

ST JOHN THE DIVINE BELGRAVIA



ST JOHN'S - BELGRAVIA

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
1904 – 2004

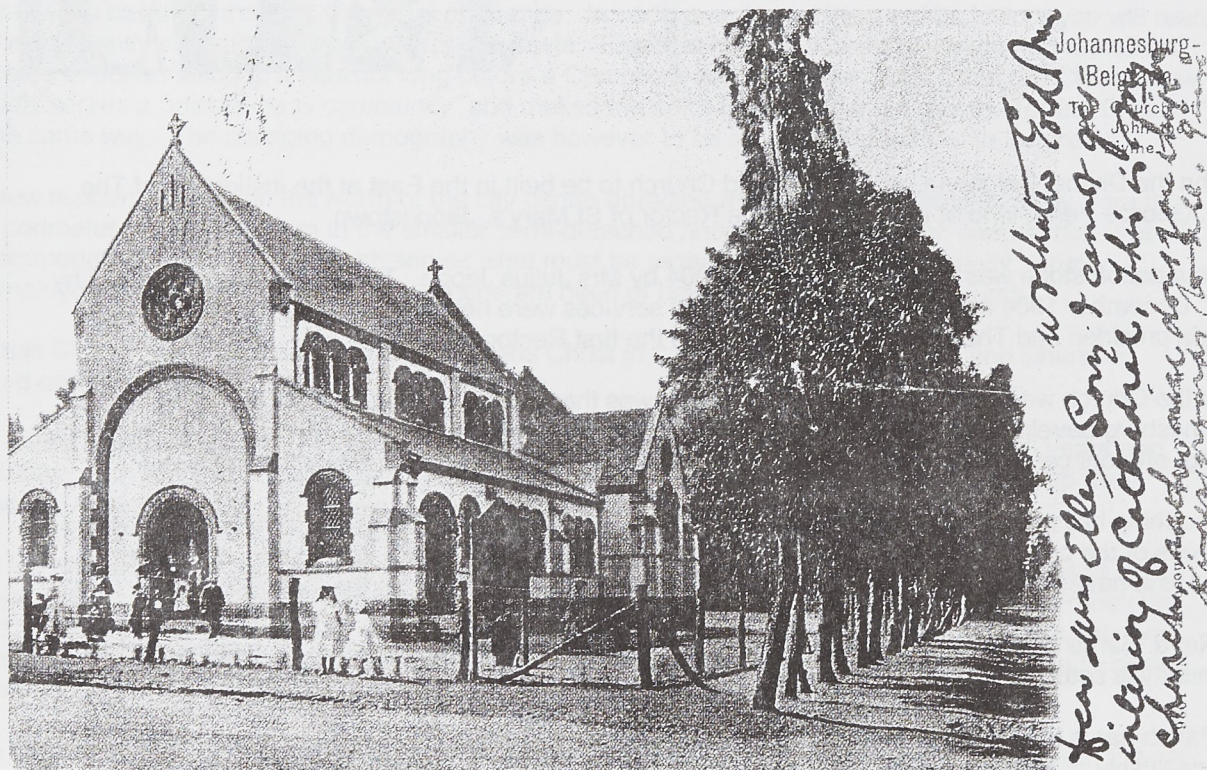
Preface

This Centenary Brochure is not designed to be a comprehensive history of St John the Divine, Belgravia (Anglican) Church. Rather, it is designed mostly to gather together some already written or previously published material recording the growth; people and history of the Parish. I found a paucity of information and photographic records for the years after 1980. I am sure material does exist somewhere, but think it has become spread and needs to be gathered together in the Archives of the Diocese at the Witwatersrand University.

In the build up to the Centenary we have from time to time had impressed on us, the historic position of this Parish and the building in the history of Johannesburg. Local historians have shown considerable interest in its significance and I have little doubt that its history should be properly and thoroughly documented. Someone will no doubt write a full history at some time.

Thanks are recorded to Mrs Val Lodge who typed and set out this brochure. Also a big thanks to all those people over the last 100 years who did the research and wrote the material that has been put together in this Centenary Brochure. I am sure of the names of Elizabeth Moss, Patricia Lane, Elva Tipper, but there are others at the moment nameless people whose work has formed the bulk of what is written here.

Rev'd. Barrie Lodge 4th December 2004
Editor



The Church of St John the Divine, Belgravia

From "A Johannesburg Album" by Oscar I Norwich.

An Anglican Church situated on the corner of Scott and Fawcus Streets in Belgravia. Designed by G A H Dickson, the foundation stone was laid in 1904 by Edith Grace Jeppe, wife of Julius Jeppe, and the building was finally completed in 1905. In 1946 additions were made to the church which still functions as a place of worship.

The hand written inscription is by an unidentified parishioner.

CENTENARY OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BELGRAVIA

Message from Rt Revd. Brian Germond, Bishop of Johannesburg.



St John the Divine, Belgravia, was the second Church to be built in the East at the instigation of The Revd. George Perry, who at the time, was the Rector of St Mary's, Jeppestown.

The foundation stone was laid on the 4th June 1904 by Mrs Julius Jeppe. The Church was fully built by the 4th December 1904 and the dedication and first services were held on that day. The Bishop of Pretoria presided and The Revd. R H Bellamy was the first Rector.

When the Church was originally built, it was in what was then a growing and well-to-do suburb. As Johannesburg developed, the demographics of the area changed dramatically and from what was one a thriving, affluent community, St John Belgravia, is now at the cutting edge of inner city ministry.

But one thing has remained constant: the Parish of St John, Belgravia and its commitment to meeting the needs of the community around it. Over the years, it has been blessed with many outstanding Priests who have, each in their own way, led the Parish along its journey as the People of God.

The Revd. Barrie Lodge, is the latest in a long line of such Rectors and his vision for the Parish and community is setting the stage for the next ten years.

The Parish has a long and rich history of very committed and dedicated people who have given freely and unselfishly of their time and talents over the years.

We pray that the Rector, Churchwardens, Parish Church Council and the congregation, will reach out to the community and live out the Diocesan Vision.

We ask for God's every blessings on the next one hundred years.

+Brian Johannesburg



There is a riddle I have heard asked. It goes like this. If you are travelling and you come to a crossroad only to find the signpost fallen down, how do you know which way to go? The answer is fairly obvious. You pick up the signpost and replace it. Turn the sign naming the place of your departure to point in the direction you have already travelled – then you will know which way to go at a crossroad. You have to know where you have come from, to know which way to go. Its like the advice that is frequently given. Keep going forward but glance backward every now and again.

There is no better time to turn and face the way we came for a while than at the great milestones in our history. 2004 – Ten years of democracy in South Africa and 100 years of the existence of St John the Divine, Belgravia. These two milestones give us cause to celebrate; a moment in which to reflect on our achievements.

This Church has lived through 100 years of change. In various written snippets of its history you will read of the constantly changing demography of Belgravia. Established by the wealthy mining and merchant pioneers of Johannesburg, it was not long before a Churchwarden made the remark that the Church now proudly serves a “*middle class community*” and makes the point that they cannot provide for the Church in the same way. The changing demography was however to be a continuing feature in Belgravia.

As new residential areas in the North of the city centre attracted more and more families away from the city perimeter they made room in the smaller semi-detached houses for people who needed that type of accommodation. Today this Church serves what must be regarded as a poor community, largely unemployed or underemployed some in desperate need of being supported by the Church.

Yet this Church continues to be the face of Jesus Christ in this area when other main line Churches closed and moved away.

The centenary has something to do with a building, now fully restored to the way it was 100 years ago, but it has much more to do with Church, moved by the Holy Spirit and blessed by God to keep itself somehow foundational yet somehow moving throughout 100 years of change.

The “so where to now?” question is on all our lips, and so it should be. We grapple with issues of relevance; inculturation; continuity; funding models; what is Church?; the Diocesan Vision in Parish life; what it may mean to be a Mission Church in a mission area; urban renewal; restoration; spirituality and worship in a multi-cultural community; the list goes on. Grapple we must. There is no chance to sit and be complacent for longer than perhaps today. Tomorrow we move on again.

One thing is very clear, we must emerge from these Centenary Celebrations to be different from the way we were, because our world, our country and our neighbourhood is different. Some call this “transformation” and by that we can’t mean different people doing the same old things, it means being Church in Africa, post Vatican II and in what might be a post-post-modern world.

May God continue to bless and move us towards His Kingdom.

The Revd. Barrie Lodge
Rector

The newspaper report in the Rand Daily Mail of 5th December 1904 gave two full columns to the dedication of the *New Church*, St John the Divine, Belgravia. The sub-headings of the article read *Interesting Ceremony at Belgravia* and *Sermon by the Bishop*.

Much of the early historical background that we have today and which appears in this Brochure seems to have been gleaned from this comprehensive description of how the Church started and what happened on that day. The special service was attended by about 425 people who were packed into the building – according to the reporter “*in fair comfort.*” That is difficult to imagine as we seem to be crushed if we have 150 today. The organ was expected to arrive for installation that Easter so the whole of the North to South transept would have been open for chairs. In fact the 425 may well have been seated on chairs rather than pews on that day.

Gifts were given. Notable among these was the organ itself which we still have, and use today; a fine instrument and apparently a rare tracker system organ which is always admired by musicians for the sound that it can produce. A

set of altar books for the presiding clergy and celebrant were donated by a single parishioner. We still have these early books which will be on display on Saturday 4th December 2004.

One hundred pounds was collected toward the building fund. An amount which today could be worth probably R20,000. How grand if that could be contributed at our special service 100 years later!

The service commenced at 7.30 a.m. and ended at 7.30 p.m. No doubt stopping for lunch and refreshments in between. It started according to the reporter with the entry into the Church of the Bishop of Pretoria – *preceded by his crosier* and accompanied by the choir in processional order. The choir had been strengthened for the occasion through the addition of choirs from surrounding churches. The “beautiful rites” of the Church of England were performed.

The Bishop's Sermon

The Bishop preached the opening sermon and the newspaper reported comprehensively on its content. He made three points based on Ephesians 4:12 “*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ.*” These words of Paul he said summed up the work of the Church. After speaking of building “character” in the people of God; “doing good” as what the Church had to aim at; he went on reportedly to say this:

“Nothing existed in which the Church could not take its part. It had to do with every part of our manhood (sic) – with the body and the mind, as well as with the spiritual life. People seemed to think that religion only had to do with the higher life. That was not so, it had to do with the whole life of man, with the whole life of the city and country.”

The third point that was made by the Bishop in his sermon that day in this Church had to do with what he called the **progressive Church**. He made this point. *The Church must be missionary if it was to live.*

“A policy of “rest and be thankful,” as Lord Rosebery had said, spelt ruin. The Church had to go out to all sorts and conditions of men and bring them under the influence of He who came that men might live. Such was the work which they trusted would be carried on in the Church they were met that day to dedicate.”

It appears from the report on that day that the people of St John the Divine, Belgravia did not only dedicate the building to God, but “*They dedicated their lives to the service of God in the same way as they had dedicated that building.*”

The Church was dedicated. Blessing on the Church was asked and on the minister and the people so that all they did may be for the glory of God and for the good of humankind 100 years ago on the 4th December 1904. The Bishop of Pretoria in this Church spoke prophetically and pointedly. He spoke to us today.

Editor



RECTORS OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BELGRAVIA

1904 – 1909	The Revd. R H Bellamy
1909 – 1914	The Revd. W P G McCormick
1914 – 1916	The Revd. E J Tyser
1916 – 1921	The Revd. J C Nunns
1921 – 1929	The Revd. G T M Evans
1929 – 1932	The Revd. H.S.P. Coster
1932 – 1934	The Revd. E R. Day
1935 – 1939	The Revd. H F Tonkin
1939 – 1952	The Revd. M R Harby
1952 – 1955	The Revd. R E Tattersal
1955 – 1957	The Revd. N M Aldridge
1957 – 1962	The Revd. W E Wilkinson
1963 – 1968	The Revd. B S Moss
1968 – 1971	The Revd. J M Daines
1972 – 1983	The Rt. Revd. S Pickard
1983 – 1988	The Revd. E J Caliz
1988 – 1994	The Revd. A S Dotchin
1994 – 1996	The Revd. P Lane
1997 –	The Revd. B J Lodge

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, BELGRAVIA

A brief history of the early days to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Parish on December 4, 1964.

Research attributed to Mrs. Elizabeth Moss

The story of St John's Church, Belgravia began when Mr Fred Struben found gold on his farm at Wilgespruit and so discovered the Rand Goldfields in 1884. Two miles away was a hill upon which the more "respectable" elements of the mining community built their homes. Among these was Mr Carl Jeppe. It was not long before the township became a wealthy suburb called Jeppes Township.

During October, 1886, the Bishop of Pretoria, Dr Henry Brougham Bousfield paid his first visit to Johannesburg and held a service in the dining room of the one hotel then existing. In May 1887, at the suggestion of certain Kimberley men, he invited the Revd. John Thomas Darragh, B.D. to leave the Diamond Fields and take charge of the Gold Fields mission. Darragh accepted the invitation, reached Johannesburg in June 1887 and immediately began to lay the foundations of the Church on the Rand. Soon after his arrival he built St Mary's Hall in Eloff Street, St Mary's

College in the heart of Jeppes Town and St Michael's College for boys the foundation stone of which was laid in 1890 on the site of the present Jeppe Boys' High School.

"In those early days", writes Mrs L J Williams, "all Church people living in Jeppe walked to St Mary's Hall, Eloff Street twice a day for Mass and Evensong."

By 1889, however, John Darragh had attracted to himself several assistants and when the buildings of St Mary's College were sufficiently completed to allow it, there were sufficient clergy in the neighbourhood to make it possible for three services to be held each Sunday in the school.

It was during 1889 that the foundation stone of St Mary's-the-less, Jeppes Town was laid. There is no record of the Church being used for services before Holy Week, 1891.

In the early part of 1892 at the invitation of Mr. Darragh the Revd. George Perry came from Harrismith in the Orange Free State to combine the Headmastership of St Michael's College with the Curacy of St Mary's-the-less. During 1896 Revd. Perry obtained the assistance of the Revd. William Griffiths as Curate. Mr Griffiths had prepared for Holy orders at St Cyprians College, Bloemfontein where he was made a Deacon in 1881. He was priested at Grahamstown in 1884 and after holding assistant curacies at Barkly West and St Cyprians, Kimberley he became Vicar of St Albans Kimberley in 1891. Whilst at Jeppes Town Mr Griffiths supervised the Doran Street Mission which was opened in 1897 and was the first step in the establishment of St John's Parish, Belgravia. In 1898 the Revd. J G Reid succeeded Mr Griffiths and took charge of the Doran Street mission until he left and the mission closed in 1900. After the closing of the Doran Street Mission a Sunday School was held in St Mary's College which had by this time moved to Berg Street. Services for the people of Belgravia were held by Revd. Walter Bickford at the College.

At the Annual Vestry meeting held on April 14, 1903 at St Mary's Jeppe the Rector, George Perry, reported as follows:

"Once more we are permitted to meet again in Easter Vestry, and take stock of our position at

the end of one year's work and the beginning of another. Five years ago, our new chancel having been completed, and the church consecrated, I asked you to work for the building of a Rectory and of a Church in Belgravia. At that time we never dreamed of the terrible days in front of us, as a consequence of which no house has yet been provided for the Rector, but there is good prospect of the Belgravia Church being built, for which I am very thankful, though sorry to part with many good friends in that district." "I cannot and do not expect to be much longer among you, but if I am compelled to resign the charge of this large Parish, I am sure that with St John, I shall have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the Truth."

About this time, due to a suggestion made some years before by Cecil Rhodes, there came to South Africa the great enterprise of the Mission of Help and it was during this mission that plans were made for the formation of the Parish of Belgravia. "We hope", said Mr Perry in his report to the Easter Vestry of 1904, "to see the Revd. Prebendary R H Bellamy established there as Rector. His Parish will include Jeppe's Extension and George Goch mine." Mr Bellamy was at the time Rector of Fordsburg.

In June 1904 a meeting of the building committee was held at which the Revd. George Perry, Revd. Prebendary Bellamy, Mr Julius Jeppe, Mr C H Thrupp and others were present. The Witwatersrand Estate had generously given three stands for a Church to St Mary's-the-less and these stands were formally handed over to the new Parish of Belgravia. They were, however, not suitable and were exchanged for the site of the present Church, the boundaries being Kaizer (now Scott) Street, Princess Street and Fawcus Street on the South.

The Witwatersrand Estate also offered the sum of £2,000 at an interest rate of 2% as soon as the building committee had £1,000 deposited at the bank. Mr G A Hamilton Dickson, the architect, was asked to draw up plans for a Church to hold 300 people at a cost not exceeding £4,500. Suitable plans were duly produced and accepted at a tender of £4,400. The contractors being Messrs. King, Pater & Co. Mr C H Thrupp thereupon made himself responsible for the £1,000 required by the Wits. Estate and Mr Julius Jeppe for the remaining

£1,400. Mr Carl Jeppe signed the contract for the whole amount required for the building.

On May 31, 1904 the Rector of St Mary's, Jeppe cut the first turf. Four days later on June 4, a Saturday, Mrs Edith Grace Jeppe laid the foundation stone of the new Church of St. John the Divine in presence of the Bishop of Pretoria, Archdeacon Furse and a great gathering of clergy and parishioners. While the Church was under construction services were held in St Mary's College, Berg Street.

On the 16th June, 1904 the first meeting of Parishioners of St John the Divine was held. The following is an extract from the minutes:

"Minutes of the Meeting for Parishioners of St John the Divine, Belgravia, Johannesburg held in Miss Holmes-Orr's School Building on Thursday evening the 16th day of June, 1904.

Present: The Revd. Prebendary Bellamy, B.A. in the chair and the following Parishioners:

T Wooldridge, F M Green, C H Thrupp, W F Gilfillan, H N Wood, J F Kemp, J Jeppe, W Brown, R J Moon, A R Hands, B F Preston, A M Morgan, P W Croft, J C Anderson, E Farrar, C V Anderson.

Mesdames Bellamy, Thrupp, Wood, Pringle, Anderson, Kemp, Fox.

Misses Holmes-Orr, E. Holmes-Orr, F.J. Farrar

The Revd. George Perry, M.A., Rector of Jeppetown, was also present."

The Minutes refer to the laying of the foundation stone of the Church and continued "We may here add that the Church ultimately is intended to seat 600 people."

At this meeting Messrs J P Ablett and C H Thrupp were unanimously elected Acting Churchwardens. They were also elected Trustees of the new Church.

Mr E Farrar was elected Hon. Treasurer.

Mr H N Wood was elected Hon. Secretary.

During the months that followed, meetings of the building committee were held in the home of Mr C H Thrupp and the actual money given,

apart from the amounts given by Messrs Thrupp and Jeppe was £600.

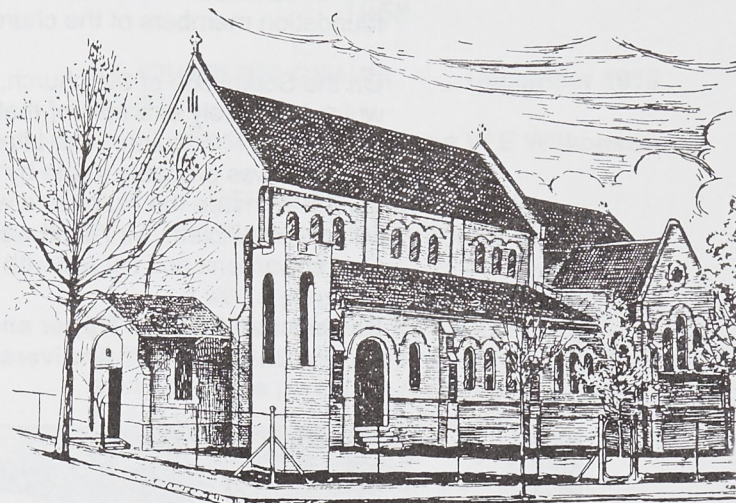
The Church was completed and handed over by the builders at the end of November, 1904, and Dedicated on December 4, 1904.

The Parish Hall was built in 1916.

In 1928 the present Rectory was acquired at a cost of £1,375.

During 1929 the Porch was built and the Sanctuary was paneled in oak by Sir Julius Jeppe.

In 1956 a side chapel was made in the north aisle of the Church. Its primary use was for the weekday celebration of Holy Communion but also a Tabernacle was installed on the new altar in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved and before which private devotions are made.



THE MEMORIALS

Anyone looking round this church today will find name-plaques in memory of some of the notable parishioners and well known members of society in Johannesburg at that time.

The name of Jeppe is well known in Eastern Johannesburg. There are three schools, Jeppe Preparatory School, Jeppe High School for Boys' and Jeppe High School for Girls', all among the well known schools of Johannesburg.

We owe many lovely features of our church to the benefactors of the past, the beautiful windows above the High Altar are in memory to the Jeppe family, they also donated the Altar reredos (that is the paintings of Jesus and the Apostles) and the fine oak paneling in the Sanctuary. In the North and South walls, above the Sanctuary are two beautiful windows; Faith and Charity (perhaps they had a special meaning to the founders of St John's at the time.)

The large Bishop's chair in the Sanctuary was donated in memory of Emily Fanny Mader who died in 1927. The Communion Rail is a memorial to Gertrude Lane, a relative of our Organist Ivan Lane, Patricia's husband.

Mr Thrupp donated the Organ which was imported from England at a cost of £750 and probably is the oldest still in use in Johannesburg.

The wrought-iron screen in the Chapel was given by the Sons of England in memory of Herbert Cecil Webb who died tragically in September 1956.

Under the stained glass windows of the Chapel is a brass plaque in memory of Sir Julius Jeppe, benefactor and first Vicar's Warden from 1905 – 1914.

On the North wall of the Chapel is another brass plaque in memory of Harold Wilberforce Jefferson, stating that the Garden of Remembrance was made in his memory. The garden was laid-out and the wall built by Rob Feldhusen and is being very well looked after by Jack Glover and Rob Tipper.

The Sanctuary Lamp bracket hanging in the Chapel was given by the Jefferson Family in memory of their Mother. There is also a brass plaque in memory of the Secretan Family and records show that the family made large contributions to the life and work of the church. All the older members here today remember Mrs Black (daughter of the Secretan family). She was not only the Organist about 26 to 27 years ago but a great fund-raiser, organising jumble sales and running the tombola stall at the fetes that the Parish often had and also doing the flower as Doreen Glover does today. There is a plaque on the Organ in her memory.

Our Marble font with its copper cover was given by the children of the parish in November 1904.

The Porch was erected in 1929, it was dedicated to the Alexander Anderson family who were foundation members of the church.

On the South side of the church, is the Pulpit, which is a lovely example of that period and was donated by Mrs Quinn. The Litany desk now in the choir was probably made by the same person as made the Pulpit and was donated by Mr and Mrs Ablett. Mr Ablett was one of the first Churchwardens and served with Julius Jeppe.

**Researched by Elva Tipper and presented
on the Church's 92nd Anniversary**



**The interior of St John the Divine, Belgravia
This photograph first appeared as a front cover
for a fund-raising appeal brochure 1957**

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

1907

Extract from the Rector's report presented to the Easter Vestry of April, 1907:

"And now, I **must** call your attention to the Treasurer's statement as it is simply impossible to go on as we are doing. The main trouble is the wretched response to the offertories showing that the onus of responsibility is left to the generous few. Take last Sunday as an example. Out of 424 coins there were 136 sixpences and 139 three pences - that is **two-thirds of the whole number**. If we could only get an average of a **shilling from each person** attending the services our financial troubles would be at an end and you would never hear a word more on the subject."

1955

November, 1955

My dear friends of St John's, Belgravia

My expectancy will be fulfilled if all of us, young and old, say our prayers regularly day by day: if we determine to worship together: and if we will work cheerfully and happily together — all for the Glory of "God and the welfare of His Parish.

I understand the Sustentation Fund Secretary, Mrs Evrard, is leaving the Parish shortly. Here is a challenge for somebody, either male or female, who can handle people as well as money, to come forward and offer himself or herself for this important work. I am sure there is a suitable person among our parishioners, and it will be a source of encouragement to me to know that this office is filled.

Noel Aldridge



1958

ST JOHN'S BELGRAVIA
No. 530

December 1958

Rector Revd. Cannon W E Wilkinson

PERTINENT QUESTIONS: Have you the Answers?

It was a pleasure seeing so many of the parents at the recent Sunday School fancy dress party but why is it that we do not see at least one of the parents in church sometimes? It must be difficult for the Sunday School teachers to teach the children why it is so necessary to lead a Christian life if the parents do not set an example.

What has happened to some of the old faces which used to be seen so regularly in church but are now absent?

Why is it that it is always the small handful who support the monthly social evenings? Have you, who do not attend, any suggestions to offer whereby the social life of the parish can be built up?

If you have the answers to these problems please let us have them. A little constructive criticism would be a welcome change from the disappointments experienced by those who are trying to build up the various aspects of parish life to what they should be.

1964

ST JOHN'S BELGRAVIA

**A letter from the Churchwardens
on the occasion of it's Diamond Jubilee
1964**

Dear Fellow Parishioners

What a most memorable occasion the 4th December, 1904 must have been, and how proud the Churchwardens and the members of the Parochial Church Council of the time must have felt to see their plans and hard work of years fulfilled in the lovely church of St John the Divine.

Let us all join together in making the years that lie ahead happier and even more fruitful than those which have gone before.

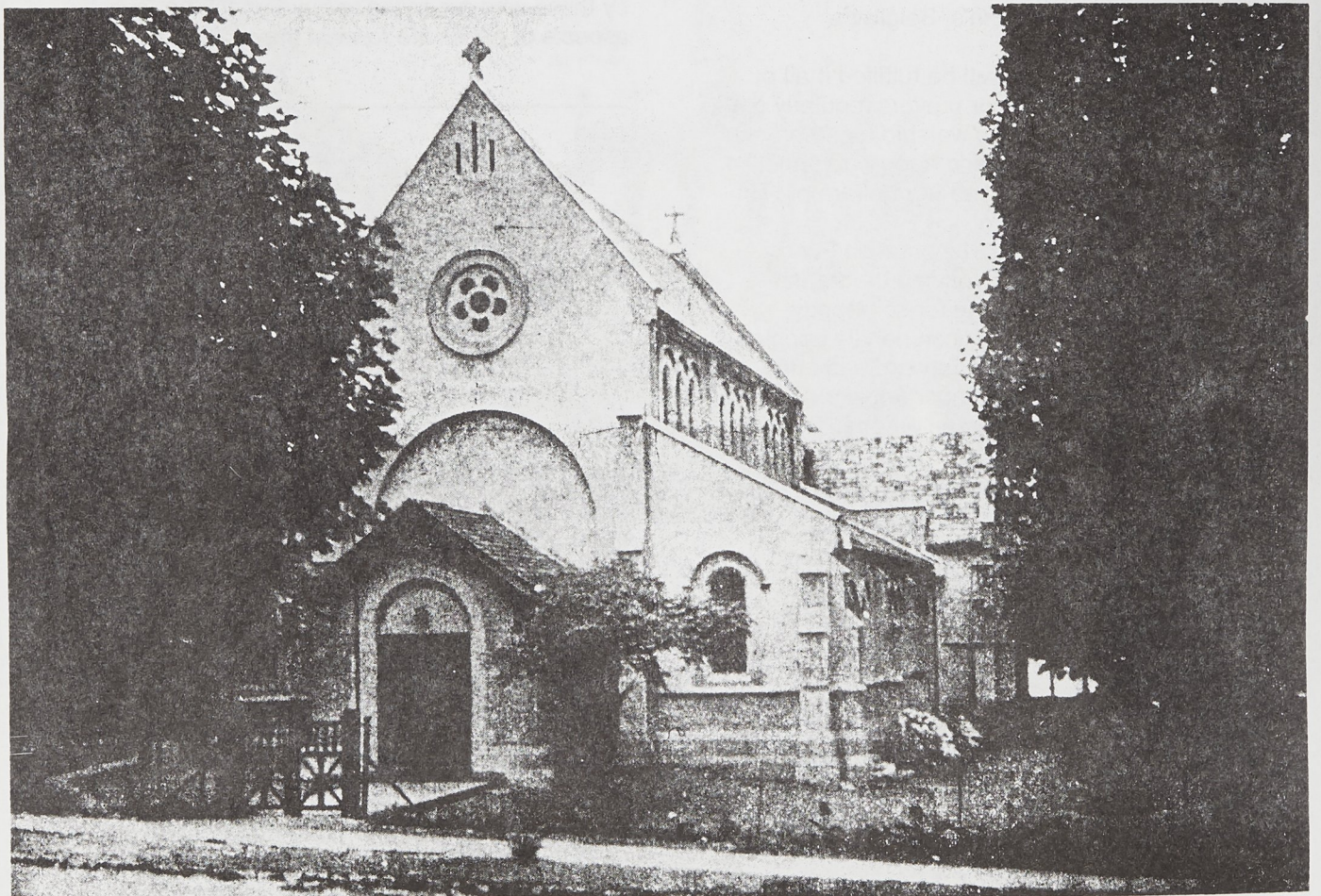
The Revd. Noel Aldridge
Rector 1955 – 1957



The Revd. Bernard Moss
Rector 1963 – 1968



The Rectory
Probably in Revd. Moss' time



The Western Facade
Probably in Revd. Moss' time

1964

An extract from a comprehensive history up to the year 1964 and published in the Diamond Jubilee Brochure of that year. The then Rector Revd. Bernard Moss accredited the research done in establishing that history to his wife Elizabeth Moss. It is assumed that she picked out this snippet.

It is interesting to note that in May 1914 the Headmaster of Jeppe's Boys' High School asked that certain rows be allotted to the boarders of the school at the morning service. The association of the Anglican boarders of the school and the church has continued and at present time about 160 Anglican boarders attend a special School Service each Sunday during term time.



**The Rt. Revd. Timothy Bavin
at St John the Divine, Belgravia
with Jeppe High School Boys**

1971

ST JOHN'S BELGRAVIA

December 1971

Rector: Revd. John Daines

NATIVITY PLAY

We have had to cancel the Nativity Play this year because of a lack of response from the children. We have had more than enough children at rehearsals but they have never all managed to be at rehearsals on the same days which has meant that we have been unable to rehearse properly and rather than produce a half-baked effort we have reluctantly had to cancel..

SCHOOL BOARDERS

I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed working with the Jeppe Boys. I would also like to thank the Staff for their assistance. I would also like to say a very big thank you for the cheque which the boys gave me. I have bought a clock for my study, appropriately inscribed, which will always remind me of my association with "Jeppe".

PORTUGUESE SCHOOL

We have let the Hall for use as a Portuguese School. This school will meet every afternoon of the week Monday to Friday from 3.00 – 5.00p.m. Their teacher is Mr. Jose Andrade. We welcome them to St John's.

1971

**ST JOHN'S BELGRAVIA
NEWSLETTER**

November 1971

CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD

Despite the stormy weather and other attractions, like school concerts, the games evening proved to be a great success. The first hour passed very slowly and there was the gloomy prospect of having hamburgers at every meal during the weeks ahead. However, when the High School boys arrived the situation changed rapidly. The lucky dip stall was sold out and the ladies at the refreshment table were besieged by crowds of eager lads all anxious to sample the appetising wares. Doreen Glover worked untiringly during the week decorating the tables and taking full responsibility for the catering. Mr Glover presented us with a bicycle and this was sold outright.

The financial state of St John's is not a healthy one, it is important that we have another jumble sale, this to take place on the 4th December. You must be tired of our begging, but a sale like this brings in the money at the same time helps the poor Africans in the area.

G D Black



**Mr Jack Glover
Church Warden
for over 25 years**

Today, the plaque commemorating 100 years of this Church's dedication will be unveiled by the Rt. Revd. Brian Germond, Bishop of Johannesburg. It was very generously donated by Mr Jack and Mrs Doreen Glover

1974

**CELEBRATION OF 70 YEARS
BROCHURE : December 1974**

The average length of term of office of the Rectors of St John's so far is 4 years. One served for 13 years but on the other hand three only served 2 years each.

In 70 years there have been 15 Rectors, including the present one. This is a lot and probably more than most churches. There may be a reason for this! I wonder!!!

1980

**ST JOHN'S BELGRAVIA
RESTORATION APPEAL 1980**

THE PARISH NOW The parish is not **dead** and there is still a very good reason for its continuance. The ordinary congregation is very small, but all members are keen and interested and give considerable support on the financial side. Perhaps the most important side of the work here is that this church serves, as it always has done from the very beginning, the Anglican (and others) Boarders from the School Hostels of Jeppe High School for Boys. On Sunday evenings in term time the church is full with between 160 – 180 boys, moreover there has always been a close contact between this church and the School. Over the years there has been no decrease in numbers, in fact the opposite, and this year, for example, we have nearly 50 boys preparing for confirmation.



**Mr Rob Tipper
Church Warden
for over 25 years**



The Revd. E ("Ted") Caliz
Rector 1983 – 1988

1983

THE JEPPE BEHIND THE BUILDING OF THIS CHURCH

Julius Jeppe was a German by birth and at the age of 11 had emigrated to the Transvaal with his parents. In 1870 the family settled in Pretoria and Julius grew up there, attending the Pretoria Public School. At the age of 17 he served in President Burgher's disastrous expedition against the Pedi chief Sekhukhune.

With the discovery of the Reef in 1886 the Jepses moved to Johannesburg to devote their not inconsiderable energies to prospecting and land development.

A syndicate controlled by the family bought a large area of land known as Randjeslaagte between the present Commissioner Street and Hospital Hill. This land bore no gold, however, and consequently the Jeppe's syndicate, the Ford and Jeppe Estate Company, began to develop it as a township. This was proclaimed in 1889 as Jeppestown.

Jeppestown was intended to be a well-to-do suburb but was not popular initially on account of the poor roads and the dip in between it and the city which became flooded and impassable in heavy rain.

Nevertheless the suburb was sumptuously

laid out and sported a park, known as The Oval, between Ford and Browning streets.

Julius Jeppe also erected his own magnificent residence in Jeppestown in 1896. This house, Friedenheim, cost 60 000 pounds and contained over 45 rooms including an enormous museum, once hung with horns and trophies, which was also used as a ball-room and concert hall.

It is perhaps logical that the Jeppe's would have concerned themselves fairly intimately with the schools in Jeppestown. In 1898, Julius Jeppe was among those who bought the Jeppe Grammar School and, together with F Eckstein and Abe Bailey, was one of its patrons.

When Jeppe Grammar was re-established as Jeppe High School after the Anglo-Boer War, Julius Jeppe was closely associated with it. He was elected to its first governing body and was its chairman from about 1918 until his death in 1929.

In 1909 he donated a piece of ground for the erection of new school buildings. The school rejected it as "a quarry bounded by a precipice". The site was sold and the proceeds were used to purchase the site of the present Jeppe High School for Boys, where the familiar sandstone buildings, soon to be declared a national monument, were erected in 1911.

Ironically, Jeppe Preparatory School was later built on virtually the same piece of ground that had been rejected for the High School.

Julius Jeppe's wife, Grace died in 1905 leaving six children, the youngest of which, Douglas Painton, was only three years old.

Written by Zelda Davis

**A member of the Jeppe Family
and published in the Star**

**Tuesday 14th June 1983 on the occasion of
the 80th Anniversary of the Founding of
Jeppe High School**



THE RECENT YEARS

In the historical records of this Parish there is frequent reference to "the good it has done." Certainly in the last twenty years it has become possible to find and record some specific projects with which the Parish has been associated or are currently ongoing.

Matthew 25

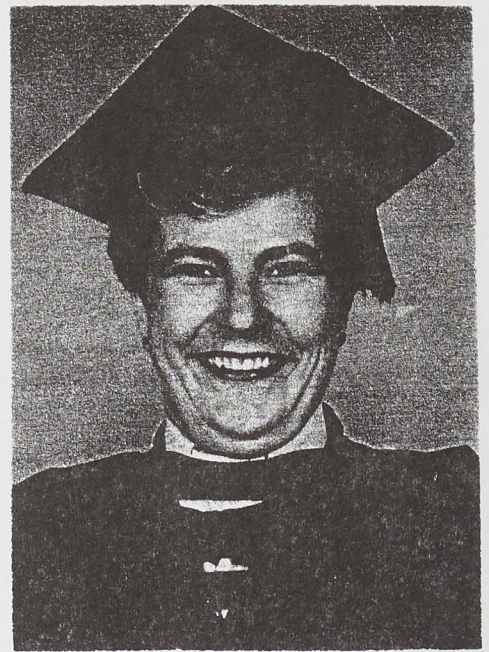
In 1993 during the Rectorship of The Revd. Andrew Dotchin and into the Rectorship of The Revd. Patricia Lane, the Rectory was used as a residential rehabilitation centre – a halfway house as it were, for people coming out of prison.

Revd. Andrew Dotchin also organised that a team of Parishioners go into the Hillbrow area of the inner city at night to be part of a shared inner city outreach to the homeless there. They provided soup, bread, blankets and primary medical assistance from the back of a trailer.



The Revd. Andrew Dotchin
Rector 1988 – 1994

In the grounds of the Church a Soup Kitchen was established which operates up until today. It feeds daily between 60 and 80 indigent people, homeless and unemployed with soup and bread. In 1997 under Revd. Barrie Lodge this became known as the Thuthuka Care Centre and it extended its concept to provide training and entrepreneurial development. By 1998 to fairly recently some micro businesses grew out of this initiative the most significant being "Small Beginnings" a moulded chocolate and candle making business.



The Revd. Patricia Lane
Rector 1994 – 1996

By 1996 the Parish was an established centre for the distribution of about 200 food parcels a month in conjunction with the State and the Jimmy O'Connor Foundation. This project was probably initiated by Revd. Andrew Dotchin but was ably sustained by The Revd. Patricia Lane (Rector from 1994 to 1996) and Revd. Barrie Lodge our present Rector until the State phased out the distribution of food parcels in favour of supporting training and empowerment initiatives.

The problem was that there was still a need for survival feeding and crisis or emergency feeding for the poorest of the poor especially in the now mushrooming number of urban informal settlements in the proximity of the Church. The Thuthuka Care Centre adopted two of these as a focus for extensive intervention and support during crises, more especially when families lost everything in times of fire or flooding.

By 1999 there was an extensive Youth Upliftment Programme in place with up to 40 local Youth and about the same number of Juniors attending. The Youth called themselves "The Saints" and indoor volleyball teams were formed that played against various others. Notable was their outreach to the Walter Sisulu Youth Centre to play volleyball against teams of Youth awaiting trial. Both these guilds dwindled when the Youth leaders moved away. The Saints continued as a smaller group focusing on Bible Study under the leadership of Revd. Nancy Tshabalala the self-supporting Deacon in the Parish.

In one of these moments there was a need to take up to eleven pre-school age children from the devastated informal settlement into the then very small, mornings-only activity centre for pre-schoolers which was run by trained volunteers in the Parish Hall. It was called Thushanang Activity Centre. Thushanang is now a well run Early Childhood Development Centre providing meals twice a day for up to 50 children but more especially providing high quality Educational stimulation and school readiness programmes to the children. Both Thuthuka Care Centre and the Thushanang Early Childhood Development Centre are now looking for their own custom-designed premises in the surrounding community.



**A Sunday School Presentation
1999**

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The written material available at the time of writing makes little reference to Sunday School. It is known that Mrs. Elva Tipper supervised the Sunday School for about 25 years from 1968 and that the numbers then were about 30 - 40. Her two daughters also taught in the Sunday School.

Today, Parish Minister, Mrs Joyce Ratanjee has Children's Ministry as her portfolio. She is Superintendent of the Sunday School and is ably assisted by her granddaughter, Bianca Crowley and also Zareena Mdululi. About 40 children attend regularly – especially as the Christmas festivities approach!

With a massive urgent need for work creation in this area, the present Rector conceived of the Thembela Foundation. Initially the idea was to train unemployed persons and then provide the initial support needed to develop micro businesses or small business projects. The Thembela Foundation idea was taken up by a group of Parishes in the Eastern periphery of the Johannesburg City Centre to be formed now into a registered Foundation with specific objectives to create a movement of urban renewal, social upliftment, work creation and restoration in the areas suffering from urban deterioration. This includes Belgravia and Jeppestown as well as Bez Valley, Fairview, Troyeville and Yeoville. Belgravia is often used as an example of an area where this type of need is at its most urgent and obvious. The role of St John's College Parish in the development of the Thembela Foundation has been seminal. St John the Divine is often referred to as *"a Parish at risk", "a poor Parish"* a Parish that survives with constant threat of closure. But it is a Parish that does as was said on the 4th December 1904 – one hundred years ago – has to be recognised *"for the good it has already done."*

THE RESTORATION OF THE 100 YEAR OLD BUILDING

In 1957 an Appeal was made by a team of Parishioners notably Mr W L Lock, Mr G Norman and Mr A J Grant, Headmaster of Jeppe High School. The aim was to raise £6,500 over two years. The idea was to liquidate the bond of £1,200 and buy transport for Parish use. "We simply MUST by transport for Parish use and to undertake repairs and renovation of buildings to the tune of about £1,000.

Another appeal, this time with its own brochure and a message of support from Bishop Timothy Bavin was made in 1980. It was called the Restoration Appeal. +Timothy wrote. *"The passage of time and consequences of earth movement have put this important building at risk."*

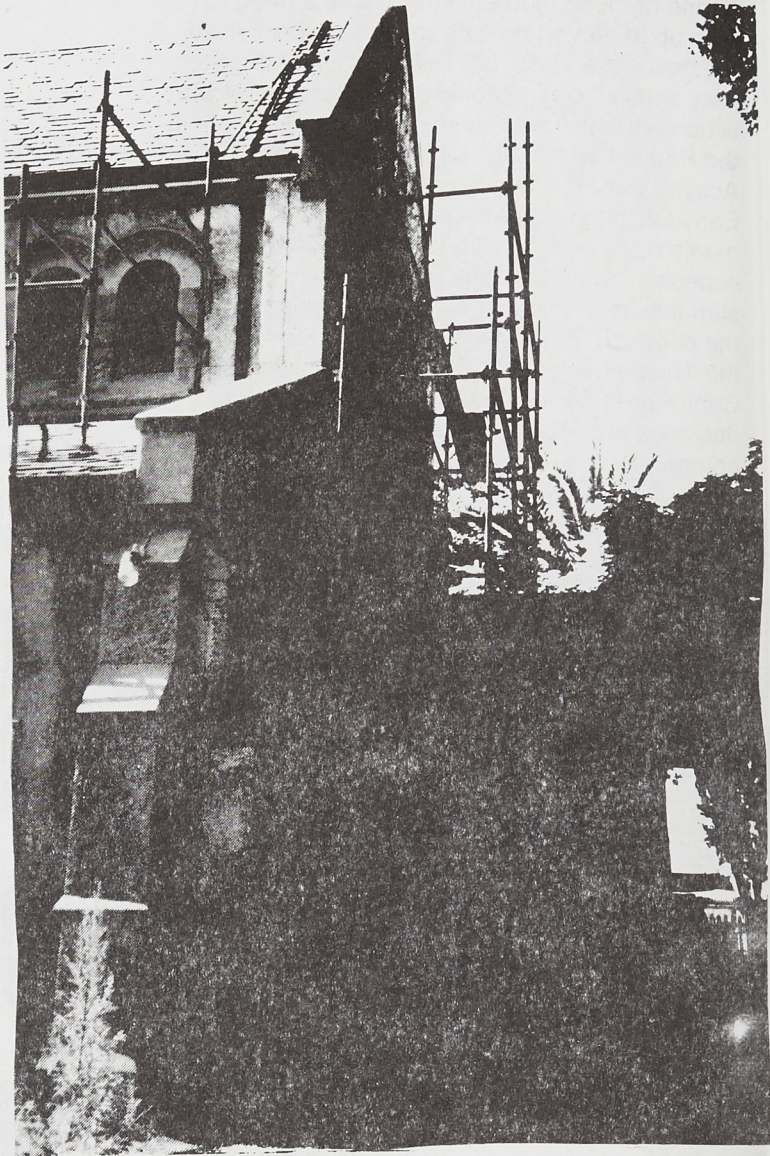
In this generation the deterioration of the building was rapid, very noticeable and the risk made the building an insurance hazard. It had to do with a time old story of lack of funds to spend on maintenance.

It was fortuitous that the building was noticed by an architect Mrs Marian Laserson who contacted another Mr Herbert Prins. Mr Herbert Prins heads up the Simon van der Stel Foundation now known as the Egoli Heritage Foundation. A partnership and an interest in this important Heritage site and building developed. The Egoli Heritage Foundation provided a supervising architect in Mr Prins himself and other significant engineering expertise. The buildings had to be conserved.

Nothing really could have been done to restore this building to its close to original, now conserved condition, if it were not for Mr Jim Bolt of Boltens Facades who adopted the restoration of this complex as a personal project.

The surfaces and colours were carefully researched and matched so that stripped and repaired the buildings emerged to show their original glory. As one aspect of the restoration was undertaken, the need for other aspects was uncovered so Jim Bolt in a labour of love was instrumental in restoring glass, upgrading lights, replacing roof tiles, and so it went for just on two years. Jim Bolt's comment has been. *"This Church won't have to do any maintenance for a long time."*

We know that this remarkable man has worked to glorify God. Bishop Timothy Bavin was right when in 1980 he wrote of the Church. *"To the surrounding community it has been (and still is) a silent witness to the claims of God upon human loyalty."*



The Western Facade
In Restoration 2004



The Southern Facade
Restored 2004

THE PARISH COUNCILS

1904

Rector:

The Revd. R.H. Bellamy

Churchwardens:

Messrs. J.R. Ablett and C.H. Thrupp

Councillors:

Messrs. J.C. Anderson	Messrs. E. Farrar
W.F. Gilfillan	F Green
A.R. Hands	J. Jeppe
J.F. Kemp	A.M. Morgan
B.F. Preston	H.N. Wood
T. Wooldridge	

1964

Rector:

The Revd. B.S. Moss

Churchwardens:

Messrs. L.J. Mentz and P.J.H. Willoughby

Councillors:

Messrs. M.M. Bayley	Mesdames. C.E. Campbell
H.J. Burton	D.M. Cuthbert
B.J. Glover	D. Glover
A.J. Rousseau	E.M. Moss

2004

Rector:

The Revd. B J. Lodge

Churchwardens:

Mesdames Valma Crowley and Charlotte Sampson

Alternate Churchwarden

Mr. Job Gumede

Councillors:

Messrs. Bonginkosi Buthelezi	Mesdames. Claudia Ngqoko
Andries Mapena	Joyce Ratanjee
Sebelo Mncwango	Maureen Thomas
Charles Shilenga	Rita Zuidmeer
Sebastiano Zaremba	

Organist: Mr. David Broomhead

Cantor and Liturgist: Mr. Sebastiano Zaremba

