

ATTACHMENT 1

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH TODAY

TABLE OF CONTENTS		Pages
1	Description of the area and adjacent buildings	1
2	The Church Building (with photographs)	2–4
3	The Church Interior (with photographs)	5–10
4	Role in the wider community	11
5	The vicar	12

1. Description of the area and adjacent buildings

Caversham is one of Dunedin's oldest suburbs. On the western edge of the city's central plain, it is situated at the mouth of Caversham Valley, which rises to Lookout Point. The main trunk railway line runs through the suburb and alongside the Southern Motorway. Founded by wealthy pioneer William Henry Valpy, Caversham grew rapidly during the Central Otago gold rush of the 1860s. During the 19th century, the area became heavily industrialized but it is now largely residential with some industrial premises to the east (eg. Hillside Railway Workshops). Notable buildings in the area include Lisburn House and the war memorial at the gate of Caversham School.

Hillside Road has a mix of newer and older Victorian buildings, some of which are rather neglected. St Peter's Church is nicely set within a grassed area with flower borders, shrubs and trees. Further along the road is the famous sports ground known as Carisbrook.

Next to St. Peter's Church stands the vicarage, a fine two storey building in brick and roughcast with a tiled roof. The vicarage was designed by architect Donald Dunning and completed in 1912. It is separated from the church by a short walk along a pathway. Adjacent to the church is the Parish Centre. This hall was built in 1886, replacing an older building, and is physically joined to the church by a linking corridor installed in 2000. Also on the property is a small, early 20th century wooden cottage with a corrugated iron roof. This has recently been refurbished and repainted.

2. The Church Building

The church is made from brick, stone and kauri, the style conforming to a colonial version of Gothic church design known as 'Early English'. The doorways are plain, the windows lancet-shaped and a white string-courses (one high, one low) run along the sides of the building. Between the windows are buttresses with double buttresses at the corners. The missing spire at St. Peter's is also part of the Early English tradition. The cross on top of the church is made from Oamaru stone. A more detailed account of building materials is given in the History. The condition of the church is very good but a building of this nature requires constant attention, particularly with regard to rain and damp-proofing.

As a matter of necessity, there have been some repairs modifications to the building over the years. From an early time, growth of ivy caused damage to the bricks, particularly on the tower. The 'good, sound, hard, well burnt bricks' specified by Hardy

had not lived up to expectations. The first repairs to the tower were undertaken by Pitts and Aitken in 1929.

Building modifications have been few, the first involved completion of the sanctuary in accordance with Hardy's original plans. Approved by Vestry in 1959, building was finished by May 1962. The other modification has been the addition of the Link between the church and the Parish Centre. This involved the installation of new main doors onto the lawn area and was completed in 2000. No other structural modifications have been made to the church.



St. Peter's Church: Photographs taken from Hillside Road (top) and Baker Street entrance (bottom) taken by Ray Sisley (11/05/2009).



St. Peter's Church: Close up of tower
(Photograph by Ray Sisley 11/05/2009).

3. The Church Interior

Walls and Ceiling

The interior walls of St. Peter's Church are plastered and painted off-white. The kauri roof and beams are dark stained. The plaster has recently been renewed. There is a small, ongoing problem with damp in one part of one wall, which results in a blistering of the paint. Expert advice has been sought and it was decided that the problem should be managed, as there is no guaranteed way to rectify it. There are new internal doors at the sides and back of the church in keeping with the style of the building.

Windows

Memorial stained glass windows installed between 1918 and 1971 line the nave. These are listed in Davies 'The Church of St. Peter in Caversham: 1864–1882–1982'. They include the windows commemorating the Hodgson brothers, as well as others fallen in battle, Captain Easter, the organist Bessie Favell and a previous Vicar, Rev. J.L. Mortimer. The windows are in an excellent state of repair and covered with polycarbonate sheets on the outside to prevent damage.

Soft Furnishings

The curtains on either side of the reredos and the carpet have recently been renewed; both are a gold colour. The church entrance has been re-carpeted in a weatherproof mid-brown. Kneelers and pads were recently recovered and most of the vestments have been replaced. New altar linen was purchased recently from Belgium.

Church furniture, vestments and hymn books

The Vestry minutes of December 13th, 1916 record that a fire had occurred in the Vestry destroying cassocks, surplices and some church registers. Miss Favell's harmonium was also burned. It was fortunate the fire was not more extensive but these early losses seem to have set a trend of renewal at St. Peter's. Indeed, a second fire in 1970 destroyed the font cover. This was later replaced, the new cover being designed by local artist Don Moorhead. Over the years, a number of items have had to be replaced because of wear and tear or theft of the originals. Sadly the altar cross, in memory of James Robert Hodgson, was stolen. Also stolen in the same theft were the Chalice, a brass processional Cross, Churchwarden's staves, the St. Peter's banner, a processional candlestick (also one was lost), a candlestick from the Lady Altar and the

original pulpit crucifix (some of these items have been replaced). Cruets, lights, heaters, and the St. George's flag have all been replaced because of wear.

New hymn-books were donated by Tim Snell and his wife in memory of his sister. Tim's mother is descended from Rev. William Ronaldson, the incumbent from 1881–1887. A painting of the Virgin Mary, entitled 'The Mother', was recently donated by parishioner May Condie. This is hung on a wall adjacent to the Lady Altar (see photograph on following page). The present organ is a three-manual digital organ made by Johannus of the Netherlands. This replaced the old organ, which was in a poor state and too costly to repair.

Apart from the pews, font and pulpit, which are original, the church furniture dates from the 1940s on. Nothing is known about the maker of the pews but they are shown in the earliest photographs of the interior. Of particular note because of historical or aesthetic value are the altars, silver candlesticks, the war memorial by the front door and the stained glass windows. These include World War I and II memorial windows and were made by the local firm of John Brock.

While the theft of valuable and historic items from St Peter's is to be regretted, the necessary replacement of other items due to wear reflects the fact that it is a well-used 'working' church. The present interior is illustrated in the photographs on the following pages.

Bibliography

Brown et al 1994. Anglican Church of Saint Peter 1869–1995: 125th Anniversary of the Founding of the Church.

Pywell A, 1952. The Story of St. Peter's Church.

Davies FJ, 1982. The Church of St. Peter in Caversham: 1864–1882–1982.



The Lady Altar. (Photograph by Ray Sisley, 11/5/2009)



The font at Harvest Festival (Photograph by Ray Sisley, 11/5/2009)



Bread and grapes on the altar at Harvest Festival

(Photograph by Ray Sisley, 11/5/2009)



The pulpit at Harvest Festival

(Photograph by Ray Sisley, 11/5/2009)

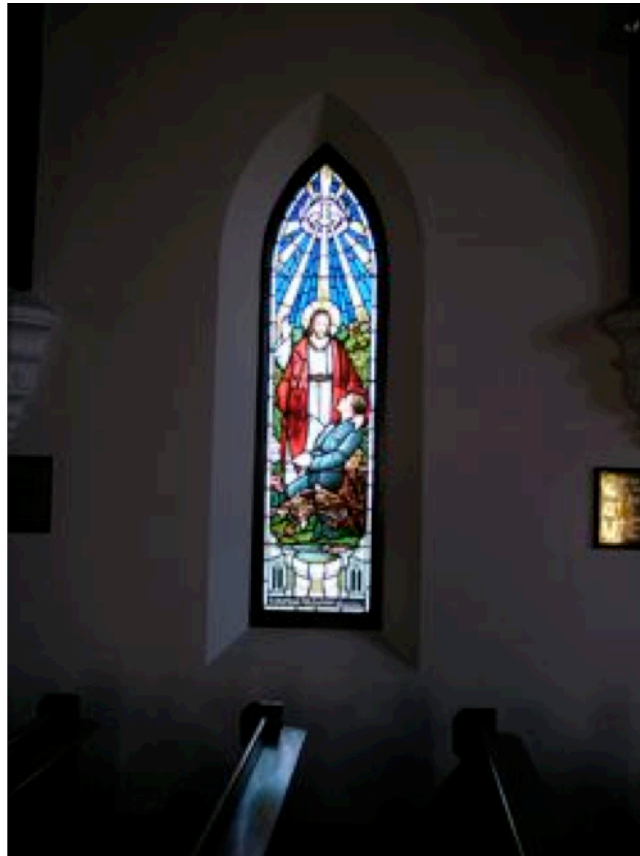


The interior of the church (Photograph by Ray Sisley, 11/5/2009)



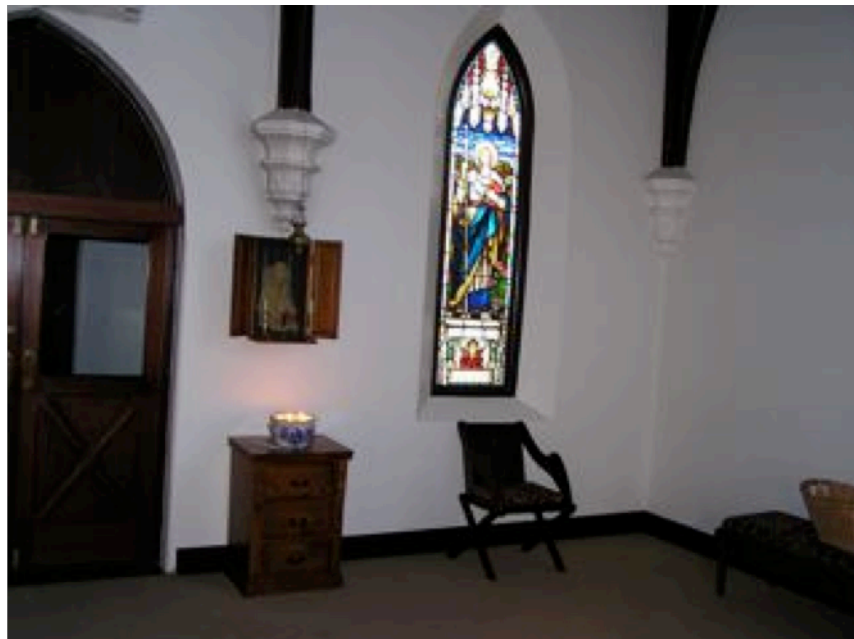
Interior view showing lectern and windows

(Photograph by Ray Sisley, 11/5/2009)



Memorial window to Bill Hodgson

(Photograph by Ray Sisley 11/5/2009)



Votive candles by the main door

(Photograph by Ray Sisley 11/5/2009)

4. Role in the Wider Community

The main purpose of St. Peter's Church is to provide a place of Christian worship. It has always been Anglican, but all denominations are welcome. A bell is rung to signal to the wider community both the start of Sunday worship and the consecration of the bread and wine. Weddings, baptisms and funerals take place on a regular basis. St. Peter's often attracts people from other churches as a wedding venue because of its picturesque qualities, although one could say the sense of it being a holy place is even more compelling. Although the church was built for the people of the Parish of Caversham, the congregation is now drawn from a much bigger area, including Oamaru, Timaru, Brighton, Fairfield and Mosgiel.

The main local community outreach is the provision of the Parish Centre, consisting of the church hall and connecting link. These spaces are hired by community groups on a regular basis for a very modest rental. This is used to cover costs such as cleaning, maintenance and power. Parishioners take an active role in many of these groups, in particular the Stroke Club. There have been other outreaches in the past, in particular teaching of the Christian faith in local schools. The current vicar, Father Carl Somers Edgar, held the posts of Prisoners Chaplain and Police Chaplain until quite recently. There is a history of active involvement with the elderly of the parish and Fr Carl is the St. Barnabas Home Chaplain. Games sessions (of a gentle nature) are held twice a week in the Parish Centre. These attract a number of non-church goers, including some younger people.

St. Peter's offers financial support to a number of charities. These include Anglican Family Care (donation of food items as well as money), Animals Asia Fund, Dunedin Men's Night Shelter, Anglican Missions, the Anglican Arab Hospital in Gaza, the Jerusalem Church. There is provision of emergency funds for waifs and strays who find their way to the vicarage door. St. Peter's is often a venue for fund-raising concerts, such as that held recently for the Dunedin Hospital Chaplaincy. Parishioners take part in a "bed-pushing" roster at Wakari Hospital to enable patients to attend chapel services.

A special relationship exists between St. Peter's and the Orthodox Church. Under Bishop Nevill, the first Orthodox service in Dunedin was held at St. Peter's and we have provided funding support for the Antiochian Orthodox Church for some years. We also support the Antiochian Orthodox parish family. The Coptic Orthodox Church initially held their services at St. Peter's about 10 years ago and we pray regularly for both churches.

5. The present Vicar

Editors note: Since submission of the Historic Places Trust application, Fr Carl Somers Edgar has retired.

Fr Carl Somers Edgar was born in Dunedin in 1946. After leaving Otago Boys' High School, he studied History and Philosophy at the University of Otago. He trained for the ministry at St. Stephen's House, now part of Oxford University, and was ordained priest in St. Paul's Cathedral by the Bishop of London for Holy Trinity Northwood, Middlesex. His second curacy was at All Saint's Margaret Street (not far from Oxford Circus), one of the best known of all Anglo-Catholic Churches. He was Vicar of St. Mary's Liscard in Wallasey (on the other side of the Mersey from Liverpool) from 1982 to 1985 when he returned to Dunedin to become Vicar of St. Peter's Caversham and has been here ever since. He has also been a Chaplain to St. Barnabas' Rest Home, to the Police, and to the staff of the Dunedin Men's Prison.