

LIST OF CLERGY FROM 1856 TO 2005

Between 1845 and 1856 the spiritual welfare of the inhabitants was looked after by several clergy.

- 1856 THE REVEREND GRAHAM FOX REGULAR VISITATIONS.
ESTABLISH THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL.
- 1858 THE REVEREND JOHN VAUGHAN-
FOUNDER OF ST. PETERS.
- 1865-1868 THE REVEREND G. A. C. INNES, B.A.
- 1870 THE REVEREND F. M. DALRYMPLE.
- 1870-1873 THE REVEREND F. B. BOYCE-FIRST RESIDENT RECTOR.
ST. PETER'S WAS COMPLETED DURING HIS TERM.
- 1873-1874 THE REVEREND G. SOARES.
- 1875-1876 THE REVEREND T. C. WILLIAMS.
- 1877 -1878 THE REVEREND WILLIAM COMBES.
- 1878-1891 THE REVEREND W. HEFFERNAN,
RECTORY BUILT 1880.
- 1892-1909 THE REVEREND M. SMITH.
- 1909-1911 THE REVEREND A. J. S. SEATON.
- 1911-1912 THE REVEREND W. P. F. DORPH.
- 1912-1914 THE REVEREND C. E. HUGHES.
- 1915 THE REVEREND H. H. MORSHEAD.
- 1915-21 THE REVEREND E. A. B. CHAMPION.
- 1921 THE REVEREND H. PRITCHARD.
- 1921-1923 THE REVEREND W. HOTSTON.
- 1923-1926 THE REVEREND C. H. SEARLE.
- 1926-1934 THE REVEREND CANON E. A. HOMFRAY.
- 1934-1937 THE REVEREND H. J. DOBB.
- 1937-1938 THE REVEREND P. C. NELSON.
- 1938-1944 THE REVEREND A. R. BALCHIN.
- 1944-1951 THE REVEREND J. G. POLLARD.
- 1952-1956 THE REVEREND J. J. GOODMAN.
- 1956 THE REVEREND A. J. CUTTS (LOCUM).
- 1957-1959 THE REVEREND G. H. REEKS.
- 1959-1961 THE REVEREND G. H. OFFICER.
- 1962-1967 CAPTAIN R. T. COUTTS (CHURCH ARMY OFFICER).
- 1967 THE REVEREND T. L. LAWRENCE-RESIGNED DUE TO ILL HEALTH.
- 1968-1970 THE REVEREND J.P. LANE
- 1970 THE REVEREND R.G. IRWIN
- 1971-1974 THE REVEREND A.R. BALCHIN
- 1975-1979 THE REVEREND A.J. COOK
- 1980-1982 THE REVEREND K. L. CHILD
- 1984-1985 THE REVEREND H. BOOKER
- 1986- 1992 THE REVEREND NORMAN BYRON
- 1992- 2004 THE REVEREND PAUL WOODHART
- 2004- THE REVEREND WENDY DUBOJSKI

STORY OF ST.PETER'S ROCKLEY

Rockley was proclaimed a village in the year 1851. It gets its name from the village and manor house of Rockley near Marlborough in the English country of Wiltshire. At the time of the proclamation certain lands were set aside for various public purposes, including churches. The first church to be built was put of by the Wesleyans (Methodists) in 1858, and was followed by the Presbyterian Church in 1863. It was in one or other of these two buildings that services were held for Church of England people until they built their own church.

The first service in what is now the Rockley Parish were taken by the early Rectors of Kelso, and later of Bathurst. Such names appear as the Reverend John Espy Keans, W. K. Walpole and C. Woodward of Kelso and Canon Sharpe of Bathurst.

In 1860 John Vaughan came to Australia from the Cathedral city of Hereford. He had been influenced to come here by some Australian clergy who visited Hereford. As a young man he had been actively engaged in the work of the Church and continued in the same when he came to Sydney. He then spent three years at Moore Theological College and was ordained by the Bishop of Sydney, the Right Reverend Frederick Barker in 1865 and was licensed to the Parish of O'Connell in December the same year. During his three years there he was instrumental in the erection of three churches, including St. Peter's at Rockley, which was then no doubt ministered to by him from O'Connell.

It was in 1867 that the Reverend John Vaughan and the people of Rockley decided to build their own place of worship, and a start was made. The church stands in a commanding position in its own grounds with the Rectory nearby. The architect was Mr. E. Cell of Bathurst, the contractor Mr. David Jones and the carpenter Mr. Louis Groain. In its outward appearance the church seems to bear some resemblance to the Chapel of Ease at Rockley in Wiltshire, though the old photograph is very faded, and appeared in an article by Mr. Watson A. Steel in the "Bathurst Times" in

1933. It is from this source that some of our information has been drawn.

Later in that year, 1867, the main part of the building consisting of the nave and porch were ready for use and was opened by the Bishop of Sydney, Dr. Barker, on December 16, 1867.

It was not until 1872 that the building was completed by the addition of the chancel, the vestry and belfry. It is interesting to note that the cedar and other soft woods used in 1867 portions -of the church were hauled by team from the railhead at Mount Victoria, and for the 1872 portion from Macquarie Plains. The bell was donated by Mr. Watson A. Steel, the cedar pulpit by the Reverend G. A. C. Innes and the Font by Mr. Thomas Hackney - Snr. The church was named St. Peter in honour of the Apostle and -also because of the association of the Reverend John Vaughan with St. Peter's in Hereford.

The Reverend (afterwards Archdeacon) F. B. Boyce became the first Rector of Rockley and it was during his ministry the -church was completed. It was consecrated by the first Bishop of Bathurst, the right Reverend Samuel Marsden in December, 1875. Archdeacon Boyce had a long and distinguished life as a Churchman and his book of personal memoirs makes fascinating reading.

The Church is built of hand-made red brick and is a building of which the district can be proud. Over the years it has been well maintained and is well and tastefully furnished inside by many gifts as memorials and thank offerings. The old floor in the Chancel has been replaced by a polished floor in West

Australian Jarrah and part of the floor in the main building had to be replaced. The interior was further enhanced by a wooden dado from the floor to under the windows, stained cedar to harmonise with the beautiful domed wooden ceiling with its cross beams all matching the cedar pews. Externally the shingles of the roof have been replaced with iron and the shingles on the steeple replaced with slate tiles. As this brief history is being compiled there is the likelihood of several more memorials being placed in the Church which will still further enhance its beauty.

On entering the Church of St. Peter's one immediately becomes conscious of the atmosphere of serenity and reverence thus creating a desire for peaceful worship which no doubt is the reason that the congregation though never great in numbers has always been so loyal and faithful. Today we have worshippers of the fifth generation attending. That too no doubt contributes to the fact that our priests right down the years have given of their best, many of them after leaving here have continued on and advanced whilst others went into retirement after many years of faithful and fruitful service. The Reverend John Vaughan, our founder, did wonderful work in Penrith and is credited with founding a new parish between Ashfield and Petersham. He became a Canon of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.

The Reverend G.A. C. Innes was given charge of the O'Connell/Rockley parish in 1868 and after leaving here he served for a brief period at St. Matthew's at Manly and then moved on and became Archdeacon of Hamilton in Victoria. The Reverend F. B. Boyce, our first resident Rector, afterwards became Archdeacon of West Sydney and did notable work in the causes of Temperance and the introduction of Old Age Pensions. Graham Fox who gave us some of our earliest services retired from the Church and as a resident layman gave great help to the church as a Warden and Treasurer. Some of the earlier men were in charge as Catechists but were later Ordained and continued their excellent work for the parish.

All these earlier men had to do their own work on horseback or horse drawn vehicles travelling long distances over bad roads. Their work and example are an everlasting monument and we have many of their photos in St. Peters today. Motor -transport was introduced about the time Reverend G. H. Searle was in charge and as Canon Homfray came to us in 1926 the parish of Rockley and Georges Plains were amalgamated with the Canon in charge. Since 1986 we have proudly been a community of the parish of South Bathurst.

As we look back over the years we can thank God for many good people both in the ministry and in the parishioner capacity, and look forward with confidence to the next hundred years.