

## A SHORT HISTORY OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH DUNEDOO

The earliest record of Anglican Worship in Dunedoo is a reference to the Rev. Francis James Harris conducting services in a small bark covered school room in 1896. This was probably in the old Ballarah school. Rev. Harris was Rector of Coolah Parish, which covered the towns of Binnaway, Birriwa, Cobbora, Coolah, Denison Town, Dunedoo, Elong Elong, Leadville, Mendooran, Merrygoen, Rosebank, Turee and Uarbry, from 1896 till 1899. That was an area of about 500 square kilometres, and he had to travel by horse and sulky. The Coolah Parish had just become part of the Diocese of Bathurst which was created in 1870, prior to this it had been part of the Diocese of Newcastle.

In 1906 a Union Church was built just out of Dunedoo on the Dubbo Road, for the joint use of the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Congregations. It was used for Anglican services until 1924. During this time the Rectors of the Parish were William Hotston, Leonard John Harwood and Wallace James Conran.

The Rev. William Hotston is fondly remembered as a person who was willing to go out of his way to help others. He drove a buggy and pair many miles visiting those who were sick and on one occasion he drove 30 miles to baptise a baby. He often called at the shearing sheds in the area to talk to the shearers and to the other men working on the properties. At the end of his time in the Parish he was supplied with an Model T Ford for use in his Parish Ministry.

On 8th July 1924 the foundation stone of All Saints Church was Laid and Blessed by the Bishop of Bathurst, the Right Rev. George Merrick Long. The Rector of the Parish at that time was Wallace James Conran, while the Church Wardens of All Saints were S Yeo, W Chapman and H Parsons. The Church Dedication Service was held on 19th April 1925 at 3.00pm, followed by Evensong at 7.30pm.

All Saints Church was Consecrated by Bishop Arnold Lomas Wylde on 15th October 1944.

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That same afternoon Bishop Wylde was chairman of a meeting which decided to apply for a separate Parish of Dunedoo to be established. However, this separation did not become a reality until 1958.

In the intervening years, the Rectors were Clement Henry Searle, John Stafford Frederick Farrer, Robert Douglas, Lionel Vingoe Caldwell and Aubrey Provost Reeder.

In 1955 it was decided to enlarge All Saints Church. The work was begun in June 1956 and completed by 13th September 1956 when a service conducted by Bishop Wylde was held. The new Consecration Document is dated 13th November 1956. All Saints Rectory was built in 1957 - 1958, as accommodation would be needed for a Rector when the new Parish was established.

The newly formed Parish of All Saints Dunedoo included the centres of Birriwa, Cobbora, Dunedoo, Mendooran and Merrygoen. The Rev. Kevin V Joyner was appointed on 1st February 1958, and was inducted as the first Rector by Bishop Wylde on 17th April 1958. By November of that year, Rev. Joyner was holding four services per month at All Saints Dunedoo, two per month at the Church of the Holy Spirit Birriwa, two per month at St. Chads Mendooran, two per month at St. Mary the Virgin Merrygoen, and two per month at the Cobbora Community Hall. He tried to have all Baptisms at Dunedoo as part of the 11.00am service on the fourth Sunday in the month, and at the regular service times at the other centres. A notice in the quarterly Parish Magazine requests that the Rector be given six weeks notice of a Marriage, and that the Rector be contacted before the time of a Funeral is arranged. Very reasonable requests from a man who led such a busy life. From even a cursory glance at the Service Registers for those years, it is easy to see that Rev. Joyner was always on the move. No matter where he went to conduct a Church Service, he seemed to manage to fit in a visit to a sick person or a Home Communion before going on to the next Church. The Rev. Joyner really got the new Parish going, as the Mothers Union, Women's Guild, Junior Anglicans, Church of England Boys Society, Young Anglican Fellowship and Sunday Schools all flourished in the various centres. Thirty five young people were Confirmed in 1959 and 52 were Confirmed in 1960



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In the years between 1958 and 1997 there have been eight different Rectors in the Parish of All Saints. Though one of them, Rev Alan McNulty, has been here on two separate occasions. He was Rector here for three years in the late 1980s and then served here again on a part time basis in 1992. Our present Rector is the Rev. Verney Clare Percival, who was Ordained on 19th December 1992, as one of the first two women to be Ordained as Priests in NSW. She was Inducted as Rector of All Saints Parish on 29th January 1993.

The Church at Birriwa had to be closed in 1995, and a special service was held to mark this occasion on 9th December 1995, with the Diocesan Archdeacon, Ven. Norman Kempson officiating.

A feature of our Parish life during the Ministry of Rev. Clare, has been our Special Fifth Sunday Services. Whenever there is a Fifth Sunday in the month, which is usually about four times a year, we have only one service in the Parish that day when we all join together as one Parish Family. Most of these services have been held in the open air on the local farm properties, and have been followed by a shared Barbecue Lunch and on various occasions, bush walking, a drive round the property, or tennis. They are always very popular days and usually attract an enthusiastic crowd of people.

It has become increasingly difficult over the past few years for little Parish like ours to survive in the economic climate of the times. In 1995, the Vestry of St. Andrews Coolah, applied to the Right Rev. Bruce Wilson, Bishop of Bathurst, for consideration to be given to a proposal for amalgamating the Parishes of St. Andrews and All Saints. This proposal resulted in a great deal of discussion, and some very detailed studies, in the Parish of All Saints, all through 1996. However, at a combined meeting of the two Vestries, under the Chairmanship of the Bishop, on 10th October 1996, it was decided that this proposed amalgamation should take place. So from January 1997, the Parishes of All Saints Dunedoo and St. Andrew Coolah, are once again all one Parish. A special Service of Unity was held in St. Andrews Church Coolah, on 2nd February 1997, to

4. celebrate this occasion. The Service was led by the Archdeacon of Broughton, who is based at Mudgee, the Ven. Campbell Brown.

The new Parish of Coolah / Dunedoo is comprised of the centres of Coolah, Dunedoo, Elong Elong, Leadville, Mendooran, Merrygoen, Neilrex and Uarbry, with the Rector residing at the geographical centre of the Parish in Dunedoo.

### **RECTORS WHO HAVE SERVED AT DUNEDOO SINCE 1892**

#### **1892 - 1957 Coolah Parish**

Willaim Hurst	1892 - 1896
F. Cuthbert Anderson	1896
Francis James Harris	1896 - 1899
Willaim Hotston	1900 - 1921
Leonard John Harwood	1921 - 1923
Wallace James Conran	1923 - 1926
Clement Henry Searle	1926 - 1933
John Stafford Frederick Farrer	1933 - 1935
Robert Douglas	1926 - 1941
Lionel Vingoe Caldwell	1941 - 1951
Aubrey Provest Reeder	1951 - 1957

#### **1958 - 1997 Dunedoo Parish**

Kevin J Joyner	1958 - 1962
Norman Byron	1962 - 1970
Graeme L Wainwright	1971 - 1976
Gordon Wilson	1976 - 1980
Edwin James Evenden	1981 - 1986
Alan Frederick McAnulty	1986 - 1988
Clive Gerard	1989 - 1991
Alan Frederick McAnulty	1992
Verney Clare Percival	1993 -

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