

# **ANGLICANS ... ALONG THE CANNING**



**Anglicans in witness, worship and work  
along the Canning.**

**A PARISH HISTORY**

**Paul Duncan**

Cover photograph: The church soon after refurbishment in 2018  
Photo: Sam Alahakoon

# ANGLICANS

*in witness, worship and work*

## ALONG THE CANNING

St Michael and All Angels  
Anglican Parish of Canning

A Parish History

by Paul Duncan



Published by the Parish Council, Anglican Parish of Canning  
Anglican Diocese of Perth, Western Australia

St Michael and all Angels' church and hall  
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# ANGLICANS in witness, worship and work ALONG THE CANNING

## FOREWORD

Following the renovations and alterations to the present St Michael and All Angels' church complex at 46 George Way, Cannington, carried out between 1996 and 2018, it became necessary to update *Anglicans on the Canning: St Michael and All Angels Parish of Cannington – a Short History and Church Guide* (1997), published by the Parish Council and compiled by Nancy Streatfield and myself.

For the Parish history, which I pray will encourage parishioners to appreciate our church heritage and be an inspiration for us to develop further witness, worship and work for the advancement of God's kingdom here, I am indebted to several people who have assisted significantly with the writing and publication of this booklet.

For much historical information and most illustrations I thank Perth Diocesan historian, The Reverend Edward (Ted) Doncaster, who in the 1940s assisted the Rector to cover all the worship centres in this Parish, as a Diocesan Lay Reader.

For details relating to the second St Michael and All Angels church and the beginning of the present church complex I acknowledge the assistance of the late Miss Nancy Streatfield who was brought up in this Parish and made a great contribution to its leadership, worship and teaching; I thank her for being my co-compiler for the earlier church history and guide.

Finally, for editing and design of this booklet I thank our 2019 Locum Tenens, The Reverends Tony Murray-Feist and Mark Walker, for their encouragement, time and computer expertise.

Other sources consulted in the preparation of this history are cited throughout and listed in the References page at the end of the booklet, and I encourage readers to consult them for further details.

Paul Duncan, November 2019

## BEGINNINGS

The introduction to *Our Mob, God's Story* (Sherman & Mattingley, 2017) states:

*For over 50,000 years Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people across this great land we now call Australia have been celebrating in their stories, songs and ceremonies (p. 17).*

This booklet contains part of that story in this place known as Canning.

This parish now acknowledges the First Nation custodians with a plaque on the southwest, entrance wall of the present church, placed there in 2014 in the presence of Aboriginal elder the Reverend Tom Little. It says:

*We are proud to acknowledge the Noongar people as the traditional owners of these lands and waters (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, ANTaR, [www.antar.org.au](http://www.antar.org.au)).*



*Place names and territories recorded by Robert Lyon in 1832.  
(Green 1979:174 map by Neville Green)*

The district, north and east of the Canning River, was the traditional homeland of the Noongar Beeloo tribe, and the land to the west and south was inhabited by the Beeliar tribe.

When the Swan River Colony was founded in 1829, the land along the Swan and Canning Rivers was originally promised to Robert Peel, but he and his settlers did not arrive in the time stipulated, and in 1830 Lieutenant Governor James Stirling allocated the lots to other settlers.

In the Kenwick area Wallace Alexander Walsh Bickley was allocated 640 acres of land, which he named Kenwick Park, along the now-named Bickley Brook. It was he who permitted one of his rooms to be used as a school and for Sunday worship. In 1862 Bickley donated a portion of land to be used for Church and public use, which is now Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery. Bickley was born in Kent, England, 11 October 1810, and arrived in the Swan River Colony in early 1830, age 18, to take up land on behalf of his father Samuel and himself. He died at Kenwick Park, 30 June 1876 and was buried at Fremantle's Cliff Street cemetery.

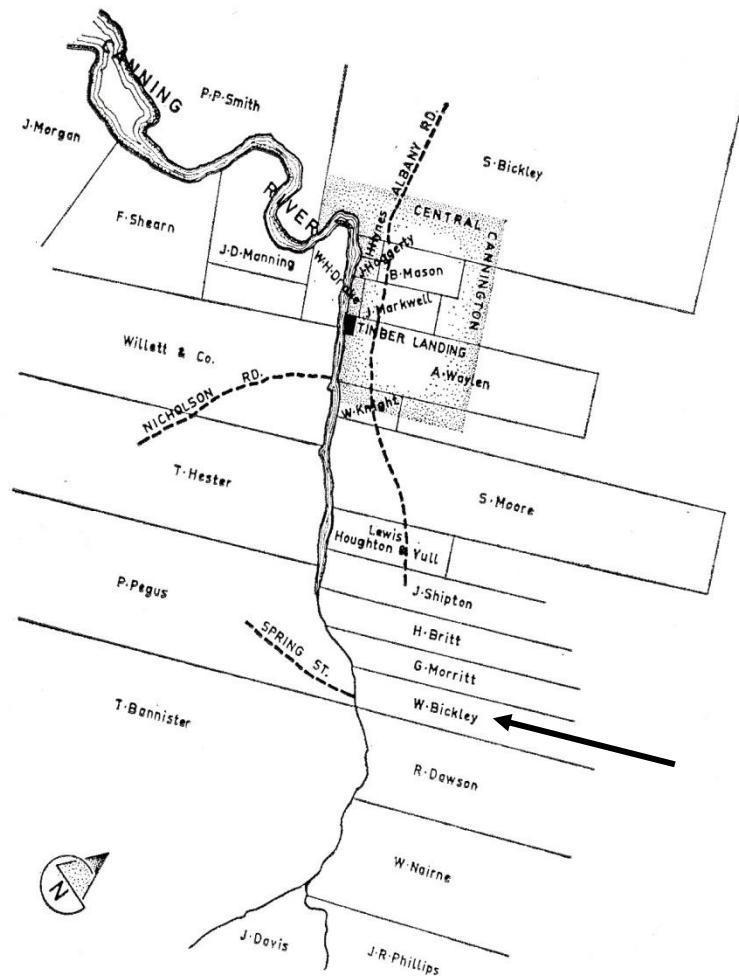
### **ANGLICAN WORSHIP AT KENWICK**

Anglican worship has been offered in the districts along the Canning River, stretching from Victoria Park to Gosnells, for nearly a hundred and ninety years. For the first century and a quarter this large area was under serviced because few clergy were available, and supported by a relatively few regular worshippers.

By 1840 there were twenty families settled in farming allotments along the Canning in the district. Morning and evening prayer services were led by settlers at Bickley's house until 1842, when the first priest, the Reverend George King, arrived to take Divine worship there. Church services were held in settlers' homes or under trees until 1865, when a public building was erected.

The first Colonial Chaplain, the Reverend J.B. Wittenoom arrived in Perth in 1832. There are no records of him ever visiting the district. The first priest to visit the Canning and regularly conduct public worship was the Reverend George King from Fremantle. He came from Britain in 1842, supported by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and was appointed priest in Fremantle. King soon

made monthly visits to his mission stations on the Canning and Murray Rivers. He rode on horseback and forded the Canning River.



*Land allocations along the Canning River. Source: Battye Library, reproduced by F G Garden (1968) "Along the Canning"*

However, these journeys adversely affected his health and he had to cease regular visits after three years ministry. In 1848 he wrote:

*Indeed in one instance wherein I had travelled only 32 miles on a hot day, to and from the Canning, performing Divine Service and preaching in the district, I literally fainted from fatigue, after my return; and on the following Sunday (at Fremantle) it was with most difficulty that I preached and performed one service (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel).*

The Reverend King gave notice of resignation from Fremantle and left early in 1949 for Adelaide and then Sydney. His successor, the Reverend W.R.



Postlethwaite, was not a well man and was unable to cope physically in making visits on the Canning and Murray circuits.

The Reverend John Ramsden Wollaston, the new Colonial Chaplain, made four visits to the Canning on horseback from Perth to the South West, the first in 1842. In 1842 and 1844 he reported to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in England that he found the congregation at the Canning ready and attentive (Burton & Henn, 1954). In 1845 he recommended that services on the Canning should be taken by the chaplain at Guildford, but this did not occur until nine years later. In 1850, now as Archdeacon, Wollaston reported on the Canning district:

*They have no church, no school, no minister, not even a layman who is in the habit of collecting them together for public worship (Burton & Henn, 1954).*

The following year he noted that the Canning continued to be poorly served:

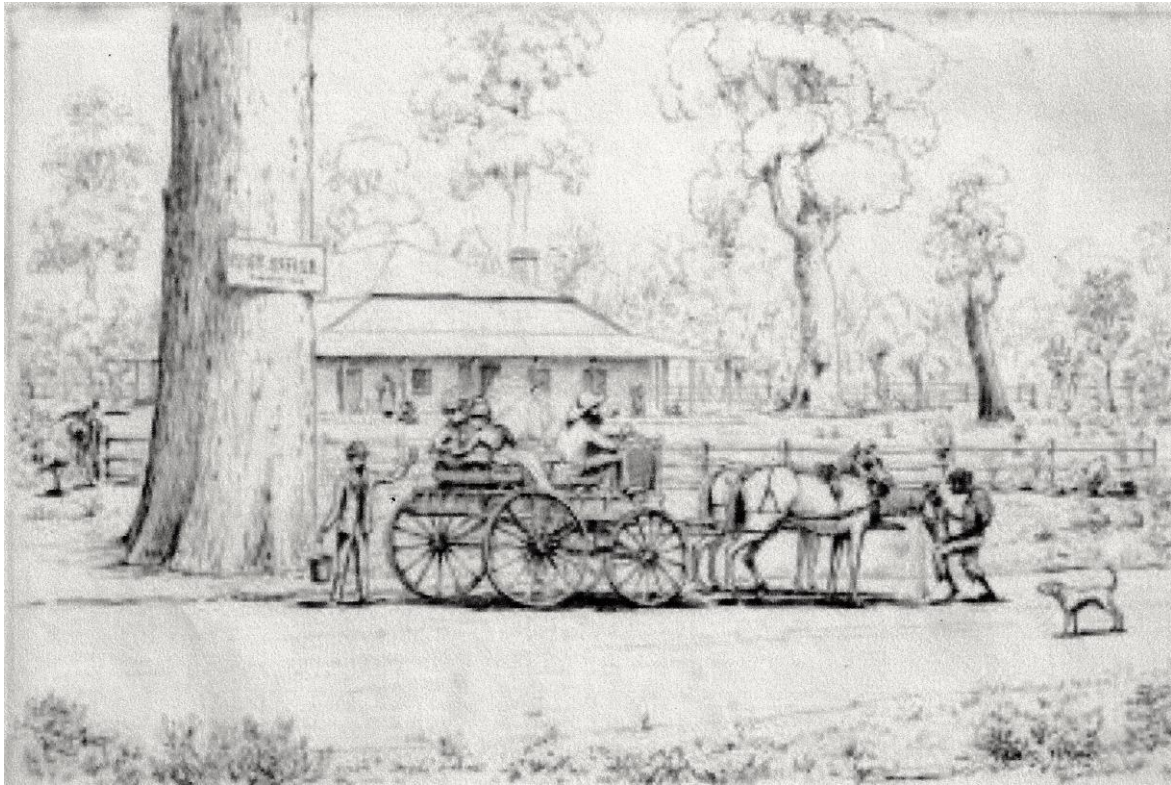
*This is a dark corner of the Colony, or rather, darker than other for the light of the Gospel, also, does not shine brightly anywhere. No, this is not correct; it shines but few will see its light (Burton & Henn, 1954)*

In 1852 the settlers had petitioned for a fortnightly service but the church in Perth found it was not possible. On his last visit to the Canning in 1853 Wollaston had no congregation because it was stormy.

In 1853 the Canning became part of the Parish of Guildford. The Reverends W. Dacres Williams, A. Likely, H. Grimaldi and G. Sweeting came to take a monthly service, riding across country on horseback and using settlers' homes. On one occasion the Reverend Grimaldi lost his way in the bush. Soon the settlers' rooms proved too small for the numbers attending began to grow.

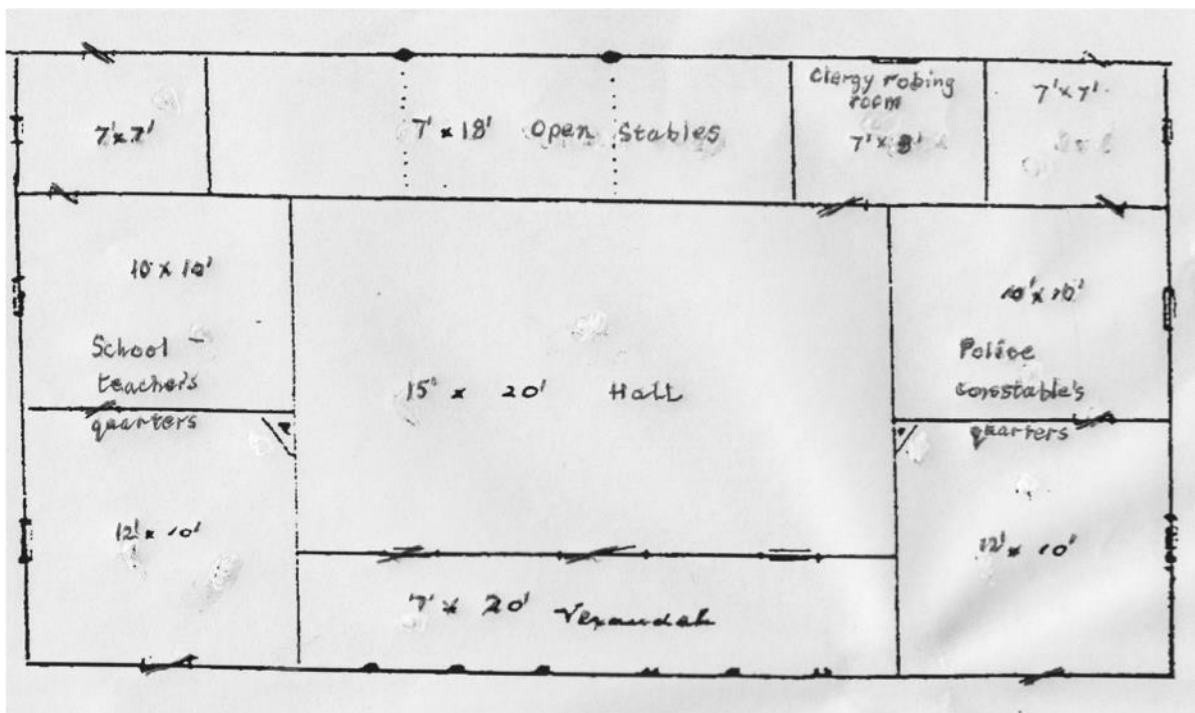
## **A PUBLIC HALL**

In 1857 seven Canning settlers called a meeting to discuss the best means of erecting a building suitable for Divine worship and the following year wrote to the Bishop of Adelaide (as the Church in the Swan River Colony was under his jurisdiction). As a result, a Government Clerk of Works visited Kenwick to investigate the need for a school.



*Canning's first church hall, illustration provided by the Reverend Ted Doncaster*

*Erected in 1864 on 3.75 acres of land given by Wallace Bickley in 1863 for public and church use. This sketch by an unnamed settler has a 'To Post' sign on the tree for the school teacher was also the Post Mistress. The land is the site of the present Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery.*



*Ground plan for church and school in Canning, 1864  
Government plan published in 'The Gosnells Story' (McDonald & Cooper, 1988)*

In 1864 plans were prepared for a 40 foot by 27 foot building: three small rooms at one end for a teacher's quarters, at the other end two rooms for police and clergy robing; a small hall in the centre to be used as a school room, court house, public worship and public functions; and a 20 by 7 foot veranda on one side and an 18 by 7 foot stables on the other, both under the main roof. This first public building, close to Bickley Brook, was erected by convicts with rammed earth walls and a shingled roof. A wooden police-lock-up was added later in 1871. The Reverend H.B. Grimaldi held the first Anglican service there on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1866. A former ship's bell, with the inscription *Sovereign 1815*, was hung from a nearby tree.

(The sketch of a church, marked "1865-1873", kept at St Luke's, Maddington, is not this public building, as formal thought (Duncan & Streatfield, 1997), nor is it the church built in 1865 at Northam, according to Church historian, the Reverend Ted Doncaster).



From 1879 Anglican services were held regularly in this public building with priests from both Guildford and Perth's St George's Cathedral making alternate fortnightly visits. The building soon became too small for those attending and began to show deterioration. The grounds around the building were gazetted as a cemetery in 1882.

In 1875, the Diocese of Perth's first bishop, the Right Reverend Matthew B. Hale, visited the Canning and noted there was no church building, the closest being in Perth or Kelmscott. [An unknown writer at the time with the initials H.P.R., quoted in *Canning Church Notes*, July 1950, said:

*It is sad to see this little wayside God's acre with its solitary gum tree under which Chaplain Grimaldi assembled his flock in the sixties to prayer, and from whose branches swung the first church bell that cast joyful notes to faithful people on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1866, in the state it is today – a scene of death and desolation.*

The Canning area was controlled by the Queens Park Road District from 1871 until 1921, when it was renamed Canning Road District. The town of Canning did not become a city until 1979.



*Memorial stone in Kenwick cemetery, Photo: Paul Duncan*

*The plaque says, "1884 a new church  
A new church of St Michael and All Angels was built on a site next to  
the cemetery and was in use in the district until the end of the century".*

### **THE FIRST ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

As the 1865 multi-purpose building became outgrown, the settlers set about raising funds to raise a "House of God". Financial assistance was sought from Church of England friends back in Britain to supplement funds raised locally from sales of work and food plus entertainment evenings. The proposed church was estimated to cost 200 pounds, but the eventual cost was 370 pounds. It was sited next to the existing public building where a plaque on a stone now marks the site within the Kenwick Cemetery. The church was 39 feet by 23 feet with an apse at the east end and could accommodate 100 worshippers. The Reverend H. Sweeting of Guildford was the priest conducting services at the time and acted as treasurer. Tenders were called for in 1883 and Mr P. Reilly was awarded the building contract. It was built in stone with windows of stained glass and the pews made with New Zealand Kauri. A font was donated by Sheriff J.B. Roe. Music was played on a harmonium.

The foundation stone - now restored and in the wall of the foyer of the present church - was laid on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1883 by Lady Louisa Leake, wife of the Crown Solicitor in Perth. Bishop Henry Hutton Parry consecrated the completed church on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1884, the feast day of St Michael and All Angels - on the deed of dedication there was only room to write "St Michael".

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 1885 Governor Broome visited the church and presented it with a Bible, an Altar Missal and a prayer book. Later, a Psalter (containing the Book of Psalms and other devotional material) came from St George's Cathedral. These books are now on display in a glass cabinet in the present church.

After a few years the poor mortar used in its building began to deteriorate, crumbling or falling out. The walls developed cracks and the roof supports showed they were not well based.

In a July 1890 *Diocesan Magazine*, it was reported:

*In the afternoon our Acting Chief Justice drives over 9 miles out to the Canning over the bumpiest of bumpy roads. Here there is a pretty but not very well built little country church, where the congregation attended from several miles around. They have alternated Sunday morning and afternoon services, and one Sunday in the month a celebration (of Holy Communion) to which the whole congregation stops, and at which hymns were sung.*

Albany Road, then, was a dirt track overlaid with wooden planks.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 1899, Bishop Riley noted that the dangerous crumbling church "ought to be pulled down". So, in 1900 it was demolished, and the stones sold for road works. The foundation stone lay buried and was much later accidentally dug up, badly eroded, and placed by the Reverend F.G. O'Halloran in St Mark's church Queens Park in 1923. Four years later it was transferred to the newly built St Luke's on Albany Highway. In 2018 it was given back to the Parish of Canning.

As the chief centre of settlement had shifted to Cannington in the 1890s, Anglicans moved their worship to the Agricultural Hall in 1900, corner of Albany Road and Station Street. This hall was used for two years before the second St Michael and All Angels' church was built, with the hall continuing to be used for larger social events until the late 1950s.

## THE SECOND CHURCH

In 1983 on the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, at the present church, the centenary of the first 1883 church was commemorated, combined with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its own building and the laying of the foundation stone.



*St Michael and All Angels' Church, Albany Road,  
Second church 1902-1959.*

*Photo by the Reverend Ted Doncaster*

In between the 1883 and present-day church came the second church, from 1902 to 1959. In 1901 Cannington became part of the Parish of Victoria Park and the Reverend Swithin Asquith took services in the Canning Agricultural Hall.

The Parish Council (then called a Vestry) in Cannington began working on the second St Michael and All Angels' church in 1901. Money was raised from the sale of stone from the demolished Kenwick church, concerts, socials and fetes. There is no foundation stone or plaque to commemorate this second church as it was erected in wood with a metal roof, some of the materials coming from the former public building at Kenwick Park, which was demolished in 1900. Furnishings, coloured windows, the harmonium, communion vessels and gifts from the demolished church were transferred to the new church located between Mason and George Streets (now Civic Gardens) on Albany Road. The land was donated by Mrs Eliza Mason.

This second church was dedicated for Divine Worship on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1902, by Bishop Charles Owen Leaver Riley, the deed naming it in full as "St Michael

and All Angels". The church bell, inscribed "Lady Elizabeth 1869" was from a ship wrecked off Rottnest Island in 1878. In 1959 the bell was passed on to another church. Evensong was held every Sunday from 1902, usually led by licensed lay readers, and was well attended. Holy Communion was celebrated twice a month, with a small congregation, the parish priest having other worship centres to serve on a roster basis. In 1937 a hall was added at the rear of the building.



*Left: Church of St Mary the Virgin, Welshpool (1927-1959)  
Right: St Paul's East Cannington (1926-1961). Photos by the Reverend Ted Doncaster*



### **OUT-CENTRES FOR WORSHIP**

As the settlement of Canning grew and became further spread out, other worship centres were needed as parishioners did not have adequate means of transport. Other wooden churches were erected, or existing small halls became used for public worship as out-centres. Early in the twentieth-century the Reverend T.G. Hudson from Victoria Park held services at East Cannington in a public hall that was later also used as a cinema, until a church was built. The Reverend Hudson also conducted services at the Maddington Road Board Hall, Queens Park in Tates Hall (which later became a church in 1918), and All Saints' Gosnells. In 1913 the Parochial District of Queens Park was created from portions of the Victoria Park and Gosnells parishes. In 1918 St Mark's, Queens Park, formerly Tates Hall, became the main church centre for the new parish.

In the following years, services, were conducted on a monthly basis in: the Wattle Grove Progress Hall (1913-1914 and 1931-1933), at Welshpool at St Mary's (erected in 1927), at Kenwick in a hall (1938-1953), at Riverton in a hall-cinema from 1948, at Bentley in a private home until St James' church was erected in 1956, and at the Chapel of the Guardian Angels at Sister Kate's in Queens Park from 1937. For short periods in the 1940s and 1950s services were conducted in the Orange Grove Progress Hall and Canning Vale State School. In East Cannington, services moved from the hall to a wooden St Paul's built in 1926. St Luke's Maddington and All Saints' Gosnells became part of the Parish



of Armadale, briefly to be returned to the Queens Park Parochial District in 1935 and 1957 respectively. Priests and lay readers used horses, then a horse and buggy, followed by bicycles and motorcycle to travel from one centre to another.

In the 1950s Cannington changed from a scattered semi-rural area to a denser urban settlement. The Rector at the time was the Reverend Wilfred E. Henn. He, with the help of the Diocese car fund, purchased a Morris Minor (Henn, 1983)



*The original St Luke's Church,  
Maddington  
Photo: The Rev'd Ted Doncaster*



*St Mark's Queens Park, 1918  
Photo: The Rev'd Ted Doncaster*



*The former Chapel of the Guardian Angels at  
Sister Kate's, Queens Park.  
Photo: The Rev'd Ted Doncaster*





*The original All Saints' Church,  
Gosnells.*

*Photo: The Rev'd Ted Doncaster*



*The Riverton church/hall, 1958*

*Photo: The Rev'd Ted Doncaster*

## **THE RECTORIES**

The priests and their families lived in the rectory provided by the Parish. The first rectory was situated in Queens Park, just east of the railway line on Treasure Road. It was a small building and lacked many facilities, such as basins in the bathroom and kitchen; it was built on swampy land, had no garden, and was in a bad state of repair (Miley, 1984). When the Reverend Reginald Miley was appointed Rector, he refused to live in it and a double storey house in George Street became the rectory until 1975. The 1952 rectory was also inadequate, as it had only two bedrooms and a damp veranda sleepout to accommodate the family who had four children. The other rooms were small. The laundry was in an outhouse until 1954 after which a washing machine was installed in the bathroom.

Overall, the Canning district was never considered an easy area for its inhabitants, nor for the Church. Finances were always a problem, with the Archdeacon twice threatening to close the Parish. However, the Church survived thanks to the contributions of the faithful few in every generation.

## **THE PRESENT CHURCH COMPLEX**

In 1956 the second church of St Michael and All Angels was considered unfit for further use because of deterioration caused by weathering and white ants. At the same time, the weatherboard churches at Welshpool and East Cannington were becoming dilapidated and vandalised, and St Mark's Queens Park, a brick building, was considered too small.

The Parochial District became the Parish of Canning in 1950. The Reverend Reg Miley and Vestry decided a new church building was essential for Cannington, and that the outlying worship centres were too expensive to repair or renovate. The last service to be conducted in the second St Michael and All Angels' church was Evensong on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1959. The building was demolished soon after with salvaged materials sold with the land, and the money added to the new church building fund (Duncan & Streatfield, 1997).

In June 1953 the Wells Organisation was engaged to raise funds for proposed works of the third church. Parishioners were asked to pledge money over a three-year period at a well-attended Loyalty Dinner, held at the Canterbury Court in Perth. Within a few days 17,000 pounds had been pledged by just over half of the families canvassed. (Duncan & Streatfield, 1997).

In 1957, the Rector, the Reverend Miley, and several Vestry members promoted the idea of building a central church and hall for the parish and closing the existing outlying church buildings. The Rector was in two-minds about including the hall, as other halls were available along Albany Highway, and instead considered a new rectory and tennis courts on the new church site. Eventually, the Rector was won back to accept the first suggestion, as there were insufficient funds for both a hall and new rectory. Only the Riverton church/hall remained in the plans and was built first on a block in Tribute Street (now sold) over a period of a year by voluntary labour at weekends, to be first used on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1958. Riverton became a separate parish in 1961. A second Wells Organisation Loyalty Dinner was held in July 1958 to encourage further support and funding.

## **THE NEW BUILDING**

The architect for the new Cannington church complex was Milton Boyce, a Perth City architect and well-known scout leader. He worked on plans with the Rector who thought donations from hall use would help pay off the estimated cost of 21,000 pounds. The existing layout was one of two designs considered, with the establishment of a memorial garden between the church and the hall later added. It was to be a war memorial building. At that time, many considered the style of the new church complex resembled various civic buildings erected by local councils.

On 5<sup>th</sup> October 1958 Bishop R.E. Freeth laid the foundation stone of the centre erected by Missen and Mills. Then, on Sunday afternoon, 15<sup>th</sup> February 1959, the new war memorial church of St Michael and All Angels was consecrated by the Anglican Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Dr Robert Moline, in the presence of the State Governor, Lieutenant General Sir Charles Gairdner. At the same time a Walker Positive Pipe organ with two manuals was being installed. The Rector, the Reverend Miley was absent from the service, having collapsed that morning after conducting a service in Riverton. He wrote in the Parish magazine:

*The centre had been designed to make the Church synonymous with the social life of the people.*

After the foundation stone had been laid, he added:

*This point in the history of our Parish is only the beginning of greater things from God. For the Great Architect of the Universe would have us raised upon this foundation laid in the north-east corner of the structure, an everlasting superstructure, worthy of his Kingdom, a spiritual mansion, a place not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

An atmosphere of prayer, worship and of the presence of God was quickly created in the church.

Congregational size in the parish soon began to wane with the rapidly changing demographics in the district. Eventually, the other parish centres were closed. St Mary's Welshpool was sold in 1958, and St Paul's East Cannington was demolished and the land sold and divided into two lots: one sold for housing (the existing lot on Wharf Street) and the other leased to an oil company for a service station, which remains a source of income for the Parish. St Mark's Queens Park first became a youth centre then an opportunity shop, followed by a plumber's store, before it was sold by the Diocese in 1965 and later destroyed by fire.

Denham Young, one of the parishioners, donated a large Bedford bus, later replaced by a smaller Volkswagen vehicle, to make a circuit of the Parish to bring parishioners without their own transport to services and Sunday school. This means of transport eventually stopped as it was difficult getting volunteer drivers with the required licence, the vehicle became too expensive to repair, and more parishioners had their own means of getting to the church. The Diocese bought a block of land in Bungaree Road in Wilson, but a church was

never built. The land was leased to another oil company for a service station, which has since been demolished.

### **THE PARISH HALL**

The new parish hall soon had meetings held by some well-supported organisations: The Church of England Girls' and Boys' Societies, a youth fellowship, the Mothers' Union and Ladies' Guilds, and for a short period, the Anglican Men's Society. The hall was also used for a large Sunday school and social functions. An aged persons' day care centre operated out of the hall for several years in association with the City of Canning Council.

Soon outside organisations began to use the hall for activities, including badminton, dance and fitness groups, and a stamp club. The Rector's wife started an Opportunity Shop in 2007, which continues to open on the first Saturday of the month and is now run by volunteers.

St Michael and All Angels' parishioners have also been involved in a range of community work including: volunteers at Communicare, weekly visits to patients in Bentley Hospital's Ward 4, [with the then Rector, the Reverend Evan, who was also hospital chaplain and assisting the Rector with services at the Agmaroy and Castledaire (Catholic) nursing homes. Non-perishable food, donated by parishioners each Sunday and supplied by Foodbank to assist families in need, has been coordinated by the Parish in various forms of emergency relief over the years. For a while, some parishioners assisted with Special Religious Education classes at the Queens Park and Cannington Primary Schools, supporting the YouthCARE school chaplain.

### **CHANGES TO CHURCH AND PEOPLE**

From the late 1960s significant changes to the church complex building were made and a new rectory built. The 1968 Meckering earthquake badly cracked the church belltower and the top had to be removed, replaced by a four-girder spire. In 1975 the much-needed new rectory was built on part of the church land facing Leslie Street. Later, soil subsidence affected the rear of the complex and foundations had to be reinforced.

In 1996 the complex underwent renovations, the asbestos roof being replaced by Colorbond corrugated steel, and the toilet facilities improved. A bitumenised, marked car park was laid in front of the building off George Way.

With regard to church services, in 1976 Evensong ceased to be conducted on Sunday evenings due to declining attendances. In 1979, a Parish Mission was held over a week, led by the Dean of Bunbury Cathedral assisted by the Rector, the Reverend Geoffrey Misso. From 2018 the regular Sunday services have been Holy Communion (the Eucharist) at 8 and 10 am and a midweek Eucharist celebrated at 10 am on Wednesdays.

During the 1980s, an ARCIC (Anglican Roman Catholic Interchurch Consultation) group met in parishioners' homes; the parish joined neighbouring churches for World Day of Prayer services at the beginning of March each year; the final debt on the church complex was paid; the choir was disbanded when the choirmaster left the parish; and in 1987 the parish took part in the Diocese's Partners in Mission project.

From 1991 to 2011 the congregation was asked to participate in the Australia-wide National Church Life surveys, which were conducted every five years coinciding with the Federal censuses.

In 2008, the time capsule that had been placed behind the foundation stone in 1958 was removed and opened, its primary document – “Greetings To whom it may concern” - now displayed in the church foyer. A new time capsule, to be opened in a further fifty years, in 2059, was placed in the wall of the sanctuary behind the hymn board. The previous year a sound loop was installed in the church nave to assist those with hearing disabilities.



*The present church with the original bell tower.*

*Photo: Paul Duncan*



*The present church with rebuilt bell tower, following the 1968 Meckering Earthquake. Photo: Paul Duncan*

In 2018, the bell tower was modified to house a locally cast bell, inscribed “*Ad maiorem Dei glorium St Michael and All Angels 2018*”, replacing the 1959 bell that had a tinny sound and had no name or date.

### **RENOVATIONS IN 2018**

In 2018 the church and hall underwent complete renovations, improvements and additions, to reach its present state. The vacant land at the rear of the church complex, used mainly as a car park, was always a concern, particularly for its maintenance. In 1958 the Reverend Reg Miley, had envisioned the space being used as a hostel for Aboriginal students and in later years the Vestry did consider using the land for a hostel for students at WAIT (now Curtin University), but neither idea was acted upon.

Three later suggestions were put forward for its use. First, the Vestry proposed to the Diocese that a retirement village could be built there but the Archdeacon discouraged the idea by adding that the parish would have to provide nursing services. The second plan prepared by the Vestry was to sell lots to interested bodies, especially religious and welfare organisations, and use the proceeds to make alterations to the church complex to improve its amenities, but at a meeting of parishioners, interested purchasers and the Canning City Council

representative, called by the new Rector, the Reverend Evan Pederick, church members voted to retain the land “for a rainy day”.

In 2016, the Rector suggested a plan to subdivide the vacant land to erect nine housing units and a new two-storey Rectory, the units to be sold and the profits used for church renovations. The Diocese of Perth accepted the plan. For seven months in 2018, while the contractors carried out the work, services were held in a demountable building, called the Chapel of Matthias, placed on the car park off George Way. On Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018, at a special Evensong for St Michael and All Angels, the Right Reverend Kate Wilmot, Assistant Bishop of Perth, preached and led the celebrations marking the return of services in the renovated church.



*Bishop Kate Wilmot and the Reverend Evan Pederick at the Evensong on 29 September 2018  
Photo: Sam Alahakoon*

In the church interior, the organ was moved to the rear of the church, and the side altar (from the former St Mark’s Queens Park) placed against the far wall, at the back of the sanctuary. The former organ recess was converted into a sacristy. The brick pulpit, lectern and font were removed, replaced by a movable lectern and modern freestanding font at either side of the sanctuary steps. The former baptistery was set aside as a place for private meditation and prayer.

Improvements were made to the lighting, air-conditioning and sound system. The steel girders supporting the roof were boxed in with stained timber, the carpets removed, and the floor restored to its original polished timber. The wooden memorial pews were replaced by modern chairs; the memorial pews from inside the church are now placed on the veranda in front of the church.

Other memorials and gifts to the church are generally acknowledged by a label, an engraving or a plaque.



The hall also underwent change. The stage was removed and extra space constructed to store hall furniture and opportunity shop materials. The kitchen was enlarged and converted to open-plan, and new toilet facilities were installed. The garden area adjacent to the hall and kitchen was re-landscaped and a system of freshwater catchment and tank storage was connected to the northern roof.



*The interior of the church following the 2018 renovations.  
Photo: The Reverend Tony Murray-Feist*

## **THE PRESENT-DAY CONGREGATION**

The church congregation has become increasingly multicultural mirroring Perth's diversifying community. The Parish's Mission statement reads:

*We respond as a multi-cultural Christian community to God's loving call by worshipping God; bringing Christ to our community; ministering to those in need; supporting mission; nurturing each other.*



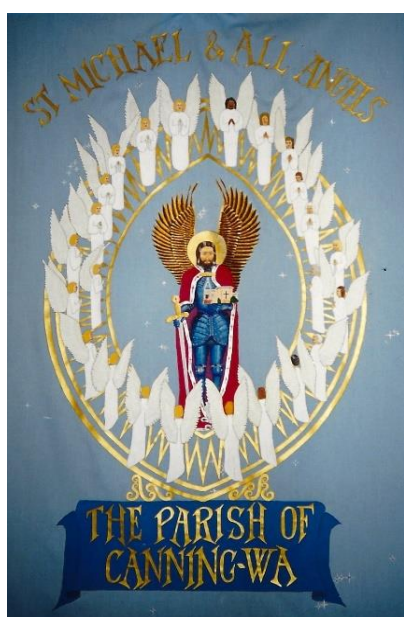


*St Michael and all Angels' Church, showing the redesigned tower, 2019*

*Photo: The Reverend Tony Murray-Feist*

## NOTES

This Parish history is published in memory of, and with thanksgiving for, all who have contributed to the mission of the Church through attendance at worship, contributing to the Church work and witnessing their faith in their lives, many coming from outside the Parish boundary, which extends to the northeast corner of Bentley, Cannington, Queens Park, East Cannington, Wilson and a portion of Beckenham, part of the City of Gosnells.



Designed and made by a retired clergyman from Esperance on being commissioned by the Parish Council. The banner has been used by the Mother's Union and for Parish involvement in the World Day of Prayer gatherings. The banner currently hangs in the votive alcove at the rear of the current St Michael and All Angels church, 46 George Way, Cannington.

Photo by Paul Duncan

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## RECTORS OF CANNING PARISH

Charles Hugh Duffy GRIMES	1918-1919
Henry VINE	1919-1920
William Richard NEEDHAM	1920-1921
Herbert Ernest KING	1921-1923
Frederick George O'HALLORAN	1923-1924
Graham Melville NAPIER	1924-1925
Leonard Arthur MARINA	1925-1932
William John PARISH	1933-1934
Frank Griffin SMITH	1934-1941
James Henry FRARY	1941-1944
Robert Ellis Greenleaf WILLIAMS	1944-1948
Wilfred Elliot HENN	1948-1952
Reginald John Austin MILEY	1952-1975
John Breedon BOWYER	1975-1983
Edward Geoffrey MISSO	1984-1993
Anthony Markham TRETHOWAN	1994-2000
Michael Joseph MATELJAN	2000-2006
Evan Dunstan PEDERICK	2007-2019

