ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, NORTH FITZROY

ST. MARK'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, FITZROY

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THE AIMS

To establish a physical history of St. Mark's Church, its school, and its evangelist works.

To establish a physical history of St. Luke's Church and its school(s).

To gain an overall background of the Churches and the people connected with them.
Synopsis Contd.

for its infants boys and girls schools.

St. Mark's parishioners have, in the past, been very concerned, first that the church should have a tower, then the nature of the tower, then its physical condition once it was erected. (The spire was erected in 1875 as a memorial to Dr. Tracey (a founder of the Royal Women's Hospital and a lecturer in diseases of Children, in the early days of the Medical School of Melbourne University)) The tower was built to the original Blackburn design. The spire was struck and damaged by lightning in 1894, and in 1923 an appeal for the spire to be repaired was made. The parish paper is entitled "The Spire". The spire is regarded as a reminder of "eternal values and the power of "God for the redemption of the World", rather than as part of the Gothic emphasis on the "vertical leading to heaven", the exterior of St. Mark's being in a Gothic Revivalist manner.

The 1926 Settlement Building, planned as a Social Welfare Centre, was not the hoped for success, nor was the 1893 Mission of the Holy Redeemer.

To-day, St. Mark's from having been a large parish capable of taking on, and then disposing of, quite large debts, is now a very small parish with quite large debts thrust upon it.
SYNOPSIS

Although both St. Luke's Anglican Church, North Fitzroy, and St. Mark's Anglican Church, Fitzroy, have adjacent parishes, and St. Luke's was first aimed at serving the needs of the people in the North of St. Mark's parish, the two churches have had independent careers.

St. Mark's started with a schoolroom cum church in 1849, the foundation stone not being laid for the church until Separation Day 1853. The church proper was not open for services until January 1855. Due to financial difficulties it was not possible to consecrate the church until January 1863. In the meantime, the cost of erecting the church had risen from an estimated £2,000 in 1853 to more than £15,000. Sir John Erice, a trustee of St. Mark's, contributed £12,000 towards the building costs. The period of post Land Boom depression was, oddly enough, a period of tremendous building activity for St. Mark's. In the 1890s a Mission was built in the North of St. Mark's parish to cater for those in the area; a parish hall and verger's residence were built, and also a choir vestry and infants' room building.

Much of St. Mark's extensive school buildings were demolished prior to the 1890s. At one stage St. Mark's is reputed to have had 600 pupils on the combined roll
Synopsis Contd.

St. Luke's Church had been mooted since the late 1850s, but it was not until 1870 that a wooden schoolroom cum church was actually built on an 1 acre 3 rood 24 perch site off Queen's Parade. St. Luke's had been granted a standard 2 acre allotment (1 acre for the Church and 1/2 an acre for each of the parsonage and school) but because nothing was done about building on this land, the Government revoked the grant in 1869. The second site was deemed to be unsuitable so, in 1878, the church was moved to the corner of Watkins St. and St. George's Rd.

The original wooden church-school room was later used for a school (where the permanent St. Luke's Church was built facing St. George's Rd. incidentally, with the altar on the Western wall. The permanent church of St. Luke was opened at the beginning of the 1880s but it could not be consecrated until 1891. Unlike St. Mark's it has had no wealthy benefactor.

Also unlike St. Mark's, but like the rest of Victoria, St. Luke's had a grim financial struggle in the 1890s. The vicarage was given to the Diocese in exchange for a discharge of debts on it.

The period 1910-1925 was a brighter one for St. Luke's with the construction of a chancel to the church (previously not done because of lack of finance), the purchase of a vicarage, the erection of a Parish Hall (St. Luke's
Synopsis Cont'd. and the purchase of a verger's residence.

During the 1960s, the old wooden schoolroom was destroyed by fire, the 1917 vicarage sold to help finance a new vicarage, the verger's residence demolished to make way for the new vicarage, and parts of the Parish Hall leased to a Film Company. (St. Mark's also has their 1891 Parish Hall leased to a Film Company.)

Though the spire of St. Luke's is visible for a greater distance than that of St. Mark's, (being at the junction of two long straight major thoroughfares) it has not had the attention that St. Mark's spire has been given.

The history of the Church of St. Mark's Fitzroy, is not paralleled by that of the Church of St. Luke's, North Fitzroy; as the nature of the parishes varied, so did their history and aims. While the aim of St. Mark's appears to have been evangelistic, St. Luke's appears to have been mainly concerned with parochial matters.
GENERAL BACKGROUND

The land on which the main part of St. Mark's Church is sited was bought by Bishop Perry from John Hodgson. He had a bluestone cottage, adjacent to the church site, which is still known as Hodgson's villa, as well as a mansion in Flinders St. This was first known as "Hodgson's Folly", and later as the "Port Philip Club Hotel", an enduring monument to this wealthy squatter, but his flimsy punt at Kew was more admired than his mansion in the 1840's (Blainey). The punt at Kew was near what is now Studley Park Bridge ("Garryowen"). Sharland says that the Mayor of Collingwood, Councillor Hodgson, had a punt at the North end of Hoddle St. which gave rise to Hoddle St. being renamed Punt Rd. for part of its length.

In 1850, John Hodgson was a member of the "City of Melbourne Gas and Coke Company" ("Garryowen"). By 1855 gas had become a public utility (A.G. Bell) (St. Mark's Church was not lit by gaslight until 1867). In 1854 Hodgson was Mayor of Melbourne (Kerr), and 1855 he was the first Mayor of Collingwood ("Courier").

Mr. Richard Grice, later Sir Richard Grice, a very generous benefactor of St. Mark's, is reputed to have been one of the founders of the National Bank. The "Cyclopedia Victoria VI-1" mentions "Mr. John Grice, Director of the National Bank". His son James, in 1888 was
General Background Contd.

responsible for what was then "Moondah", later "Manvung", and now "The Australian Staff Administrative College" at Mt. Eliza.

Dr. Charles Stuart Perry, Melbourne's first Bishop, brought with him from England part of a prefabricated corrugated iron church. This was erected in Bourke St. West, was 70' x 50' and seated 1000 (?)(A.G.Bell). The lining of the interior was paper covering canvas covering thin planking. "The roof was lined with "inodorous felt to make it a non-conductor in the "of climate". A 40' iron tower, housing belfry adorned the church". The whole structure cost (A.G.Bell). These prefabricated iron churches were popular, the ruder members of congregations refer to them as "iron pots".

What was Fitzroy like when St. Mark's was founded? Fitzroy was divided into rural allotments in the 1850s (1967 lecture). An 1855 "Herald" described "Newtown as being a small village in the vicinity of Melbourne". Newtown, "otherwise Collingwood", was under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of St. Peter's Church. The Church of England record for the year 1859 has this to say "In the first schedule of an act of the legislature of New South Wales passed in Sydney on 12 Oct. 1849, prior to the separation of Port Phillip and its creation into an
2. Typical church interior, about 1853
General Background Contd.

Independent colony, named after Her Majesty "Victoria," the district contiguous to the church is described as "the suburb of Newtown, otherwise called Collingwood" consisting of 320 Acres. This, however, only refers to land within the City of Melbourne which is not the ecclesiastical boundary of the Parish of St. Mark, but only forms a portion of the same, the other portion being comprised of the now densely populated borough of East Collingwood. A large portion of the East Collingwood borough was cut off from St. Mark's to form the present parish of St. Philip's in 1863.

What of the people? Charles Laing in 1851 wrote "the people of Collingwood are chiefly of the humble classes, and with few exceptions are poor." In 1851 there were 1318 persons of the Church of England faith; this number rose to much greater than 1,000 families in the square mile; today there are only 150 Anglican families in the parish, 800 families having left since the War. Searle quotes 12,000 as the number of people living in Fitzroy in 1861, and 19,000 as the number living in Collingwood. The Golden Thousand pamphlet 1923 commented "For the past 20 years, there has been a continued exodus of people to the more favoured residential suburbs. The people with the home ideals and better prospects move away from "Fitzroy, and, as in all industrial parishes, they constituted the keenest portion of the church-going population."
General Background Contd.

Was St. Mark's one of the earliest Anglican Churches in Port Philip? Freeland quotes 3 temporary and 9 permanent Anglican Churches in Melbourne prior to 1852. They are:

- The Pioneer Church (1836; Anglican)
- St. James' (1838)
- St. Andrews' (1842)
- St. Peter's (1846)
- St. Thomas' (1848)
- Holy Trinity, Coburg (1849)
- St. John's (1849)
- St. Andrews (1850)
- St. Thomas' (rebuilt 1850)
- St. John the Less (Bright) (1850)
- St. Stephen's (1850)
- St. Paul's Cathedral (1850)

St. Mark's (1853) deed packet at St. Paul's Cathedral, is numbered 11 - does this signify that it was Melbourne's eleventh permanent Anglican Church?
St. Mark's Church and School
7 Parsonage
1 Gore St.  2 George St.  3 Napier St.  4 Young St.
5 Fitzroy St.  6 Line of road comprising Carlton St.
West of Nicholson St., Moor St. and Stanley St.
East of Smith St.
The foregoing plan and references thereto give only the principal thoroughfares; the smaller streets crossing those indicated are numerous but of no great importance. The present boundaries are as follows -

On the West - Rathdown Street from gate of the Carlton Gardens opposite Palmer Street, top of Barkly Street, Carlton.
On the North - Down Barkly Street, down Nicholson Street, to Ryrie to Wellington Street (when open)
On the East - Wellington Street
On the South - Up Derby Street, Gertrude Street to Brunswick St
To Palmer Street, through Palmer Street to Carlton Gardens across Carlton Gardens to the gate in Rathdown Street.
St. Mark's Church 1923 (Golden 1000)
The Golden Thousand pamphlet mentions that in 1849 the "villagers of Newton worshipped in the newly erected Church of St. Peter" (at Eastern Hill). The vicar of St. Peter's made an application to the Diocesan Society on behalf of the Collingwood School Committee for assistance towards the erection of a school. Assistance was given and the school building was finished in May 1849. The assistant clergy of St. Peter's conducted services in the schoolroom, but they were poorly attended; however, in June 1850, Rev. J.A Clowes was appointed in charge of the district and was a popular success (Golden Thousand pamphlet).

A meeting was held at St. Peter's on Easter Tuesday 1853 and "it was determined to commence the erection of the proposed church" (Baker).

On Separation Day, 1 July 1853, the first stone (Golden Thousand pamphlet) or foundation stone (Baker) was laid by the first Bishop of Melbourne, Bishop Perry (Port Philip Gazette). "A parchment scroll, inscribed as follows, was sealed in a bottle and deposited with the usual formularies stone "in the stone". "'This foundation of a Parish Church, dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, and called '"St. Mark's, in honour of St. Mark the Evangelist, was laid "'on the 1st day of July, 1853, by the Right Rev. Charles "'Perry D.D., Lord Bishop of The Diocese of Melbourne."
was often spoken of as "The Architect's Folly." Although thought by some to add much beauty to the interior by reason of its massive square pillars, terminating in seven arches supporting the principals of the roof, the gallery is of little effective use. Though costing £3000, it has never been of much practical value to the Church. For twenty years past the entrance doors have been bricked up. The present vestry are hoping to have the gallery reconstructed and brought into line with modern requirements. The exterior gains in dignity and impressiveness from the finely-proportioned tower and lofty spire, the latter being one of the landmarks of Fitzroy. The interior is noted for its lofty, spacious and stately proportions. It is a worthy House of God—a strong, silent witness to the imperishable verities of Christian Faith, Praise and Prayer. The original estimate of the cost of the building was £12,000. But this amount was largely exceeded, for up to 1859 the sum of £15,000 had been expended.

One name stands out most prominently among the benefactors of St. Mark's—the late Mr. Richard Grice. He was the Church's mainstay amid stormy financial times, and his total benefactions to the parish amounted to the munificent sum of £12,000.

The first incumbent had a trying time in financial matters, and, in addition, had worries outside his ministerial duties, in the shape of a contentious vestry. And after a period of six years' labours he found his health so much impaired that he was forced to seek a holiday.
"Charles Joseph La Trobe, Esq., being Mayor of the City of Melbourne. The Trustees of the Church were the
"Rev. James Aaron Clowes, Minister of the Parish, Albert
"Charles Best, James Blackburn, Richard Grice and
"Nathaniel Kinsman." (Baker).

Baker quotes the church building as being in George Street North, on land purchased by the Bishop from the Hon. J. Hodgson M.L.C. Apparently the building operations proceeded smoothly until early Sunday 17 Sept. 1854, a fierce wind blew down the 8 heavy principles of the roof that had just been erected, causing them to be smashed in the process (Baker, Golden Thousand pamphlet). With the help and support of the community the principles were replaced and the building proceeded with, so that the present church was opened on Sunday 21 Jan. 1855. The Melbourne "Morning Herald" of that date describes the church as being "Built of bluestone in the early English style of architecture the West side being supported by external massive butresses."

The church was consecrated on 6 January 1863.
From the North-west corner of the church looking South.

detail of the South entrance door. This entrance is not used currently.
St. Mark's Land Acquisition

An extract from a letter in the Latrobe Archives reads —

To The Chairman of the Fitzroy Land Improvements Committee —
Sir,

I have the honour to report on the Title of the Trustees of St. Mark's Church, George Street, as follows:—

The deeds below having been examined

John Hodgson to L M.A. (?) Ashurst Bill of Sale 17 Nov. 1848 No. 1

Memoranda

That Green to John Payan in which W. Ashurst is attended to signed by P. Davies 17 Nov. 1848

Thomas Green to John Payan Conveyance 10 Feb. 1847 No. 2

The Right Worshipful the Lord Bishop of Melbourne Conveyance by appointment release 12 July 1849 No. 3

The Nichumen (?) Charles Lord Bishop of Melbourne to Ret. J.A. Clowes and Others Conveyance 27 June 1853 No. 4

The whole of the above documents are irrelevant to and disconnected with each other.

The Bill of Sale Number 1. in this report contains a description of land occupied by St. Mark's Church, the boys school and adjacent land as shown on accompanying sketch tinted with colour.
An early map (reprint) of the City of Fitzroy. — from Fitzroy Town Hall
St. Mark's Land Acquisition (contd.)

The Conveyance Number 2 in this description of land re-occupied by the portion of the infants' school and a portion of land on the South side of the girls' school as shown in the accompanying sketch and tinted with green colour.

The conveyance number 4 contains a description of a position of the wasteland South of the girls' school, the site of the girls' school and part of the site of the infants' school, also the site of the boys' school as shown on sketch and edged around with yellow.

By this sketch it will be seen that a large portion of the land lettered "a" and "b" on the sketch is uncovered to the Trustees by the deeds submitted, and it is for the legal advisor of the Committee to say whether first notices must be issued for these portions on being lands without an owner.

I have preferred submitting the facts of the case rather than giving an opinion on the deeds.
Copied from sketch with letter dated May 19, 1856.
I have the honour to be

Fitz Roy Ward Norman Roderick (?) Kent
19 May 1855 Thomas E. Matheson

The next mention of land purchase is dated 8 August 1855. The letter concerns Joseph Roberts and Obadiah Ikin from whom land with a "26' frontage more or less to George S. Collingwood on a depth of 60' more or less" was bought for the sum of £100. The next correspondence is dated 14 August 1857, and involves a disputed fence.

In a letter dated 10 August 1858, written by Mr. T. A'Beckett (Bishop's Registrar), it was stated that two separate deeds of conveyance for land with a frontage of 61' and 100' depth were given to the Bishop.

Since Messrs Orice, Blackburn, Nest and Kentman acted for the Denominational Schools Board in this matter, this would presumably involve school property, but which portion is not certain.
St. Mark's Land Acquisition (contd.)

There is a comment in the "Observer" 27 May 1865 concerning a fund raising campaign "as it appears that an owner to the land has turned up with whom however we are glad to learn "that a satisfactory arrangement has been made" This would probably be the land on the corner of George St., and St. David St.

There is an indenture dated 22 March 1884 between Jelitza H. Brock and Messrs. Henry Figsby Young and Thomas Joshua Jackson (Hotel proprietors of Swanston St., Melb.) and Amos Hubert Lear, for a 19 year lease from 1 April 1884 for £26:-:- per annum. This is presumably the land that Hon. J. W. Smith bequeathed to St. Mark's

On 1 May 1885 there was written a deed No. 134 Book 326 involving Mr. A.H. Lear in the first part, Miss J.H. Brock in the second part, Messrs Young and Jackson in the third parts and Mr. George Blackburn in the fourth part. On the same date, £150:0:0 was paid by George Black to Amos Hubert Lear for Crown Portion 85.

On 1 July 1887, an indenture was written between George Black and Elizabeth West for £500:0:0 for 19 years.
St. Mark's Acquisition (contd.)

There is a Certificate of Title dated 3 September 1893 for part of Crown Portion 69 at Fitzroy Parish of Jika Jika County of Bourke. Commencing at the intersection of the East side of George St. and the North side of Moor Street, hence along George St. 53' 8"", Easterly 26' 7½" and 20', Northerly 7' 6"", Easterly 49' 6", Southerly 60' 6", and Westerly along Moor Street 95' 6" to the commencing point.

On 2 September 1903 Mr. T. J. O'Sullivan was rented Crown Portion 85 for ten years at £15:0:0 per annum.

From 1/1/1927 land at the corner of George St. and Moor St. with Certificate of Title #5150 Fol. 1029845 was leased for 30 years, with such conditions as - within 15 months to erect and completely use and make fit for use and occupation a building to be used in connection with St. Mark's Social Settlement together with all the necessary offices outhouses and conveniences --- of brick and reinforced concrete --- total cost not less than £4,000:0:0 (exclusive
of architect's commission and charges --- not without the consent in writing of the lessee (use) as a skating rink -- and except in matters connected with the educational work to be carried on by the lessee for the purposes of carrying on the business of a picture theatre for the exhibition of cinematographic pictures or for other purposes of an auditorium.

In February 1927 the Certificate of Title Vol 5150 Fol. 1029845 was given to the Bank of New South Wales, Fitzroy for advances to £1,500:0:0 for the mortgage.

In Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works ledger No. 510 Folio 344/36779, for 22 March 1910 there is a bill for £1220:0:0 to cover the cost of W.C's, drains, etc., to the Gymnasium and Mission Hall.

On 6 June 1941, the Vestry paid £435 to T. Grams for part of Crown Portion 69, to consolidate the church block. (On 16 Nov. 1950 Crown Portion 69 Certificate of Title 6830 Fol. 1265942 and Vol 3123 Fol. 624411 was sold to Morris & Walker Pty.Ltd. for £3,750 subject to the existing tenancies.

Crown Portion 72 Certificate of Title Vol. 3609 Folio 856 was sold to A.D. White for £1,750.

The old verger's residence has been let to "Film House" who also occupy the 1891 Parish Hall.

The details of the various land acquisitions and occupancies of St. Mark's Church and its associated buildings are incomplete.
From a plan of "St. Mark's Church - George St. Fitzroy."
The Church of England Record for the year 1859 states that St. Mark’s Church had "an immense debt - such as no other Church ever has had - or desires to have ". The debt on St. Mark's for that year was £2,719:16:7 (Baker) which is certainly not the largest debt a parish church has had, allowing for the fluctuations in the value of the currency. According to the "Herald" of 5 July 1852 (Baker) the original estimate for the church building was £2,000, the next estimate ("Golden Thousand" pamphlet) was £12,000, and up to 1859 £15,150 had been spent. Of this £2,000 was a State aid grant. The great increase in costs can, in part at least, be explained by the general fluctuations in costs that occurred during the period - the era of the Gold Rushes.

Baker states that in 1848 the Diocesan Society offered a grant of £100 towards the erection of a girls' school on St. Mark's land "payable on completion of the building within 12 months." This grant was paid during May 1849. The school building was built before the church building. The former doubling up as a Church building.

In correspondence dated 1850 (Latrobe Archives) dealing with the allotment of Church of England monies towards various schools there are two proposals. Proposal No. 1 suggests £25 for each of the girls', infants, and boys' schools, and Proposal No. 2 suggests £30 for each of the schools, making total allotments of £75 and £90 respectively.
Charles Laing in 1851 quoted £249:10:0 as the cost of erecting a new infants school at St. Mark's, complete with galleries.

The Education Dept's 1853-4 reports of the Denominational Schools' Board shows that in 1853 the Board granted and paid £666:13:4 towards the erection of a Collingwood Infants School (Church of England) and in 1854 paid another £133:6:8 towards the same building. St. Mark's infant school was the only Church of England Infants School in Collingwood that I know of being erected at this time. These reports state that £333:6:8 was raised by local subscription, but that the total estimated cost of the building was £1,666 cif. Laing's estimate of £249:10:0 some two or three years earlier. The difference between the original and the total estimates could again be due to the then current inflation increase in costs.

The first meeting to discuss the provision of church accommodation was held in the first schoolroom on 14 April 1852 (Baker). At this meeting, several people were appointed to "Raise a subscription for the purpose of building a church "and to take all the necessary steps for that purpose". At this initial meeting £400 was promised.

Following the consecration of St. Peter's (Western Hill) on Easter Tuesday 1853, a meeting was held to help St. Mark's Church Building Fund. By the end of the meeting, subscriptions amounting to just less than £100 (Baker) had been promised. At that stage the parish of St. Peter's had raised approximately £400, including £250 from Mr. R. Grice who was
The Grice Font

The baptistry in the South-East corner of the Church
Finance St. Mark's Contd.

evitably to largely finance (be reputed anonymously) the building of St. Mark's.

A collection was made following the laying of the Foundation Stone for St. Mark's Church on 1 July 1853. On the same date a statement of finances was prepared which indicated that, of the then estimated cost, £2,000 had been subscribed, another £2,000 was expected from the Colonial Treasury and, therefore, at least £2,500 remained to be collected. The estimated cost had more than tripled in the space of two years. The church was opened on 21/1/1855 with full choral services and collections amounting to £120:11:11. Baker claims this as "probably the largest collection ever made in a church in the Diocese". Neither the choral services nor the large collections were kept up. At that stage, Melbourne was not yet chastened by religious, political or social factions, but Baker points out that £200:0:0 was donated by Mr. Howe, "the proprietor of an equestrian circus!"

When on 13 July 1856, Rev. Clowes announced that he was going to the United Kingdom on leave, the contractor for the pewing of the church, served him with a writ for £169 unsatisfied, and the contractor for the parsonage fence served him with a writ for £223:3:3 due on the parsonage fence. The church trustees satisfied the pewing contractor with £100, but would only pay £100 towards the fence; the Rev. Mr. Clowes having to make up the balance as they
claimed that this contract had been entered into without their being consulted. Rev. Mr. Clowes went to the United Kingdom and did not return, to Australia.

On 18/1/57, just two years after the church was opened a bazaar was held which raised more than £590:4:6 (Baker) towards the building fund; this amount Mr. R. Grice offered to equal. However, on 26 May of that year, the church trustees still owed £6,928 (borrowed at 10%) towards the church costs. Between 12/6/57 and 30/10/57, Mr. R. Grice paid £1,250 and all the interest due on the church debt "out of his own fund". Between these two dates only £150 had been paid out of the Church General Fund. The debt was £5,520 on 30/10/1557, but by 30/12/1857 this was reduced to £5,443. During the next year the debt was reduced by £1,381:15:0 to make a debt of £4,062:15:0.

Mr. L. Tayler, an architect, made a survey of the church in 1858 and estimated a necessary expenditure of £275 for repairs and improvements. This was after the church had been in use for only three years. The debt was this year liquidated by £1,173:12:5 (R. Grice £848, Parish Funds £325:12:5) to make the then total debt of £1,546.

A promise was made by the parishioners in 1859 to raise £2,000 if the trustees would separate the church and parsonage debts (the parsonage was then probably on the site opposite the Carlton Gardens). This promise was fulfilled only to the extent of £141. Nevertheless, the balance sheet of 1859 shows a decrease of £1,342:16:7 in the total
Crumbling of the plaster on the east wall.

The south west corner of the church, showing part of the baptistry in the bottom right hand corner.
Finance St. Mark's Contd.

debt compared to that of 1858. Once again, Mr. R. Grice contributed £1,162, whilst the parish contributed only £180:16:7, this being comprised of the balance of pew rents collections, etc. after paying current expenses. Still in debt to the extent of £2,719:18:5, it may be assumed that some of the repairs and improvements were made.

In 1861 there were some repairs to the church costing £171:14:0, raised by the vestry. At this stage, the vestry had an account for £65:7:0 lodged in the bank, "for purposes of cleaning, painting and otherwise renovating the interior of the church" (Baker). The vestry trustees reported that the debt had again been reduced by £161:6:5 to £1,384:19:7 the interest again having been paid by R. Grice. Mr. Grice's contribution in 1862 was £700 towards the balance of debt of £1,200, the rest being raised by the church. Finances received a great spurt with £550 being collected within a space of five weeks, so that the church could, at long last, be consecrated - 6 Jan. 1863 - nine and a half years after the laying of the Foundation Stone, fourteen years after the idea of St. Mark's Church was first mooted.

A breakdown of the parish contributions for 1863 (exclusive of £700 from Mr. R. Grice), is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seat rents</td>
<td>£297: 5:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections in church</td>
<td>401:15:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>639:14:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds, etc.</td>
<td>5: --:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,353:15:2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
East side of St. Mark's Church. 1967

Note the original iron railing fence -
and the vicarage garage at the left!
St. Mark's Spire

From the North looking South. This was built to Blackburn's 1853 design in 1875.
The Collingwood "Observer" 1/7/1865 indicates that the total income for 1864 for St. Mark's was £1,175, and the expenditure £1,173:13:4. About the same time £80:0:0 was promised towards the completion of the tower (St. Philips Parish News), and £45 promised towards a new organ. The church grounds were "suitably laid out and planted with "trees and shrubs, for they had been for so long an eyesore".

In 1866 there was a decrease in seat rents, collections etc. (Baker): though the revenue for the year was £1,115 the balance due to the bank was £47. The Observer 7/1/67 quotes the total income for 1866 as £1,175 and the expenditure as £1,173:13:4.

7 Jan. 1867 the sum of £23:15:6 had actually been raised for the tower fund. Mr. Kimpton during this year promised £50 for the tower fund (Baker). (c.f. £10 quoted by the "Observer" for Mr. Kimpton's promise). Since allegedly more money had been promised, the vestry thought of a tower complete with a clock and bells (the Fitzroy Town Hall with its tower clock had not then been built). The new tower was estimated to cost £2,000. At the same time, it was found that "the present portion of the tower must be "pulled down as the foundations are defective".

The Church was able to spend £104 on an organ (not the present one) in 1868.

The cost of removing part of the walls from the original church mission in George Street, and positioning them in
the few pipe organs in and around Melbourne in those days. Several donors, including Mr. Wallan, were responsible for it being placed in the Church. For all these years it has sounded forth delightful strains of sacred melody. It is still a fine instrument, sweet in tone and rich and sonorous in volume. Some day we may be able to install a new organ built on modern lines. In the meantime we have this year added an electric blower at a cost of £100, a much-needed improvement.

Choir

Still we have established a notable choir in this high standard of Church music, from time to time in succession of capable hands. Mr. Bennett has been very valuable in guiding the membership of the Church choir, and the names of Mrs. James, Mr. H. King, Mr. Trooper, Mr. Allan, Mr.

C. Robinson and Mr. F. W. Mewton (who has recently received the distinguished appointment as organist of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney).

For the past eighteen years the organ has been presided over by our much-respected and highly-valued organist, Mr. F. Howes. Year in and year out he has striven faithfully to maintain the best ideals and highest standards in Church music. New life and spirit have come into the Church activities, and gradually we hope to build up the tone and quality of the choir until its former glories are even surpassed. Music is the handmaid of devotion. We hope to add an orchestra when possible. The strains of sacred melody help to tune up our aesthetic feelings and spiritual longings, and bring us into fuller communion with the Divine.

We have members in the choir with long and meritorious service. Mr. Bennett has a record of thirty years. There are Mr. Heath, Miss Fricke, and some others. But...
View from Hodgson St
Choir, vestry and infants
room on the left and
"Blackburn's Folly" on
the right. The right
entrance door is bricked
over (1967). Blackburn
had planned a tower
over this entrance but
this was not built.

North elevation of
infants room, choir
and vestry building.
Hodgson's villa is
to the left of the
picture. Note the
original school
windows on this
building.
in the "gable end of the choir vestry and infants school" was £500, given by J. Pritchard and G. Burton (Gold Thousand pamphlet).

In 1898 the parish again had to renovate the church, but this time the money was given quickly (Golden Thousand pamphlet).

In 1923 the Golden Thousand pamphlet wrote "Our immediate objective is to renovate the church and buildings, to establish a cafeteria and to build a men's clubroom at a cost of £1,000. Next year the project of the hostel for the girls school will be launched."

What of the financial position of St. Mark's in 1968? St. Mark's had to either sell, lease or allow to fall into disuse much of the property that it once had. The following is a partial list from "The Spire", the parish paper of Saint Mark's July 1967.

"Here are some of our present needs--"

"Refurbishing of many brass ornaments involving replating and repolishing--"
"Recarpeting Sanctuary of the Lady Chapel."
"New prayer desks in Chancel to match new choir pews."
"Provision of plumbing and water supply to the Church "Sunday school equipment""

...to which I would add, renovation of plaster work inside the church, repair of the windows on the South side, and replacement of some of the roof drainage.

The financial future of St. Mark's Church does not look very rosy, but then, it never has, yet the Church has survived..."
Doorway from original school building now on choir, vestry, infants building.

Main church entrance in 1967.
St. MARK'S INTERIOR

Baker, in 1868, claimed "the Chancel is appropriately finished, and in addition to the three stained glass windows "presented by Mr. Charles Curtis, contains a set of beautifully illuminated tablets". At that stage, the beautiful white baptismal font donated by Sir Richard Grice (the church's largest benefactor - he donated an estimated £12,000 of the basic cost of £15,000 for the church) was in the front of the chancel. Later it was moved to the baptistry at the Southern end of the church, and has recently been returned to the front of the chancel. (25/9/1967)

The three stained glass windows in the chancel were presented by a "very liberal donor" and contain "three simple crosses, 2 small and 1 larger one". The design was "drawn and coloured by the architect of the church". Despite James Blackburn having been a trustee for St. Mark's, and its architect, Charles Baker does not mention him by name. Mr. Baker, however, does report that 7 April 1867 "workmen were seen surreptitiously taking out the larger cross" (from the window), allegedly on the authority of a seat holder. As could be expected, the matter was much argued.

The spire was built between 1874 and 1875, being finished on 10/6/1875 (Rev. Marshall-Wood). This spire seems to act as an identifying symbol for St. Mark's.

During 1894 (Golden Thousand pamphlet) this spire was
incumbency, and a successful ministry was commenced. St. Mark’s was beginning to make its influence felt as a Church, and the Rev. J. F. Stretch readily found a response in the people of Fitzroy to his ministrations. Soon after the appointment it was found that the old Vicarage in Moor Street had become obsolescent and too cramped, and eventually was sold during the land boom for £7,000. This commenced the big building programme, and in 1888 the Parish Hall, the Verger’s residence, the Chor Vestry and Infant’s School were commenced. The gable end of the Chor Vestry and Infant’s room still retains its historical value as associated with the Church’s earlier history, for this formed part of the wall of the original Church Mission in George Street, which was removed to its present site by the generous donations of £500 each from J. Pritchard Esq., and G. Burston, Esq., parsons in those days. The opening ceremony of the Chor Vestry and Infant’s Sunday School was held on Sunday afternoon April 19, 1891.

The original plan was to make the Parish Hall a two-story building, so that the upper floor might be let for social purposes. But funds failed; and we, the present generation, have to take up the work where our fathers left off, and extend the picture of our future that was established in those days.

Mr. Stretch was fortunate in securing the services of the Rev. E. S. Hughes, B.A., as curate of St. Mark’s. An idea was conceived of a big mission centre at which the people at the northern end of the parish might be drawn. The Mission of the Holy Redeemer was the result, and extensive buildings were erected in Gore Street on the property which was bequeathed to St. Mark’s by a Mr. J. M. Smith in the fifties. The Mission was opened under the most favourable auspices by Lord Hopetoun, then Governor of Victoria. For a few years it was conducted most successfully by Mr. Hughes and his staunch supporters. There was a well-equipped gymnasium, a fine...
St. Mark's Interior Contd.

struck by lightning "and since then the extremity of the spire "has been out of the perpendicular". Either the parishioners became more conscious of the lean or else the degree of lean did increase, but one of the aims of the Golden Thousand Fair was to raise money to restore the tower to the vertical. In 1967 this tower visually appears vertical, but seems to have a slight bulge to the West near the top.

At about 1898, alterations were made to the Sanctuary windows, and Blackburn's windows were replaced by the Pritchard Memorial Windows, representing the "Transfiguration of Our "Lord " (see illustration).

During the incumbency of Rev. Snodgrass (1900-09) "most "of the beautiful furnishings and tapestries were presented "to the church in those days" (Golden Thousand pamphlet).

In 1923 the chancel was described as "the best preserved "part of the church as it stands today". New choir pews have been added and it has been suggested that new matching prayer desks to added, too.

In November 1927, a window was erected to the memory of William Major Olive, by his parents.

In 1929 a carved wooden rood screen was added across the full width of the naves. The interior photograph of 1923 (see illustration) shows what appears to be a wooden screens
St. Mark's Interior Contd.

beneath "He is risen" and "God with us". These could have been erected in 1909.

Since 1923, the communion rail has also been altered.

As with the church buildings, many of the "extras" for St. Mark's Church interior, have come from the era about the turn of the Century.
St. Mark's was originally estimated to be capable of seating 1,000 people in the congregation. Of course, the size of the parish was then comparable to the amount of seating designed. Some thirteen years after the opening of the church, the interior was, in part, described as "lofty and fitted up with open stalls of cedar; very neatly and well wrought, but since much damaged by repeated alterations".

During 1859, due to alleged hearing difficulties, the position of (or else the removal of - which is not certain) the reading desk and pulpit were altered and some of the pews removed. These pews could have been those sited in "Blackburn's Folly". According to Baker (1868) an "improved seating plan" was submitted to the parish, which, amongst other things, involved the resiting of the pulpit and reading desk from the North end of the church to the West side in the middle of the church; and turning around approximately 180 degrees half the pews, so that half the congregation would have their backs to the chancel (and therefore the altar) for a large amount of the time. Fortunately this scheme, with its rather awkward consequences was not adopted.

During 1859, the collection of the offertory from pew to
In July, 1856, he left Australia for England on eighteen months leave of absence. The Rev. A. J. McCausland, from St. Luke's, Emerald Hill, was appointed by the Bishop to occupy Mr. Clowes' pulpit during his absence, and preached his first sermon at St. Mark's. July 6, 1856. The Rev. Mr. McCausland, however, did not stay very long in the incumbency, as he exchanged livings with the Rev. R. B. Barlow, B.A., preached his first sermon as the incumbent of St. Mark's.

The year 1862 saw the first curate appointed—the Rev. C. J. Martin. This year was one in which the Parish of St. Mark's seems to have flourished, and by a supreme effort, again backed up by Mr. Grice, the debt on the Church was liquidated.

Rev. C. Scale, of Wangaratta, who entered upon his duties at St. Mark's on January 18, 1857.

The Rev. C. Scale was appointed to a new parish of St. Paul's, Ballarat, and was succeeded by Rev. James Leasker on June 27, 1868. His ministry was very short, for he preached his farewell sermon on November 23, 1868. On the following Sunday the Church tower was built. It was during the Rev. Robert Barlow's ministry that the first supplied choir was formed. Previously the choir consisted of men and ladies only. No cassocks or surplice were worn. The Rev. Robert Barlow was present at the boys' final practice on Saturday evening, in preparation for the following day's services, at which the boys were
Seating Accommodation St. Mark's Contd.

new instead of at the door, was commenced. The main entrance to the nave of the church, prior to the erection of the tower, 1875, was on the Eastern wall of the church at the end of Hodgson St.

The Golden Thousand pamphlet notes that during the ministry of Rev. Snodgrass (1900-09) the seating accommodation was altered to form a "cathedral aisle" in the church. In 1967, the church has one main central aisle and a minor aisle adjacent to each of the side walls.
first to appear. Mr. Barlow had a seizure during the 11 a.m. service, and died before the evening service, the bell being tolled instead of rung.

The original plan for the boys' appearance on that day's service was altered, and the first occasion on which they appeared as a surpliced choir was at the graveside of the Rev. Robt. Barlow. Mr. Barlow's work as a pioneer of St. Mark's Church stands out as a monument of what courage and perseverance, backed by faith in his work, is capable of accomplishing. An illustration depicting the memorial tablet erected to his memory appears on another page.

With the introduction of the surpliced choir the ritual of the service was improved by the pronunciation of the Canticles and Psalms, and the choir of St. Mark’s had the foundation not limited to the choir; for many a young St. Markite had been her first and early training in the Cathedral and Church teaching from the instruction imparted by Mrs. Eyre.

After the untimely death of the Rev. Robt. Barlow an interval occurred in the appointment of a Vicar, and the post was filled by the Rev. Frankly D.D. The Rev. Frankly D.D. was then appointed to the

*Golden 1889*
View from porch through main entrance 1967

Interior 1967
St. Mark's Organs

E. N. Mathews wrote an article that was published in the "AGE" during 1963 correcting the popular belief that St. Mark's has only had one, possibly two, organs.

On 6 Jan. 1854, James Blackburn is reported to have offered St. Mark's Church either the use of or else the purchase of, for £100, his small pipe organ with 8 stops. This organ was erected in the church by H. Nicholas at a cost of £20, and was used in the opening choral services of the church in Jan. 1855. Only three months later, a second organ was installed in the church.

The Golden Thousand pamphlet claimed that the then "present instrument (1923)", a two manual organ of English construction was placed in the church at the opening. "It was one of the few pipe organs in and around Melbourne in those days." Melbourne's first organ was already installed at St. James's Old Cathedral (National Trust) but the present one at St. James's was not made until 1866.

The E. N. Mathews' claim that the "Wallen organ" was actually the second organ that St. Mark's had could be assumed to be true.

Either E. F. Wallen (a chairman of the Melbourne Stock Exchange) was the seller of this organ (E. N. Mathews) or was only responsible partially for it being erected in
and most of the beautiful altar furnishings and tapestries were presented to the Church in these days. There was a marked social activity among the Church people, and a strong sense of spiritual and social solidarity was

uncorked. Our parishioners still remember these happy days. They mention the excellent dramatic entertainments that were given in the parish hall.

The parish was still without a vicarage. The Vicar had lived in a rented house in Gore Street, and in George Street, and for a time the verger's residence served the purpose of the vicarage. The successful ministry of the Rev. Evelyn Smethurst was terminated by his preferment to St. Paul's, Geelong, in 1909.

On March 4, 1910, the seventh incumbent of the parish was installed in the person of the Rev. A. F. Drewett, Th.D., who came from Holy Trinity, Kensington. The future seemed full of promise and possibility, but since 1910 a great change has overtaken the parish. In the past twenty years, there has been a continual exodus of people to the favored residential suburbs. The people with home ideals and better prospects moved away from Fitzroy, and as in all industrial parishes they constituted the keener portion of the churchgoing population. This migration will continue. The parish has to face a continued withdrawal of its strong supporters, and factories are encroaching every year upon the residential areas of Fitzroy.

With commendable zeal and energy the Rev. Mr. Drewett carried on the work of the Church through those difficult years. Those who knew him intimately speak of his earnest and faithful work. But the ingress of a non-churchgoing population added to the difficulties of the work. It is hopeless for a man well on in years to struggle alone in such an industrial area as Fitzroy. Two or three workers are essential. The strain of the work told on Mr. Drewett's health, and as the out-

Above is probably the 1877 organ and not the 1855 Wollen organ.
the church (Golden Thousand pamphlet). I'm not certain. This organ had belonged to J. T. Charlton and had been lent to the Philharmonic Society for 3 months in 1853 (Mathews). A. G. Bell mentions that an Harmonic Society was formed and then a Philharmonic Society "and when one of the churches installed an organ, the choir sang pieces "from Mozart, Handel and Hayden". Did they sing for the opening of St. Mark's?

This "Wallen" organ was installed by H. J. Izzard for £14:-:--., and was built by Foster and Andrews, of Hull, England. Mr. Izzard, who was also a sexton of the church, was also responsible for the tuning and maintenance of the mahogany cased organ with its 14 stops. Later a Mr. J. Briggs, an organ builder, became responsible for the care of the organ at St. Mark's.

The organist is alleged to have reported in 1858 that the organ was "in a disgraceful state, both as regards the pipes and the action. Some of the notes will not speak "at all", others say a good deal too much". Repairs were made to this organ in 1858, 1861 and 1867. The 1867 repairs cost £100 and were done by William Anderson, organ builder. The organ was "reopened" by Dr. J. Summers (then organist of St. John's Toorak) on 28 April 1867.
Rebuilt 1877 organ

1930 choir stalls.
In 1877, a third organ was bought for St. Mark's - the second was sold to the Methodist Church, Richmond, some years later, re-built by George Fincham (builder of St. James' 1866 organ), and resold to St. Augustine's Church, Shepparton.

The third organ was built by William Anderson (the repairer of the organ in 1867) for £500, and contained 15 speaking stops and 3 couplers. It was officially opened by St. Mark's organist, Otto Vogt, on 1 Nov 1877.

In 1892, it was reported that, due to water coming in through the roof "the great sound board was very unsound" that "the action was very noisy", that "the bellows action was restricted", that "the feeding power was very limited for full organ"; that "the pipes throughout very irregular and the intonation in some stops imperfect". Not until 1900 were any improvements made.

In 1923 an electric blower costing £107 was added. The Golden Thousand pamphlet says that "some day we may be able to install an organ built on modern lines". -- "We hope to add an orchestra when possible. The strains of sacred melody help to tone up our aesthetic feelings and "and spiritual longings, and bring us into fuller communion with the Divine".

In 1963 this organ was rebuilt by Hill, Norman and Beard of Clifton Hill - 6 stops were added so that the organ at St. Mark's now contains 21 speaking stops.
BLACKBURN'S FOLLY

Melbourne "Morning Herald" (Jan. 1855), describes St. Mark's church as having "on the East, for nearly the whole length of the building, there is a gallery, which is known as the 'architect's folly', of little effect use." The building of this gallery added an extra £3,000 to the cost of the church. Blackburn had previously designed one for St. Stephen's Church, Richmond, which cost £1,626:16:6 (Freeland), and which was removed in 1923. [Webb is attributed with designing "galleries" for St. Stephe also.]

What was the intended use for the gallery? According to several clergymen I have spoken to on this matter, choirs at this stage were not completely acceptable. The opening services of St. Mark's were full choral services, but it was not many weeks before the vicar was asked to restore the services to "their former simplicity". St. James' Old Cathedral (1843) had a gallery. In a letter dated 11 Jan 1845 Edmund Blackett wrote to St. Peter's (Eastern Hill) that "Galleries are very common in modern churches. They are "totally unecclesiastical and inelegant".

Baker evidently regarded the gallery as folly for he wrote in 1866 that although the gallery lent "much to the beauty of the interior, the massive square pillars, terminating in seven noble arches supporting the principle of the roof", "render both the gallery and the space underneath it, almost useless on account of the obstructions they present
both to the eye and the ear of the minister and people". He complained that the access to the gallery was "by a sort of belfry entrance in Hodgson St., and up a flight of steps much too narrow and perpendicular". Galleries had been used in England during the first part of the Nineteenth Century, either for accommodating the poorer members of the congregation or for placing the choir out of sight. It seems most likely that St. Mark's gallery was designed to accommodate the choir, since I do not believe that St. Mark's parish would have been socially stratified in the 1850's to the extent of separate areas in the church for the rich and the poor.

St. Philip's Parish news 17/7/1866, mentions that the "hitherto unused gallery" at St. Mark's was "fitted up" for £205.

By the middle of 1885, St. Mark's had a choir again; this church choir first sang as such at the funeral of Rev. Barlow 23/10/1885. It was he who had initiated the (re)formation of St. Mark's church choir.

In 1892 the space under the gallery became a vexed question (Golden Thousand pamphlet). It was decided to use this space as a side chapel.

In 1903 the entrance doors to the gallery were bricked
The rather dark interior of the Lady Chapel.

"Blackburn's Folly"

children's choir corner entrance Lady Chapel
Above entrance to lady Chapel

entrance to lady Chapel
in - and still are. The 1923 vestry hoped to "have the "gallery reconstructed and brought into line with modern "requirement". The gallery itself is not used to-day (1967)

The area under the gallery is being used as a rather dark Lady Chapel. The seats are of the "tip-up picture "theatre seat" type. In 1967 an appeal for, amongst other things, re-carpeting the Lady Chapel, was made.
THE DESIGN OF ST. MARK'S

Baker reports that there was much discussion as "to the material of which it (St. Mark's church) should be built". Apparently interested factions tried to induce the Building Committee to take "one of the four iron churches just then imported, or expected from "Home". Baker proposed that the church be built of bluestone "declaring a great aversion to such make shifts as iron churches for a rising and important place like Collingwood". He described these churches as "iron apologies".

Baker had his way and designs for a stone church were invited, a premium offered, and plans submitted. The competing architects were upset when the committee announced that it wanted a design embracing "some of the points in the whole of those sent in". James Blackburn's design for a church in bluestone was accepted. Though bluestone had been considered as a utilitarian material, not suitable for a House of God, St. Mark's was not the first bluestone church in Melbourne. In 1848 the Penridge Methodist Church had a bluestone wall to it. St. Paul's Church was the first bluestone church to have been built in Melbourne proper. Its foundation stone was laid 21/9/1850 but the church opened for use 5/12/1852. Webb's St. Paul's was to be shortly replaced.
The tower over the East entrance has not been built. Neither have the vertical projections with pyramidal "lids" at either end of the "Folly".

Source - unknown. From St Mark's Library.
The Design of St. Mark's Cont'd.

Richmond

St. Stephen's Church, built of bluestone, had its foundation stone laid 3 months earlier, making it the first bluestone church in the Melbourne Metropolitan district. (Freeland)

St. Enoch's in Collins Street, also a bluestone Blackburn design, was commenced after St. Paul's but still in 1850. Due to criticism against the bluestone, portion of its facade was stuccoed. The St. Mark's was therefore, not the original Melbourne Anglican bluestone church, but none the less, was definitely amongst the:
St. Mark's School

A school room cum church was built on St. Mark's land. This building - 6C' by 20'- was completed 31 Mar. 1849, and opened for use by May 1849, with "35 boys and 34 females." Correspondence dated 31 Mar. 1849, mentions that a new 60' by 20' room had just been completed and that "the children who now assemble in a portion of this building occupied by the infants school, will be removed to the new building at the commencement of the next quarter. The infants school will continue to be conducted in the present room." One of the first scholars was the infamous "Tommy Bent" (Michael Cannon), later a civic leader. The first building was of brick, and in 1868, was known as the girls school. (Baker)

Charles Laing wrote, dated 20 Aug. 1851, that the Denominational School Board possessed £130:10:4 to be appropriated to the building of a school in Melbourne. Laing claimed that there was a great need for an Infants school to be erected in Collingwood. The present building used for the purpose contains three rooms, two of which are used for the school in which at times not less than 80 infants are educated. The third is occupied by the teacher. (Was there only one teacher?) Its situation is also very objectionable, being immediately opposite a public house. The rent for this building was £25:--:-- per annum.
Collingwood, Aug.

My Lord,

I beg to own the receipt of from your Secretary of the 20th Inst. I have informing me that the sum of £ is in the hands of the Donegal School Board, which sum is to be applied for the building of a School in the condition that above sum be paid for the same purpose from local sources. In reply to which, I would submit our great need of the erection of an Infants' School at Collingwood. The present building used for the purpose is totally unsuitable; it contains three rooms, two of which are used for the School, in which about forty-five harshly defective children are educated, the third is occupied by the Teacher; its situation also is very objectionable, being immediately opposite a Public house. I would further submit that since your Lordship has expressed yourself with such clemency in your desire should provide for every
connected with the maintenance of our schools from their own local resources and the Government salary and not to look to your English Fund after Christmas of the present year. It makes the case of Collingwood for the immediate erection of an infants' school entirely necessary, you having hitherto paid the rent charge for the present building. I need not say that if we have to meet the amount paid (£25 per annum) for the use of the present building, it will greatly retard our School operations. The people of Collingwood are chiefly of the humblest classes and with few exceptions are poor, but I have found them to the extent of their ability willing and devoted to your object. I suggest the appropriation of this sum for the erection of further school building at Collingwood; we shall be enabled to comply with the stipulation which requires all the sum for the same purpose from local subscriptions.

To the Right Reverend
The Lord Bishop
of Melbourne

I am, my Lord,
Your very obedient servant,
James R. Collier.
The Bishop of Melbourne encloses a proposal and plan for an Infant school at Collingwood and requests the Board's decision.

Melbourne August 26th 1881

The Chairman
of the denominational school Board.

I have the honour to transmit to you, for the approval of the denominational School Board, the accompanying proposal and plan for the building of an Infant School Room at Collingwood, and to request that the Board will have the kindness to take it into their early consideration and action and the accompanying letter, with their decision.

I have the honour to be,

Yours truly,

C. Melbourne.
The annexed is the plan of the proposed building the estimated cost of which will be:

- School Building: £60 0 0
- Galleries for do.: 14 10 0
- Total: £74 10 0

In addition to the above it is desired that a porch be erected to the north of the present school and the ground fenced in, the cost of which will be:

- Building back to school: £1 0 0
- Gates, fencing: £5 0 0
- Total: £6 0 0

Chas Lajman
Melbourne: 1891
14. Paul's, Swanston Street, 1850. Architects: James and Charles Webb
INFANTS' SCHOOL
COLLINGWOOD

Back Elevation of Present School

Elevation East.

Plan Present School

Crossed Plan.

Charles Laing
Melbourne 1854
"Rent of £50 per annum. The proposed arrangement will enable the present boys school to be used as an infants school. The estimated cost at present prices would be £650."

An 1852 Report of the Denominational Schools Board gives the attendance at Collingwood Church of England schools as Boys 100 on roll, 68 average attendance
Girls 66 " 39 "
Infants 99 " 57 "

St. Mark's school would be included in these figures.

Baker reported that in 1854 "a large portion of St. Mark's girls school, which extended to near the crown of the road in George St., was removed."

In 1856, a tender was made ("of which £53:3:6 being one half of the cost") to "cover in the space between the boys and the infants schools" - plates 4" by 3", battens 2" by 1" covered with zinc tiles and flashings all up the walls --- front wall to be built of brick--- make proper gutters to the yard --- line inside of rafters to boys school with tongue and grooved board properly nailed."

By 8 August 1857 the church, girls school, infants school and boys school had all been built.

The "Observer" 27 May 1865, had the following paragraph "Gentlemen interested in St. Mark's schools are
"making a strenuous effort to get up a grand concert to be held in St. George's Hall, next month. The object of this entertainment is to raise funds to pay for the ground upon which the schools are erected" (see the section on land acquisition).

By 1867, St. Mark's schools had 722 pupils on the roll with an average attendance of 472 with 40 members of staff (La Trobe Library Archives).

The Golden Thousand pamphlet mentions an infants school room as having been built during the incumbency of Rev. Stretch (1885 - 1892). This would surely be the choir, vestry, infants rooms building. Shortly before 1923, the gallery in the "old infants schoolroom" was demolished. The Golden Thousand pamphlet continues that "60 chairs have been donated, a fine blackboard installed, and we are now (1923) working towards modern up-to-date kindergarten equipment."

The "choir vestry infants room" building now appears in need of renovations.
St. Mark's School cont'd.

Laing designed an additional school building, for which he estimated £245:- as being the probable cost of the school, and £14:10:- as the probable cost of galleries for it. He also thought it desirable for a porch to be erected at the back of the then present school (cost £20) and the ground fenced in (cost £35).

The Government Gazette for 23 June 1852 mentions that on 3 Sept., an application was lodged for a grant of £400 towards the erection of an additional room to be "used as a boys school, in conjunction with the existing school of St. Mark's". The building was to accommodate 200 children.

Baker wrote (in 1863) that a boys school was erected at a "cost of a little over £1,000".

On 3 Sept. 1852, there was a report that the accommodation at St. Mark's school was insufficient - the average attendance being 98. "There is at present no infant school building except for a dwelling house engaged at a
Rev. Stretch, with Rev. E. S. Hughes, B.A., as curate, had the idea of building a mission centre to which people from the Northern end of the parish might be drawn. An extensive building entitled "The Mission of the Holy Redeemer" was built in Gore St. on property that had been bequeathed to St. Mark's in the Fifties (Golden Thousand pamphlet). It was opened 18/7/1891. Baker describes the land bequeathed to St. Mark's by J.M. Smith as being 2 acres on the corner of Smith and Rose Streets. Presumably the J.M. Smith land was along Rose St. between Smith and Gore Sts. The curate for St. Mark's was in charge of the Mission District whose boundaries were Johnstone St., Nicholson St., Alexandra Pde. and Wellington St. The terms of his appointment at £200 per annum for 3 years, included "that the present (1893) debt of £500 on the Mission buildings be paid off within that period" (correspondence re the closing of the Mission). The Mission contained a "well equipped gymnasium, a fine large residential settlement house, and a tastefully fitted chapel" (Golden Thousand pamphlet). The Mission apparently withered when the Rev. Hughes left St. Mark's parish and went to St. Peter's parish.
The Font.

The marble font was the gift of the Church’s largest benefactor, Richard Grice, Esq. Originally it was placed near the chancel, but it now stands at the south end of the Church.

In the baptismal register there are the names of 16,666 baptisms. Far and wide have gone the people who in their infancy have windows were the cause of no little controversy in the early days. The present windows, representing the Transfiguration of our Lord, were erected by the Pritchard family. Restfulness, sanctity and peace are blended together in the atmosphere of the Sanctuary. How many a soul has partaken deeply of the draughts of spiritual refreshment from the ministrations of the Altar! How near heaven has felt! What uplift and strength

been dedicated to God by devout parents. Many citizens prominent in Victorian history have received the first beginnings of their Christian life and instructions at St. Mark’s.

The Sanctuary.

The chancel is the best-preserved part of the Church as it stands today. The original has been given as hungry souls have been nourished by the overpowering sense of God’s nearness and presence and power.

The Organ.

The present instrument, a two-manual organ of English construction, was placed in the Church at the opening. It was one of
St. Mark's Parish Buildings Other Than Schools Contd.

In about 1920, the Mission buildings were removed from parish control to form part of the Alice Lovell Clarke creche and Kindergarten. The remainder of the land, which for many years, was known as "St. Mark's Reserve", is now built on (Golden Thousand pamphlet). (By: "The Spire")

In 1889, a foundation stone for the Parish Hall was laid by John Grice, son of Richard Grice (Golden Thousand pamphlet). This building was opened on 19/4/1891. The original idea was to have a two storied building so that the upper floor might be let for social purposes, but financial difficulties were encountered. The Golden Thousand pamphlet (1923) describes the hall as having 10 alcoves on either side "built specially with a view to "Sunday School class teaching". "Partitions separate "the classes and curtains may be drawn to shut them off from the central hall space". "The stage has two cosy club rooms on either side". In 1923, the hall was in daily use. Two "picture machines" were installed, costing £275, for bi-weekly showings of moving pictures. This hall is now occupied by the "Film House", who also rent the "old Verger's residence ("Spire" July 1967)

During the ministry of Rev. Stretch, not only was the Mission building and the Parish Hall built, but also a verger's residence and a choir vestry, and infants school. The choir vestry, and infants school (on the South East of
of the church buildings) was built by Messrs. Seccull & Abbot of Albert Park, and designed by Herrmann & Bates.

(Parish Paper May 1891). The North elevation of this building contains stone from the West face of the old infants school, and windows from the West elevation of the "old main school building". "The rest of the material is new Northcote bricks, and dark Hawthorn bricks which combine with the stone". The Northernmost door on the East elevation came from the West elevation of the old infants school.

In 1926, a brick building was built on the corner of George and Moor Sts. The Golden Thousand pamphlet wrote that "The present vicar's great hope is to establish a big University settlement on something of the lines of the Oxford and Cambridge University settlements in London". The "present" vicar was Rev. Nicholls, M.A., B.D. In 1929, University students and social workers combined to conduct classes, gymnastics, etc., in this hall. The hall is now used for Greek language classes.
WHERE DID ST. MARK'S VICAR LIVE?

Selby mentions that one of the oldest houses in Carlton on the corner of Nicholson St. and Carlton St., was the "old vicarage of St. Mark's". In Baker's book of 1868, he also gives the North East corner of the intersection of Nicholson and Carlton Sts. as a vicarage site. Selby also gives a map for 1856 with a different siting of St. Mark's vicarage, which is sketched below.

![Map of St. Mark's vicarage](image)

Note that Moor St. is almost a continuation of Carlton St.

Baker wrote in 1868 that in October 1856 the trustees decided that steps should be taken to have the "present "parsonage (1868) built on land given by Mr. J.M. Smith (he gave about 2 acres on the corner of Smith and Rose Streets as an endowment to St. Mark's church). The comment was added that the trustees were "evidently convinced that a mistake had been made in erecting a vicarage so far from the church". However, a letter dated 30 Oct. 1856 from the Hon. the President of the Board of Land and Works, refused to sanction the sale of the existing vicarage, "as "the Law Officers of the Crown were of the opinion that "the request could not be legally complied with." This
All these buildings have belonged to St. Mark's Church.

The back of the 1891 Parish Hall, 1939 in the present.
Where did St. Mark's Vicar live contd.

might infer that the vicarage was then on a site that had
been granted by the Crown for that purpose.

During the incumbency of the Rev. Stretch (1885-92) the
old vicarage in Moor St., described as cramped and obsolete,
was sold for £7,000 (Golden Thousand pamphlet). This
vicarage was most likely the same one as Baker refers to.

In 1892 the land boom broke and the Parish was without
a vicarage (Golden Thousand pamphlet). A house was rented
in Gore St., but due to financial stringency, the clergy
house in the Mission building was used as a vicarage. During
the period 1900-09, the parish was still without a permanent
vicarage. A house was rented in George St. as a vicarage
and at another stage the verger's residence was used as a
vicarage.

During the ministry of Rev. Drewett (1910-1922) the present
vicarage was built. The foundation stone for this vicarage
was laid in 1912. Renovations have since been made to the
building. Like the church building itself, some renova-
tions and repairs are necessary, though, of course, it is
a visual expression of the wealth of the parish.
Clubroom we shall have a location for a Senior Department.

The following are the names of the teachers at present on the staff of the Sunday School:—Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sage, Mesdames Dunn and Lewis, Misses E. Wilson, I. Hayes, Raven, Maling, Petch, Kay, Williamson, Nichols, Smeaton, Gardner, Messrs. Wittenbach, Maling, Simmonds, Lendon, Hughes, Coster, Inkster, E. Davey.

Some Who Have Graduated from St. Mark’s

St. Mark’s in its seventy years’ history has given its contribution to civic and religious life. It has helped to send forth men and women into the arena of life to witness to Christian ideal, and loyal and upright citizenship. One of its clergy became a Bishop (The Right Rev. J. F. Stretch, LL.D., of Newcastle), the Rev. Canon Snodgrass, M.A., of St. James', East St. Kilda, and the Rev. Canon Hancock, M.A., of St. Andrew’s, Brighton, are members of St. Paul’s Cathedral Chapter. From St. Mark’s have gone forth five clergymen and six missionaries for the foreign field. Mr. G. Davis went to China. Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson have done heroic service in New Guinea, and Miss Hatton has laboured faithfully at Thursday Island. The Rev. Charles Sage was the first volunteer from Australia for the Melanesian Mission. Unfortunately, he met his death in a tragic manner by drowning, whilst proceeding on one of his pastoral journeys. The Rev. Walter Sage spent some time in Melanesia, and is now located in South Australia.

Mention cannot be made of all who have rendered distinguished service to the community. There are two whom the King hath delighted to honour with knighthood—Sir John Grice and Sir Robert Best. Among those who have held aloft the high ideals of Christian witness in civic life are Messrs. Pritchard, Curtis, E. T. Carter, Kinsman, Dr. Tracey, W. S. Kimpton, N. H. Gaskell, W.

St. Mark’s Vicerage (erected 1912).

T. Beveridge, E. R. McQuie, John Clayton, J. Bingle, Dr. F. W. Morton. Several of these gentlemen held office in the Church for many years with dignity and honour.
What was the name of the area that St. Mark's was and is situated in?

Kerr's "Port Philip Directory" (written after 1885) refers to the "founder of monumental masonry in Victoria" living in George St., Fitzroy, in 1849.

Charles Laing in 1851 (20 Aug) referred to a proposed infants school for St. Mark's as being "Infants School, Collingwood".

Denominational School's Board reports of 1853 and 1854 refer to St. Mark's schools as being in Collingwood.

The Golden Thousand pamphlet (1923) claimed that Fitzroy and Newtown were synonymous. This pamphlet also claimed that an 1855 "Herald" described "the suburb of Newtown", "otherwise called "Collingwood" as consisting of 320 acres.

Selby describes Newtown as having been "bounded by "Victoria Pde (then Simpson's Rd.), Heilny St. (now Alexander Pde), by Nicholson St., and Smith St.".

In 1853, St. Mark's was described as being in "the Fitzroy Ward of the City of Melbourne".

A letter written to the "Chairman of the Fitzroy Land "Improvements Committee" 19/5/1855, refers to the "Fitz Roy" Ward.

The offertory plates which are currently in use at St. Mark's, are inscribed "For St. Mark's Church, Collingwood"
I suspect that these would have been made in 1859 when the offertory was first collected from pew to pew as opposed to having been collected at the door.

8 Aug. 1857, George St. was still referred to as being in Collingwood. Collingwood became a municipality in 1855 with Councillor Hodgson as its first Mayor. The still existing Hodgson villa is on the site adjacent to the "choir, vestry and infants room" building. Fitzroy did not become a municipality until 1855.

In 1868 St. Mark's boundaries were Rathdown St., Barkly St., Nicholson St., Reilly St., Wellington St., Derby St., Gertrude St., Brunswick St., Palmer St., The boundaries of the 1890 Mission were described as being Johnston St., Nicholson St., Alexandra Pde and Wellington St.

With both sets of boundaries, the parish involves both Fitzroy and Collingwood. The area to the West of Wellington St. and the East of Smith St., is now called Collingwood, and the area to the West of Smith St. is now called Fitzroy.

It seems as though the church was St. Mark's Collingwood prior to about 1860, and St. Mark's Fitzroy after about 1860. It does not appear to have been St. Mark's
Ministers of St. Mark's Church

James Aaron Clowes       June 1850 - June 1858
(N.B. Left Parish for United Kingdom June 1856
on leave, stayed, and resigned June 1858)

Robert Barlow, M.A. 5/12/1858 to 23/8/1885

John Francis Stretch, B.A., LL.B. 7/10/1885 to 23/10/1892

James Barley Sharp 24/11/1892 to 29/9/96

William Hancock, M.A. 30/10/1896 to 22/4/1900

Frederick Evelyn Sturt Snodgrass, M.A. 25/4/1900 to 31/12/09


Reginald G. Nicholls, M.A., B.D., 13/11/1'

Claude Woodhouse 20/1/1943 to August 1947

Noel A. Tolhurst, Th.L. Sept. 1947 to Feb. 1952

Norman Leslie Hill, Th.L. March 1952 to 8/10/1961

William James Baldwin Clayden, Th.L. 1/2/1962 to 18/4/65

Ottery states that the authorities controlling St. Mark's Church, Fitzroy, concerned with a rapid increase in population "to the North" applied to the Government for the reservation of a site for a church, school and parsonage, facing Alexandra (Reilly St.) and Queen's Parades, at the Northern limit of Brunswick St. At that stage,

St. Mark's itself was in the Fitzroy ward of the City of Melbourne but this area was in the Smith ward of the City of Melbourne (not until 10/9/1858 did Fitzroy become a municipality in its own right).

There the matter was allowed to rest until the Government revoked the temporary reservation on 26/7/1869, and sold this and other adjacent Crown Lands by Public Auction. By this stage Brunswick St. had been continued to Reilly St.

The revoking of the temporary reservation and the subsequent auctioneering of this site proceeded a flood of letters from church authorities. By August 1869, another reservation had been granted for the church, school and
took to conduct services in the schoolroom on Sunday evenings until final arrangements were made.

"The Messenger" of 3 Dec. 1870 refers to "St. Luke's North Fitzroy. It mentions that on Wednesday, 21 November 1870, the Lord Bishop (Bishop Perry) had laid a Memorial Stone. Rev. Robert Barlow was amongst those present at the ceremony. A meeting was held that evening in the "new Schoolroom" and it was decided to continue holding services in the schoolroom until the completion of the church.

Apparently it was soon realised that this location was far from ideal, being located on "the Southern boundary of the Parish, with the Fitzroy swamp and the odiferous Reilly St. drain on the South, the gasworks on the East and the town storage yard on the West". (Ottery). By "Governor's Allowance" of 15/10/1877, the church was given permission to sell this site. The present church site was bought on 27/11/1878.

The original wooden hall was transported to the new site (Rev. Williams) (and destroyed by fire 1962). The foundation stone from the Queen's Pde. site was relaid at the St. George's Rd. site on 4/2/1879 by the Bishop of Melbourne. Copies of the "Age", the "Argus", "Mercury" and "Telegraph" were reputed to have been placed in a "jar under the stone" (Ottery)
and it was on this site that the first St. Luke's church was built. The first service was held in this wooden building on 23 Oct. 1870 (Messenger) and was conducted by a Mr. A. Weir, a lay reader. Mention has been made of a Rev. Barlow being the "first minister at the wooden building preceding the present edifice" (Church of England Church). A Rev. John Barlow was connected with St. Jude's parish, Carlton, and a Rev. Robert Barlow was connected with St. Mark's parish Fitzroy, at about this time. It could feasibly be either of the two, St. Luke's being adjacent to both parishes.

"The Messenger" for 3 Nov. 1870 has an article about St. Luke's, Fitzroy, which mentions that the church lies between Heidelberg Road and Napier and George Streets. The stones for the building of the church had already been laid. Mr. Weir (the Collingwood "Observer" 27/10/1877 called him Rev. Weir), the Reader for the hospital, under-
St. Luke's Land Acquisitions

Below is a sketch of the original land grant.

This grant was revoked and in August, 1869 a new reservation was granted.
St. Luke's Land Acquisitions (contd.)

On 27th November, 1878, part of Crown Allotment 1 Vol. 1076 Fol. 215144 was bought for the church site.

On 10th July 1889 J. C. Payne was proprietor of Part of Crown Allotment 1 Section 34 at Fitzroy, Parish of Jika Jika County of Bourke, together with right of carriageway over the roads delineated and coloured brown on the map.

On 10th March, 1890 guardian members of the church held in trust Crown Allotment 2 Section 34 at Fitzroy, Register Book Vol. 1558 Fol. 311539. St. Luke's was consecrated on 15th March 1891, and was described as being 61' from East to West, and breadth North to South of 49'.

On 20th March, 1908, the hall site, Vol. 326 Fol. 652596 was bought, the price being £8:0:0 per foot.
St. Luke's Land Acquisitions (contd.)

The caretaker's cottage (the site of the present vicarage) was bought on 22/2/1924, and demolished in 1962.

On 4th July, 1947, a Contract of sale of freehold property situated at and known as No. 117 St. George's Rd., North Fitzroy, was drawn up and sold for £725:-:-. This was the site of the first vicarage which was transferred to the Diocese on 4/3/1897.

Parts of the Parish Hall have now been leased to the Oriental Film Company on a ten year lease.
St. Luke's Finance

The Collingwood "Observer" 27 Oct 1877, states that the estimated cost of building the permanent Church of St. Luke's was £4,500; and that the tenders had already been accepted for the foundations. However, W. Ottery (correspondence Aug. 67) states that a tender by Mr. W. Turnbull of £3,226:10:- for the erection of a church of stone and brick was accepted.

Due to financial difficulties, the church was built to only 2/3rds of its intended total length, and the erection of the chancel and vestry was abandoned "for the time". The church has not, as yet, nor is it likely to be, built to the intended total length, but a brick Chancel and Vestry was built in 1910.

The church was in such a financial position that it was consecrated on 5/3/1891 - some 12 years after the laying of the permanent Foundation Stone.

The site for the Parish Hall and St. Luke's school on the corner of Watkins St., and St. George's Rd., was bought on 20/3/1908, and in June, 1915, tenders amounting to £2,229, were let for the erection of this building. St. Luke's Jubilee in 1920 was commemorated with special services and parochial functions. The debt on the Hall

was reduced by £350.

Like St. Mark's, the interior walls of St. Luke's now require renovating.

What of the future? St. Luke's, like St. Mark's, has leased part of the Parish Hall. Unlike St. Mark's, it has had no Sir Richard Grice type benefactor, but unless one eventuates for St. Luke's, the financial future of St. Luke's is grim.
Walkin's St. entrance to Parish Hall.

Interior St. Luke's.
Unlike St. Mark's, St. Luke's has not always had a chancel, for it to be the "best preserved part of the church as it stands to-day". The interior of the 1878 St. Luke's church was described as having the rear wall (the Western wall) filled with timber, laths and plaster; the sanctuary being a narrow raised strip along this wall; the interior having the appearance of a huge box; its one claim to beauty being the lovely roof. The interior of St. Luke's definitely is much simpler than that of St. Mark's, and may be a bit austere with its columns sprouting light brackets.

The Rev. Rodda's return to the parish (October 1884) after a 12 months absence, was marked by a new bell for the church, costing £17:4:- (Ottery), the original bell having developed a crack.

In June 1888, St. Luke's church unexpectedly, was forced to buy a new organ at a cost of £180:-:- (Ottery).

In August, 1890, new Communion vessels were given to St. Luke's by Mr. Tempany, and the original communion vessels were handed to the Diocese to be given to "some parish in need of same". (Ottery)

The ministry of Rev. Armstrong (dead, 2/6/1899) was commemorated by the Lectern (still in use) and a wall tablet in the church provided by parishioners.


St. Luke's does not appear to have been given as many "extras" as St. Mark's was, in this period - about the turn of the century. Was it because the parish, as a whole, was poorer, or was it that St. Mark's was given such a headstart by Sir Richard Grice's contribution in the beginning. At least St. Luke's has been spared some of the multitude of plaques "in memory of --" "donated by --" that St. Mark's is encumbered with.

The first official mention of the intention to actually build the extension to the church, a permanent chancel, was made in March 1901 (Ottery) but due to controversy whether a new chancel or a new Sunday school should take precedence the matter was temporarily shelved. Proving that sometimes it may be possible to, at least in part, "have your cake and eat it too", the parish bought a site for a hall in 1908 (though a foundation stone was not laid until 1915), but also was able to open for services a new (permanent) brick chancel on 12/6/1910.

In 1927, due to many "near misses", the slates were stripped from the church spire and replaced with zinc sheets. This spire has recently been re-roofed.

The altar, rail and pulpit were carved by Mr. Weimer of Scotchmer Street, North Fitzroy. The original cedar choir stalls were reinstalled in the new chancel but they were replaced in 1930 by a new set carved by Lucinis of North Fitzroy.
West end of St. Mark's church,
Note the "unfinished" edge of the bluestone to allow for extensions.
Prior to the erection of the chancel in 1910, the choir stalls were situated in the North West corner of the church. The new choir stalls of 1930 (Diamond Jubilee) were positioned on either side of the chancel.

Until 1922 it had been possible to rent a sitting in the church, but a decision was made to preserve the rights of the existing seat holders to continue as such but to rent no more sittings. This decision would have been typical of many made in parish churches about this time.

According to Rev. Williams (past vicar of St. Luke's) the positioning of the pews was possibly altered during the incumbency of Rev. Ray, about 1932. There were then two side aisles only - each entrance door from the narthex leading to an aisle. The pews were curved forwards at the outer walls.
East elevation interior of St. Luke's.

Note that the narthex is actually inside the body of the church.

Southeast interior corner of St. Luke's.
During Rev. Elliott's incumbency, the original pews were altered to form the present seating plan, roughly sketched below:

In about 1960 gas heating was installed in the church, the heaters being towards the rear of the church. Perhaps because the congregation tended to sit towards the back of the church near the heaters, instead of at the front, nearer the area where the services are conducted from, the heaters were soon moved to further forward in the church. The present pews are too closely situated for individual candles at Christmas Candlelight Services to be able to be permitted from the fire hazard angle.
St. Luke's Schools

The Church of England Messenger 3 Nov. 1870 says that on 23 Oct. a wooden schoolroom in connection with St. Luke's was opened by the Dean. On 16/6/1871, the "Messenger" reported that "there is now a large Sunday School and daily school in this building."

The Collingwood "Observer" 27/10/1870 wrote that "the temporary Anglican Church at St. Luke's, North Fitzroy, was opened on 23rd. The building is intended for a school-room but it will be used as a church until the proper structure is ready." It was a "roomy building" seating a "congregation of 300 to 400 persons". In 1923, Golden Thousand pamphlet quoted St. Mark's church as seating more than 600. It does seem unlikely that the wooden building, from recollections of its re-erected size, could have seated 300 to 400 persons.

Ottery says that the wooden building erected on the site facing Queen's Pde. between George and Napier Sts., and shifted to a position at the rear of the new church site late in 1878, was capable of 150 persons' capacity.

Following the erection of the church, the building site was extended in length to Watkins St. (Ottery). It served as a Sunday School, Social Hall and a Grammar School. The school was conducted by Mr. A. R. Warren M.A., It
St. Luke's School - Parish Hall - Cinema Orient Building

Rear of church. To the right is the land where the original wooden building used to be.
St. Luke's Schools Contd.

was called "Fitzroy Grammar School", a private school which took pupils to primary school, but some pupils were taken further (Ottery 22/7/1967). It had no church subsidy, but the Vicar acted as Chaplain.

Mr. Drummond, Education Dept. Librarian, has found no records so far (Aug. 1967) for the existence of this school but a map of the City of Fitzroy has a State School marked where the old wooden church was erected. This map is not dated, but was after the introduction of trams, since it includes tram sheds, but before the 1920's, since it does not include Clauscen St. which has been in existence for at least 40 years. The Parish Hall (foundation stone 7/8/1915) has inscribed above both the East and South entrances "St. Luke's School."

In the early 1890's, a small hall on the West side of Rae St., just North of Watkins St., was rented for use as additional space for the Sunday School (Ottery). In March 1901, St. Luke's Sunday School was described as being the second largest in the Diocese (Anglican) with 583 children enrolled.

The original wooden building also served as a Youth Centre, until destroyed by fire in 1961.
WHERE DID ST. LUKE'S VICAR LIVE?

According to Ottery, the authorities controlling St. Mark's applied in 1863 (this should surely be 1863?) for a reservation of a site for church, school and parsonage. There was granted a parsonage site "facing Alexandra and Queen's Parades at what was then the Northern limit of Brunswick St."

This land grant was withdrawn. Eventually St. Luke's was granted a site on the corner of Watkin's St., and St. George's Road (see section on land acquisition). It was on this site, a brick villa, adjacent to the present vicarage, was built as the original vicarage. This was built in 1889 and secured for £1,025. With the breaking of the Land Boom this vicarage was transferred to the charge of the Diocese on 4/3/1897, in exchange for a discharge of debt owed by St. Luke's on this property (Ottery).

"A large two story house" at the corner of Delbridge
1962 Vicarage - Parish Hall

St. Luke's Church

Front of St. Luke's Church.
and Rowe Streets, was then rented for use as a vicarage. The "Board of Guardians" made an agreement with the vicar, Rev. Mr. Armstrong, that he should pay £1:--:- per week's rent during his occupancy of the parsonage (Ottery).

Not until July 1918, more than twenty years later, did St. Luke's buy a vicarage, for £1,000. This was the brick villa that Rev. Britten had previously been renting, at 89 in Alfred Crescent. It should be noted that the intervening twenty years, a Chancel was added to the church building and the Parish Hall was built - no mean feat.

In 1923, a brick cottage next to the church in St. George's Rd., was bought for £900. It was used as a caretaker's cottage until 1961, when it was demolished to make way for the present vicarage.

The Alfred Crescent vicarage was sold to help finance the present vicarage which was first used by the Rev. McGowan. This vicarage, being in close proximity to the church on the North, and being built of grey concrete block has an aura of chilled sombriety. It is unfortunate that the vicarage was not built on the old wooden church site. A need to extend the church Westward (over the old church site) as originally planned) seems very remote.
The Church of England "Mess
to St. Luke's, Fitzroy. The "Mercury"
to St. Luke's, North Fitzroy.

The Church of England "Messenger" 30/12/1870 has St.
Luke's being in North Fitzroy. By 24/2/1872 the "Messenger"
had changed its mind again and it was St. Luke's Fitzroy.
The Rev. Jodda was referred to as being the first
vicar of "St. Luke's Fitzroy."

The Collingwood "Observer" 27/10/1877 printed "St.
Luke's, North Fitzroy."

The confusion probably first arose because the first
sites for St. Luke's were on the boundary of Fitzroy and
North Fitzroy. The present St. Luke's Church is
definitely at North Fitzroy.

The parish of St. Luke's is bounded by Park St., Bennett
St., Michael St., Queen's Pde., Smith St., Reilly St. and
Station St. The portion of the Parish west of Nicholson
St., i.e., part of Reilly St., Station St. and Park St.,
is actually in Carlton.
VICARS OF ST LUKE'S CHURCH

Rev. B. Rodda 1875-1886 (Rev. Mr. Byng locum tenens for 1884)

Rev. G. J. Armstrong 19/1/1887 - 2/6/1889

Rev. E. D. Fethers August 1899 - 31/10/1908

Rev. A. E. A. Britten 1908 - Jan. 1919

Rev. R. H. B. Williams 1919 - 1927

Rev. F. A. Ray 1927 - 1935

Rev. A. P. Sinclair 1935 - 1938

Rev. A. N. Levick 1938 - 1943

Rev. C. R. Miles 1943 - 1947

Rev. V. G. Carver 1947 - 1949

Rev. L. L. Elliott 1949 - 1958

Rev. M. B. Challen 1959 - 1961

ARCHITECTS.

Russel was Melbourne's first surveyor, and Samuel first or second architect. In 1846 Port Philip architects, by 1853 there were 17, and by 1875, 76 in Melbourne alone.

Architects of St. Luke's Church, North Fitzroy

Office of the firm Crouch and Wilson was at 84 Elizabeth Melbourne. The firm of Crouch and Wilson was between 1858 and 1881 (Lyall). Crouch was a Alexander Dawson before coming to Melbourne. In 1864 T. J. Crouch second in a competition for a four bedroomed Australian Home, Boyd. In 1856, T. J. Crouch won a competition for a Benevolent Asylum 21 Nov. 1856). In 1856 (June) T. J. Crouch was responsible for the formation of what was known Institute of Victorian Architects. The firm of Wilson was, amongst other things, responsible design of Saint Martin's, Carlton, and the East Synagogue.

Leing

Leing was noted for having asked for 5% fees in 1840. He has been described as an "architect training and nature" (Freeland). Kerr's Port
Architects Contd.

Philip Directory has Charles Laing as the town surveyor, with George Wharton assisting, in 1844. The town surveyor or city building surveyor, was responsible for the formation of the streets." Laing was the architect for St. Peter's Eastern Hill, in 1845 (National Trust); St. Peter's has since been extended. "Garryowen" connects Laing with the second Princes Bridge.

In 1850 he designed the "Hawthornes", Hawthorn. He also designed "Corryule", Drysdale, homestead, and the Benevolent Asylum, beating Crouch into second place in the competition.

Also in 1850, he designed St. Andrew's Church, Brighton, but this was replaced in 1856 with a church designed by James and Charles Webb (National Trust).

In 1851, he designed an "Infants School, Collingwood", for St. Mark's Church.

He modified St. James' Old Cathedral, and replaced Robert Russell's intended spire with an octagonal "pepperpot" tower.

James Blackburn

James Blackburn arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1833 as a convict. "He served a brief punishment" (Sharland). He designed St. Mark's Church, Pontville (1839) and the Presbyterian Church, Glenorchy in "the Romanesque idiom" (Freeland); the Prison Church, Port Arthur (1836), and the Anglican Church, Pukeby, in the "Gothic idiom"; the Old
Blackburn's nave

St. Stephen's Richmond.

Blackburn's nave
Architects Contd.

James Blackburn contd.

Trinity Church, George St., Launceston, in "Early English Gothic style" (Freeland). In Van Diemans Land, he also designed Holy Trinity, Hobart (1847), St. George's, Battery Point, Newtown Congregational Church (or at least was consulted about its design) and "improved" "Rosedale", at Campbelltown.

According to "Garryowen", in 1849, Mr. James Blackburn was "lately arrived" from Van Diemans Land and was a civil engineer and a consulting engineer.

Freeland has James Blackburn arriving in Melbourne in 1848.

Kerr claims that James Blackburn actually "designed the "Anglican Bishop's Palace" but "Historic Buildings of Victoria" has the firm of Newson and Blackburn only calling for tenders for Bishopscourt in December 1849, and the building being completed in 1853 with Russel as the architect.

In 1849, James Blackburn is reputed to have had, near the Elizabeth and Flinders Sts. intersection "pumps and "filter beds which produced, in bulk quantities, water purer than that of the other watersellers who sank wells "along the Flinders St. River frontage near Elizabeth St."(William)
Architects Contd.

James Blackburn contd.

He was elected as the second Town Surveyor in 1849 (Baker) (Freeland) or 21/11/1851 ("Garryowen") (Freeland).

The Cyclopaedia of Victoria described him as "city Surveyor." Kerr refers to there being, between 1842 and 1885, three "Town or city surveyors" (Howe, Laing, and Blackburn).

As City Surveyor, he made a "report on proposed improvement in the mode of communication between Hobson's Bay and Melbourne."

On 26/6/1850, he started a report on a proposal for the Yan Yean reservoir. According to "Garryowen", Blackburn's scheme was not adopted by the Victorian legislature until 18 Feb. 1853, but the "Cyclopaedia of Victoria" claims that at "the excellent scheme of water supply" which was "elaborated by James Blackburn", including the Yan Yean reservoir, was "carried into effect by Mr. W. B. Jackson in 1851.

In 1850, the firm "Arthur Newgon and James Blackburn Jnr." (Freeland) designed St. Stephen's Church, Richmond. In 1853, the architects James and Charles Webb added galleries to this church. Selby has St. Stephen's, Richmond as being designed by Arthur Newton and James Blackburn Jnr. The foundation stone was laid on 20 June, 1850.

The firm Newgon and Blackburn, Architects and Surveyors, was also responsible for St. Enoch's Church in Collins St. This church was later titivated by James and Charles Webb.
16. St Stephen's, Richmond, 1850
Architects: Newson and Blackburn
ST. MARK'S,
PONTVILLE

A Blackburn church, St. Mark's dates from 1839, and is one of the prettiest of Tasmanian country churches. Its arcuated front has unfortunately become weakened by age and is deteriorating. Because of its unusual Norman style, it is one of the churches which the State would be justified in preserving.
PORT ARTHUR CHURCH

Ruined walls still provide a pleasing picture at Port Arthur in the play of light and shade. Dating from 1836, the old church is believed to have been designed by a prison architect, James Blackburn, and is now preserved as an historic relic. Blackburn designed other Tasmanian churches.
HOLY TRINITY, HOBART

Another Blackburn church, noted for its attractive minarets, dominating Hobart from its position on Trinity Hill, Built in 1847.
James Blackburn contd.

In 1911 St. Enoch's was demolished to make way for the Metro Theatre in Collins Street.

In 1853 Blackburn designed St. Mark's Church, Fitzroy. He was not the Colonial Architect, as some believe the architect of St. Mark's to have been. Henry Ginn would have been, at this stage. Blackburn had a close association with St. Mark's. He was one of its first trustees, and it was his organ that St. Mark's used at their opening services. His daughter married a Mr. Burrell who was responsible for some of the planning of Fitzroy. (Gertrude St. was reputedly named after Gertrude Burrell). Another daughter was amongst the first women to study law at Melbourne University.

The Institute of Victorian Architects was formed on 6 July 1856 (Lyall). Amongst those present were P. Kerr, J. G. Knight, T. Watts, A. L. Smith, and A. Snow. At the third meeting, Purchas and Blackburn joined them, with head, Laing and Gill following.

When did James Blackburn die? He is claimed to have been killed by falling from his horse whilst beating the City Bounds in 1853; claimed to have died in 1854, the cause only partially being his fall from a horse; to have "succeeded to colonial fever", in March 1854 (Leeper); "he died in 1863 from typhoid fever, borne by impure water,
40. St Enoch's, Collins Street, 1850
Architects: Newson and Blackburn

41. First St Francis', Elizabeth Street,
1839; watercolour by W. F. E. Liardet
Designer: Fr P. B. Geoghegan
Architects Contd.

James Blackburn Contd.

"the elimination of which from Melbourne he had made his "greatest work" (Freeland). Two of his sons are reputed to have succumbed to typhoid fever. By hearsay, his descendants claim that James Blackburn died from typhoid fever, and, as a James Blackburn was present at an Institute meeting in 1856 (Lyall), the latter Freeland explanation and date is the most probable."
SCHOOLS.

Kerr's Port Philip Directory notes that in March 1849, Rev. W. Trollope opened a "high class school in little Brunswick Street, Fitzroy". In 1849 this school allegedly had 722 boys and 602 girl pupils. The figures in Jan. 1851 were 722 males and 864 females (little Brunswick St. is now Fitzroy St.).

The "Observer" 2 Dec. 1865 describes Templeton's George St. Schools as being established by the Rev. R. Hamilton's church in Napier St., at the corner of Chapel St. in 1852; and as considered "among the oldest founded in the district".

The school attached to St. Mark's was opened during March 1849 in George St. (two blocks South of Chapel St.).

After the Common Schools Act of 1862 "there were the following common schools existing in the Fitzroy Municipality -

- No. 78 Brunswick St.,
- No. 111 Bell St.,
- No. 282 George St.,
- No. 450 North Collingwood
- No. 517 Rose St.,
- No. 563 St. Mark's (N. Drummond)

1 December 1870 (Mercury) the Gold St. (Collingwood) Church of England Building Committee hoped to have a new building opened on New Year's Day for use as a schoolroom. The Mercury 22/12/1870 describes St. Mark's as having an "offshoot school" at St. Luke's, North Fitzroy.
Schools Contd.

There was a Melbourne Diocesan Grammar School attached to St. Peter's in 1848 but because Eastern Hill was geographically difficult for many pupils, Melbourne Church of England Grammar School was opened in 1856 in South Yarra. Sir John Grice and his brother James are reputed to have been connected with it.

The New South Wales Government granted church land on the basis of an acre for the church and half an acre for each of the school and the parsonage. The practice was to equal the amount of money locally raised for educational buildings.

Prior to their disbanding in 1862, there existed two Schools Boards - the National Board and the "Denominational Board". The two Boards tended to produce "two competitive groups of schools in the colony;"

Following the Education Act of 1872, education at schools became compulsory and free (in theory at least)
CONCLUSION

St. Luke's Church of England, North Fitzroy, and St. Mark's Church of England are, as with any religious building, an indirect result of the community within which they are situated as well as the religion they serve.

The religious and financial circumstances of both parishes have greatly changed since their inception. For example, 50 years ago, the Parish of St. Mark’s had 1,000 Anglican families in a square mile, but now the Parish has only 147 families. The decrease in numbers is due to the influx of migrants of Roman Catholic and Orthodox faiths, and the efflux of Anglican families to the outer suburbs. In 1967, St. Mark’s Church is used by the Serbian Orthodox Church for their 11 a.m. services on Sundays.

What of the future? Whilst the Anglican Churches of St. Luke and St. Mark are not, in economic terms, operating at maximum efficiency, at present, it is impossible to say that, in the future, the Anglican content of the parishes will not increase, and the churches operate efficiently in economic terms again.
Conclusion Contd.

It is probable that the parishioners will predominantly be single people and childless married couples rather than family units, due to the increase in of flats and the predominance of flats in be occupied by single people and married chl. couples, rather than families.
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