attention to a want of supervision over the children attending the Sunday school classes at the gymnasium each Sunday, both boys and girls being allowed to roam about the grounds without any proper supervision.* Disquiet over the boundaries of the new Musselburgh primary school was expressed at this same meeting. John Thompson did not stand again for the School Committee in 1906 - Forbury mission was on the move.

When the Methodists beat St Peter's to the use of the Town Hall in 1902, they had also purchased a church site in Queen's Drive. Their new church was opened in September 1906 and they vacated the Town Hall. In October 1906, Forbury Mission severed its ties with Forbury School in favour of the newly available Town Hall.

*From the St Kilda Borough Council letterbook*

Mrs Katherine F Sims  
Hon Secretary  
St Peters Anglican Church  
St Kilda  
28 September 1906

Dear Madam

In reply to your letter asking for the use of the Town Hall on Sundays for St Peter's Anglican Church I am directed to state that this Council is willing to lease the Hall on the terms mentioned in your letter under reply namely £18 per annum provided the Baptist Church to whom it is under offer does not take up. I am also instructed to inform you that alterations to the Hall may be made in the near future which will necessitate your making other arrangements during the time the alterations are going on.

Yours faithfully,  
JB Dick

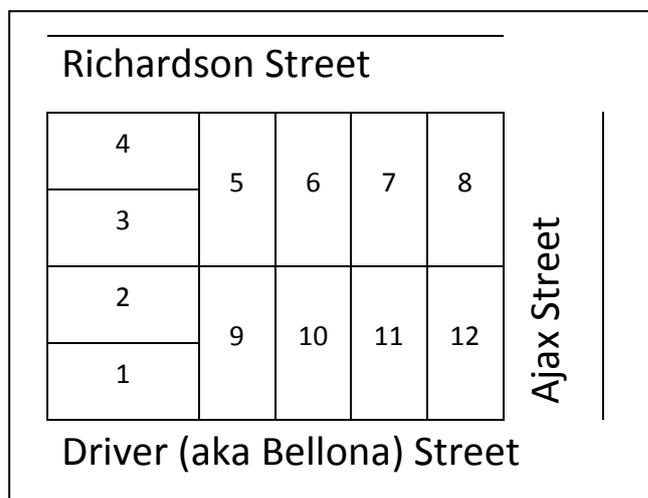
Town Clerk

The *Evening Star* newspaper of 20 October 1906 reported

*The mission branch of St Peter's, Cargill road, known as the Forbury branch, who for the last three or four years have held services and Sunday school in Forbury School Gymnasium, have shifted their quarters to St Kilda Town Hall. A section of land in St Kilda was recently purchased as a first step towards erecting a suitable building. A vigorous effort is being made throughout the whole parish to clear off the debt on the mother church of St Peter's.*

[NB Hillside Road was known as Cargill Road at this time]

Under the religious notices of the same issue, it was noted that religious services at St Kilda Town Hall were held every Sunday at 11am and 6.30pm with Sunday school at 3pm. Land deeds indicate that the land purchased was lots 10, 11 and 12 in Block IV fronting Driver Street (now called Bellona Street).



### ***Block IV of St Kilda Township***

There was one other major change with the mission's removal to the Town Hall. It began to be called the St Kilda Mission.

# The St Kilda Mission...

In his report to St Peter's 1907 annual general meeting in July, Rev EL Woodhouse commented that the move to St Kilda Town Hall *has proved satisfactory, being more convenient and also more central for the work.* Along with the Sunday school, he acknowledged *the Rev VG Bryan King, Mr Hawley, and Mr Ronaldson for conducting Services, Mr Favell, and Miss Hawley for faithful work at the organ, and also the ladies who now help in the choir.*

A full list of St Kilda Mission committee members also appears for the first time in 1907.

William	Cuttle	Gisborne St	Sth Dunedin	
Miss Kate	Dunstan	Douglas St	St Kilda	
Mrs	Gore		Musselburgh	
Douglas Harris	Hastings	Moreau St	St Kilda	
Frank	Mace	10 Market St	Musselburgh	
Mrs Margaret	Mace	10 Market St	Musselburgh	
John William	Matthewson	12 Douglas St	St Kilda	
Robert George Vining	Parker	Princes St	Musselburgh	treasurer
F	Rowe	99 Macandrew Rd		
Mrs Katherine	Sims	Larkworthy St	St Kilda	
John Lawrence	Thompson	6 East Ave	St Kilda	secretary
Mrs Kate	Thompson	6 East Ave	St Kilda	
Rev Edward Liversey	Woodhouse	Helena St	South Dunedin	chairman
Samuel	Young	13 De Carle St	St Kilda	

Sergeant Major RGV Parker was the St Peter's churchwarden appointed to the committee in September 1904.

Katherine Sims had written to St Peter's vestry in June 1907, suggesting that St Kilda money be paid directly to the assistant curate (ie Rev Woodhouse). The vestry replied that it was legally unable to do this. One month later, however at its annual general meeting it was obvious that the financial pressure at St Peter's had eased and financial arrangements were altered.

In February 1907, St Peter's had a financial deficit of £54.18.1. Five months later, St Peter's Ladies Guild donated £50 to reduce its parish debt and at its annual general meeting, St Peter's declared that the debt on its hall had been cleared. The financial position of the mission also seemed positive. The two highest items of expense shown in its annual financial report were £13.17.6 paid in hall rent and £22.10.0 handed to the vestry. Receipts for the mission totalled £43.7.7 and there was a credit balance in hand of £2.11.0, up from 2/1 the previous year. Consequently, Rev Woodhouse reported the mission's wish *to hand over next year some £70 to the Vestry (£50 of which will be guaranteed), retaining any surplus over and above this sum for developing the work in this part of the Parish. Last year about £43 was handed to the Vestry, while the St Kilda stall, under Mrs Hawley's good management, realised some £17.* The anomaly between the £43 that Rev Woodhouse reported and the £22.10.0 on the balance sheet is unclear – maybe the latter sum was an additional “surplus” handed over.

The St Kilda mission decided to hold their own bazaar later that year in the St Kilda Town Hall.

**Evening Star** 21 Nov 1907 p6 c6

*The St Kilda bazaar in aid of the building and site for an Anglican Sunday school at St Kilda was continued last night when satisfactory business was done. In opening the bazaar on Tuesday night, the Rev Canon King (vicar of the parish) said great credit was due to the ladies and gentlemen who for many months past had been working hard for the bazaar, and his earnest thanks were due to all of them, and also to the Caversham Brass Band, which was to render valuable assistance. He expressed his approval of St Kilda remaining unamalgamated with the City, as he thought such councils provided a school for citizenship, encouraging an interest and knowledge in public affairs. He would like to thank the mayor and councillors of St Kilda, who had always shown kindness and courtesy to them in their wants from the first.*

*The Mayor (Mr WJ Burk) said that, as far as the Council were concerned, they were always willing to assist anyone coming into the borough, and would continue to act on the same lines. The hall they were in was hardly suitable for the purposes of a church, and he would welcome the day when the Anglicans were worshipping in their own edifice. Certainly the Church of England in the district had made marked progress during the last six years, and the Sunday school was also going ahead with vigor. He understood a site had been secured, and he hoped it would not be long before the building was erected on it. He wished the promoters of the bazaar every success in their efforts.*

*Last evening the nail-driving competition was won by Miss W Sims, and the skipping competition by Miss Daisy Parker. Those who contributed to a good programme were Miss Heather Smith, Miss Tapper, the Misses Sims and Mr Downey. The bazaar will be concluded to-night, when further novel attractions are announced.*

The comment about St Kilda remaining *unamalgamated* is noteworthy. A decade beforehand, South Dunedin Borough had unsuccessfully suggested that the three southern boroughs amalgamate. At the end of 1904, Caversham Borough was dissolved and became a ward of Dunedin City. South Dunedin followed it a few months later. St Kilda retained its independence till it was forced to amalgamate by local government reorganisation in 1989.

John Lawrence Thompson, honorary secretary and Sunday school superintendent painted a rosy picture in the July 1908 annual report of the mission.

*During the past year our progress has been very marked. A section of land has been purchased and paid for. The Church attendance has materially increased. In November a very successful Bazaar was held, resulting in a large increase to the Building Fund which now stands at £103. The Revd EL Woodhouse, to whose efforts our progress is principally due, has been unfortunately prostrated by illness, from which we are thankful to know he is now recovering, and we trust that his ministrations may be spared to us for a long time. The sum of £70 has been paid to the Vestry. A Ladies' Guild has been recently established through the efforts of the ladies of the Church, and this is no doubt that they will prove a most effectual help. Thanks are due to the Secretary, Mr Thompson, the Organist Mr Favell, the members of the Choir, and the Collectors for their efficient services. ...*

*Our sincerest thanks are due to the St Kilda Council for the great consideration shown us in the past, as they have done all they possibly could to make our Services and School comfortable at all times.*

There was a marked difference in the financial records from the previous year.

1906-1907 receipts	£	s	d	1907-1908 receipts	£	s	d
Cash in hand from 1905-6 account		2	1	Cash balance, 1 July 1907	2	11	0
Collection at services	43	3	3	Offertories	57	19	1
Refund, petty cash &c.	0	4	4	Collected by Mrs Mace	19	11	0
				Collected by Mrs Thompson	13	14	0
				Collected by Mrs Sims	4	15	0
				Collected by RGV Parker	8	14	0
				Mrs Vickery, donation to Building Fund	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>£108</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

The cash balance at the end of the year was a credit of £9.4.9½. There was also a separate balance sheet for the building site fund, showing receipts of £158.15.0. From this, the sum of £53.10.4 had been paid for a section of land.

Women and more specifically, the newly formed Ladies' Guild played an important role in raising funds for the St Kilda congregation, with annual bazaars being a major feature.

**Evening Star** Wed 4 Nov 1908 p3 c2

*The St Kilda Church of England Mission commenced their annual bazaar and sale of work in the Town Hall last night. The Mayor of St Kilda (Mr WT McFarlane) expressed pleasure at being able to formally declare the sale open. He explained that the bazaar was promoted by the Ladies' Guild, the object being to raise funds for the building of a place of worship in the district. He understood that two sections had been secured in Driver street for the purpose of building the church thereon. He complimented the ladies on the artistic manner in which the stalls had been got up, there being a splendid assortment of articles, both useful and ornamental. No raffles were to be taken round, but all goods were to be sold at reasonable prices. They had struck bad weather for the band rotunda bazaar a week or two ago, and towards the end of the week it was doubtful as to whether they would be sold out. The Church of England people had been kind enough to consent to meet in a side room on the Sunday, so as not to upset arrangements, but they were fortunate enough to get cleared up on Saturday. He thought this was a good opportunity to thank them – Mr Woodhouse and Mr Thomson in particular.*

*Canon King also spoke briefly, congratulating St Kilda on such an excellent display.*

*The following is a list of the stallholders:- flower stall – Mesdames Parker and Leith, Misses A Parker, Freeman, Ivy Chapman; produce stall – Mrs Holley, Misses Holley and Parker; jumble stall – Mrs Brown, Misses Clark and Woodhouse, Masters S Dunnage, E Stoneham; lolly stall – Mrs Howarth, Misses Murphy, Porteous, M Leith; refreshments stall – Mesdames Gore and Allen,*

*Misses Gore (4), Chapman, and Willis; guild stall – Mrs Hawley (president), Mrs Sims (vice-president), Misses Todd, Hawley, G Stoneham; fancy stall – Mesdames JL Thompson, Luscombe and Jacobsen, Misses W Simms, N Thompson, S Wilson, A Hastings, D Marrett, Stanley, Davis, K Dunstan.*

*The following are the winners in the cooking competitions: - Miss Parker, plain sponge, Mrs Leith, fruit cake; Miss Hastings, scones; Mrs Ross, pikelets; Miss K Dunstan was the winner of Mr Jacobsen’s prize for the best table centre, Miss M Parker being next on the list.*

*Briggs’s orchestra supplied excellent music throughout the evening, and Messrs Ferguson and Cook also contributed to the programme. The sale will be continued afternoon and evening until Thursday. Good business was done last night.*

As indicated in the report above, Fanny Hawley was president of the Ladies’ Guild at the time, with Katherine Sims as vice-president, Mabel Parker as honorary secretary, and Isabella Luscombe as honorary treasurer. In line with church policy of the time though, women disappeared from the mission committee from 1908.

William	Cuttle	Gisborne St	Sth Dunedin	
Douglas Harris	Hastings	Moreau St	St Kilda	
Henry William Simpson	Hellyer	43 Princes St	Musselburgh	
William	Jacobsen	pumping station	Musselburgh	
Frank	Mace	10 Market St	Musselburgh	
John William	Matthewson	12 Douglas St	St Kilda	
	Norris	54 Princes St	Musselburgh	
Robert George Vining	Parker	Princes St	Musselburgh	treasurer
F	Rowe	99 Macandrew Rd	Sth Dunedin	
John Lawrence	Thompson	151 Bay View Rd	St Kilda	secretary
William	Vickery	17 Cutten St	St Kilda	
Rev Edward Liversey	Woodhouse	Helena St	Sth Dunedin	chairman
Samuel	Young	13 De Carle St	St Kilda	

Noteworthy additions to this committee are HWS Hellyer, W Jacobsen and W Vickery, who had previously served on the Forbury School Committee. Both Harry Hellyer and William Vickery were St Kilda Borough councillors at various stages. William Vickery and Frank Mace had been on the St Peter’s Building Committee of 1881, with Frank Mace previously being a long-time vestryman of St Peter’s. William Jacobsen went on to have a long association with Holy Cross and its vestry. DH Hastings, JW Matthewson, RGV Parker and JL Thompson were current vestry men at St Peter’s.

The role of women in church governance was not above consideration at this time. It was deliberated at the 1909 Anglican synod when a motion was put for women to be given voting rights at parish meetings. A number of opinions were expressed, including one clergyman stating *that if women got the vote it would alienate the men. They were ready enough now to saddle the women with the work.* The motion was defeated on a split vote, clergymen voting narrowly in favour of it and synodsmen voting narrowly against.

Six months before the 1909 synod in April, at the mission’s annual general meeting and in its first recorded minutes, Canon King gave a picture of the Anglican congregation in St Kilda. He *spoke in*

*terms of praise regarding the success of the Mission since the services were commenced in Forbury, and how gratified he felt to see the great proportion of men attending the services in St Kilda, it being as a rule, unusual to see such a large number of men, in comparison, in the Church of England. The Canon also praised the advancement of the Sunday school, as well as the choir, noticing the regular attendance of the male members of the choir. Every praise was due to the Rev EL Woodhouse for the work done during the time he had been in charge of the Mission. King's comments, however did not stop the Mission committee from requesting the Primate to arrange for a Church of England Mission in this district to rouse the people from their lethargy. This comment about lethargy may be a response to the activity of other denominations in the area.*

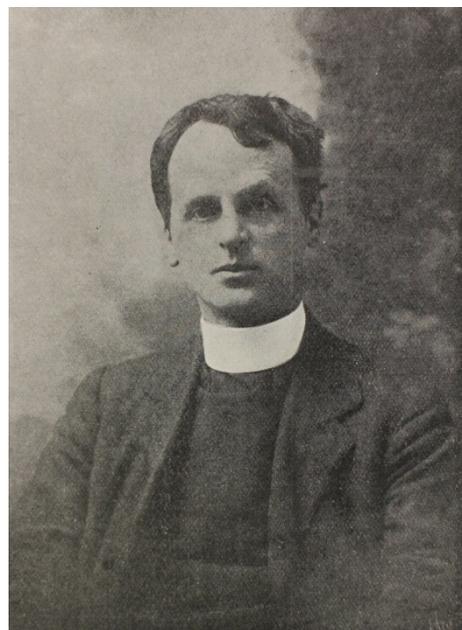
During 1909, Presbyterian services were held in the St Kilda Masonic Lodge (presumably the Lodge Oceanic in Prince Albert Road) and in November of that year, St Clair Presbyterian Church was opened in Albert Street. In fact, the St Kilda Presbyterian congregation moved faster than the Anglicans, opening its church in Queen's Drive in 1911. There can be no doubt that the St Kilda Anglican Mission wished to compare favourably with the progress of other churches and St Peter's records show increasing tension with its mission over financial matters.

The financial year changed to 31 March in 1909. By this time, the mission held £330.5.3 in assets, comprising of £281 in freehold land, £20 in organ and furniture and a profit/ loss balance of £29.5.3. In the previous nine months, the mission had receipted nearly £200. There were three main sources of income: a donation of £90 from the Ladies' Guild; offertories of £52.6.3½; and collectors gathering £44.7.3. Generally then, the mission's financial situation looked good. Its confidence was undermined however when Rev Woodhouse became ill.

Rev EL Woodhouse was given leave of absence at the beginning of 1909 due to ill-health and the mission reported a corresponding drop in offertories throughout the year. The mission struggled to pay its annual fee of £70 to St Peter's, in addition to the seven shillings per week it paid to St Kilda Borough Council for the Town Hall. Consequently, the mission committee decided to pay St Peter's only £5 per month for the 1910 financial year but after a deputation from St Peter's, it agreed to attempt to raise £70 and the annual balance sheet shows that they did so successfully.

St Kilda Mission minutes indicate that its future direction was clearly diverging from St Peter's as it formed a Building Sub-committee of Messrs Matthewson, Hastings, Vickery and Thompson in September 1909 with meetings to take place at Mr Hastings' house. In December 1909, the mission purchased twelve hymn and prayer books for the congregation.

Rev Woodhouse finally returned the following March and the mission held a social evening to welcome him back and to acknowledge the work of Rev William Ronaldson in his absence. Approaching his late eighties by the beginning of 1910, Rev Ronaldson was very familiar with the Caversham parish having been its resident vicar between 1881 and 1887 when it was rebuilding.



Rev EL Woodhouse from *Otago Witness*, 1 July 1914 p46.  
Courtesy of Toitu, Otago Settlers' Museum.

Three days prior to the social evening for Revs Woodhouse and Ronaldson, building plans were presented at the mission's annual general meeting.

Excerpt from St Kilda Mission minutes, 4 April 1910

*... the time seemed now opportune to start a building for the Church of England in the district, an architect had been consulted, and a plan of a church in the shape of a cross, (now shown) was obtained, the intention being to erect only the main aisle at present with a front elevation, at a cost of about £700, and it was hoped to raise £250 this year, so that the foundation stone could be laid in twelve months' time.*

At the next meeting of the mission on 29 April, the Building Committee made three recommendations that were all agreed upon.

*First: – that the Secretary write to the Ladies' Guilds asking them to make a special effort to make the bazaar this year a greater success than on any previous occasion and offering the assistance of the committee under the direction of the Guilds to carry out any necessary work to make the bazaar a success as desired*

*Second: - That cards be printed of the values of 5/-, 10/-, 15/- and £1, with a few special cards for the use of the committee of £10 each; these cards to be called in on a date to be fixed by the committee, a proper record to be kept of the holders of these cards, with their values &c.*

*Third: - That typewritten letters to be sent to prominent business men, asking their assistance by donation to the Building Fund.*

At this same meeting, Rev Woodhouse, Robert Parker and Harry Hellyer joined the Building Committee. One month later, Rev Woodhouse's offer to arrange for children to collect money for the Building Fund was gratefully accepted. Rev Woodhouse's work in St Kilda came to a halt at the end of July 1910, however when he left to take charge of the Balclutha district. The impact of Rev Woodhouse in the mission is recorded in his memorial window, taking pride of place in the sanctuary above the altar. The work of the mission suffered in his year-long leave of absence and the offertories fell away again once he left the district. The mission suffered further major personnel disruptions around this time also.

Prior to St Peter's annual general meeting in April 1910, its layreader, Frederick Charles Hawley and his wife, Holy Cross Ladies' Guild inaugural president Fanny Maud Hawley transferred to Christchurch. In March 1911, Canon King retired from St Peter's and mission secretary and Sunday school superintendent, John Lawrence Thompson died. Mission treasurer and trustee, Sgt Major Robert GV Parker was transferred to Wellington and JL Thompson's successor as secretary, John William Matthewson moved to Tasmania, also during the latter half of 1911. Too many people had invested in the St Kilda mission, however for its work to cease.

The mission had a number of arms. In addition to its religious services and Sunday school, the mission had two ladies' guilds by May 1910. It also had an active choir which upgraded to an organ, purchased for £15 after disposing of its harmonium for £9.9 in the first part of 1910. By the end of 1910, the Building Committee felt confident enough to seek legal advice on the mission's position and to seek an estimate on the cost of building. It also acknowledged that it would need to obtain the consent of St Peter's vestry in order to undertake this work.

Canon King's replacement at St Peter's, Rev Edward Dering Evans was welcomed to the mission at the end of March 1911. Rev Evans was part of a Mission of Help in 1910, consisting of a group of sixteen clergymen who came to New Zealand. The St Kilda mission presented him with a gentleman's bicycle as a welcoming gift at its 1911 annual general meeting.

With the death of JL Thompson and departure of Sgt Major RGV Parker in quick succession, local architect William Henry Dunning joined the mission committee in June 1911 at a crucial time.

Excerpts from St Kilda Mission minutes, 19 June 1911 committee meeting, held at Mr Matthewson's house

*The Chairman explained that the meeting was called to discuss whether the present church site was suitable for the buildings that would be required, and to discuss also the report received from Messrs Salmond & Vanes thereon.*

*The secretary then read the report.*

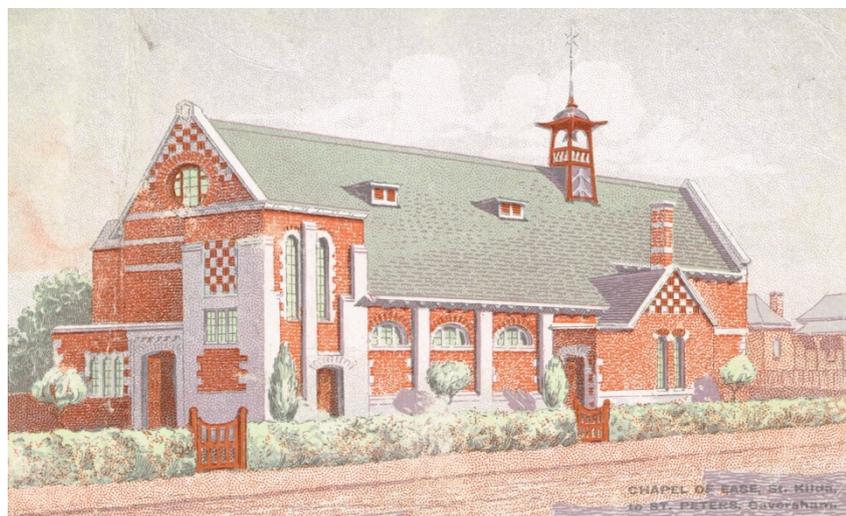
The mission records do not hold a copy of the report. Nevertheless, discussion at that meeting indicates that three sections were required for the church. While the mission already owned sections 10, 11 and 12, reference was made to the three sections in block IV, fronting Richardson Street: Mr Wilson owned section 8 and was willing to sell it for £145; *Section 7 with two houses owned by Mrs McKay who is not willing to sell but suggested offering her £800 - rental of the two houses 26/- per week;* and section 6 was available from Mrs De Carle for £150.

*Mr Vickery laid on the table the old Church plan prepared by Messrs Salmond and Vanes and Mr Dunning also kindly supplied plans of church halls. The meeting then resolved itself into a general discussion.*

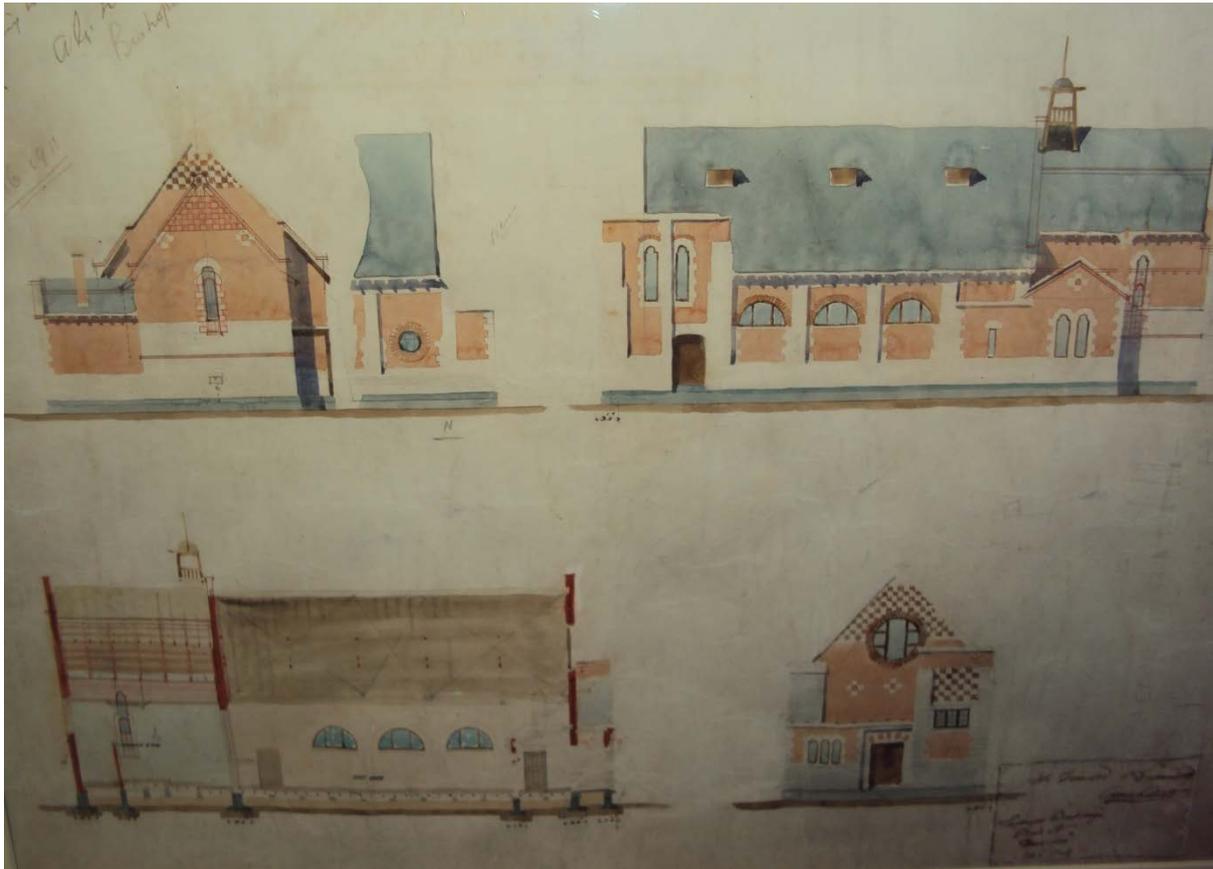
*Mr Vickery moved that as soon as the sites were fixed upon, we proceed to build a church hall not to exceed £1000. Seconded Mr Hart – approved.*

Consequently, a sub-committee was formed to investigate sites.

One month later, after considering and rejecting other sites, the committee decided to purchase Mr Wilson's section, on the corner of Richardson Street and Chapman Street (later Ajax Street). More to the point, William Vickery provided a one year interest free loan of £135 in August 1911, which he paid to lawyers, Messrs Callan & Galloway for the section – his son in London had already donated £5.5 for the building fund in May 1911. Also in August, the hall plans of new committee member, William Dunning were approved and the committee asked him to prepare working plans and specifications. Messrs Hayward, Dunning, Salter and Hook were given the right to sell postcards of the proposed new chapel.



An **Evening Star** report of 1 August 1911 about a public meeting held the previous day sets out a few points not evident in the mission records. *It was proposed to build a hall which would be suitable for holding services in, which eventually would be the Sunday school, and in five years' time they might attempt building a church.* William Dunning's plans for a hall were based upon old alms-houses which Rev Evans had seen in England and chairman of the building sub-committee, Douglas Harris Hastings hoped that the foundation stone would be laid on Holy Cross Day, 14 September as he *had heard that the vicar wished to call the new building Holy Cross Chapel.* The foundation stone was not laid on 14 September.



*Plan of Holy Cross dated 16 October 1911 presented to the parish by Bishop Peter Mann on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee in 1987*

Between May and October, the mission raised over £222 for its Building Fund, including £109 raised at its bazaar early in October. With a balance of £545, Anderson & Sons tender of £1094 to build the new hall was accepted in November 1911.

Excerpt from the vestry minutes of St Peter's Church, 1 Nov 1911

*After considerable discussion relative to the new building at S Kilda a contract for which the S Kilda Committee proposed to let for the sum of £1094 Mr Hastings moved and Mr Titchener seconded, That the Vestry approve of the S Kilda Committee proceeding with the erection of their building, provided that it is clearly understood that the Vestry and the Parishioners are not in any way to be held liable for any further debt on the Parish and a letter to the above effect be given by the S Kilda Committee to the vestry and endorsed by the Trustees (Messrs Hellyer, Vickery and Fenwick). Carried unanimously.*

*Upon the motion of the Vicar (Rev ED Evans), seconded by Capt Easther it was resolved that the name of the building be "The Holy Cross Chapel of Ease, in the Parish of Caversham".*

At the 1911 Synod, the diocese name of "St Peter's, Caversham" was replaced with "The Parish of Caversham." Under the Caversham Parish Boundaries Statute, 1912 (Mr D Harris Hastings), the *Parish of Caversham shall comprise the Caversham and South Dunedin Wards of the City of Dunedin, the Borough of St Kilda and that part of the Borough of Mornington south of Haywood Street.*

**Otago Witness** 13 Dec 1911 p65 c4

*Anglican chapel at St Kilda*

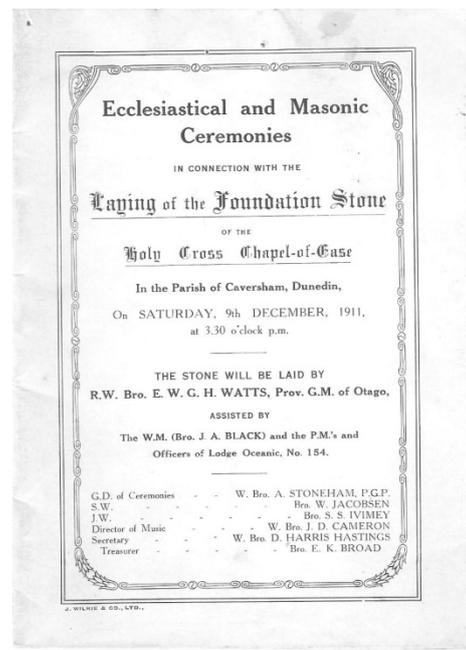
*Laying of foundation stone*

*The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Holy Cross Chapel-of-Ease, in the parish of Caversham, situated in Driver street, St Kilda, was performed on Saturday afternoon in the presence of a fairly large gathering of those interested. The ceremony was both ecclesiastical and Masonic in character. Members of Lodge Oceanic and others taking part in the ceremony assembled in the St Kilda Masonic Hall, and marched thence in procession to the site in Driver street, and there took up a position on the platform erected for the purpose. They were followed by*

*the clergy, and combined choirs of St Peter's and St Kilda, who met in the St Kilda Town Hall, the clergy leading the procession being the Very Rev Dean Fitchett, Archdeacon Neild, the Rev ED Evans (vicar of the parish), and the Revs Bedford, V King, Jones, Bush-King, and Allen. "Onward Christian Soldiers" was sung on the way to the site of the building.*

*Proceedings commenced with a short address by the Very Rev the Dean, who said they had met to lay the foundation stone of a home of prayer and of a building where the Sacrament of the Church would be administered. He referred to the early history of the parish, and said that 30 years ago services were held in a building which was now St Mary's, Mornington, by the Rev HJ Davis and the late Rev Sotham. The Rev Mr Ronaldson, who had had charge of the parish for so many years, would be sorry that he was not able to take part in that day's proceedings, but he would be with them in spirit and in prayer. Following Mr Ronaldson came the Rev Canon King, who they knew had laboured faithfully for the parish for 18 years, and who had recently retired. And they must not forget the Rev Mr Woodhouse, who had done so much for the district, and who had practically founded the mission, nor the Rev Vincent King, who had been of such great assistance to his father. Now they had their present energetic curate, the Rev Mr Evans.*

*After a short religious service, the Dean requested the Freemasons to lay the stone, and the proceedings were opened by the VW Bro the Ven Archdeacon*



Gould, PG Chaplain, and the RW Prov GM of Otago. Bro Ernest EWGH Watts, called upon the Wardens to perform their customary duties. W Bro Secretary DH Hastings read the scroll, and deposited, with copies of the daily papers, a copy of the programme, and coins of the realm, in the cavity of the stone. Bro CF McDonald presented a trowel to the RW Prov GM, who spread the cement. The stone was then lowered in three gradations by the builder (Bro AT Anderson), the ode being sung after each gradation. The Very Rev the Bishop's Commissary having blessed the stone, the Prov GM completed the laying of it after it had been tested by WM Bro JA Black and Junior Wardens Bros W Jacobsen and SS Ivimey. The elements of consecration were then presented as follow:- Corn, RW Bro DA Jolly, PGW; wine, Bro HM Ewing, PM; oil, Bro JD Cameron, PM; and salt, Bro HWS Hellyer, IPM. After the invocation by the Ven Archdeacon Gould, and the proclamation being made by the GD of Ceremonies, Bro A Stoneham, PGD, a collection was taken up for the building fund, and "Hail Masonry Divine" was sung. Addresses were then given by the RW Prov GM and Bro JA Black, WM, Lodge Oceanic, and also by the Vicar of the parish. The benediction having been pronounced, and the National Anthem sung, the processions returned in inverted order to their respective halls.

The organists at the ceremony were Miss G Stoneham and Bro JA Cardno. The architects for the building are Messrs McDonald and Dunning, and the builders Messrs AT Anderson and Son. Among others present at the ceremony were the Rev R Fairmaid, an officer of the Salvation Army, and the Mayor and councillors of the Borough of St Kilda.

For a few months after the foundation stone was laid, services were held in the Masonic Hall.

The Masonic association with Anglican parishioners in the South Dunedin area was strong. When the new St Peter's church was opened in 1882, Rev William Ronaldson was asked to decide whether or not Masonic rites should be used. Contrary to Bishop Nevill's wishes, Ronaldson decided that they should and it was after this ceremony that he joined the Freemasons.



REV. WM. RONALDSON.

Rev Ronaldson went on to become Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand from 1890 to 1900, when he retired on half pay. Critical of the clergy pension scheme, Rev Ronaldson openly acknowledged his indebtedness to the Freemasons. William Ronaldson died in 1917 at the age of 93 after a long illness and was buried from All Saints' Church in the Anglican portion of the Southern Cemetery. A Lodge of Sorrow in honour of Rev Ronaldson scheduled for 23 September 1917 to be held in the King Street Masonic Hall was advertised in the September issue of the **Church Envoy** on page 200, *Friends (including ladies) are invited to be present.* An obituary appeared later in the same issue.

From <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc01Cycl-t1-body-d4-d23-d3.html>

At the beginning of 1912, it was decided that a belfry would be added to the chapel, with *the cost not to exceed £12*. In May 1912, Mr W Dawson offered to donate a bell to the new chapel. St Peter's records indicate that it offered its old bell to Holy Cross in 1915 when Mr Fenwick gave the old St Paul's bell to St Peter's. Presumably, Holy Cross was happy with its existing bell because Charles Foreman purchased the St Peter's bell for £6 in July 1917.

The mission secretary, William George Hook resigned at the beginning of 1912 due to *business arrangements causing his absence from Dunedin*. Presumably, his wife and Ladies' Guild stalwart, Rachel Coulburn Hook left the area with him. William Hook went on to serve as a vestryman, vicar's warden and synodsmen at St Peter's for many years. He was also associated with Macandrew Bay for a time, being its New Century Appeal bishop representative in 1950. Upon his death at Ross Home in 1968 aged 89 years, WG Hook's ashes were interred at St John's, Waikouaiti. Rachel Hook served as the president of the Mothers' Union at St Peter's. Henry Luscombe, a photographer of 17 Driver Street replaced William Hook as secretary of the mission.

The St Peter's annual report dated March 1912 gave the financial situation for the St Kilda mission.

St Kilda		Assets
Freehold land		£300:0:0
Organ and furniture		£15:0:0
Cash balance	Profit and loss account	£0:13:5
	Building fund	£206:13:9
Cash, Rev ED Evans		£5:0:0
Progress payment on new church		£400:0:0
		£927:7:2
Liabilities – nil		

By May 1912, the mission committee was meeting in the Holy Cross Chapel of Ease, they had bought 175 chairs from Captain Sundstrum for 3/6 each and had decided to use red tiles instead of iron on the roof. A full description of the church is given in the ***Evening Star*** on 24 May 1912 where it was explained that the church would be *unofficially opened for service, for which temporary arrangements have been made pending the return of the vicar from England, when the chancel will be consecrated*. The ***Otago Daily Times*** issue of the same day had a similar report noting, *The cost of the structure was a little over £1100 and this might be regarded as very reasonable when the excellence of the structure is taken into account. The work put into the building reflects very great credit upon the contractors Messrs A.T. Anderson and Son and Messrs W. and A. Quinnell who personally did the brickwork*. The first service was held on 26 May.

***Evening Star*** 27 May 1912 p10 c2

*Holy Cross Chapel of East*

*Yesterday (Whit Sunday), divine services were held in the Holy Cross Chapel of Ease, St Kilda, in the parish of Caversham. Holy Communion was celebrated at a quarter-past 9, the Rev HH Bedford (acting vicar) being the celebrant, and there were close upon 100 communicants. Mr Bedford congratulated the congregation upon being in a building of their own, the result of nine years' work, self-denial, and self-sacrifice. He reminded them, however, that their work was not finished, but the new building really meant the commencement of more work, and he hoped that they would try and live up to the ideals of all that the Church stood for. In the afternoon a children's service was held.*





*surprising that we, who have a higher revelation in our Lord Jesus Christ, were often so negligent of the blessings of public worship, and the means of grace, especially that holy sacrament of communion where we come nearest to our Saviour.*

*The Primate, clergy, and 70 people sat down to breakfast in the St Kilda Town Hall at 10.15. The vicar made a short speech expressing the delight of all present at having the Primate with them, and their gratitude for the dedication of the chapel.*

*In the evening the vicar conducted a mission service, and preached the second of his advent course of sermons. The Te Deum was sung at the close of the service, in thanksgiving for the completion and dedication of the chapel, which was again filled with a large gathering of people.*



As an interesting sidelight, St Kilda voted against amalgamation with Dunedin City within a week.

**Otago Witness**, 18 Dec 1912 p6 c5

	For	Against
St Kilda Town Hall	383	769
Musselburgh Presbyterian Church	87	180
Burk's workshop	34	113
St Clair booth	66	61
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 570	<hr/> 1123
Majority against proposal	553	
Informal	29	
Total number on roll	3371	
Total number of recorded votes	1722	