

Chapter 5

THE CLAMPETT ERA: 1914–1939

YEARS OF WAR & DEPRESSION

ON Sunday, 28th June 1914 the Archduke of Austria, Francis Ferdinand, was assassinated by a Bosnian student. This was the spark that plunged Europe, already seething with unrest, into war. When Germany invaded Belgium, in violation of a treaty which guaranteed that small country's neutrality, Britain presented an ultimatum to Germany. When no reply had been received by midnight on Tuesday, 4th August, a state of war automatically came into being between those two countries. The day before, the Australian Government sent a cable to the British Government advising that:

In the event of war the Government is prepared to place the vessels of the Australian navy under the control of the British Admiralty when desired. It is further prepared to dispatch an expeditionary force of 20,000 men ... to any destination desired ... the force to be at the complete disposal of the Home Government. The cost of dispatch and maintenance will be borne by this Government.¹

LIFE IN MITCHAM DURING THE GREAT WAR

When the call came to volunteer for Overseas service men flocked to help. After all, it was for King and Country, for 'Mother England' to whom ninety-eight percent of the population owed allegiance through descent. It would be a great adventure!

The adventure soon turned into a nightmare: nearly one man in every five died whilst on active service and thousands more suffered long-term disabilities. By the time the war finished four years later there had been over 215,000 Australian casualties and over 63,000 deaths. The parishioners of Mitcham, like those of most other churches, cheered as their young men sailed away, then wept as small crosses were added against their names on Honour Rolls indicating that they had been 'Killed in Action'.

As the War dragged on and more and more troops were needed, the divisive issue of conscription led the Commonwealth Government to hold two referenda on the question, one in October 1916 and the other in December 1917. Both were defeated in spite of the strong support mounted by the Church of England in favour of conscription. Most Anglicans, encouraged by the bishops and clergy, firmly believed that they had a moral obligation to fight.

The Parish of Mitcham became a training ground for the happy-go-lucky recruits prior to their embarkation: it also became a safe-haven for the shattered, shell-shocked victims upon their return. Some fifty-thousand soldiers passed through a major training camp established on the 'Mortlock Farm' in the area we now know as Colonel Light Gardens (Fig. 5-1) and the great mansion of 'Torrens

Park' (now Scotch College) was converted into a military hospital. As well as his normal Parish duties, Archdeacon Albert Clampett served as a chaplain at the Mitcham Camp from 1916 to 1919 and tended the dying at 'Torrens Park'. He also had the unenviable job of delivering telegrams to the families of those men who had been killed, were missing or had been wounded. It is little wonder that his parishioners came to dread the sight of their Rector approaching the front door!

Whilst much has been written about the horrors of life in the trenches, little has been recorded about the gallant efforts of wives, mothers and the elderly, who spent the War years doing their best to alleviate the suffering of their menfolk by providing food parcels and clothing. Much of this effort was co-ordinated by the Red Cross Society, which not only had branches in most suburbs, but also within individual churches and clubs. Even the children 'worked their fingers to the bone' raising money for the Children's Patriotic Fund. Our scribe takes up the story of life in Mitcham Village during the First World War.²

* * *

6th November 1914

... Our young men are flocking to join Australia's Expeditionary Force to help the Mother Country overcome the enemy. Since the Commonwealth Government passed an Act in 1910 all our young men must do compulsory army training in case our own shores are ever invaded. Military service Overseas, however, is voluntary. Here in Mitcham the old horsetram depot on Princes Road was leased to the Commonwealth military authorities several years ago. It is used by the Signal Engineers for training purposes [Fig. 5-2]. These men are already familiar with army routine and are anxious to put their knowledge to the test. For most it will be a great adventure to travel Overseas and they will be mightily disappointed if 'The Show' is over before they arrive!

Thirteen young men from St Michael's have already enlisted including two of our sidesmen: one is the Rector's younger son, Harold, and the other is Henry Tutt. Harold, who is now twenty-one years of age, is better known to his friends as 'Hook', a reference to his Clampett nose [Fig. 5-3]. The boys enlisted on 20th August and began their training on 12th September at a special camp hastily set up on a racecourse at Morphettville.

Writing in our Parish magazine, the Rector applauded "their courage, their self-sacrifice, their fine manhood, and their imperialism ... they have done their duty and donned the uniform of the Empire's service in defence of truth and honour, justice and equity".

There is some doubt whether the children of the Day School and Sunday School will have their annual Christmas picnic this year. The Rector feels that the children should not suffer, particularly as they have all been working well with their fingers for the Patriotic and Belgian funds. A fine Union Jack, bought by the scholars with their own money, now proudly flies in the Day School grounds. It was hoisted by the Rector on Monday morning, 7th September, when its lessons were told to the scholars who saluted it, and the National Anthem sung.

Talking of Day Schools, we have lost our good neighbours from the other end of St Michael's Road. Since 1870 the little Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Dolours on the corner of Taylors Road has acted as a church on Sundays and a schoolroom during the week. They recently moved to Kingswood where larger premises have been built, but until sufficient funds are available this will also have to serve as their place of worship. The Sisters of St Joseph, who run the school, have also vacated their convent at the top of Muggs Hill Road and built a new one at Kingswood adjacent to the schoolroom-cum-church.³

Weatherwise, we have had a dreadful year, and it is now being said that the current drought is the worst ever recorded. The Brownhill Creek has dried up and many people are frantically digging wells in search of water. Our gardens are flowerless and so are our churches, which has led to some innovative methods of brightening St Michael's for special occasions!

Mr Abel Warhurst, our organist, has been elected captain of the St Michael's Cricket Club. In spite of so many of our young men being at the War, it is a strong team and should give a good account of itself. Mrs Picard of the Edinburgh Hotel gave the club a pleasant start by inviting all the members to an excellent dinner [Fig. 5-4]. There was a good muster and Mrs Picard's generosity was much appreciated. A new wing has recently been added to the Hotel which is proving a boon to all ...



Fig. 5-4 Edinburgh Hotel, 1913. The northern wing was completed in August 1914. (MLHC)

Monday, 10th May 1915

... The Parish has been shocked to hear that young Henry Tutt is dead. He was killed in the Dardanelles in Turkey during the landing of the Australian and New Zealand troops on a beach on the Gallipoli Peninsula. This happened at dawn on the 25th April. The sad news was announced at our Easter Vestry of 29th April, and the decision made to list in the Minutes the names of the thirteen – including two sets of brothers – who have gone out from the St Michael's congregation to serve in the War. Henry Dawson Tutt was born in October 1891 and baptised by Albert Clampett when he was about twelve. He attended St Michael's Day School where he was a model pupil and won many prizes for good work. He has been a staunch member of the congregation ever since and served as a sidesman.

The first casualty lists were published in the *Advertiser* on Monday, 3rd May. They included three officers and one private from South Australia: "1431 Private Tutt H.D., 10th Battalion." Our eyes welled with tears and our hearts filled with pride when we saw young Henry's familiar face [Fig. 5-5] amongst those "Australian Heroes". The following day there was a short article about him in the *Advertiser* which read:

Fig. 5-5

Private Henry Tutt (left)
an "Australian Hero".

Mecklenberg Street in
Kingswood was renamed
Tutt Avenue in memory of
Henry, the first Mitcham
soldier to die in the
First World War.
(*The Advertiser*;
3rd May 1915, p.8)



The Late Private Tutt

Private H.D. Tutt of Mitcham, who was killed in action in the Dardanelles fight, was a member and sidesman of St Michael's Church. He also belonged to the parochial branch of the Church of England Missionary Society, and was a regular attendant at the monthly meetings. He played football for St Michael's team, and was exceedingly popular with his comrades.

These first casualty lists gave no indication of the severity of the battle, nor of the fearful loss of life which we now understand is being measured, not in hundreds, but in thousands. The first graphic account of the carnage was not reported in the *Advertiser* until nearly two weeks after the event.

The news of Henry's death caused great consternation at the Rectory. Apparently young Mollie was the only one at home when an official telegram arrived with the request that only the Rector should open it. I do not know whether you are doing the same thing in England, but over here it is the clergy who have accepted the grave responsibility of breaking bad news to the families in their own parishes. I think Mollie guessed that this would be one such telegram – the very first – and it was an agonising wait for her father's return in case the casualty was her brother Harold!

The Bishop has re-arranged the archdeaconries. By this new arrangement the Rector gives up all that part of the Diocese south of the Murray, and takes on instead Yorke Peninsula – a district where he first began his work in South Australia. As from 14th April he is no longer Archdeacon of Mount Gambier, but Archdeacon of Strathalbyn, and the first to hold that title ...

Tuesday, 23rd November 1915

... I am enclosing a copy of yesterday's *Advertiser* where you will find a five-column obituary to our dear friend Robert Barr Smith who was ninety-one years old. Having passed away in the early hours of Saturday morning, his body was cremated that same day and the urn containing his ashes taken to 'Birksgate', his son Tom's house at Glen Osmond. At 5.30 p.m. on Sunday the cortège set out for the cemetery. The solemn procession, led by Archdeacon Clampett and with Tom carrying the urn, made its way through our picturesque little burial ground to the large Barr Smith family plot which is bordered by railings entwined with green creepers [Fig. 5-6]. There he was laid to rest on the hillside overlooking his beloved 'Torrens Park' and the Village of Mitcham.⁴

Robert was always most generous to St Michael's and will be sorely missed. In fact he has been described as a "friend of all churches", and it was from various pulpits on Sunday that most of the citizens of Adelaide learnt of his death. At St Peter's Cathedral the *Dead March* from *Saul* was played on the organ, the wonderful sound reverberating to the very top of the towers and spires made possible by his generosity. At the Pirie Street Methodist Church the congregation is said to have been in tears as they sang the hymn *Now the Labourer's Task is Done*, and at St Andrew's Church at Walkerville a muffled peal of bells was rung.



Fig. 5-6 Barr Smith family graves, Mitcham Anglican Cemetery. The central cross is a memorial to Robert and Joanna and the two small crosses on the left lists the names of their nine children who predeceased them. The cross on the right is a memorial to Hugh Cameron, 'Faithful Friend' and manager of one of Robert's pastoral properties. (Pamela Oborn, 2002)

This dreadful War has changed the face of the whole district. By the end of 1914 it became apparent that the Morphettville Racecourse would not be able to cope with the growing influx of volunteers, and last July a huge camp was established on the 'Mortlock Farm' at Goodwood. Known as the Mitcham Camp, it comprises some 300 acres of land which the Government had previously purchased with the intention of erecting a Model Garden Suburb. Instead of solid bungalows set in pretty gardens, the once-fertile fields are now covered with hundreds of tents, huts, stables and trenches [see Fig. 5-1]. The conditions change from quagmire to dust-bowl depending on the season.

Just six weeks after the Gallipoli landing the military authorities in Australia suddenly found themselves having to make arrangements to receive thousands of wounded soldiers who were being evacuated. An urgent plea went out and many small private hospitals said they were willing to provide free accommodation and nursing facilities. As well, some twenty public buildings and private homes around Adelaide were offered as convalescent facilities. Top of the list was 'Torrens Park'. Apparently Robert Barr Smith pre-empted the situation and wrote to the Defence Department on the 28th May offering, not only the house and portion of the grounds for the use of wounded soldiers, but also to defray the costs involved:

*... It is my desire to hand over to you Torrens Park House fully furnished and equipped as a Hospital with such requirements of beds, bedding, furniture and fittings as you may deem necessary. But as I am not conversant with these things, I venture to suggest that the most convenient way of carrying out my desire would be, that what is requisite for the Hospital should be ordered by your own officers, and an account thereof thereafter rendered by your Department to me for payment...*⁵

This most generous and gracious offer by Robert was gratefully accepted by the Defence Department. It was also the last great philanthropic gesture made by this wonderful old man, for now, some six months later, he is dead. ‘Torrens Park’ is undergoing alterations at present ready to receive the first casualties early in the New Year.

The Rector has a new assistant, the Reverend Archibald Joseph Mills, B.A. He is a graduate of the Sydney University and received his theological training at Wells, England. For three years he worked as a curate in South London and has only recently returned to Australia.

At the end of August the Rector called meetings at both St Michael’s and St Columba’s for the purpose of extending the work of the Mitcham Red Cross. As a result branches have been formed in both Churches and are now in full working order.

The Day School annual concert and prize giving will be held this year. However, the children are willingly giving up all their prizes in order that the St Michael’s branch of the Red Cross should financially benefit by their act of renunciation. The only exceptions will be the prizes for scripture and prayer book which the Rector is anxious they should have.

A list of those parishioners on active service or in camp hangs in the porch of each Church and the combined total has now reached fifty. The call to Empire service is being answered, but as the Rector says “there is room, ever room, for more” even though Australia has now put about 40,000 men into the firing line: “We do not want to lose them, but we want to be proud of them, to see them rise above the dull and commonplace, to the level of stern and strong and resolute manhood.”

5th November 1916

... A very moving memorial service was held in St Michael’s on the 25th April, the first anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. This date is to be called ‘ANZAC Day’, and the beach where our troops were put ashore has been renamed Anzac Cove in recognition of the bravery of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. For eight months they lived in trenches in appalling conditions suffering bombardment from the Turks on the cliffs above. It has now been estimated that by the time the survivors were evacuated during the nights of 18th and 19th December last year nearly 20,000 Australians had been wounded and over 7,500 bodies remain behind buried in the sands of that foreign land [see Fig. 5-7].

Even though this dreadful War is a world away from us here in Australia, its effects are all-pervasive in our daily lives. No longer is there that cocky bravado and devil-may-care attitude seen amongst the first recruits: it has been replaced by a steely determination to get over there and do their duty. Another seventeen men from St Michael’s have voluntarily joined the forces of the King, making a total of thirty-six so far from this one small congregation. Albert Tutt, a younger brother of Henry, has gone to avenge his brother’s death, and the Clampett’s elder son, George, has also enlisted. Even the Archdeacon himself is now in uniform having been commissioned as an army chaplain [Fig. 5-8]. On a lighter note, we were amused to hear that in order to comply with army

regulations he had to shave off his beloved beard. I understand the exercise took two days to complete.⁶

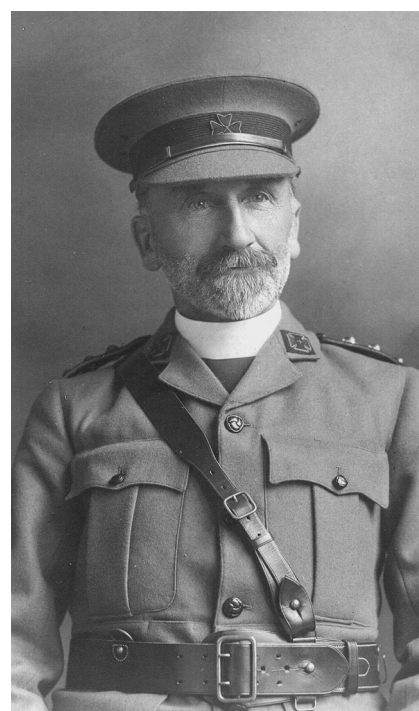
At the service this morning the Rector unveiled a handsome Roll of Honour board [see Fig. 12-16]. It has inscribed on it the names of all who have voluntarily joined the armies of the King. The design and execution is the work of Mr T.W. Jones (a parishioner at St Columba’s) who is making it without any cost for his skill and labour. The Union Jack overhanging the Roll is a gift of Mr N.M.L. Eddington, our People’s Warden.⁷ Mr Jones has made a similar board for St Columba’s.

With so many of our menfolk and boys away the women of the Parish are undertaking many unusual chores as our ‘War Work’. Most of us have never had any training in caring for the sick, serving at table or of cleaning large buildings, but we now find ourselves



Fig. 5-7 Australian War Memorial, Lone Pine Cemetery, Anzac Cove. The names of those who died here, but have no known graves, are carved into the memorial walls. Among them is Private H.D. Tutt, 10th Battalion. (Ben Oborn, May 1999)

Fig. 5-8
Padre Albert
Clampett.
To comply with
army regulations
his beard was
shaved off the
following day.
(Courtesy
Warhurst Family)



spending many hours each week as hospital workers at 'Torrens Park'. The Defence Department took possession of this stately old home on 13th January and it is now known as No.17 A.A.H. (Australian Auxiliary Hospital) Torrens Park, a unit of the Australian Army Medical Corp. Patients at an A.A.H. are mostly convalescents, the more serious ones being admitted to an Australian General Hospital such as No.7 A.G.H. at the 4th Military District's Headquarters at Keswick. The Mitcham Camp also has its own small hospital.

As you can imagine we do not see much of our Rector who, as a chaplain, spends most of his time administering to the needs of the sick, particularly those suffering the trauma of shell-shock. Whilst doing our work we often hear his booming laugh echoing through the wards and down the corridors, and this brings a smile to many faces.

'Granny' Patten and the maid are often the only ones at home in the Rectory now that Alice Clampett is President of the Mitcham Red Cross Circle. It was initially under the chairmanship of Lady Duncan, whose lovely home 'Strathspey' was the venue for so many social events held to raise money for the cause. She has now gone to England and Alice Clampett, formerly the Vice-President, has stepped into the role. Mollie, who left school at the end of last year, is her 'right-hand-woman'. Together they organise rosters, order vast quantities of supplies and arrange fund-raising events. Each Tuesday and Friday afternoon we open our little 'shop' in the Red Cross Room in the courtyard at 'Torrens Park' and hand out goods to the soldiers. These articles, such as shirts, socks, handkerchiefs, shaving brushes, bed socks, walking sticks and kitbags are supplied free of charge. All these items, together with copies of the New Testament, writing paper, sweets (and the occasional bottle of stout!) are sent out to 'Torrens Park' from the Central Depot and stored in a cellar before being taken up to our little room for distribution. As Supervisor, Alice is also in charge of all the members from the Unley, Malvern and Hyde Park Red Cross Circles. As you can imagine, this alone takes quite a lot of organising!⁸

Even the retired menfolk have a Red Cross Section through which they have made cupboards and all sorts of useful items. They also provide cases of fruit for the patients, and bring in extra supplies of vegetables and eggs for the kitchen where their wives help with the cooking and serve in the Mess. About sixteen Mitcham girls are employed on a casual basis as domestics and as wardsmaids scrubbing floors and making beds. Some of the older parishioners (both men and women) read to the blind, write letters for the handicapped or play card games with them.

The Barr Smiths' huge reception rooms with their glorious Morris wallpapers and the beautiful private theatre have all been turned into wards [Fig. 5-9]. In each room are rows of beds – in mathematically straight lines – covered with crisp white quilts, each with its prominent Red Cross symbol, which have been made by our own fair hands. Between the beds are small tables where we place bowls of freshly-picked flowers from the gardens each day. Even the children from Mitcham School come up once a week with bunches of flowers for the soldiers.



Fig. 5-9 Theatre Ward, No.17 A.A.H. Torrens Park, 1917. (Scotch College Archives)

Our St Michael's Red Cross Circle recently donated a stand with glass slides for sterile dressings, and Mrs Robert Wemyss sent in twelve flannel shirts specially made for the spinal cases. The women of the Parish have now decided to take on the mammoth task of doing all the Hospital mending. So, as you can see, there are not many idle hands in Mitcham!

Much effort goes into raising money for these patriotic funds yet, in spite of this, the congregation of our daughter church at Hawthorn has managed to complete the building of St Columba's. The corner stone of the extension was only laid on the 11th March this year by Bishop Nutter Thomas, yet by 9th August it had been finished and dedicated – together with a fine pipe organ!

Up in the Hills at Holy Innocents, Belair, there has been much dissent in recent years regarding the appointment of incumbents and the wearing of vestments for the Eucharist.⁹ Back in 1914 the Rector of Belair, the Reverend Frederick Price, considered the use of priestly vestments "the proper dress for a priest in the Eucharist", although a number of his Vestrymen were against it. Their use was discontinued by the next Rector, Mr Bourne (who was only there for a short period) and has now been restored by the new Rector, the Reverend John Colville. When challenged on this matter at the Easter Vestry earlier this year he said that their use "had been abolished in a most irregular manner by the previous incumbent" and that he always wore vestments: "If the Patronage Committee had desired a Rector who did not wear vestments it would have been quite competent of them to have made enquiries before offering him the job."

A 'hurricane' blow on Monday evening, 17th July, lifted the roof from one side of the St Michael's nave, and in its vigor made it fly over the avenue of pines leading to the Church carrying the roof, timber and iron, across a road and depositing it in a neighbour's back garden. Fortunately, no harm was done to the neighbour's property, but its unexpected arrival must have caused a scare. All has been repaired, and no sign of the assault, apart from the damp on the walls of the Church, now remains.



Fig. 5-10 Padre Harold Sexton on the Rectory lawn. The brass candlesticks on the altar at St Michael's, originally used in the chapel at 3rd A.G.H. Abbeville, France, were acquired by him at the end of the War. They were initially offered to St Columba's, where they were deemed to be too 'high church', so Archdeacon Clampett installed them in St Michael's instead. (Bowen Family album)

Our former assistant curate, Reverend A.J. Mills, left at the end of April and since early June the Reverend Harold Sexton [Fig. 5-10] has been assisting the Rector both in the Parish and as a Captain-Chaplain at the Mitcham Camp. Now we hear that he has been appointed a Transport Chaplain and will be leaving at the end of this month. He hopes his present appointment may lead to his being gazetted for active service abroad ...

19th October 1917

... The divisive issue of conscription is to be raised again in December when another referendum will be held. The Rector often speaks at recruiting meetings. Writing in the Parish magazine, he made it clear that it is the duty of the Church to stand behind the Australian Government as it asks for power to keep up the required reinforcements:

It may be easier to say 'No' to the request that asks for men's bodies, but duty to God, duty to one's land, duty to one's people, and by no means least, duty to one's comrades – hard pressed, war worn, invalided and nursed back to health to go through it all again – compels us to say with a preponderating voice 'YES'. We must bear the burden and sacrifice this war lays upon us.

Naturally there is a shortage of young men available for Parish work, and we were without a curate for nine months. The Rector has just received a letter from Padre H.E. Sexton to say that he is now in France. In August our present assistant curate, Reverend Frank A.W. Kilbey, B.A., took up his work amongst us. Previously he had worked for five years in the Bendigo Diocese where he had been Warden of the Theological College. Before his ordination he had experience as a teacher and in general education affairs. Like Albert Clampett, Mr Kilbey is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, where he also did his divinity course. He is also a musician of good rank!



Fig. 5-11 Red Cross Recreation Hut, No.17 A.A.H., viewed from the tower of 'Torrens Park House' soon after the Hut opened in September 1917. (Bowen Family album)

We are very proud of our magnificent Red Cross Recreation Hut at No.17 A.A.H. [Fig. 5-11]. It was officially opened by no less a person than the Governor-General's wife, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, on Tuesday, 18th September. Alice Clampett, as President, was on tenter-hooks for days beforehand hoping the weather would be fine and that all would go according to plan. Of course it did, and we have received many compliments on our achievements. Four members of our Circle are rostered to be on duty each day. Young Mollie Clampett has been a wonderful help, particularly in getting so many of her friends to assist, and I am sure the patients enjoy their company much more than ours!

20th December 1918

Dearest Cousin,

Laus Deo! Hostilities have ceased and the armistice has been signed! I must admit that we are rather weary of it all and look forward to getting back to a normal life. But just what a 'normal life' will be like after the past five years is hard to predict!

Although the War is over and the world is once more at peace, I fear there will be many mixed emotions this Christmas. For some it will be a time of great rejoicing and joyful anticipation knowing that their sons and fathers have survived and will soon be home; for others sorrow, even anger and envy, because they have been deprived of their loved ones, and a third group who will be bewildered as they try to cope with the 'strangers' who return to them. These men, so traumatised and shell-shocked by the brutality and carnage, are unable to share these experiences with anyone who was not 'over there'. Wives are finding that their fun-loving, caring husbands are now so morose and bitter that they seem to resent their very presence in the same room. They are at a loss to understand why their personalities are so changed and feel powerless to help them. God knows, we have seen too many such cases at 'Torrens Park' over the past two years!

The Hospital was upgraded last May from an Auxiliary to a 220-bed General Hospital catering mainly for orthopaedic cases. It is now known as No.15 A.G.H.

If anything, this has placed an even greater demand on Alice Clampett and our Mitcham Red Cross members, as we now have to cope with many more patients with spinal injuries. Robert Barr Smith's original offer was for the use of the property "for the duration of the War", but Mrs Joanna Barr Smith and the executors have this week graciously agreed for the Army to remain in occupation rent free for another two years. So, although hostilities have ceased, our work in rehabilitating and caring for the wounded will continue for some time to come. We have also been worried by reports that many of the returning troops have become ill with influenza...

* * *

Ironically, many of those who survived the killing fields of France brought home with them the highly-contagious influenza disease which swept around the world during the closing stages of the War. During this 1918–1919 pandemic an estimated twenty million people died within a few months – over twelve million of them in India. It reached Australia in January 1919 and by the end of that year over 10,000 deaths had been recorded, mainly in New South Wales. In an effort to prevent its spread people wore masks, public assemblies were banned and many churches and schools closed. Doctors in Adelaide were instructed to send their patients to isolation wards set up in the Exhibition Building on North Terrace, which many regarded "as good as having your death certificate signed". At 'Torrens Park' special tents were set up in the grounds in an effort to segregate those with influenza from unaffected patients.

Records of the Mitcham Church of England Cemetery show that the number of burials jumped from twelve in 1917, to nineteen in 1918 then to thirty-one in 1919. One was a twenty-seven-year-old nursing sister stationed at 'Torrens Park'.

* * *

25th July 1920

... The interior of the Church is now lit by electricity. We also have a very handsome oak sanctuary screen which greatly enriches the internal furnishings of the Church. It was a gift from the Misses Lily and Eva Waite and Miss Adelaide Rymill as a 'Thank Offering for Peace after the Great War' [see Fig.12-5]. The screen was dedicated at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, 25th April – which was appropriate being the fifth anniversary of the landing of the ANZAC troops on Gallipoli. Lily and Eva are, of course, daughters of Peter and Matilda Waite of 'Urrbrae' [see Fig. 4-14]. Adelaide's father, Mr Frank Rymill owns that wonderful old property, 'Springfield House', whose previous owners, the Newenham and Hardys, were devoted members of the congregation and generous donors to St Michael's. How nice that these traditions have been passed on!

The first idea for the screen arose at the Easter Vestry last year when discussions took place about renovating the Church and installing electricity. As a result, a committee comprising the Rector, the Wardens, Mrs J. Verco, the

Misses Waite and Rymill, and Miss Bertha Love was appointed to consider the whole subject. Bertha is one of the daughters of John and Jessie Love who live in another one of our fine old stately homes called 'Mitcham Lawn'.

As well as the new screens in the sanctuary we now have new altar lights: a handsome pair of brass candlesticks [see Fig. 12-11]. They were originally offered to St Columba's, but the Hawthorn congregation – which appears to be more conservative than ours – twice declined, so the Rector promptly procured them for St Michael's! As an army chaplain, our former curate, the Reverend Harold Sexton, somehow acquired them when the 3rd A.G.H. in France was closed at the end of the War. They had been used in the Hospital's chapel at Abbeville, a large town near the mouth of the River Somme. It was set up in 1917 under Matron Grace Wilson and her team of Australian Army Nursing Sisters to care for our troops who were taken to Abbeville from the fields of Flanders. It became a centre for gassed patients, but unfortunately there was little to offer them in the way of effective treatment. So, as you can see, these candlesticks really are of great sentimental as well as historical significance, and they form a beautiful link with the War.¹⁰

No.15 A.G.H. closed at the end of August last year after the worst of the dreadful influenza pandemic had passed. The remaining orthopaedic patients were transferred to Keswick. Dear Joanna Barr Smith, who did so much to assist our Red Cross Circle during the War, died on 23rd October.

With the War well behind us now, everyone is trying to pick up the threads of their tattered lives. Seeing the need for gatherings of a social nature where people can meet together informally, the Rector has re-commenced monthly socials during the winter evenings. These have to be held in the Institute as the lighting in the Hall is most defective rendering it unfit for use at night.

Since the Reverend Frank Kilbey left us on 28th May to take up his work as rector of Wallaroo, we have been without a curate. They are very hard to come by and the Rector has asked the Bishop to secure, if possible, an assistant curate in England.

A month ago Albert and Alice Clampett became grandparents for the first time. Their elder son George and his wife Edith had a son on 27th June, and he has been named Robert Wyndham Clampett. Young Harold Clampett has decided to try country life. He is going to live in the Clare district where he plans to grow grapes, having qualified under the *Discharged Soldiers Settlements Act* for a 'block of land' for the purpose of growing fruit. And last, but by no means least, is the news that young Mollie Clampett is to wed her beloved Tom Bowen on the 14th August.

POST-WAR: CHANGING LIFESTYLES

The cynicism and frustrations generated by years of war ushered in a period of rapid social change. A feeling of resentment arose between the generations: the young men who had fought for King and Country and the young women who had been the backbone of the 'War Effort' at

home were not prepared to return to the old ways of their parents. They were determined to make the most of their new-found freedom, to 'live it up', have a good time and forget the horrors and deprivations of the past five years. Their parents, in turn, found it unacceptable that their long-held beliefs, moral standards and authority were not only being questioned, but openly defied.

The advent of the Ford Model 'T' motor car also ushered in many changes to the religious life of families, leading to changes in service times – particularly for Sunday School which traditionally had been held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Instead of going to Church, families ventured forth for picnics in the countryside or a day at the beach.

By the early 1920s the Village of Mitcham found itself being drawn inexorably into 'greater suburbia' as more and more of the surrounding cow paddocks, wheat fields and large estates were subdivided to house the returning troops. Although the first subdivision of the 'Torrens Park Estate' had taken place in 1917, sales were slow and it was not until late 1918 that all the allotments had been taken up. The great mansion was vacated by the Army in August 1919 and at the end of that year it was purchased by the Presbyterian Church. In January 1920 the first Scotch College boys moved in. By 1922 even the ugly scars left by the Mitcham Camp were disappearing as the first of the houses in the Colonel Light Gardens Model Garden Suburb were constructed.

Perhaps anticipating the need to concentrate his efforts within smaller boundaries in the face of this expected influx of new parishioners, Archdeacon Clampett resigned the Cure of St Columba's on 31 December 1920. Within a year Hawthorn had been granted parochial status, thus ending an important episode in the history of the Parish of Mitcham.

* * *

24th January 1921

My dear Cousin Elizabeth,

An era in the life of our Parish has ended: Archdeacon Clampett has resigned the Cure of St Columba's at Hawthorn. The first notification of this came in a formal letter to his Warden, Mr A.C. Catt, written on 28th September last, in which he expressed the hope that the three-month notice would "avoid a long interval between my going & the coming of another to carry on the work". In a moving letter to his parishioners published in the *Mitcham and Hawthorn Parish Messenger*, he wrote:

My dear Friends,

This issue of the 'Messenger' marks the close of a very happy partnership. It is the last of its kind, for no longer will it be published in the interests of the two churches, St Michael's and St Columba's.

Members of both congregations will know that I retire from the charge of St Columba's on December 31st, 1920. May I take this opportunity of saying farewell. The retirement is a great wrench to me. Over 22 years ago I began at Hawthorn in a humble way. The population was small, but I felt that the prospects were good, and the work which we began, with some anxiety, has been

most fully justified. In May, 1898, the foundation stone of St Columba's nave was laid by Lady Victoria Buxton, in the presence of the then bishop, Dr Harmer, and many of my brother clergy. On Sunday, October 23rd of the same year the nave was licensed and dedicated. On Saturday, March 25th, 1905 the foundation stone of St Columba's Hall was laid by Bishop Harmer, and in August, 1916, the transepts, chancel, apse, and Rector's vestry, and choir vestry were added to the nave of the church, thus making an edifice commodious and beautiful. As it now stands, St Columba's is one of the most handsome and dignified churches of the diocese. A fine pipe organ was added soon after the completion of the Church. The furnishings are all good, and I shall not easily forget the eager joy many of the congregation had in providing them. On Sunday evening last, December 5th, I had the pleasure of dedicating a very massive and beautiful brass eagle lectern. It is a gift, and what a hallowed gift it is, of those of the A.I.F. soldiers and sisters, after the many vicissitudes of war.

My ministrations at St Columba's for the past 22 years have been a great joy and great privilege to me. I have met with much kindness and much forbearance. I have made many friends. How splendidly some have worked with me in great things and in small. I offer them my deep gratitude. Naturally, during so long a charge, there have been some diversities of opinion, but they have ever been frank, friendly, courteous. My work in so large a parish, with many extra-parochial duties, has been arduous, and much I fear has been left undone...

My interest in the future of St Columba's will not cease, and I pray God, by His Holy Spirit, may bring to you a good and faithful shepherd, one who can give you more concentrated care than it was possible for me to do in so far-reaching a parish.

I hope now to be able to give more undivided attention to St Michael's, a church which abounds in most sacred and joyous associations to me and mine. May both churches, under the changed conditions, flourish to the honour of God, and to the good of His people. The connections between the two have been exceedingly cordial; they will not, I am sure be less cordial as separate and distinct parishes.

With much affection, and with best wishes to all for the coming season.

I am your sincere Friend,

A.W. Clampett

We tend to forget that he is now sixty years old, so it is no wonder that the strain of serving two churches so far apart was beginning to try him! Writing in the Parish magazine (which is now called the *Mitcham Parish Messenger*) he explained why he had made the decision: "Those long walks to St Columba's, there and back on Sunday mornings, after an early morning service here, and the strain of a big service there, were beginning, especially in hot weather, to tire me." There was a nice article about him in the *Advertiser* two days ago. The Hawthorn congregation presented him with a substantial cheque, a number of books, gold cuff links with his initials on them, and an 'electro' dinner gong ...

30th December 1921

... Dear old 'Granny' Patten, the mother of Alice Clampett, died last May at the grand age of ninety-three years. She had lived with the family for most of their married lives and was a tremendous help to Alice, taking over much of the management of the household from her. She was also an excellent seamstress, always knitting and sewing for Bazaars, and she made most of the clothes for the family. Sadly she did not live long enough to witness the birth of her first little great-granddaughter, Suzanne Bowen, on 21st September. Yes, this is our 'Miss Mollie's' first child, and everyone is delighted!

In October the Synod gave its approval for Hawthorn to become a separate parish. The Reverend John William Clarke (formerly the Principal of the Bush Brotherhood of St Aidan, stationed at Tailem Bend), was appointed Priest-in-Charge in April, and at a moving service held on Sunday, 27th November he was instituted as Rector of the Parish.¹¹ The boundary between the two parishes has been defined by the Parish Boundaries Board of Synod as: "The centre of Tutt Avenue between Urrbrae Estate and Unley Road, thence southward along the centre of Unley Road to Angas Road thence westward along the centre of Angas Road to Goodwood Road."

Since resigning the Cure of St Columba's the Rector has suffered a substantial drop in his stipend. At the Easter Vestry last April it was resolved that he should receive not less than £300 per annum – exclusive of amounts received from the endowments held at Church Office – and that a canvass should be made of Church people in the Parish in order to secure their help and co-operation. The wealth in our congregation is not what it used to be, the main subscriptions for special appeals now being given by a mere handful of the remaining affluent families. There are many new homes under construction, mostly by returned soldiers, and we know that they are struggling to purchase their homes by degrees, so it cannot be reasonably expected they can do very much for Church and outside work.

Another effect of the division of the Mitcham and Hawthorn congregations has been the need to re-organise some of our Parish groups, many of which – such as the C.E.M.S., G.F.S. and Heralds of the King – were joint ventures. The same applied to the Tennis Club which had been playing on courts at the rear of the St Columba's Hall. Late last year, thanks to the generosity of Mr Peter Waite, Miss Rymill, Mrs Love and Mr Wilkinson, the Rector was able to purchase two allotments of land on the northern and eastern boundaries of the St Michael's Hall with the intention of turning one into a playground for the Day School children, and to form the other into a tennis court. In January an asphalt court was laid and the St Michael's Tennis Club was formed. Miss Marjorie Pobjoy, daughter of Reverend King William Pobjoy, is Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. It is hoped that this will attract many young people, and prove an influence for good along the lines of comradeship and fellowship.

Apart from the Tennis Club, we have two other new Parish groups: a St Michael's branch of the C.E.M.S. was formed in May and a branch of the Girl Guides in September. The latter is comparatively unknown

to us, and we are gradually learning more about it. Although not a distinctively religious organisation, its whole structure rests on religion as a foundation. It seeks to make girls good citizens and so good members of society. The girls meet in the Hall every alternate Saturday afternoon, and quite a few of them are from the Orphan Home. Some of the senior girls from the Home now have care of cleaning the Church brass, which not only provides them with good domestic skills, but also an appreciation of the significance of the furnishings in God's house.

You may recall me telling you about Howard Florey, the little boy Mollie used to take to school on the old horsetram. He has done very well academically and has just been named the 1921 Rhodes Scholar for South Australia. After leaving the Misses Thornber's infant school, he went on to nearby Kyre College then to St Peter's College where he won many prizes for chemistry. He has now graduated with a medical degree (as has one of his sisters) and will go up to Oxford next year. I think he has a very bright future. The Florey family no longer lives in Mitcham. Joseph Florey died in 1918, by which time his business had failed, and Bertha had to sell 'Coreega' and move to a small bungalow.¹²

30th December 1922

... Everything around us seems to be changing so rapidly since the introduction of electricity and the arrival of the motor car. In addition, the 'old guard' are dying out. This year has seen the death of a number of our wealthy parishioners, the most recent being Mrs Matilda Waite who died on 21st November at the age of eighty-six years. Her husband, Peter, died in early April, aged eighty-eight years. Now that both their parents are dead, the two unmarried daughters, Lily and Eva Waite, are to hand over the whole of the 'Urrbrae' estate to the University on 3rd February in accordance with their father's bequest made in October 1913. The eastern half of the property is to be used for agricultural research and teaching, and the western half as a public park under the control of the University. The girls are planning to depart shortly for an extended holiday overseas. They have been such a generous family to St Michael's and will be sorely missed – particularly as Peter Waite had been in the habit of giving £30 a year towards the Rector's stipend!¹³

This loss in stipend will be compensated for by the proceeds of a magnificent bequest made by a former Warden, Alfred Wilkinson, who died in February. At the Easter Vestry back in 1919 the Rector reported that Alfred had made out to the credit of St Michael's the capital sum of £2,000 represented by 2,000 fully paid up shares in the firm of Wilkinson & Co. The dividends from these shares were to be payable to Mr Wilkinson during his life, and at his decease the dividends will be payable to the Rector of St Michael's, Mitcham. At that time the Rector said he believed this was "the largest individual gift made to any one church in the history of the Diocese".

Alfred Wilkinson and his second wife, Estella, lived at 'Brenchley', a large two-storey home next to the Torrens Arms Hotel. Adjoining 'Brenchley' to the north is another of our stately homes called 'Eynesbury' the former home

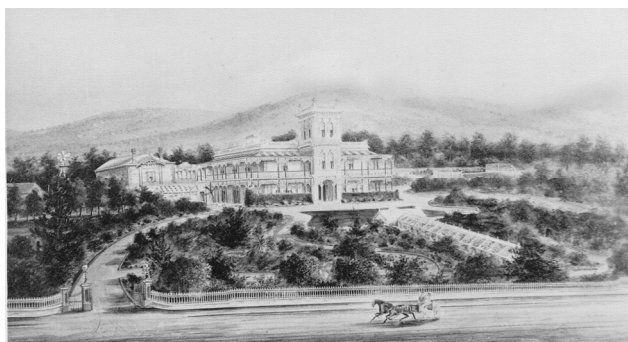


Fig. 5-12 'Eynesbury House', built in 1882 for George Wilcox. The house was sold in 1919 when much of the land was subdivided into building blocks. In October 1989 Eynesbury College, a co-educational specialist Years 11 and 12 school opened its Kingswood campus in the stately home with its attached ballroom (left). Unable to gain approval to expand their activities on this site, the College moved to its City campus in 2002. (Courtesy Mrs W.G. Delmont)

of George and Annie Wilcox [Fig. 5-12]. On Easter Day a memorial to the Wilcox family was unveiled in St Michael's. It is a very beautiful mosaic, set in an alabaster frame, depicting the visit of the three women to the sepulchre on the first Easter Day [see Fig. 12-17]. The tablet is a gift from Miss Nellie Wilcox in memory of her father and mother. Mr Wilcox died in 1917 and his son Sidney recently sold the old family home and subdivided the estate. I find it rather sad that so many of our grand old mansions are being sold and their beautiful gardens cut up into small building blocks. At least 'Urrbrae' will not suffer that indignity with at least half of it being kept as a park. I'm not sure what the rest will look like once it has laboratories and workshops built upon it!

Lily and Eva Waite will be greatly missed. Although there is a seven-year difference in their ages, they have always been very close to each other in spite of their vastly different personalities: Lily is very gregarious and loves entertaining, whereas Eva is quiet and is happiest pottering around in her garden. Lily has been Secretary of the Girls' Friendly Society for at least twenty years, and it was largely through her efforts that the group raised enough money to donate the carved reredos to St Michael's back in 1904. The young people, particularly members of the Sunday School, choir and G.F.S. have been frequent guests of the sisters at 'Urrbrae House'. Both Lily and Eva taught in the Sunday School and have always been very willing conveners of stalls at fêtes.

Our annual Michaelmas Fair in October this year raised over £150 which is being used to extend the junior class rooms at the Day School. The work, which is currently being done during the holidays, includes a porch, which by folding doors may be added to the classroom. It should be a great boon to the young children and their teacher during the hot weather. Earlier in the year a war trophy in the shape of a gun was allotted to the Day School by the Public Service Commissioners Department, and this was subsequently mounted and unveiled with due ceremony by the Rector on Sunday afternoon, 7th May.

We are being called upon to prepare for a Mission of Spiritual Healing which will take place in Adelaide and Port Pirie next July. The missionary's name is Mr James Moore Hickson, an English faith healer who is travelling around the world preaching the benefits of spiritual healing. I am sure you must have heard of him, as I understand he has been involved in this work since 1900 and has written many books on the subject...

1st December 1923

... Pelting rain and bitter blasts could not check the ardour and faith of the thousands who, in the opening days of July, made their pilgrimage to the Cathedral for Mr Hickson's Mission. We were there on the first morning when about one thousand sick people, many in wheelchairs, filled the Cathedral, while hundreds more waited outside in the rain. Although Mr Hickson is not ordained he wore a cassock and surplice and laid his hands on the head of each one as he prayed for their healing. The Bishop, who stood beside him, did the same. During the four days of the Mission some three thousand people came for the laying-on of hands. Since the Mission the Bishop has appointed some to discharge the 'ministry of healing' and special services will be held from time to time. Our 7.30 p.m. Thursday Evensong is now specially marked as a service of intercession for the sick and afflicted.

Speaking of missions, a tiny wood-and-iron Mission Hall in Bedford Square, Colonel Light Gardens, was dedicated by Bishop Nutter Thomas on 12th November. It is to be known as 'All Saints' and has begun life under the care of our former daughter church, St Columba's at Hawthorn. Does that make it St Michael's grand-daughter church?¹⁴

Last year I told you of the additions made to the Hall to accommodate the younger Day School children. This year the ladies of the Parish are demanding a suitable kitchen. The little porch which is now used as such, is quite inadequate and adds much hardship to the workers there. Some of the ladies who have been 'sentenced' to labour in the present 'kitchen' are beginning to revolt. We have suggested to the gentlemen that the funds might easily be raised by means of a fête, toward which all the ladies will work with great enthusiasm!

I am sending you by separate post a copy of today's *Register* which contains a half-page article about St Michael's: "A Picturesque Edifice with a Commanding Situation." It is the thirty-first of a weekly series on churches of various denominations in and around Adelaide. I think you will find it of interest as it contains a comprehensive history of the Parish including photographs of our present Rector and some of our past incumbents.

The writer was obviously moved by the singing of the choir, mentioning in particular Mr Boorman "who still uses his tenor voice with undiminished power, and has been a member of the choir for 50 years or more". Mr Boorman is a coachbuilder and wheelwright at Townsend's business premises down near the Torrens Arms Hotel. He and his wife Annie live in High Street between Miss Cunningham's corner store and

the Edinburgh Hotel. The Boorman family came to Mitcham about 1853, and their original calico cottage still stands on the site adjacent to the present house. His two sons, Laurence and Horace, also sing in the choir. Laurie has done well in life: he attended our St Michael's Day School for a few years before going on to the Mitcham School, then to Hogg's Commercial College. He joined the District Council as a junior clerk in 1902, and since 1st January 1913 has been Town Clerk of Mitcham.¹⁵

PLANS FOR A NEW DAUGHTER CHURCH

Writing in the *Mitcham Parish Messenger* on the occasion of the 69th Patronal Festival in 1921, Archdeacon Clampett noted that since St Michael's had been built in 1852 the whole Parish had changed greatly:

The overland rail to Melbourne has come, and passing through Lower Mitcham and Clapham, has drawn, as though by a magnet, a large number of houses and dwellers near its course. If only our predecessors could have foreseen, St Michael's, I venture to believe, would not have been built at Upper Mitcham, where development has been relatively slow. Commanding and picturesque as its situation is, one has to admit it is away on the hill top from the life of the people, and a somewhat steep climb for those, who, from the lower levels, seek its ministrations.

In August 1924 Clampett announced that, at his request, the B.H.M.S. had purchased an allotment of land for the sum of £212 at the corner of Fife Avenue and the New Main Road (now called Belair Road) as a site for a new church. This land had originally been offered for sale in 1917 when the first subdivision of the great 'Torrens Park Estate' took place and it had come onto the market again. He felt a church building on this site would serve the needs of people living on the plains in the rapidly-expanding suburbs of Torrens Park, Lower Mitcham, Clapham and West Mitcham (the area of Torrens Park south of Blythewood Road).

* * *

23rd October 1924

... Having 'rested' for four years since giving up the Cure of St Columba's, the Rector now has his heart set on starting another daughter church – this time in the new suburb of Torrens Park. The Rector feels that people from those areas will not come to St Michael's, the distance and hill being the obstacles, but that they would go to a church easy of approach and within a reasonable distance of their homes. A convenient site for a church has been found just across the road from the Mitcham Railway Station.

You may recall that a branch of the Girl Guides was started in the Parish in 1921 and since then most of their meetings have been held at the Orphan Home. Recently the Rector enlarged the group by bringing in girls who are not resident at the Home and they now hold their meetings in our Hall. The St Michael's Girl Guides Company

made its first appearance in the Church on the evening of the Patronal Festival. They lined the nave alleyway as clergy and choir, following the processional cross, went to their places. The flag was presented by a Guide from St Augustine's at Unley, and placed in the sanctuary. At the close of the service it was handed back.

A branch of the juvenile missionary organisation, Heralds of the King, has also been meeting at the Orphan Home and it is hoped the work of this gallant little band of workers will also be expanded. In August a meeting was held in the Hall to form a troop of the Boy Scouts. It is known as the 2nd Mitcham Troop, St Michaels, the 1st Troop being at Scotch College. The Rector conducted confirmation classes at the College this year, and the boys were confirmed by the Bishop in St Michael's on 24th September.

When one adds to the above groups the activities of the G.F.S., the Sunday School and Day School you can see that our young people are being well catered for. After ten years as Head Teacher of the Day School, Miss Holmes has resigned. Her successor is Miss Lily White, who helped in the School some years ago, and has since been Head Teacher of Croydon Church School and an assistant at St Augustine's, Unley. She is well-known to us and I am confident she will maintain the best traditions of our School, which at present has about ninety pupils. Her assistant is Miss Heithersay, who has replaced Miss Florence Wood as teacher of the infants...

Friday, 28th August 1925

... At last the winter months are drawing to a close, and a mass of beautiful white almond blossom is clothing the hillsides behind Mitcham with a mantle of 'snow'. Always a sign that spring is just around the corner! Social gatherings, held on the fourth Wednesday in each month during winter, have been very popular. We have so far enjoyed a fancy dress night and a concert, and this week we had Euchre and dancing. They were held in the Institute, as the illumination in St Michael's Hall was extremely poor. However, this has now been rectified by the installation of electric lights, which should result in more of our Parish functions being held there in the future.

Last evening the Rector called a meeting in the Hall for all those interested in forming a church at Torrens Park. In March he began conducting a house-to-house canvass of the area with the result that, to date, some fifty families have pledged their financial support for the project. At the meeting the decision was taken formally to initiate moves for the building of a daughter church and a committee was appointed. They have decided to hold a Strawberry Fête in November to clear the £32 outstanding on the £212 loan from the Bishop's Home Mission Society. Apart from some £50 collected during house-to-house canvassing, the bulk of the money has come so far from 'friends' of the Rector's to whom a church at Torrens Park would not be of any convenience! From this source he obtained donations amounting to £130 from Mrs Tom O'Halloran Giles, Mrs Frank Rymill, Mrs John Verco and Miss Rymill – our dwindling band of faithful supporters from the ranks of the 'gentry'.

Our much-loved former incumbent, Archdeacon Frederick Samwell, died in April. He was only sixty-four. After leaving Mitcham in 1893 he served as Rector of Port Adelaide and Alberton (1893–1901) and Rural Dean Suburbs of Adelaide (1898–1901); Archdeacon of Petersburg (1901–1915); Rector and Archdeacon of Mount Gambier and Rural Dean of the South East (1915–1923) and Archdeacon of Adelaide (1923–1925). He held many other important posts, such as Editor of the *Adelaide Church Guardian* for eight years; Senior Chaplain to the Australian Military Forces for a quarter of a century and A.I.F. chaplain during the War. In 1910 he was Clerical Secretary to the General Synod of the Church of England in Australia. He was an exceptional man: one who could inspire others with the courage of his own convictions, keen to try new innovations, an eloquent speaker and always brimming over with vitality and high spirits. We were indeed fortunate to have had him as our incumbent for five years...

29th September 1926

... We have just received a long letter from the Rector, written from his brother's home in Ireland. He lives about seven miles from Waterford, where they were both born. Albert and Alice sailed in mid-April and expect to be away for about seven months. They came to Australia in 1889, and after thirty-seven years – thirty-three of which have been spent in Mitcham – Albert felt he could justly take a long rest.

During their absence we have had the Reverend King William Pobjoy as locum tenens. He is now retired, and since about 1921 has been living in East Parade, which is very convenient as it is quite close to the Hall. Since July, in an effort to encourage more people from the western areas of the Parish to attend Church, Mr Pobjoy has been holding a Holy Communion service once a fortnight at 8 a.m. in the Parish Hall, plus the usual service at 11 a.m. at St Michael's. As well, he has held a monthly evening Eucharist in the Hall and hopes that all these people will attend the new church when it is built at Torrens Park.

Our dedicated band of ladies who care for the furnishings of St Michael's now have some new recruits who have formed a Sanctuary Guild. They are rostered to care for the linen once a month. Mrs Ogden and Miss Lloyd have been caring for the cassocks and surplices for the past nine years. An Altar Decorations Guild has also been formed.

2nd October 1927

... This is our 75th Patronal Festival – quite a milestone! To commemorate this event a brass plaque, bearing the names and dates of all the clergy who have been in charge of St Michael's, is to be made and placed in the porch [Fig. 5-13]. Miss Rymill is most kindly taking a personal interest in carrying out the idea. A design is being prepared by the architectural firm of Woods, Bagot, Jory and Laybourne-Smith.

Instead of holding our annual Fair at Michaelmas this year it was held in August. This 'Great Winter Fair' raised nearly £150 in aid of the Day School and general parochial funds. About half of this money will be used to

connect the Hall to the deep drainage, the work to be done during the school holidays. The Day School now has 100 pupils and a third teacher has been appointed.

The Hall is also being used for a celebration of the Holy Communion on the first Sunday in each month at 8 a.m., with the collection going to the 'Torrens Park Church Building Fund'. Having repaid the £212 loan to the B.H.M.S. for the purchase of the land, the amount so far raised towards the construction of the building now stands at £237.

From the first Sunday in March, the Sunday School has been meeting in the Hall each Sunday morning at 9.45 a.m. instead of at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. This morning School is over by 10.30 a.m. giving ample time for the teachers and elder children to walk up the hill for the 11 a.m. service at St Michael's. As with other parishes, we now find that Sunday afternoons are invaded by motor cars. Even those families who do not have one, take the tram or train on outings to the beaches and hills which are attractive to young and old. The unsatisfactory numbers of children attending Sunday School demanded some change, and it is hoped these new arrangements will result in a larger number of children attending and more regularly ...

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND DROUGHT: 1928–1934

Even though it was the middle of winter, a thick dust storm rolled over Adelaide on 2nd June 1929. It had been brought on by a severe drought that gripped the State. This was an ominous foreboding of darker clouds that were to envelop not only South Australia but much of the civilised world during the ensuing decade as the Great Depression took its dreadful toll. Whilst many believe it began with the famous New York Stock Exchange crash on 'Black Tuesday', 29th October 1929, here in Adelaide alarm bells had started to ring as early as 1927 when many men found – through no fault of their own – that they had suddenly been retrenched. One of the areas badly hit was the newly-developing suburb of Colonel Light Gardens, where one-quarter of the breadwinners – nearly all returned soldiers – were registered as unemployed. The Rector of All Saints, the Reverend George Mellowship, took a leading role on

Fig. 5-13 Plaque in St Michael's porch listing the rectors was dedicated on Easter Day 1928. (Ben. Oborn, 2002)



the local Unemployment Relief Committee and offered what solace he could. For most of his parishioners a cup of tea and chat after Evensong was their only social outing. With the assistance of the Reverend W.C.S. Johnson, a vegetable and poultry farm known as ‘The Good-Egg Co-operative’ was established on a block of land near Colonel Light Gardens giving casual employment to about eighteen young men.¹⁶

In Mitcham – always a relatively affluent area – the effects of the Depression were not as dramatic as in other parts of Adelaide. Even so, the accounts presented at Easter Vestries over a period of a decade show an alarming drop in general revenue and a gradual slide into debit. In 1927 the Rector was paid £236, which comprised the standard £60 from the Stipend Fund augmented by £111 from pew rents and £65 as an Easter gift. By 1938 this had dropped to £108; comprising a mere £38 from pew rents and £8 at Easter, plus the £60 from the Stipend Fund. But Archdeacon Clampett was one of the fortunate members of the clergy whose Church was generously endowed through bequests and gifts of former parishioners. [The present incumbent still receives interest from these endowments, which is paid direct from Church Office to the Rector of St Michael’s, whoever he may be at the time.] In 1927 Archdeacon Clampett received from these sources an additional £200 per annum, half of which came from the Alfred Wilkinson Memorial Fund. Mention of these endowments on the Vestry accounts stopped between 1928 and 1943, but presumably interest from this source also dropped during the Great Depression.

A new method of increasing the level of financial support for parishes had been approved by Synod in 1929. It was called the ‘Duplex Envelope System’ and purported to have brought “remarkable instances of success”. It was aimed at securing regular weekly amounts from non-churchgoers, or the very occasional attendant. One side of the envelope was to be used for money for parochial needs, and the other side for non-parochial. At the time Clampett was sceptical about obtaining regular donations from those he called “detached”, and wrote that “even if it proved necessary to try it at St Michael’s, personally, I would regret the necessity of it”. By August 1932, when the Parish bank account was overdrawn by nearly £22, he reluctantly agreed for the Wardens to send out letters seeking support for the new Envelope Scheme, saying: “Things have so changed in the Parish that we are no longer a wealthy congregation, hence the necessity for more general support.” As he expected, it did not secure many responses!

* * *

Easter Day 1928

... We now have our handsome brass plaque under the northern window of the porch leading into the Church. It was dedicated at the 11 o’clock service this morning. The architect, Mr Laybourne-Smith, also devised a new notice board of somewhat similar design which hangs opposite under the southern window. A small box to receive donations to the Australian Board of Missions has also been fixed in the Church porch.

Our Roman Catholic brethren have built a splendid new church – in the ‘Spanish Mission style’ – on the corner of Tutt Avenue and Cambridge Terrace, Kingswood, which was opened on Sunday, 19th February. Since moving to the site fourteen years ago, they have held services in the adjoining schoolroom run by the Sisters of St Joseph. Many of their parishioners, particularly those of Irish background, live in Maitland Street. It is quite a walk to the Kingswood church from Mitcham, and Archdeacon Clampett (who of course knows everybody in the Village) has for years been transporting regularly not a few of their flock from Maitland Street to Kingswood.¹⁷

I know the subject of the revision of the Prayer Book – and the rejection of various proposals by the House of Commons – has been very much on your mind. You may be interested to hear the views expressed here. An informative and judicious article on the whole issue appeared in the February edition of our diocesan magazine, the *Church Guardian*. Writing on the subject in the *Mitcham Parish Messenger*, the Rector summed it up succinctly:

Probably most of you to whom I write are satisfied with the Prayer Book as it is, and with the permissive use of special prayers which Bishops can authorise. The proposals, however, for revision were made in the hope of securing greater order and uniformity within our own Church and greater unity with other Churches. Suspicions have, however, been aroused. The great body of lay people of the Church are conservative and moderate in their views; and I am not sure that very many approve of the proposal to give the Church of England two services for the order of Holy Communion. Here one feels the Church should surely speak with one voice and not two. The proposals also regarding the reservation of the consecrated elements are viewed with some alarm, because of the practice, which has of recent crept in in some places, of the adoration of the reserved elements, and because it is felt it would be impracticable to separate adoration from reservation where adoration was desired. One wonders if really a good case for reservation has been made out. The reservation is for the sick, and it cannot frequently happen that there is not time to consecrate in the room of the sick... The present crisis – if one may use the word – is harmful and upsetting.

A crisis of another kind is taking a grip on South Australia. Our present days are anxious ones due to an unfavourable season and the prevailing unemployment. Days and weeks without wages result in much want, and are hurtful and painful to the industrious and self-respecting. Officials have asked the Church for help by opening up avenues of work wherever possible for those for whom a workless day is a burden ...

14th August 1929

... We are very proud of our splendid new Soldiers’ Memorial Rotunda on the Mitcham Reserve which was dedicated on Sunday, 14th April at 3 p.m. [Fig. 5-14]. Large crowds were in attendance to watch the Governor,



Fig. 5-14 Mitcham Soldiers' Memorial Rotunda on the Mitcham Reserve opened on 14th April 1929. Archdeacon Clampett read the prayers of dedication. It was demolished c.1960s. (MLHC)

Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, unveil the tablets after which Archdeacon Clampett read the prayers of dedication and led the congregation in the hearty singing of several hymns. We were accompanied by the Mitcham Brass Band, and in the evening they gave a 'Grand Concert' from their marvellous new band-stand. It replaces the rather rickety old wooden one built in 1906 that stood on stilts nearer the creek.

The Mitcham District Council, with the assistance of many ratepayers, has appointed committees which work in specified areas for the relief of the unemployed and distressed. Each house in each area will be visited, and the need of money, clothing and fuel will be stated. Some of the ladies of the congregation are assisting in the Mitcham and Glen Osmond areas. Work will be sought for those who can and are willing, and urgent cases of distress will receive prompt attention. Receiving depots for clothing have been set up in the Mitcham Institute and at the Roman Catholic school in Kingswood. The Boy Scouts have offered to collect parcels for these depots. The situation seems to be deteriorating and we must all do what we can.

Sadly, our Mission Box has been forcibly taken from the Church porch, no doubt by some desperate unemployed person, but even so it is a shameful act.

29th July 1930

... This general Depression that hangs over the greater portion of the civilised world is being exacerbated here by unseasonable weather conditions. As I write this we are in the midst of an unusually dry winter. Very little rain has fallen in South Australia, and as a result anxiety and depression prevail. Dry seasons and low prices, together with a curtailed power of purchase, have resulted in much unemployment and consequent suffering. The winter will be hard for many, and whatever can be done to relieve want and suffering is being done.

In spite of the Depression, we are once again having our monthly socials in the Institute during the winter. At least they bring people together and give opportunity for pastime and recreation to the young and active, and no less to the more mature and sedate. Those who can



Fig. 5-15 St Michael's Bible Class, 1930.

(Back row) Joan Chapman, Betty Smith, Avis Miller, Gwen Smith, Betty Bright (later Stewart), Linda Thompson, Ruth Turner, Eunice Kloppe. (Centre row) Robert Radcliffe, Jack Burns, Ron Miller, Jack Downs, Bruce Boorman, Doug Hardy, Geoff Boorman, Ted Smith. (Front row) Ben Sabine, John Brailey, Mary Puckeridge, Newton Puckeridge, Jean Calder, Percy Wheeler. (MPA)

afford the entrance donation do so, and those who can not, pay what little they can. We provide a nice supper and a chance to win a prize. Miss Edith Brailey is secretary this season.

Her father, Mr John Brailey, a pillar of the Church, is a Vestryman, sidesman, member of the Patronage Committee and one of our Ruri-decanal representatives. The family lives on Princes Road, and Mr Brailey works as engine man at McElligott's Quarry. Recently he began a Bible Class in the Hall each Sunday afternoon assisted by Mr Wheeler, who took over as superintendent of the Sunday School from the Rector in 1927 [Fig. 5-15]. The attendance is good, and the practice of getting members of the class to write and read short papers, and to read selected portions of the Scripture aloud is proving to be interesting and instructive.

16th September 1931

... Will this dreadful Depression never end? Our most regrettable condition is the mass of unemployment. In the pressure and disappointment, in the despair and anger which grow out of it there lies great danger. The position is serious, and demands sincere thinking and deep sympathy.

But all is not doom and gloom: in fact there have been several very positive and pleasing aspects of Parish life in Mitcham. One has been the large increase in the number of young people involved in the worship and other Parish activities. The Sunday School under Mr Wheeler now has 116 children on the roll with an average attendance of 110, and there are between thirty and forty in the Bible Class. At the Rector's suggestion the older Sunday School scholars have been attending Sung Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month at 11 o'clock. He felt this was essential lest they should think that attendance at Sunday School was sufficient. It seems to have borne fruit. In June a most successful Sunday School Festival

Service was held. Young people nearly filled the Church, and joined heartily and reverently in the special service, a copy of which was supplied to each one. The marshalling of the young people from the gate was carried out by Mr Wheeler and Mr Brailey, and inside the Church members of the Bible Class rendered much valuable assistance. In the evening the Church was filled again, and it was suggested that similar services might be held quarterly. The next one is to be on the afternoon of 4th October, our Patronal Festival Sunday.

One young man in particular from the Bible Class has shown great leadership potential. He is one of our altar servers by the name of Ted Smith [seen in Fig. 5-15]. Ted has also taken on the position of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Tennis Club. This has developed in numbers and status, and has joined the Church Tennis Association, which ensures plenty of matches. New ground with room for three courts has been leased in East Parade, and two courts are being made.

On the 'down' side the Day School is being affected by the prevailing Depression and the number of pupils, and consequently the revenue, has fallen. There are still seventy on the roll, but funds are low. We hope to make enough money at the October Fair to provide some assistance towards the running of the School. A Day School Mothers' Club has been formed with the aims of interesting the children's mothers in the general welfare of the School, and to organise in helping the many needs of the School. They have so far arranged Bridge afternoons and a Children's Frolic, and are now working towards a small fête to be held in the Hall next year. By this means they hope to raise enough to remove the old, out-of-date desks from the School and furnish it with new dual desks, which would be a wonderful improvement. A fête held two years ago by the parents raised £40 which paid for the erection of a much-needed shelter shed at the School.

St Michael's received a most unexpected bequest in April: a legacy of £500 which the Vestry decided should be paid into the 'General Synod Endowment of Churches Fund' for the benefit of the Rectors of St Michael's. The money is from the estate of Mrs Elizabeth Macmeikan. She was the elder sister of Lily and Eva Waite, and the only one of Peter Waite's daughters to wed. In 1915, when she was forty-five years old she married a widower by the name of James Macmeikan and moved to Melbourne. It was a very happy, but childless, marriage. Like her father, Elizabeth has left the bulk of her considerable estate to the University of Adelaide for the promotion of agricultural research and training. Although there are no male heirs to carry on the name of Waite, the enterprising spirit and generosity of Peter Waite will live on through the 'Waite Agricultural Research Institute'.¹⁸

Michaelmas, 1932

... Our 80th Patronal Festival was a great success, and the seating capacity of the Church was taxed. This year the celebrations were somewhat muted through the absence of John Brailey who died from pneumonia on 31st August at the age of sixty-four years. His work in connection with the Sunday School and in establishing the Bible Class, which now has fifty members, will

always remain a living memorial of his devoted labour. Mr Wheeler has offered to take on this work. The Bible Class, Sunday School teachers and elder scholars have provided an altar for use in the Hall, and a brass cross and brass candlesticks have been presented.

The Reverend K.W. Pobjoy died on 1st December last year aged seventy-eight. For the last ten years he had been living in retirement at 27 East Parade, quite close to the St Michael's Hall. He was part of the 'Parish family', having acted as locum tenens for seven months whilst the Clampetts were Overseas in 1926 and often assisted the Rector when he was absent on his archidiaconal duties. His daughter Marjorie and son Reginald were instrumental in helping to start our St Michael's Tennis Club.

The mammoth task of raising enough money to build a church at Torrens Park continues in spite of the Depression. Last year a group of ladies formed the 'Torrens Park Church Social Committee'. They have been organising various afternoon and evening social gatherings in the Institute during the winter months, and also door-knocking for subscriptions to the Building Fund.

THE CHURCH OF ST WILFRID, TORRENS PARK

In September 1931 – a decade after the issue of building a church at Torrens Park was first raised – the Rector, in an effort to revitalise the scheme, reiterated the reasons why he believed a new church was needed in the western areas of the parish. He wrote in the *Mitcham Parish Messenger*:

The Situation of St Michael's from the picturesque point of view is ideal, but from the point of view of accessibility and convenience it was a mistake to select a hill site. Hills ever seem to get steeper... When St Michael's was built there was no Lower Mitcham. The railway line to Melbourne, which now passes through Lower Mitcham, was not laid or even contemplated. Mitcham was a snug village of the southern foothills, and none could foresee how it was going to develop. It has developed, and all in a direction away from the church. The parish priest of Mitcham will always have the error of position against him; and this, too – that in Australia, walking, as a health-giving exercise, has been well nigh abandoned... For many, notwithstanding all difficulties of ascent and accessibility, St Michael's is their spiritual home. Many love it and its services...

In spite of the parlous state of the economy and the Parish finances, plans to build a daughter church at Torrens Park continued. As usual, apart from some generous donations from the 'old gentry families', the accumulated funds in the 'Torrens Park Church Building Fund' resulted, mainly, from the efforts of the ladies through door-to-door appeals, Bazaars, Concerts, Strawberry Fairs and Euchre afternoons.

By mid-1933 enough money had been secured to appoint an architect, and in December that year the foundation stone was laid. When the Church of St Wilfrid, Torrens Park, opened in May 1934 Archdeacon Clampett was seventy-three years old. For the older, more settled

Fig. 5-16

*St Wilfrid's
Church*

*as it appeared
when opened
in 1934.*

*The architect was
Dean W. Berry.*

*(From an
unidentified press
cutting held in
MPA)*



parishioners who had always lived in the Village, it must have seemed a case of *déjà vu* – 1898 revisited, when the first daughter church had been opened thirty-six years before at Hawthorn.

[A full account of the history of the daughter Church of St Wilfrid at Torrens Park is given in Chapter 13.]

* * *

10th June 1934

... In spite of this dreadful on-going Depression, there has been a small building boom occurring in Torrens Park in the vicinity of the Mitcham Railway Station: our 'daughter' church and a new Council Chamber.

The Church of St Wilfrid at Torrens Park was dedicated on the evening of 9th May by the Dean of Adelaide, the Very Reverend G.H. Jose, who formally handed the licence to Archdeacon Clampett. It is a splendid little building of red bricks, measuring some 58 feet by 20 feet, with a red-tiled roof [Fig. 5-16]. The architect, Mr Dean Berry, describes it as "coming under the umbrella of the term Gothic Revival", and says the design evolved from his fascination for the churches of Devon and Cornwall. With a very stringent budget to be adhered to, he has created a warm and homely atmosphere. The foundation stone was most kindly donated by Mr Berry.

Whilst our new Church was being built, another larger, more impressive structure was also under construction just a few doors to the north. This is the new Council Chamber and offices for the District Council of Mitcham. By coincidence, Mr Dean Berry was the architect for both. In 1908 the Council moved from

rented accommodation in the Mitcham Institute to their own modest building on the corner of the Main Road and Tutt Avenue. In 1917, when the first subdivision of the 'Torrens Park Estate' took place, Mr Tom Barr Smith offered Council a block of land on which to build a Town Hall and Council Chamber. However, it was considered too small and they approached Mr Barr Smith and arranged to buy five blocks on the opposite corner at a reduced price instead of taking the gift block. Several times over the past seventeen years there have been moves to commence building, but it was not until late last year that the District Council committed itself. The foundation stone was laid on 20th January and Council took possession of their new premises yesterday – just one month after the dedication of St Wilfrid's!

Now that the new Church is open it is no longer necessary to hold the services of Holy Communion in the Parish Hall. These have been held at 8 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month since 1927. There were about fifteen regular communicants, and the collection was paid into the Building Fund. The Rector has not been well of late and he is very thankful to have the assistance of Mr H. Norman, a student at St Barnabas' College, as a catechist. He has been with us since April...

Sunday, 2nd June 1935

... The Rector has been in hospital having eye surgery and only returned to his parochial duties today after a seven-week absence. He also missed the Easter Vestry on 13th May, and for many parishioners it was the first one they had attended without his familiar figure in the chair. Also missing at the Vestry was Abel Warhurst who died in January. He was seventy-four years old, the same age as the Rector, who described him as "a faithful colleague". He had been organist at St Michael's for thirty-six years and was much loved and respected by all. His replacement is a Mr John Tudor.

The accounts presented to the Vestry showed a debit balance and, as it has done for the past two years, the Sunday School has generously offered to assist in alleviating the debt. The superintendent, Mr Wheeler, and teachers were congratulated and assured that their help was much appreciated. At present there are 110 students on the Sunday School roll and 12 teachers; 68 attend the Day School and there are 25 in the Bible Class. A gymnasium class for boys and girls has recently been formed and promises to be successful. So, as you

Fig. 5-17

The Orphan Home, 1928.

*In 1935 it was renamed
Farr House in honour of
its founder, Mrs Julia Farr.
(MPA)*



can see, in spite of the general hardships caused by the Depression, at least our children and young people are faithful and diligent.

The name of the Orphan Home is to be changed to Farr House in September [Fig. 5-17]. The suggestion was made by Mollie Bowen who joined the committee last year. Although she would not have wanted any recognition, it is very appropriate that this excellent institution should be named after Mrs Julia Farr, that wonderful lady who started it way back in August 1860. Since moving to Mitcham in 1909, the girls from the Home have become an integral part of Parish life.¹⁹

END OF AN ERA: THANKSGIVINGS & FAREWELLS

As the year 1936 unfolded, the citizens of South Australia threw themselves into celebrations to mark the centenary of the proclamation of the Province on 28th December 1836. A plethora of plaques, cairns and monuments appeared in most towns; whilst parades, pageants and re-enactments took months of planning and preparation. Although it was not opened until 30th April 1938, the most visible reminder locally of this historic occasion was the establishment in June 1936 of the Centennial Park Cemetery. This was (and remains) a joint venture between the Unley and Mitcham Councils, the controlling authority being the Centennial Park Cemetery Trust Incorporated.

With signs of improvement in the economy, the deprivations caused by the Great Depression slowly began to diminish as employment opportunities became available and men were once more able to support their families. Accounts presented to the Easter Vestry in April 1937 revealed that, for the first time in nearly six years, St Michael's bank balance was not overdrawn.

The election of Thomas Playford as Premier and Treasurer in November 1938 ushered in a new era in South Australian politics that was to bring stability and prosperity to the State. Six months later, in his seventy-ninth year, Albert Wyndham Clampett tendered his resignation of the Cure of Mitcham. By the time this took effect on 30th June 1939, he had been Rector of St Michael's for forty-six years and sixteen days.

* * *

Michaelmas 1937

... Today is our 85th Patronal Festival and at the 11 o'clock service this morning a new stained-glass window was unveiled and dedicated. It is in the north wall near the back of the Church, and depicts Christ as 'The Light of the World', bearing the text "Behold I stand at the door and knock". It is, of course, based on William Holman Hunt's famous painting of 1854 that was presented to Keble College, Oxford. Most people are more familiar with the version he painted in 1900 which hangs in the south aisle of St Paul's Cathedral in London, adjacent to where he is buried.

The beautiful window was given by Miss Blanche Levi in memory of her parents, James and Mary Heard Levi, and of her brother Philip. When old Mrs Levi died,

the Rector wrote in the Parish magazine that: "She was one of the earliest and most devoted members... whose association with St Michael's goes back to the ministry of Reverend R.W. Needham." For many years (probably after the death of her husband) she occupied the old family home built by her parents, John Lane and Dorothy Heard, which adjoins the Torrens Arms Hotel in Princes Road. I am told that back in 1869 the District Council rented a room in this house as a Council office. Blanche still lives there with Miss Mary Lane, who at one time ran a small school in a room especially erected at the back of the house.²⁰

Our present catechist, Mr Roger Correll, who has been assisting in the Parish since Mr Norman left in February 1936, is a delightful young man. He is a great favourite with the Rector. In fact he is the only person allowed to drive his Ford Model 'T', and that is only because he has had considerable experience in taming these unpredictable vehicles! Although they had a horse and trap for years, the Archdeacon always preferred to travel by foot, and he is still a great advocate of walking. Alice, on the other hand, is a familiar figure pedalling around the district on her bicycle. I understand this splendid machine originally belonged to Lady Duncan who gave it to Alice prior to her departure for England during the War. It was at this time that Alice took over Lady Duncan's role as President of the Red Cross Society in the Mitcham District. I saw young Suzanne Bowen riding her Grandmother's bicycle the other day whilst delivering billy-cans of hot soup to the poor folk in The Cottage Homes.²¹

1st May 1939

... Well, it has finally happened: after nearly forty-six years as our Rector, Albert Wyndham Clampett is to retire! At the conclusion of the Easter Vestry meeting last night he announced that he had tendered his resignation to the Bishop to take effect on 30th June next, and that the Bishop had accepted his resignation. Many present asked him to reconsider his decision, but the Rector felt that, while thanking the Vestry, it would be better to allow his resignation to stand.

The heat during January was quite unbearable. For two weeks the temperature did not fall below 90F, and for nine of those days it was over the century. It became worse and worse, peaking at 117.9F, the highest temperature ever recorded in any major capital city in Australia. Many babies and old folk died of heatstroke, whilst thousands of men were out fighting the lethal fires which swept out of control through the Adelaide Hills. Scores of homes were burnt, and at times we feared for our lives. It was terrifying, and I fear the smell of smoke will always kindle memories of the devastation...

Sunday, 25th June 1939

Dear Elizabeth,

We have just returned home from Evensong at St Michael's – Archdeacon Clampett's last official service as our Rector. After the service the congregation presented him with various gifts and a handsome cheque. I was quite touched to read his comment in the Vestry Book: "Farewell after 46 years of much joy and happiness." The

Clampetts have bought a house in the neighbouring parish of Fullarton quite close to Mollie and Tom Bowen. I am sure we will continue to enjoy their company from time to time.

Our new Rector will not be arriving for several months. During the interregnum services will be mostly in the hands of the Reverend A.B. Walker, assisted by our catechist, Mr Lionel Renfrey, who has been with us since February. He is no stranger to Mitcham: his mother, Catherine (née Dickson) who lived in High Street, attended our Parish Day School and was confirmed at St Michael's in 1906. Mr Renfrey is a student at St Barnabas' College studying for his Licentiate in Theology, having already taken a B.A. (1st Class Honours) from the University of Adelaide. I predict that he will go far!

* * *

As a postscript to the Clampett era, it seems appropriate to include here some personal recollections of one of his grandchildren, Mrs Suzanne Brookman. She was born in 1921, the eldest of Mollie and Tom Bowen's three children.

Mitcham Parish Memoirs

My childhood memories are full of episodes concerning Mitcham Parish. I spent a great deal of time at the Old Rectory when my parents were away or when I was sick and being ministered to by both loving grandparents.

The Rectory was big and basic, with primitive sanitation in the shape of a 'little house' at the back of the property, serviced by the local night cart.

Grandfather had his strict routines, with Saturday morning being reserved for writing his sermons on the verandah table, the area being out of bounds during that period. At the conclusion of a busy weekend at the two Churches, he would return after Evensong on Sunday night for sandwiches and a warmed bottle of claret by the fireside. This would be in distinct contrast with his well-known fiery addresses from the pulpit.

There were two regular annual events in the Parish with which I was involved, one being the beach picnic organised for the Sunday School. Helpers would arrive at the Rectory on the previous day to cut washing-baskets-full of sandwiches in the kitchen. On the day, the children and one or two adults would travel by drag to Brighton Beach, Grandfather and I sitting high on the front seat, much to my excitement. He always had apples in his pocket and those children that he could reach were kept supplied with slices cut with his pocket knife. The drag resounded to the singing of the children as it rumbled along. Meanwhile, the main party of adults had driven to Brighton by car and had a feast of buns ready for the drag travellers on arrival. Lunch was preceded by a swim, cricket and other games, followed by a much quieter journey back to Mitcham.

The other event was the annual Bazaar at the Mitcham Institute, where I would help Granny on the work stall and sell off my second-hand comics. There was always someone important to open the Bazaar, and one who stands out in my memory was Daisy Bates. The Institute would

be full of stalls of all kinds filled with surplus goods and products of garden and kitchen over the Parish area.

When I stayed with the grandparents during school term time, I would attend St Michael's Day School. When a little older I went to my first ball and Grandfather selected Geoff Boorman as my partner for the first dance. I remember Betty Stewart at this event because she was so pretty.

Other memories were the hasty searches for hats, gloves, handbags etc. on hearing the first bell at the Church, and the quick walk up Fullarton Road to the Church as the second bell gave its final warning. Meeting us would be the file of 'orphans' from the Orphan Home at the top of Fullarton Road, ready or otherwise to make their weekly devotions. Many of the senior parishioners worked on the Home committee, including my Mother, and it was accepted that girls leaving the Home would be welcomed into domestic service until they found some other niche in the world.

St Michael's Day, as now, was a great festival and the Church flowers had to be seen to be believed. Each pew had a large vase attached to the end, such that there was scarcely space to squeeze past to be seated. Amy Gamlen always arranged two beautiful vases on the middle of the altar with the two numbers of the Church's age.

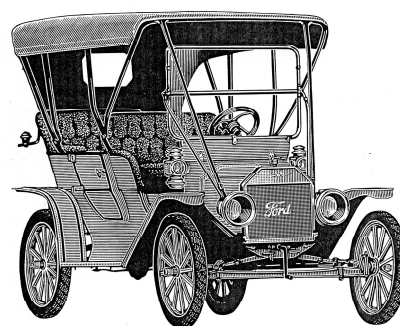
Curious incidents occurred during Church services, one being the unheralded arrival of a small flock of turkeys which had followed a youthful Uncle Harold as he made a belated rush from the Rectory after feeding them. The turkeys gobbled their way around the Church during the service, as Harold was reluctant to be seen as their master. Their efforts were emulated later by Grandfather's small fox terrier, which trailed him to the altar and had to be removed by a sidesman.

Grandfather's Model 'T' Ford [Fig. 5-18] was well-known around the district, serving him faithfully in the Parish until his retirement to Ailsa Street, Fullarton, near my family home. It had survived many a climb over kerbs and trips to the country to visit Uncle Harold at Clare, and also had endured the indignity of being driven backwards around Glen Osmond by my husband, by way of exercise, when Grandfather was finally 'grounded' through failing eyesight. The manipulation of the T's forward gears had not been included in Grandfather's briefing!

Probably one of Grandfather's greatest achievements was the founding of St Wilfrid's Church to serve members of the Parish who found it difficult to make their way to St Michael's.

Fig. 5-18

Ford Model 'T'
The first car mass-produced on an assembly line. From its development in 1908 to the end of production in 1927, over 15 million 'T' series cars were manufactured.



Until his death at the grand old age of ninety-two on 1st February 1953, Albert Wyndham Clampett, M.A., was Archdeacon Emeritus and held a General Licence in the Diocese of Adelaide. He was buried in the Mitcham Anglican Cemetery next to his beloved wife Alice, who died in October 1951 aged eighty-seven. The large family plot also contains the remains of Alice's mother, Mrs Elizabeth Patten. Adjoining it are the graves of George Wyndham Clampett, who died in 1955, and his wife, Edith; also that of Harold Robert Clampett who died at his home in Clare in 1959. Thomas Stuart Perry

Bowen, also died in 1959 aged sixty-two. His wife, 'little Miss Mollie' (Fig. 5-19), died in February 2002 having celebrated her 105th birthday on 8th December 2001. Following the death of her husband, she purchased a house in Church Road, Mitcham, and seldom missed a service at St Michael's until well into her 102nd year. It was her great love of Mitcham Village and its people – both rich and poor – her sense of humour and her wealth of memories spanning three centuries that have contributed so much to our story of life in the Parish of Mitcham during the Clampett era.



Fig. 5-19 Mrs Mollie Bowen at the time of her 100th birthday.
(MPA)



Fig. 6-1 Reverend Reginald Henry Pearman, c.1958. (MPA)