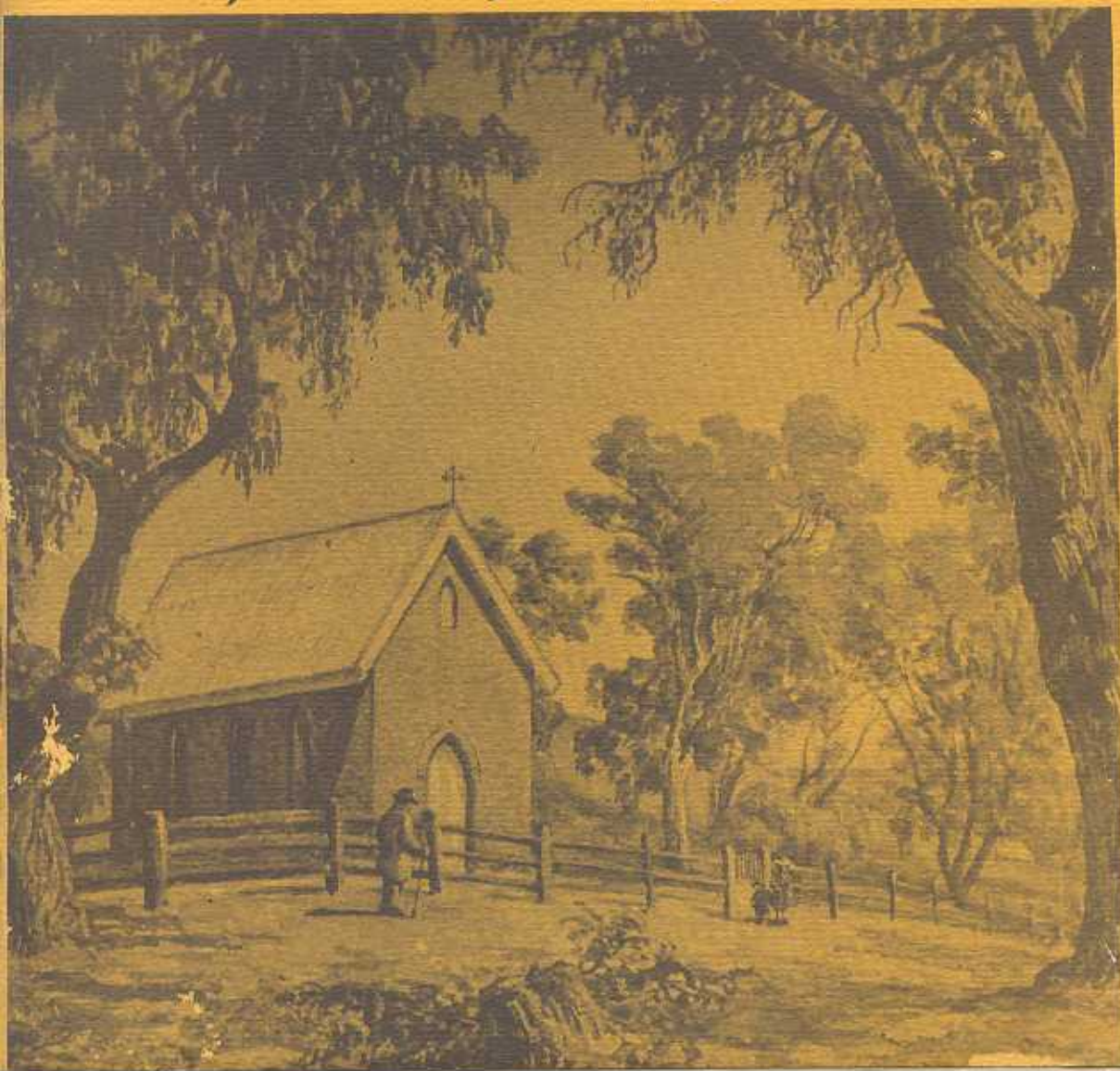


ONE HUNDRED YEARS  
of

Ray & Alison Chatterton  
Beacon  
38 Lifford Road  
Berwick, N.H. 4806

Christ Church, Berwick



**ONE HUNDRED YEARS**

**of**

**Christ Church, Berwick**

**1877 - 1977**

**by**

**FREDERICK McCUBBIN**

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Berwick, Victoria, Australia.  
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## PREFACE

The sources for this booklet, apart from the memories of some parishioners who have remembered what parents and grandparents told them are-

The parish's records; the registers of services are complete from 1880 (apart from some gaps in the registers of marriages); the minutes of the Vestry's meetings are only scrappy before 1892, but are complete since.

The Year-Books of the Diocese and its newspaper "The Messenger" help to fill out the scanty records, but the early Year-Books present their material in very summary form only.

Our thanks to all members of the Parish who assisted with the preparation of this material.

*Frederick M'Busbin*

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" THE CENTENARY VICAR " 1977    Rev. STEPHEN CHERRY

# **VICARS OF THE CHRIST CHURCH, BERWICK**

( Since it was a separate parish )

Benjamin REED	June, 1881 - April, 1882
John Moxey EASTERLING	June, 1882 - October, 1883
John Heiffor HILL ( for part of 1887 and most of 1888 Mr. Hill was on leave from the Parish )	November, 1883 - July, 1898
Alfred BRAIN	September, 1898 - June, 1899
Harry Joseph HARVEY	July, 1899 - July, 1903
Alfred James COLE	August, 1903 - April, 1932
Robert Jameson ROWELL	April, 1932 - October, 1936
James Valentine PATTON	December, 1936 - February, 1937
Ernest Louis Renard PANELLI	May, 1937 - November, 1943
William Percy DAUNT	January, 1944 - August, 1948
Robert Griffith MOUNTNEY	September, 1948 - April, 1951
Jock Lugton RYAN	October, 1951 - August, 1954
Patrick Edward Duff GASON	January, 1955 - April, 1961
Charles Frederick SEXTON	August, 1961 - August, 1967
Richard Stephen CHERRY	November, 1967

## THE BEGINNING.

The heavily timbered country which eventually became the township of Berwick formed part of the tribal lands of the Bunerong tribe of Aborigines. The heavy bush-land abounded in many varieties of native flora and provided an excellent habitat for large numbers of birds and animals. Although the aborigines lived mainly in the more open areas to the south, relics which have been uncovered show their presence in the area for thousands of years.

It is not surprising that the rich black soils of the area were soon exploited by the European settlers of Port Phillip. It was only four years after the first settlement of Melbourne that we have the first recorded interest by the Europeans in the Berwick district. Just who was the first settler is unclear, but in 1838 Captain Robert Gardiner extended his run from the Gardiners Creek to the Cardinia Creek. It is believed that he purchased this land from a Terence O'Connor who settled a couple of years earlier. The area became known first as Kardinia (after Kar-Din-Yar "Looking at the Rising Sun"), but later became referred to as Berwick, probably so named by Gardiner after his birthplace of Berwick-on-Tweed.

Settlement must have been quite rapid for the first agricultural show, although not held at Berwick, was held in 1848 only ten years later, under the auspices of the Port Phillip Farmers Society, Berwick being one of its three branches. The other two branches of the society at Gisborne and Bacchus Marsh no longer survive, making the Berwick & District Agricultural and Horticultural Society the oldest such organisation in the state, and the oldest surviving Show.

The early farmers grew potatoes, wheat, and barley, as well as a variety of other crops, concentrated along the banks of the Cardinia Creek. Bullock drays hauled the produce to Melbourne town, and the goldfields. Soon dairying was introduced and became a major industry. Mr. William Wilson opened his quarry in 1859.

In 1861, the Berwick township site was proclaimed by Sir Henry Barkley acting as governor in council, on the eastern side of the hill upon which Berwick stands. Later most development took place in the western side.

On the 6th. February, 1951 most of the area was decimated by the great Black Thursday bushfires which swept throughout Gippsland, turned day into night with dense smoke.

By 1865 a coach service linked Berwick with Melbourne six times a week, and Sale three times a week. The school opened about 1870, and the railway in 1877. the year that Christ Church was inaugurated.

The explosive expansion of the settlement at the present time, where farmland is giving way to the residential streets, perhaps best reflects the rapid expansion of these early years. Between these two bursts of activity, Berwick consolidated into a pleasant semi-rural town, developing, along the way, its own unique identity.

## FOUNDATIONS

Little is known of the Anglican community of Berwick during the early years of settlement. We know that the first Anglican services held in Berwick took place in 1866 on the site of the present Presbyterian Church, and were conducted by Rev.J.B. Gason who came across from Cranbourne. The following is an extract from the Melbourne Church News dated 1st. October, 1866 :-



" Berwick - An alteration has been made in the church services in this district. The fortnightly afternoon services, held hitherto in the German School house on the Harkaway-hills, has been discontinued, and a fortnightly morning service substituted in the township, in the Presbyterian church, the use of which has been kindly granted by the trustees. Preliminary steps are being taken towards building a church on the property reserve for that purpose. On Tuesday evening, 25th. September, the reverend C.L.H. Rupp delivered a lecture on ' True Manliness,' in the building of the mechanics' institute, after which according to previous notice, a meeting of the members and friends of the Church was held, at which a number of persons were appointed as a managing committee of general local church matters, and constituted also as a building committee for the erection of a church. -Communicated. "

The land on which the church building stands was reserved from the sale on the 9th. October, 1863, following the proclamation to the town site in 1861. Trustees were appointed for the land, most of which is still retained. The trustees were :-

Thomas Walton, who controlled a large property at Narre Warren.

He was the grandfather of Arthur Robinson. Mrs

Fred James of Narre Warren is also a descendant.

George Robinson

James Kelly

George Miller

J.W. Robinson, father of Arthur Robinson

This would indicate there was quite a sizeable and settled Anglican community in the area in the 1860's, and perhaps before. ( Thomas Walton took up his holding in 1855 ).

On the 5th. December, 1876, the foundation stone was laid for the Christ Church on the reserved land. This foundation stone may be seen at the south west corner of the church :

" Hoc Conditum Est ( i.e. " This was placed" )  
Dec - 5 - 1876 "

The inaugural service in the new building was conducted by the Bishop Moorhouse at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday, March 9th, 1877. This was followed by afternoon tea in the grounds. On the previous evening a concert was held to celebrate the occasion.

The building did not include the chancel and sanctuary, the vestry and the porch which was all added about ten years later. ( see the picture on the front cover, which dates to 1877 ).

The church at Berwick at this time was part of the Lay Reader's District at Cranbourne. No permanent minister was appointed at this stage, and services were conducted by the Head Master of the Berwick State School, Mr. Camm, together with visiting preachers from Melbourne.

In 1880, the parish of Gippsland Forest was formed. The priest in charge, Samuel Sandiford, used to take a monthly service of Holy Communion at Christ Church. By 1881, the growing importance of Christ Church was recognised and on June 5th. of that year Rev. Benjamin Reed was appointed as the first permanent minister.



## THE LIVING CHURCH

Christ Church became the mother - church for a large area comprising the western parts of the former Shire of Berwick. Besides the present areas, the whole of Pakenham district, and Upper Beaconsfield were included in the Parochial District of Berwick. St. John's, Narre Warren North ( where the Clair Robinson Reserve is now ) was built in 1876; in 1928 it was burnt down and was not re-opened. Services have also been held at Officer, and at Upper Pakenham and South Pakenham. *St Mungo*

Records for the first two years of the new Parish are, unfortunately, not available. These were either lost, or perhaps not kept. The earliest records we have is the minute book of the Board of Guardians ( Vestry ) commenced at a meeting held on November 7th. 1883, at the time of the appointment of the third Vicar, Rev. John Heiffer Hill. This meeting was held at the home of Mr. H. Searle, and those present were Rev. J. H. Hill ( Chairman ), Mr. S. Paternoster, Mr. H. Searle and Mr. E. A. Vieusseaux. Guardians were in existence at this date as the resignation of Mr. Robert Kelly, and Mr. A. B. Kent were accepted with regret. *Hefferway*

*Narre Warren*  
*Records of the church - accounts - collections - the 1st service 4/8/1877*  
Mr. Vieusseaux was appointed Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, and a new set of books were to be obtained for keeping the necessary accounts. This would indicate that the records of the first two years were already unavailable. The previous vicar, Rev. John Moxey Easterling appears to have a stormy tenure as motions of the books indicated much correspondence on the subject of money, owed to Mr. Easterling, and the suggestion that an investigation of the parish was to be carried out by the very Rev. Archdeacon Stretch. *of Fr. Doolan*

Like most Vestries before and since, the Board of Guardians had many problems with raising the money for the running of the church. Main sources of income appear to have been collections, subscriptions ( pew rents ), and special efforts and social gatherings. The main expense, apart from the general upkeep of the church, was the stipend of the vicar. In 1884 the stipend was set at £220 per annum, payable by monthly instalments of £10, due on the 4th. of each month, the balance to be paid quarterly. It would appear that from time to time, the money was not available for the payment of the stipend, and appeals were made to various groups outside Berwick to increase their contributions, and also to the Diocese for help.

A further drain on resources was the erection of a parsonage. When Archdeacon Stretch attended a meeting of the Guardians on June 5th, 1885, he suggested that one should be built. A majority of the Guardians thought that it was beyond the means of the members at the time. The Archdeacon after making his suggestion wisely decided that he had a train to catch and could not discuss the matter at the time. He departed leaving the Guardians to consider the matter and prepare an estimate. The suggestion must have born some fruit, for the records show that on September of 1887 the amount in the Parsonage Fund Account was £21.

Records for 1888-1892 are unfortunately missing. It was during this time that Rev. J.H.Hill was overseas, and a locum appointed. Whether any records were in fact kept, it is not known. It would appear that the parsonage was built during this time as, early in 1894, the secretary was asked to write to the guarantors of the Parsonage Fund acquainting them that " an urgent request had been recieved from the Secretary of the Diocesan Funds for payment of overdue bills and requesting their advice and assistance". Although these problems were apparently solved, money was still



needed. One ingenious idea was thought up in September 1897 when it was decided to insert advertisements in Melbourne daily papers with a view to letting the Parsonage for the summer months in order to reduce the debt on the Parsonage Building Fund. Accounts from "Argus" 2 shillings, and "Age" 2 shillings, appear in the records, so this was in fact done, but whether there was any response it is not known.

On February the 22nd. 1899 it was resolved that the Vestry (as the Board of Guardians had become after 1893) invite the congregation to deny themselves during Lent and giving the proceeds of such self-denial at a social to be held on Wednesday the 5th. April, the money thus raised to be used for the purpose of reducing the debt of the parsonage. It was pointed out that the sum of £12 only was needed to enable the Vestry to claim the grant of £25 from the Diocesan Registry.

Correspondence and arrangements appear on many occasions on the subject of that Parsonage debt. In 1904, a letter was recieved by the registrar stating that the amount still owing was £140, and that a £1 per £1 subsidy would be paid on money raised during the next two years. Thus if £70 was raised, the debt would be clear. This money was raised and the last instalment of £35 was paid on August 7th. 1906.

The records also reveal many donations to the Church in material objects and labor. Those who have given great service to the Church over the years are noted in a special section, but several items desire mention here. The altar, which is still used in Christ Church today was made and donated by Mr. W.A. a'Beckett in 1898. This has recently been renovated by Mr. Sam Warne. On October 23rd, 1900 it is recorded that "the thanks of the Vestry be given to Mr. Harvey for his action in placing the window in the chancel" ("just which window this is, it is not known). In 1903, a set of communion vessels were donated by subscribers, and lighting in the church provided with acetylene lamps. In January, 1917, the furnishings of the Church were enhanced by the gift of a beautiful memorial pulpit from the parents of Lance-Corporal Tetley, who died at Gallipoli in August, 1915.

In 1914, a fund was begun to replace the old organ in the church. There is no record of just how well this appeal fared, but it is recorded in 1915 that thanks be tendered to Mrs. S.L. Wilson for the donation of a new organ. The old organ was sold to the Leongatha Church for £15, but due to representations from the buyers, because of the amount of repairs that had to be done, this amount was reduced to £10. Even then, the Berwick Church had some problems in extracting payment, as letters flowed back and forth during the next year or so.

Other items added to the Church in the first quarter of the century include the memorial window and tablet from the Berwick Grammar School as a memorial to Mr. Vieusseu, and the Roll of Honor Board. A Mr. W.J. Harvey Smith of Upper Beaconsfield arranged for the supply and fitting of a new acetylene generator at a greatly reduced cost, and this was noted in the records with appreciation.

One sidelight on the attitude of the times was the matter of installation of a telephone at the Vicarage. Mr. Lyon and Dr. Langmore moved in December, 1913, that a telephone be connected. This motion, however, was recinded at the next meeting, the chairman Rev. A.J. Cole, indicating that he didn't think the expense was warranted, as indeed did the majority of the Vestry. It wasn't until June 1922 that the

1976  
 The H and S have been removed by someone and I made new ones - gold leaf - and fitted.  
 10th Nov 1914  
 G.L.  
 Rev. W. Harvey at Leongatha  
 (Wilson's father)  
 10th Nov 1914  
 Harvey Smith 10th Nov 1914  
 I thought my 3rd level on opposite side of road from him also the brick lotter.  
 Friend of G.L. Wilson. "Young George" as G.L. Wilson.

telephone was installed, the cost of 3 pounds being born by the Ladies Guild.

On December the 5th, 1926 the Jubilee of the laying of the Church Foundation Stone was celebrated. The Archbishop of Melbourne The Most Rev. Harrington Lees preached at the morning service, together with Rev A. Brain (Vicar 1898-1899). A reunion of parishioners was held at the Vicarage on the following Monday afternoon.

It is unfortunate that no-one at this time took the opportunity to review the first 50 years and record the achievements and problems of this era. It would be interesting to know today their impressions of this period and their thoughts for the future.



Long time workers for Christ Church, Berwick  
Dr. Percy Langmore and Mrs. Evelyn Allan  
at Annual Garden Party '1967'



## THE DIFFICULT YEARS

The period 1920-1940 were hard years. The Great Depression put particular strains on the work of the church and general maintenance was a problem. There appears to have been, however, a spirit of goodwill amongst the church community, and while there were difficulties, there were few disagreements and all were working in the spirit of co-operation. It is during this time that the first Annual Reports appear in the records. They show the trials that the Church faced during this time. Three of these reports (1928, 1931 and 1937) are set out below.

## Annual Report, 1928

"Annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1928.

The statements of Receipts and Expenditure shows an income of 296 pounds, 2 shillings and 6 pence, and an expenditure of 264 pounds 16 shillings and 6 pence, leaving a credit balance of 31 pounds 6 shillings, out of this amount some 9 pounds is owing for repairs to the Vicarage and 30 pounds on account of Stipend, leaving a deficiency when these two amounts are paid of 7 pounds 14 shillings for the year. The Sunday offertories are 21 pounds 2 shillings and 11 pence less than those of the previous year and the donations 12 pounds 3 shillings less than the previous year

The Board of Management of the Home Mission Fund notified the Vestry at the beginning of the year that it was not prepared to give the usual annual contribution of 35 pounds to that fund; but only gave the sum of 2 pounds 9 shillings, the offertory on Home Mission Sunday, and the Stipend fund is 30 pounds less this year than last year, which amount must be made up. The Flower Show as usual was a marked success, after deducting all expenses a sum of 83 pounds was handed over to the Vestry. The members of the Ladies' Guild and other helpers arranged two concerts to raise funds for carrying out some very necessary repairs to the Church and Vicarage, which were also well patronised and a sum of 30 pounds was cleared. Mr. W.G. a'Beckett arranged an Old Time Night entertainment, which was a marked success, greatly enjoyed by all present and brought in a sum of some 15 pounds. Some very necessary repairs have been done to the walls of the Church, and the thanks of the members of the Church are conveyed to Mr. Stuart, who carried out the work free of charge. The outside walls of the Vicarage have been painted and some other necessary repairs affected. Some more repairs are urgently needed, but there are no funds available for the purpose at present.

The Choir greatly needs strengthening and any help in this very necessary work will be appreciated.

We desire once more to extend our warmest thanks to Dr. Langmore, who notwithstanding his very busy life, so willingly helps in the services both morning and evening, and also to Mr. W.G. a'Beckett for the valuable assistance he has given by taking the Church service when called on to do so. Our thanks are also due to the Ladies' Guild and other helpers, who so successfully carried out the Flower Show; to Mrs. W.G. a'Beckett for the very enjoyable Old Time Night entertainment she arranged and carried out so successfully; to the Ladies who collected the subscriptions; to the generous contributors to the funds of the Church; to Messrs. Loveridge and Morrish for auditing the accounts; to the Organist and Choir, and other willing helpers; and we trust the same kindly help will be continued, and the same spirit of peace and harmony may be with us during the present year.

The Vestry Christ Church, Berwick,  
V.S. Hutchinson  
Hon. Sec and Treasurer"

*W & W Hutchinson were  
related to Maria Phillips.  
Her grand uncle or something.*



Christ Church 1977  
showing Memorial Garden and Bell Tower



## Annual Report 1931

"Annual Report for the year ending 31st. of December 1931

The Statement of Receipts and expenditure shows an income of 272 pounds 9 shillings and 10 pence, and an expenditure of 260 pounds 1 shilling and 6 pence; leaving a credit balance of 12 pounds 8 shillings and 4 pence. The Stipend has not been fully paid; an amount of 21 pounds is still owing.

The offertories for the year amounted to 126 pounds 6 shillings and 10 pence, a decrease of 24 pounds 14 shillings and 11 pence on last year's offertories. The donations amounted to 42 pounds 3 shillings, a decrease of 3 pounds 18 shillings and 6 pence on last year's total.

This deficiency is largely due to the general depression during the past year. Almost all other Churches have suffered in a similar way. Many parishioners, whose names were handed in to the Secretary as contributors to the envelope system did not adopt it, and some have given donations instead.

A successful Cantata was given in March by the Choir of St. Mary's, South Camberwell, under the direction of Mr. E.T. Jennings, and Mrs. Apperly's Dramatic Company staged an excellent comedy on the 22nd of July. The Vestry appreciates very greatly the kind efforts of both.

Considering the depression and the unfavorable season, the Flower Show was as usual very successful, a sum of 76 pounds being handed over to the Vestry, a small sum being kept in hand to commence next year's operations.

On July 5th the Archbishop of Melbourne conducted a Confirmation Service at which several young members of the Church were confirmed.

We regret to announce the resignation, owing to ill health, after 28 years service in this Parish, of the Revnd. A. Cole. During the long period of his ministrations in the Parish Mr. Cole has held the respect and esteem of the Parishioners. Mrs. Cole has been an indefatigable worker in the interests of the Church and it is mainly owing to her energy that the annual Flower Show has been such a marked success of the last 25 years. We feel that their numerous friends in the district will join with the congregation in wishing them many happy years of health and happiness in their retirement.

We desire to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Langmore for his valuable help in both morning and evening services, to Mr. Leonard Langmore, Mifs. Barker, Mifs. T. Williams and others for assistance in the Sunday School; to the ladies Guild and all other helpers who assisted to make the Flower Show so successful; to the Ladies who collected the subscriptions etc., to all who contributed to the funds of the Church; to Messrs. Loveridge and Morrish for auditing the accounts; to the Organist and those who assist in the Choir; and to all other helpers; and we hope that the same kindly help will be continued during the current year."

A special meeting held on the 26th October 1936, gives us further indications of the problems of the times.

"Memorandum - Parochial meeting with Archbishop 26/10/36 Following a communication from the Archbishop intimating that he desire to meet members of the Vestry on 26th October, 1936, a meeting of all members was arranged at the Bank residence. All members were present and also Mr. a'Beckett (Synod Lay Representative) and Messrs. Thorogood, Marsh and Harris of the Upper Beaconsfield Vestry. The Archbishop was accompanied by Bishop Booth of Geelong as Archdeacon of Melbourne.

His Grace referred to the two vacancies in this and Cranbourne parishes and traced the

1. Rev. of Alice Barker, Sister of Alfred.  
2. Younger sister of Violet Harvey



VICARAGE IN EARLIER YEARS



VICARAGE RENOVATED IN LATER YEARS

*Some years after  
it was sold.*

These photographs show the vicarage which was in use from the Rev. J.H. Hill's ministry until the end of the Rev. R.G. Mountney's incumbency. It passed through a number of hands since it was sold by the parish; its present owners Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Watson (who were married at Christ Church), have completely rebuilt the back parts since they bought it in 1973. The design, by a young Berwick architect, "Eddie" Barron, can be seen to harmonize thoroughly with the original front rooms.

*Drappman not architect.  
July 1986 now for sale they can't use buy it back!*