

Another war...

The year 1939 started well for Holy Cross. It held its inaugural first flower show on 16 February, an event which became a popular annual addition to the social calendar. The Tennis Club won the C grade competition with its team of Messrs J Alexander (capt), A Rogers, T Belcher, J Rogers and R Watts; Misses M Edsell, B Carman, H Wenborn, A Grant and M Race. The annual mission quota was exceeded again and the parish's financial debt was reduced to £189.10.5, down from £306.16.11 the previous year.

At the beginning of September 1939, New Zealand declared war on Germany. Two significant events occurred within the parish that month, the Penny Scheme savings bank account was closed and over sixty people attended the parish social on 21 September. The annual bazaar was held as usual the following month. Over the succeeding six years, there were passing references to the effects of war.

Muriel Clarkson's successor as organist, Denton Leech was granted leave of absence as organist for military services in November 1939 and was replaced by Winifred Henderson. Denton Leech did not return to live in the parish, resigning in 1943. Winifred Henderson, aged 23 years married 28 year old Duncan Luin Todd on Christmas Eve 1940.

Church Envoy, vol xxix no 1, Feb 1942 p14

It was with feelings of deep regret that we received the news that Sergeant-Observer Todd was killed while on duty. Sergeant-Observer Todd was trained in Canada, and was in bomber aircraft stationed somewhere in England. Before he sailed from New Zealand he married Miss Henderson (Holy Cross organist). The sympathy of the Church people is extended to the bereaved widow and relatives.

Duncan Todd was in the 408 Squadron of the RNZAF and killed in action over Denmark on 12 November 1941. He is buried in Odense (Assistens) Cemetery, Denmark. Winifred gave Holy Cross a missal stand in memory of her husband in 1942.

The June 1940 issue of *Church Envoy* names Holy Cross people serving with the military services: Sister Vera M Hodges, serving in Egypt; Jack Guthrie, 1st Echelon; NF Baxter, 2nd Echelon; Donald M Stuart, 3rd Echelon; Percy James Smith, serving in HMS Achilles; Lieutenant Frame, 2nd Echelon; and Jack Allen, serving in a mine-sweeper. The following month, Douglas Harris Hastings died.

Douglas Harris Hastings was born in Kent in May 1857 and immigrated to Marton as a young man. He settled in Dunedin in 1883 and married Anne Campbell Gilchrist on 5 June 1885 at All Saints. Mayor of West Harbour in 1896 and 1897, Douglas became a Justice of the Peace in 1897 and served on the vestry of All Saints, St Peter's and Holy Cross. In church affairs, he was the senior layman at



for further information, see <http://www.flensted.eu.com/194130.shtml>

Holy Cross and Rev Wingfield recognised this when he appointed him as his first churchwarden. Douglas Harris Hastings retired as churchwarden in 1927 but remained as a synodsmen for another decade. Anne Hastings donated a bishop's chair for the chancel of Holy Cross in memory of her husband in 1941. The chair was designed and constructed by Alf Dunstan. Anne Hastings moved away from Moreau Street and died not long afterwards. Douglas and Anne are buried together in the Northern Cemetery.

Play readings and drama festivals became very popular during the war years.

Church Envoy, vol xxvi no 11, 1 Dec 1939 pp195, 206

A Pageant of Motherhood by Mary Webb

At the closing social of the Holy Cross Branch of the Mothers' Union a pageant of motherhood was presented. This pageant was original, the prologue in verse having been written by one of the members and the epilogue by a daughter of the Diocesan past president. Well-known lullabies were sung by members of the Mothers' Union who stood at the back of the stage. ...

We are glad to welcome two new members to the Sanctuary Guild, Mesdames Sanders and Rockcliff.

Ruby Sanders and Edith Rockliff (nee Moore) were sisters. In 1940, the Girls' Club held a drama festival of three plays on 1 August with the proceeds to go towards church army huts; the Mothers' Union social on 20 November included an original play, "Victorian Interlude" and a play reading; and a pageant of the church seasons was held at Advent (described below). Youth activities at a diocesan and national level were also prevalent around this time.

Church Envoy, vol xxvii no 3, 1 March 1940 p53

There are excellent attendances at the Boys' Bible Classes. Eight of our boys went to the camp at Masterton and have returned full of enthusiasm.

Holy Cross parishioner, Dora Carpenter was a prime mover behind the youth movement in Dunedin. Born in 1905, Dora's parents were Ellen and sometime vestryman Surrey Beauford Carpenter of 66 Grove Street. Dora was one of the original leaders of the Girls' Club and represented Holy Cross at the Sunday School Teachers' Association from 1925. In 1930, she became inaugural secretary of the Dunedin branch of the New Zealand Anglican Girls' Bible Class Union. The following year, Dora was the camp organiser for the national camp held in Dunedin and she was appointed president of the Dunedin branch in 1936. During the war, Dora was the organiser of a dominion Bible class camp for girls aged 16 years and over at St Hilda's Collegiate School, 28 December 1940 till 7 January 1941.

Church Envoy, vol xxviii no 2, 16 March 1941 pp34-5

We were glad to welcome the leaders and some of the girls from the Dominion Bible Class Camp to the Parish for a week's stay in the Parish Hall.

In December as our preparation for the Festival of the Nativity we staged a pageant of the Church's Season in the Church. The pageant was produced by Misses Vera Gore and Ethel Anderson, who trained the Sunday School children and made the costumes. The Girls' Club formed a choir under the leadership of Miss May Hutchings to sing the music of the production. We are indebted to Miss June Barclay, who played for the practices.

The annual Flower Show was held on Wednesday, 10th February. ...

Mr and Mrs Macfarlane have removed to Woodhaugh. We shall miss them. Mr Macfarlane was a Vestryman and Sunday School teacher and Mrs Macfarlane helped in many ways.

There were a handful of changes to vestry membership during the war. Civil engineer, Pharie Macfarlane resigned from vestry when he moved to Malvern Street and joined the Holy Innocents' congregation. Henry Diehl filled the vacancy he left. This was the second replacement on the 1940/41 vestry as St Kilda's deputy chief postmaster, Charles Brian left the area at the end of 1940, just six months after joining vestry – his replacement was Jack Robilliard, who remained on vestry till June 1942. There were another two mid-term changes to vestry in 1941/42. In December 1941, Charles and Clara West left the parish, where Charles had served as a vestryman since 1927 and secretary, James Dickie died in March 1942. Upon returning to Dunedin, William Pullar re-joined vestry, along with newcomer George Hodgkinson. Both George Hodgkinson and Henry Diehl were confirmed at Holy Cross on 6 July 1941. On the whole, however, vestry membership was fairly settled during the war years led by William Jacobsen as vicar's churchwarden, Richard Brent as people's churchwarden, Cecil Oaten as treasurer and James Dickie followed by Keith Pritchett as secretary.

At the end of 1940, Rev Webb was appointed the Church of England chaplain for the Forbury Military Camp and in March 1942 he became a canon. At the 1942 annual meeting, the death of Percy Priest in Nairobi was noted and Canon Webb reported on an improved financial position due to *systematic giving by the parishioners and two substantial anonymous donations*. It was the first time that the financial records had shown a credit balance since the depression years as the year had begun with a debit of £119.18.8 and ended with a credit of £7.6.2. Additionally, *major repairs had been made to the roof of the vicarage, and the church belfry had been removed*. Holy Cross was feeling the effects of the war, however.

Minutes of the 25th annual meeting, 1 July 1942 with 60 present in schoolroom
All organisations of the Parish had been active in a restricted way. The Girls Club had lost members owing to war conditions and the Boys Club members were mostly in territorial camps. Bible classes and Sunday school were carrying on well thanks to loyal support of the teachers.

Church Envoy, vol xxix no 2, March 1942 p35

The Bible Classes, Sunday School and Kindergarten have each a large roll, and the number of teachers is the same as last year. We miss Mr Peter Chapman who is away serving in the Territorials. Nearly all the members of the Senior Boys' Bible Class are serving in the Armed Forces. It was a pleasure to hear from some of the old members and to have others back with us recently on leave. A Junior Boys' Bible Class has commenced and has a fair membership. Miss Merlyn Esdall, one of our choir members, was married to Mr Robert Little on January 28. Prior to the wedding, choir members assembled at the bride's home, where a pleasant evening was spent. Mr Richardson, the choirmaster, made a presentation to Mrs Little of an electric jug. It was with regret that we learnt of the death of Mr Brent's mother. We extend our sincere sympathy.

Church Envoy, vol xxix no 9, Oct 1942 p161 re Tennis Club

With so many of the male members absent on active service the club will be virtually a ladies' club, and it was fitting that a lady captain was elected. We congratulate Miss Mary Race on being the first lady to receive the honour.

There were over 50 marriages held at Holy Cross during World War Two. The two weddings held in September 1942 reflected wartime conditions. It was a military marriage on 17 September for 22 year olds, Raymond Wallace Carter and Marjorie Brain and a naval wedding for 23 year old Max Larsen and 21 year old Phyllis May Allan on 19 September. For women in the church, marriage signalled withdrawal from some activities. For example, it seems that Winifred Henderson resigned as organist when she became Mrs Todd because Miss Audrey McCaul is described as organist in 1941. At the end of 1943, Audrey McCaul resigned due to her impending marriage and was replaced by Miss Ruth Moore.

The war also impacted upon women's work in the parish due to other commitments.

Church Envoy, vol xxix no 5, June 1942 p95

Miss Sybil Anderson has accepted a position away from St Kilda and has resigned from the Sanctuary Guild and as Secretary of the Font Roll. As a mark of appreciation of her long and faithful service a presentation was made to her by the Vicar on behalf of the Sanctuary Guild. We shall miss her very much. Miss Nancy Collins has been appointed Font Roll Secretary.

The Ladies' Guild annual meeting of June 1942 was attended by Mesdames Webb, Cummings, Joyce, Frame, Hoare, Lennox, Diehl, Mackay, Hutt, Grant, Pidduck, Miss Mee and Miss Dunstan with apologies from Mesdames Glue and McKenzie. The annual subscription remained at two shillings and it was decided, *owing to war conditions and the difficulty of procuring material, it was decided on the recommendation of the Vestry that straight-out giving be tried this year and that early in December a "Christmas Shop" be held in the schoolroom.* The straight out giving took the form of a golden offertory at patronal festival. A letter of sympathy was also sent to Vera Gore on the death of her sister, Ethel. At its annual meeting the following year, the Guild decided to go into recess due to war conditions *and to be called together if anything came along requiring their corporation.*

Vestry minutes show that the 1942 Christmas Shop brought in the sum of £43.2.7 while the gross proceeds of the Flower Show held on 25 February 1943 were £26.16.6. Attendance was down to forty at the June 1943 annual parish meeting but this was partly attributed to bad weather that evening. The meeting opened with prayer and the national anthem. The financial accounts continued to be positive, showing a credit balance of over £80. The mood of the meeting, however was tempered by the notification of Les Belcher's death.

Driver Leslie Haydn Belcher was the son of Annie and Haydn Belcher and was confirmed at Holy Cross on 29 November 1936. He served in the New Zealand Army Service Corps and died in Egypt on 26 June 1943 at the age of 22 years. He is buried in the Heliopolis War Cemetery, Egypt.

Church Envoy, vol xxx no 2, Mar 1943 p30

There will be a change in the order of the 11 am Sunday Services. In future they will be as follows:- First Sunday in month, Matins and Litany; second Sunday, Sung Eucharist; third Sunday, Children's Service; fourth and fifth Sundays, Sung Eucharists.

All in all, the parish seemed to “get by” under war conditions. In April 1944, Sunday school superintendent, Mr Anthony Spears resigned and did not seek re-election to vestry that year after five years of service. Vestry re-appointed William Jacobsen to vote as “vicarage owner” in the 1944 St Kilda Borough Council elections.

Minutes of the 27th annual meeting, 5 July 1944 with 70 present

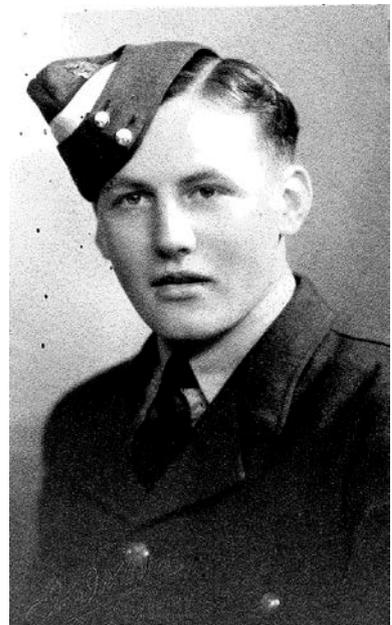
The golden offertory had been a great help with the finances. The choir under Mr Henderson had carried on well but would welcome some more lady members. Our organist, Miss Moore, who is an accomplished musician, had quickly adapted herself to our services and is working hard with the boys. Mrs Thompson had ably acted as Deputy Organiste. The mission quota has been found, but our quota for devastated missions had not yet been donated. The canon referred to the sudden passing of Isabella Cummings who had been a great church worker and Mothers’ Union leader. The youth work is carrying on splendidly with enthusiastic teachers and leaders, and a junior girls club had been started with success. He would like to see more regular attendances at church and especially at Holy Communion.

The death of the vicar’s son, John Webb in 1944 was unwelcome news.

Minutes of vestry meeting, 8 August 1944

On 29th July we heard with deepest sorrow of the death of John Webb, RNZAF while on active service aged 20. The vestry wishes to record its deep appreciation of his sterling character and his work for the Church as a choir boy and server at the altar.

Flying Officer John Gibson Webb was part of the 132 Operational Training Unit of the Royal New Zealand Air Force when he died in the United Kingdom on 27 July 1944. He is buried in Haddington New Burial Ground, East Lothian, Scotland. John’s elder sister, Dorothy married Charles French on 9 April 1941 at Holy Cross and settled in Invercargill. Her two children were baptised at Holy Cross, with the eldest son christened John Gibson French on 23 December 1945.



Hymn 370 extra verse – insert in choir minute book

Direct with thine all seeing eye

Watch each dread journey through the sky,

Through every storm and danger zone

Bring each brave pilot safely home.

O God extend Thy saving care

John Webb

To those in peril in the air.

(photo from Christine French)

Holy Cross’ final war casualty was Private Clive Leslie Anderson. His parents were Bruce and Annie Amelia Anderson of 16 Market Street. While Bruce Anderson had built Holy Cross, it was his children, Sybil, Myrtle, Ethel and Gerald who were more active in the parish. Clive was born 21 April 1914 and served in the 22 Infantry Battalion. He died in a prisoner of war camp on 17 April 1945 and is buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery.

Families also had to cope with the death of loved ones at home.

Church Envoy, vol xxxii no 5, June 1945 pp77-8

It is with regret that we learnt of the death of Dorothy Frances Race. The end was unexpected as she appeared to be making a good recovery from an operation. Her two sons and son-in-law are with the ME forces. Mrs Race was a member of the Parish Guild. In the days when we were struggling under the burden of debt, her willing, cheerful help was invaluable. She was also a member of the Mothers' Union for many years....

The Junior Girls' Club continues to have fully attended meetings. There is much enthusiasm. Miss Hazel Parker has been appointed to assist Miss Alma Johnson. FO Peter Chapman and Ethne Hutchings were married in April. Peter, until war duties took him away from us, helped with the Boys' Club and Bible Class. Ethne was a Sunday School teacher and helped with the Girls' Club and other youth organisations. We shall miss them both. They have taken up their residence in Auckland. Our prayers and good wishes go with them.

In the same issue of **Church Envoy**: 26 year old Ethne Hutchings was thanked for producing the missionary play "*Joan's Rejoinder*"; it was noted that Miss May Hutchings was in charge of the Girls' Club choir; and Mrs Hutchings, the enrolling member of Mothers' Union was in hospital. The Girls' Club basketball team in 1945 consisted of Misses Freeman, Fieldwick, Gunn, Belcher, Dunn, Dawson and Sharp.

At the annual meeting of the choir Cyril Powell was appointed secretary, Miss Mayall as treasurer and Richard Brent continued as librarian, *an office he has held for many years*. Earlier in the year, £5 was donated to the choir for ladies' gowns and caps

Church Envoy, vol xxxii no 7, August 1945 p109

We rejoice to welcome two more of our boys – WO Eric Johnson, who was a pilot of Bomber Command and has been a prisoner of war for some years, and Lieutenant J Bond, who was in command of small ships in the English Channel and is on long leave.

On 14 August, Mothers' Union held a social for newcomers to the parish, ie Mesdames Ellett, Wilkinson, Young, Berney, Pistor and Dixon, with apologies from newcomers, Mesdames McLeod, Green, Percy, Eggers and Taylor. The Tennis Club opened for the season on 22 September and the Green Island Young People's Club hosted its Holy Cross counterpart for *a happy and enjoyable evening*. The last social for the year was held on Wednesday 14 November when Holy Cross Players presented "*Martha and Mary*", with its proceeds to go to the Choir Gown Fund.

In August 1945, vestry agreed that a stained glass window should be installed in the baptistery to commemorate the World War Two fatalities. Mr Brock quoted £90 for a stained glass window and was instructed to go ahead with the design of Jesus surrounded by children as parishioners readily donated the required sum. The window was unveiled at Evensong on 10 February 1946.

Church Envoy, vol xxxiii no 2, March 1946 p23

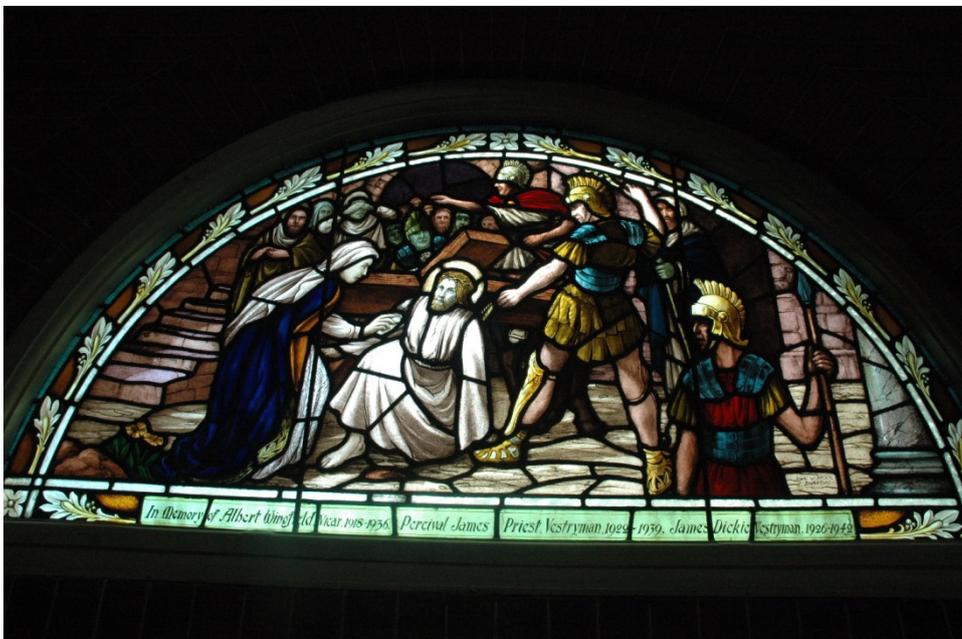
The memorial window was dedicated on the fifth Sunday after Epiphany. The Rev LDC Grove, CF, officiated and we are grateful to him for his helpful address. Mr Lionel Powell, a returned serviceman, sang "Be Thou Faithful Unto Death."



In fact, the World War Two memorial window was over-subscribed and the remaining balance of £66 was transferred to the Wingfield Memorial Fund. The Wingfield Memorial Fund had been opened in late 1941 as a tribute to the work of Rev Wingfield. It was expanded to include Percy Priest and James Dickie and led to the erection of another window, this time on the western side of the church at a cost of £95. The window was unveiled at Holy Cross on 22 December 1946.

Church Envoy, vol xxxiv no 1, Feb 1947 p2

The window was made in Dunedin, the artist being Mr JW Brock. Considering the size and shape there are more figures than usual in the composition. The work of cutting and leading of the many pieces has been executed by WA Raffills with great skill.



Now World War Two was over, vestry could focus on improving the church buildings.

Building and renovations...

The vicarage at 9 Council Street had been a constant drain on finances over the years with ongoing repairs and maintenance. At the 1943 annual meeting under the heading, *Victory Vicarage*, Richard Brent *promised £1 towards a fund to build a new vicarage after the war*. It was the income from William Tayles' £500 bequest, plus the fact that the parish was debt-free which allowed Holy Cross vestry to contemplate undertaking a programme of building and improvements. Consequently, vestry bought five shares in Southland Building Society at a cost of £26 in November 1943, thereby opening the fund for a new vicarage.

From mid-1944, the progressive balance of the Vicarage Building Fund was displayed in the church porch and later in the year, a separate account was opened at Dunedin Savings Bank. In 1945, the £25 received from the Tayles Estate was deposited in the vicarage account. It took time to raise the money, however and the Council Street vicarage still demanded attention. For example in July 1948 about £230 was paid for roughcasting the vicarage exterior and £20 for painting its roof. Insurance on the property was increased to £1500 in November 1948. When the vicarage was eventually auctioned by LJ Ireland Ltd in late 1951, vestry received £2827 for it.

A more pressing issue for the congregation was the heating of the church. A coke heating system had been installed in the church in 1931. In mid-1935, an electric heater was installed in the chancel. Over the next decade, various heaters were donated and shared around the different parts of the church property till finally in June 1946, vestry agreed to dispose of the furnace altogether. They decided to install an electric heating system of metal tubing under the pews at a cost of approximately £100. In fact, over £136 was raised and the heaters were installed by winter 1947. The vestry minutes of December 1947 record, *it was decided to put a notice on the switchboard that only vestrymen or organist switch on heaters*. Vestry records indicate that gas heaters continued to supplement the heating within the church.

Parish life in general seemed to be positive for Holy Cross in 1947. Richard Brent donated a *handsome chancel light* in memory of his wife, Catherine.

Church Envoy, vol xxxiv no 6, July 1947 p69

The tubular heating has now been installed in the Church and has proved a success. The Kindergarten children have presented the Church with a brass ewer for the baptistery. We are indebted to Messrs AT Hart Ltd for making it at cost.

The Sunday schoolchildren have given a light for the pulpit desk...

The choir gowns have been worn for some weeks now. The wearing of these lends dignity to the services and especially the processions. Holy Cross Parish is the first to have a gowned women's choir in Dunedin. We wish to thank the Parish of Gladstone for their great help in supplying patterns, particulars and advice for the completion of the work. The choir has rendered quite a number of anthems recently and Miss Moore, the organist, is most enthusiastic in her work. We have room for four more boys. There are no vacant places in the men's choir. We thank Mrs Pritchett for taking over the leadership of the MU choir.

On Sunday, 27th April, Rev GE Moreton of Auckland preached at Evensong. There was a very large congregation and Mr Moreton gave an interesting address on

his work in Mt Eden prison, and also as Secretary for the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. After the service, a large number of parishioners remained for a social hour in honour of the visitor. Items were given by Mrs Pritchett (piano), the MU choir, and recitations by Miss Lorraine Pistor. Supper was given and served by the Girls' Bible Class, Sunday School Teachers and Holy Cross Club. Many old friends of Mr Moreton were present. Many thanks to the organisers of this function.



Holy Cross choir, end of 1949

Back row: Allan Ralston, Ray Sanders, Cyril Powell, Lionel Powell, William Jacobsen, Keith Pritchett, Ernie Newman, Richard Brent, Ivor Powell

Middle row: Diana and Betty Walker, Nanette Abbott, Doreen Leary, Patricia Ball, Valerie Bransgrove, Evelyn Litolff, Mrs M Aysford, Mrs L Powell

Front row: Bob Andrews, Eric Tait, Peter Holst, John Andrews, Ruth Moore, Ron James, Alex Davies, Lyn Bransgrove, Canon Webb, Ralph Tait

The main concern for vestry at this time, however continued to be the upkeep of its property. In the post-war years, Mr (Bill) Rowley's name appears a number of times, usually in connection with cabinetry work. One example comes from the end of 1946 when he was sent a letter of thanks for making a cupboard for the prayer books and altering the ladies' choir room. When it came to painting and maintaining the grounds though, the vestry minutes indicate that it was often vestrymen completing the work. For example, Bill Bennetto painted the ladies' choir room near the end of 1946. In November 1949, 94 year old Annie Anderson donated £16 towards the painting of the Sunday school in recognition of William Jacobsen and Keith Pritchett's work in repairing the

spouting on the church and Sunday school. Both William and Keith were on the vestry at the time and two other vestrymen, Albert Powell and Norman Croft painted the Sunday school roof in January 1950. The vestry had the foresight to take out an accident policy for the painting of the roof the month beforehand but fortunately, it was not needed.

Maintaining the church grounds was an ongoing chore and the vestrymen tried to spread the load. Near the end of 1946, vestrymen Bennetto, Powell, Pritchett and Fred Jackson filled in the empty section while George Brooks rotary-hoed it. The following year, Fred Jackson offered to take over the church section as a garden. Prior to that in September 1947, it was suggested that a men's guild be formed for the upkeep of church buildings and vicarage and fifteen months later, *The upkeep of the church grounds and cutting of grass were fully discussed and Messrs Ayshford, Bennetto, Angell and Powell agreed to form a working team with the hope of inducing younger men in the parish to help them.* The fact that the issue kept arising suggests that long-term solutions were not found. In February 1948, a new mower was purchased from Paterson and Barr Ltd for £6.7.9 but eighteen months later, Keith Pritchett suggested that a fund be started to purchase a motor mower.

While men were expected to maintain the buildings and grounds, women continued to serve the church in other ways. The **Church Envoy** reported that after Evensong on 7 September 1947, a social hour was held in honour of 46 year old Miss Gladys Hodges because *after more than twenty years of service as Sacristan and head of the Sanctuary Guild, Miss Hodges has had to resign owing to increasing home duties.* She was presented with a cheque *in token of their appreciation and esteem.* Looking at the church records, it seems that these home duties revolved around living in a Cutten Street household with her parents and eventually, an uncle. Her mother, Mary Hodges died in 1949 and the brothers, Albert and Edwin died within a week of each other in 1957. Gladys was living in Karitane Rest Home when she died at the beginning of 1988 and her funeral service was held at Holy Cross.

The Grant family also seem to have left the parish shortly after the conclusion of World War Two. Sanctuary Guild member, 39 year old Mabel married Harold Aitken in May 1946 and their names disappear from church records till 1963 when Harold was christened at the age of 57 years. Harold Aitken was a school inspector and he wrote the centennial history book for St Kilda Borough Council. He was Holy Cross' honorary auditor between 1970 and 1973. Harold and Mabel were killed in a car accident in February 1978 and Rev T Brown conducted a joint funeral for them at Holy Cross. They were buried in Andersons Bay Cemetery. Mabel's father, Exchange pharmacist and Holy Cross layreader, Harold Grant became a vestryman at St Peter's, Caversham was appointed a licensed layreader there on 13 February 1951. Holy Cross vestry minutes in 1961 noted that he was living in Auckland.

Church Envoy, vol xxxv no 4, May 1948 p45

Miss Irene Longworth has resigned her position as Font Roll Secretary on account of her forthcoming marriage [to Percy Palmer]. We thank Miss Longworth for her good work, and are pleased to announce that Miss Peggy Parker will take on the work.... The Holy Cross Guild has sustained a great loss by the death of Miss M Mee. Miss [Martha] Mee was an excellent needlewoman and will be missed for her work for the Church, as well as for her kindly and happy presence at Guild meetings. Our sympathy is extended to her sister.

In 1948, parishioner and St Kilda Borough councillor, Edwin Longworth was employed to renovate the sanctuary. Two partitions were also erected in the Sunday school to separate classes. Further renovations to the Sunday school occurred in 1950 and 1951 when Bill Rowley was employed to build folding doors between the kitchen and cloak room and MBM Builders' tender of £18 to erect an outside door to the lavatory was accepted. Inconclusive discussions took place occasionally in the post-war years about providing extra storage room in the Sunday school.

An interesting sidelight around this time was the closer relationship between Holy Cross and St Michael's, the Syrian and Greek Orthodox Church in Fingall Street. Opened in January 1911, St Michael's had a long association with the Anglican diocese and in 1937, Rev Webb was asked to support the congregation. It was in the years after World War Two however, that there was a more active connection. This rejuvenation may be partly due to New Zealand troops' association with Greece during the war years and to a growing movement within the diocese towards pageantry.

In 1947, St Michaels' was refurbished and its congregation was represented at the youth service in St Paul's Cathedral, participating in the processional with its own insignia.

Church Envoy, vol xxxvi no 5, June 1949 pp56-7

The Vicar had the pleasure of celebrating the Divine mysteries on two Easter Days in the one year. On Easter Day according to the Western use and the Orthodox Church Easter, which according to the calendar they use, fell on the 24th April (Easter I)). The Orthodox Church of S Michael was crowded by a congregation that had come from far and near. The Divine Liturgy was said and after the service, some very beautiful Orthodox Easter customs were observed. Recently we had a most helpful visit from the senior Greek priest stationed in Australia. He was able to remain for some days and visit the homes of his people and to celebrate Mass twice and take a number of baptisms. We were all delighted to hear his words of praise for the way the Church of S Michael had been repaired and refurbished. He also expressed his pleasure in visiting them and learning at first hand of their enthusiasm for the ritual and customs of the faith of their fathers. We welcome Miss Joanna Mickalapoulous, who has come to Dunedin from Athens, to learn Plunket method at Karitane Hospital. A meeting was arranged with Mrs Begonis, who is also a native of Athens and these two Athenians were able to talk together in their native tongue.

Just two months later, at Holy Cross' 6.30pm confirmation service,

Church Envoy, vol xxxvi no 9, Oct 1949 p107

We were delighted to have the senior priest of the Greek Orthodox Church in Sydney with us. The Bishop, in cope and mitre, the Orthodox priest in beautiful robes, preceded by choir women in their blue gowns and the surplice men and boys' choir, made a colourful procession. The two servers on duty were Messrs Ray Wallace and George Corban, the latter a member of the Orthodox Church. The church barely held the large congregation. Some had to stand. We shall remember with joy our Patronal Festival, 1949...

Katie Hananeia and George Barbara, two members of the Orthodox Church, passed to their rest recently. The latter was association from the very beginning with the building of the Church of S Michael.

While the above deaths were recorded in the church register, Canon Webb neither identified them as members of the Orthodox faith, nor where the services were held. This was not unusual. For example, Barbara family entries in the parish registers record that five children were christened between 1932 and 1954, five adults were married between 1939 and 1995 and five adults were buried between 1942 and 1977. Only one youth was confirmed, in 1962. It was noted in passing in the July 1979 *Mouse* that Michael Barbara, who was christened at Holy Cross in 1932, was an Anglican vicar in Australia. There are only four entries in Holy Cross registers which identify people as being Greek Orthodox: George Amouri and Olga Facory who were christened in September 1920; Leslie Richards christened in February 1968; and Findlay Richards christened in April 1969.

Members of both churches were keen on donating memorial items. In 1950, Miss L Amunie donated *a beautiful chalice with a cover surmounted with a silver cross* to St Michael's, in memory of her brother George who had died in August 1948 – while his surname was spelt Amuni in the church register, this is not the George Amouri identified above. At Holy Cross, vestryman Keith Pritchett donated a Southern beech noticeboard in memory of his wife, Constance who died unexpectedly in January 1950 and the Pullar family donated a brass processional cross in memory of longtime vestryman, William Pullar who died in March 1950.

In April 1951, Canon Webb announced his pending retirement, to take effect from September. Between these dates, Cecil Oaten stepped down as treasurer, retiring from vestry at the annual meeting after serving on it since 1918 and Norman Croft became treasurer.

Arrangements for Parish Breakfast 1951 (from vestry book)

<i>Butter</i>	<i>Bennetts, Jacobsen, Angell, Amyes</i>
<i>Sugar</i>	<i>Mr Diehl</i>
<i>Tea</i>	<i>Mr Brent (Mr Bowler makes)</i>
<i>Saveloys</i>	<i>35 lbs from Mr Wheelwright, Mr Croft to order. Messrs Angell and Hodgkinson to be in charge of boiling.</i>
<i>1 lb of coffee and 5 cut loaves</i>	<i>(Mr Dunstan makes coffee)</i>
<i>Milk</i>	<i>order 3 gallons from Mr Harbrow (Mr Croft to order) (To be left in church porch in container)</i>
<i>Crockery, urn and 6 seats</i>	<i>to be ordered by Mr Brent (Pritchett and Bennetts to load and unload)</i>
<i>Tea towels</i>	<i>2 each from Angell, Amyes, Ayshford, Bennetts, Brent, Croft, Jacobsen and Pritchett</i>
<i>Waiters</i>	<i>under Mr Diehl – 12 wanted</i>
<i>Mr Croft and 3 bankers to count offertory – Mr Croft to marshal in church</i>	
<i>To prepare hall at 10.30am Saturday 15th - Angell, Bennetts, Ayshford, Powell, Pritchett, Brent</i>	
<i>Setting tables in afternoon – Mesdames Dawson, Pollock and helpers</i>	
<i>Crockery to be packed back in all boxes.</i>	
<i>Mustard - Mr Dunstan</i>	<i>Marmalade - Powell and Jacobsen</i>
<i>3 tablecloths in lower cupboard and from Mrs Ombler, Anderson, Pollock, Pritchett</i>	
<i>Advertisement in Star</i>	
<i>Holy Cross Parish, St Kilda Patronal Festival 1951</i>	
<i>Services</i>	<i>8.30 am Sung Eucharist (Canon Webb celebrant, assisted by Archdeacon Newcombe and Canon Strong)</i>
	<i>11am no service</i>
	<i>6.30pm Festival Evensong (preacher Archdeacon Newcombe)</i>
<i>After 8.30am Eucharist, Parish Breakfast will be held in the Sunday School Hall</i>	

When the Webbs left 9 Council Street, vestry immediately placed the vicarage on the market and pressed ahead with its plans for a new vicarage. A building committee was formed of Albert Ayshford, Bill Bennetto, Norman Croft and Keith Pritchett. William Jacobsen recorded his objection to the corner site in the vestry minutes as it had been reserved as the church site. Obviously, he did not approve of developments in the parish and resigned from vestry in 1952. It was not the first time that he had resigned from vestry but it was to be the last. He also resigned from the choir in 1952.

William Jacobsen's association with Holy Cross dated back to the St Kilda mission days when he was on the 1908 St Kilda mission committee as a 24 year old. He left the committee at the 1911 annual meeting but joined the Holy Cross Council in 1915, going onto the original vestry till 1921. He resigned in October 1921 due to an unrecorded issue – a staunch opponent of Anglo-Catholicism, it may have been over the issue of parish boundaries with St Peter's. Alternatively, it may have been due to tension between vestry and the Ladies' Guild as William often assisted the guild, particularly at its sales of work. Nevertheless, he returned to vestry in 1927 as people's churchwarden and held this role till 1939 when he became the vicar's churchwarden. William was the vicar's warden when he resigned in 1952. He was also a member of synod for many years, resigning in 1954. Outside of Holy Cross, William worked at Musselburgh Pumping Station and he was a member of Lodge Oceanic and the St Kilda Bowling Club. His two daughters attended Musselburgh School and William served on the school committee during World War One and was chairman by 1919. William convened the school's 50th jubilee committee in 1955 with vestry secretary and vicar's churchwarden, Keith Pritchett. In 1957, William and Mary Jacobsen shifted to Hamilton to be closer to their surviving daughter, Shirley Wilkinson and family. Their other daughter, Muriel died in Hamilton in 1941. William and Mary had been married for over 61 years when Mary died in February 1961. William died seven months later at the age of 87 and they are buried together in Hamilton.



Canon Webb's farewell, 31 July 1951: Richard Brent, Alf and Agnes Finnie (Mayor and Mayoress of St Kilda), Canon Cyprian Webb, William Jacobson, Mary Webb, Bishop William Fitchett, Emily Fitchett, Ven Ray Newcombe (vicar-general and diocesan registrar)

William Jacobsen may not have approved of the corner site but, like many of the vestrymen, he made a personal donation to the vicarage fund. Ironically enough, the corner site proved to be unsuitable for a church. The December 1951 vestry minutes record, *The architect had delayed work on plans for new vicarage on account of poor nature of ground requiring extensive foundations.* This was to be remedied by *well spread footing on a concrete slab to cover the whole ground space.* By this time, Canon Webb had left and services were being taken by Canon Strong. Vestry was determined to have a vicarage in place for the new vicar and held off making an appointment till midway through 1952.

Church Envoy, vol xxxix no 3, Apr 1952 p32

The foundation of the new vicarage has been laid down and when the completion of the building is in sight, steps will be taken to secure a vicar for the Parish; in the meantime we ask our people to be patient and help with their prayers. We are fortunate in having Canon Strong to take our services and attend to our wants.

The following month, the **Church Envoy** reported that Holy Cross had been issued with a faculty to erect a vicarage in the church grounds and that Rev John Daniel Garner Hodgson, vicar of Woodville, had accepted the position of vicar at Holy Cross from 1 July. Vestry offered him an annual stipend of £500, plus £25 travelling allowances. There were four children in the Hodgson family and this must have placed extra pressure on the parish to complete the new vicarage before they arrived. It was not finished when they arrived, although the family seem to have moved in not long afterwards.

The new vicarage cost £4,780 and in building it, the parish once more went into debt. Consequently, there was a flurry of fundraising activities.

Church Envoy, vol xxxix no 5, June 1952 p57

In the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening, 6th May, a social evening was held, the proceeds being for the New Vicarage Fund. The band, under Mr [Alfred] Allsop, who was also MC, did excellent work. Our thanks are due to Mrs [Phyl] Croft, Mrs [Evelyn] Pritchett and Miss [Vera] Gore for the good supper provided. Our best thanks are due to Mr [Keith] Pritchett for his untiring efforts in connection with the new vicarage. All trust it will be in readiness for our new Vicar, Rev JDG Hodgson.

A bring and buy sale was also arranged for Saturday 7 June at 2.30pm in the Parish Hall as a fundraiser for the vicarage. Parishioners were encouraged to bring a parcel worth one shilling and buy one for the same amount. It raised £23.10.0. Further sales of work took place on 1 August and 11 October 1952. There was a real problem at the start of 1953, however, when the church overdraft at the National Bank had to be reduced to £1000 by the end of June, due to Reserve Bank regulations. Vestry decided to ask parishioners for interest-free loans, repayable on demand and Richard Brent immediately donated £25 at the February vestry meeting. Less than seven weeks later, Richard Brent died in his sleep at the age of 66.

Richard Brent had served on the vestry since 1932, becoming people's churchwarden in 1939 and succeeding William Jacobsen as vicar's churchwarden in 1952. A St Kilda Borough councillor, he had contributed Holy Cross notes to the **Church Envoy** for a number of years and provided accommodation for the Hodgsons when they first arrived in Dunedin the previous year. It was

certainly a time of change for Holy Cross as church organist, Ruth Moore left the parish at the end of 1952 after nine years of service. Philip Hodgson was appointed organist in her place with an annual salary of £40, which was raised to £52 from 1 June 1953. Lionel Powell was appointed choirmaster.

To reduce the vicarage debt, Rev Hodgson held a vigil in the church on Thursday, 23 May 1953 accepting donations and loans. At its June meeting, vestry recorded that this enterprise had raised £706 of which £244 was loan money. Eleven people lent the sum of £244, with £200 of the loan coming from three people. Rev Hodgson repeated his vigil the following year on 18 June, collecting £312 and £12 in interest-free loans. This brought the vicarage debt down to £917. An *Evening Star* article on the 1954 vigil reported that the average donation ranged between 30s and £2, with the minimum amount of two shillings donated by a small boy and the maximum donation being £5. While the vicarage debt was reduced to £406 by July 1956, it was paid off slowly due to developments in other church buildings. A further £94 was raised through interest free loans in 1955, with Rev Hodgson lending £64 of this total.

The August 1953 *Church Envoy* reported from vestry, *The great deal of work in necessary repairs to the church roof, the need for a sanctuary carpet and the enlarging of the Parish Hall were discussed.* A committee was also to be formed *to evolve a scheme to place a memorial in memory of Mr RS Brent in Holy Cross Church.* It can also be assumed that female parishioners would have had mixed feelings about vestry's resolution the previous September that , *The tool shed in the church next to the Ladies choir room is to be made available for the ladies as a cloak room.* Obviously, the time had come when minor alterations and repairs were insufficient to meet the needs of the parish.

Local builder Angus Lennox offered to enlarge the Sunday school *by making it uniform width right along* in March 1951. While Angus' name does not appear in church membership lists, his wife Helen had a long association with the Mothers' Union, joining it in 1939 and serving as secretary from 1941 then enrolling member between 1945 and 1955. Angus Lennox's offer was not acted upon till 1953.

Vestry minutes 14 July 1953

Saturday mornings after vestry meetings will be regular working bee mornings.... Jobs for working bee: repair window in Sunday school; clean out porch and under stairs and men's vestry room; examine church gallery for borer; block up gap on gallery stairs and fix a door there. It was agreed that the sanctuary carpet will be treated with beetle powder, and future replacement will be attended to by the Ladies Guild. The matter of enlargement of the parish hall was fully discussed, and the idea of an L wing containing say two rooms was favoured. The question of proximity to neighbouring house to be settled.

Vestry minutes, 11 Aug 1953

A letter had been sent to Mr Lennox enclosing a Borough Permit form for the Sunday school alterations and thanking him for his generous offer to effect these alterations to the Sunday School without cost to the church. Faculties were received from the Diocesan Office for the Fellowship of Marriage Banner and for the Sunday school alterations.

Angus Lennox's work involved widening the hall to a uniform width five feet and erecting an extra room, measuring twelve feet by twelve feet.

Church Envoy, vol xli no 5, June 1954 p56

A very pleasant function was held on 11th May to mark the completion of the additions and renovations to the parish hall. Mr Lennox had widened the hall and added an extra room which has now been named "The Lennox Room". Working bees have painted inside and outside and have erected a stage with three entrances that any amateur dramatic club would be proud to have. Curtains have been donated, and the Vicar and Messrs AW Allsop, Dick Barton and John Hodgson and Misses Eileen Robson and Miriam Hodgson presented a delightful reading of AA Milne's "Dover Road" as the first performance. It is hoped to form a Dramatic Club now that these facilities are available.

Two years later, Helen and Angus Lennox shifted to Auckland from their Coney Hill Road home.

Church Envoy, vol xli no 10, Nov 1954 p118

The Festival Concert, presented on the 14th September to a full house, was enjoyed by all. All branches of the church participated, and it was apparent that a lot of time and practice had gone into some of the items. Three members of the Vestry, with the help of three younger men, finished off a full programme with their version of the "Can Can". It was a well-received item, and a special word of thanks must go to Mrs Rockliff, who coached the dancers and was responsible for the appropriate clothing worn by the "ballet girls". Supper concluded a fund and enjoyable evening.

There were various proposals put forward about an appropriate memorial for Richard Brent, including a stained glass window and calling the Sunday school extension the Brent Wing. In the end, however, parishioners' donations towards the Brent Memorial Fund were used for a lamp and altar hangings. These altar hangings of red, white, violet and green were to become an integral part of the re-conditioned sanctuary. The significance of these liturgical colours is described in Appendix One.

At the 1954 annual meeting, Rev Hodgson spoke about the interior of the church: the main body of the church was not yet consecrated; there was limited space between his prayer desk and lectern which restricted congregation's view of the altar; and there was restricted space for weddings. He suggested that the altar was raised and set further back. Four months later on 4 October, the church was damaged in a gale and vestry took advantage of this opportunity to push ahead with changes.

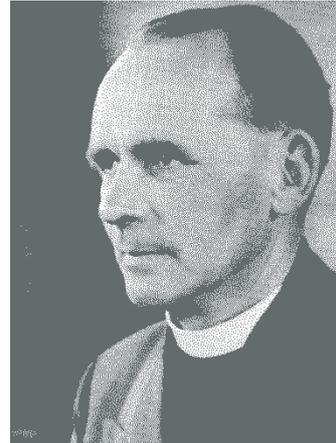
The Earthquake Commission refused to meet any claim for damages to Holy Cross as it did not consider the damage widespread enough. Nevertheless at its November 1954 meeting, vestry *decided to apply for a faculty to take down the canopy over the altar, put a door between the chancel and choir room and close the door near the pulpit.* These jobs were completed by March the following year with Mr Ball repairing the sanctuary roof and new vestryman, Frank Thornton lining the sanctuary ceiling, assisted by the other members of the vestry. Rev Hodgson then put forward his next plan on 20 March *to have a vicar's vestry built at the side of the sanctuary, remove the wall behind the altar, and put the altar close to the back wall with a light shining up from behind.* Mr Anderson had quoted £300, reducible if we did the work under his supervision. Vestry decided to draw up plans for approval by the bishop and submit it to the annual meeting.

James Cleland erected new lights over the choir and chancel, costing just under £10 in early 1956 and at the 1956 annual meeting, it was *decided that the Vestry should take preliminary steps to have*

a new Vicar's vestry built and to remove the ambulatory wall and so enlarge the sanctuary. Vestry held its own working bee in mid-July to build a platform round the font and to make steps and a platform for the pulpit. The bishop's licence issued on 6 March 1957 details the work undertaken by Charles L Anderson, builder and contractor of 55 Forbury Crescent, St Kilda.

A Vicar's Vestry on the North side of the Sanctuary in terms of specifications at a quoted price of £262. Then to remove the ambulatory wall at the rear of the Altar and raise the platform between this wall and the chancel wall, placing the Altar in position beneath the chancel window. Also to provide two steel tie-rods across the Sanctuary and lower the height of the Altar rails.

As it transpired, Rev Hodgson was absent for six months of 1957 while this work took place. In January 1955, he had become ill on Stewart Island during his annual fortnight holiday and was unable to leave the island for a few weeks. Canon Strong took church services during this time and returned to Holy Cross later in 1955 when Rev Hodgson became ill once more. Consequently in September 1956, vestry approved of Rev Hodgson's request to take the chaplaincy on board the vessel, *Captain Cook* to England early in 1957.



Church Envoy, vol xlv no 4, May 1957 p45

Our Vicar leaves at the end of April for his trip to England on the Captain Cook, returning in about six months, and the wish of all parishioners is that his health will benefit, that he will have a very happy stay with his family at Home, and be granted a safe return. All organisations have lately been photographed so that the Vicar may present copies to our link branches of the Mothers' Union....

Carpentry and painting work in the sanctuary has been completed and new carpets and altar rails will be put down in the next month or so. The new vestry is being built and will be given new furniture. The church will be consecrated when all work and furnishing is complete.

Canon Curzon-Siggers was locum tenens in Rev Hodgson's absence and parish work carried on unabated. At the May 1957 vestry meeting, the Open Group and its puppet group offered to help financially with vestry furniture and financial records reveal that the Puppet Players donated £99.14.0 in the twelve months ending 31 May 1958. Ron Clarkson offered the material and labour to flush the two doors leading from the chancel. New door handles were to be fitted at the same time.

Church Envoy, vol xlv no 6, July 1957 p69

At last our Parish Hall is well heated and our grateful thanks go to the Puppet Players who raised the necessary finance to purchase two wall gas heaters. Every organisation will benefit during the cold winter months.

Members of the Vestry have been busy with paint brushes and the window frames in the church received first attention. Now they are painting the windows and kitchen in the Parish Hall and some of the ladies are preparing to repaint the Lennox Room. Sixty-five chairs have been purchased for the Parish Hall.

A meeting is to be held shortly to form an Indoor Bowling Club with one or two mats in the Parish Hall.

The church alterations were completed by September 1957.

Church Envoy, vol xliv no 8, Sept 1957 p94

The new carpet has now been laid covering the chancel, aisle, and baptistery, and has attracted many favourable comments. The new vestry is now ready for use and has been fitted with new furniture. The Open Group has donated two lovely flower arrangement bowls which stand on small tables at either end of the altar.

Holy Cross was finally consecrated on 8 December 1957, followed by a social evening at Coronation Hall the following day. Consequently, the front page of the first **Church Envoy** issue of 1958 was dedicated to a history of Holy Cross and under the heading, *Modern improvements*, it was noted -

The gift by parishioners of the beautiful altar frontals in memory of Mr Brent was the inspiration of the plan which gives the present interior of the church a simplicity and beauty that will be an inspiration to those who worship there. Putting the plan into operation involved so many in so much time, gifts and labour, that we cannot mention individuals. The altar rails are a memorial to Mrs [Frances] Dickie, the carpet round the font and the underfelt throughout the church are given by Mr Thompson in memory of his mother, the new vestry was built not much above cost by Mr Anderson, son of the original builder. Money raised by the Evening Ladies' Guild was used for general purposes, and so the small band of the Afternoon Ladies' Guild were able to concentrate on providing the carpet which now goes throughout the nave and sanctuary. A gift from the late Mr Tayles' estate, and numerous donations, provided the bulk of the money required. The puppet performers of the Open Group were able to provide floor covering for choir room and porch and help with furnishing the new Clergy Vestry. However, the money raised would have been far too little without the voluntary work of many men with the Wardens and Vestry in completing the undertaking. From start to finish over four years it has been a labour of love by men and women drawn from the major part of the whole parish.

The completion of the sanctuary also brought to a close the activities of the Ladies' Guild.

Owing to our Parish adopting a new monetary system, a final sale of work was arranged for Jan 20 1958. At the end of that day we were in the proud position of being able to hand to the Vestry the full amount for the carpet for our Church. Although Guild life has come to an end, lifelong friends have been made through these happy monthly meetings.

The carpet cost £290 and the guild also handed over its balance of funds, £17.14.7.

By this time, there were a number of other organisations, both single sex and mixed within the church for women.

A diocesan joke from the post-World War Two years...

Why doesn't the bishop wear his cope and mitre when he goes to Holy Cross?
It would make the parishioners wholly cross.



Two weddings held at Holy Cross, clearly showing the sanctuary renovations

Above: marriage of Glenise Robertson to Stan Amsden, 8 December 1956

Below: marriage of Eleanor Pritchett to Jim Leckie, 28 October 1960

