

A summarised history of Anglican Worship in the Waterberg Parish  
of the Diocese of Pretoria for 80 years till 4th October 1987

The Bishops of Pretoria during this period were:

1. Henry Brougham Bousfield: 1878 - 1902

In the early 1880's European population was thinly scattered in the Waterberg. The town of Nylstroom, established in 1866, consisted of only 5 families. The first shop was built in 1882 by Enil Tamsen who was the first mayor and whose home became famous for its hospitality. The bishops and clergy stayed there on the way to the north, as did all the Governor Generals and Paul Kruger; the first Anglican services in Nylstroom were held in the Tamsen's home. At the same time, 150 miles from Nylstroom, the sisters Edith Fawssett and Katharine Peacock who had been brought up in an Anglican rectory in England, held church services in their home regularly each Sunday. They were joined later by their niece Mary; and before the Boer war they used to travel to Pretoria once a year to celebrate their Easter Communion at Bishop Bousfield's home.

In 1898 Nylstroom was linked by rail to Pretoria. Soon afterwards the war broke out and Nylstroom was occupied by British troops; The South African Constabulary was in charge of the district. The Tamsens spent the war years in Pretoria, returning in 1903; it was considered too dangerous for the Fawssetts and Mrs Peacock to remain at Blaaubank as they were the only white women in the area - Colenbrander's Scouts brought them to Warmbaths for safety, where they were given several of the Bath houses to live in. They began the practice of holding a daily church service in the dispensary of the hospital, and a weekly choir practice.

2. William Marlborough Carter: 1902 - 1909

Among the British troops in Nylstroom were many Anglican officers and men, and the Bishop saw the need for starting regular services. Rev. Godfrey conducted the first services in the Tamsen home; then Rev. C.S. Carey who later used the Court House and also the Masonic Hall. The Fawssetts and Mr and Mrs Peacock by this time were living on the farm Twenty Four Rivers.

In 1904 the Government granted the present site for a church in Nylstroom; (in that year the population of Nylstroom was 578 of which 217 were not white).

The first entry in the Register of services for Nylstroom was on 18/9/1904 : 2 people attended Holy Communion at 8 am; there were 5 present to hear Morning Prayer at 11 when Rev. Carey preached on "The Creed", and there were 4 at Evensong. Barbara Hilliard's was the first recorded baptism, on 29/10/1905, and on 30th November 1905 Mary Fawssett married Edward Davidson, the ceremony being performed in the Tamsen's home. November 1905 was also the occasion of the first Confirmation service. An interesting entry in the Burials register of June 1907 records that "S.Driver, layman" buried an F. Whitworth of England.

In May 1907 the architect J.C. Edwards submitted a plan for the church; the foundation stone was laid on 11th August 1907 (30 people present) and the story goes that the church was built by members of the South African Constabulary to relieve their boredom... St Michael and All Angels church was dedicated by Bishop William on 12th Nov. 1907. The cost of building was £820, the debt for which was only finally cleared in 1928.

3. Michael Bolton Furse: 1909 - 1920

There was as yet no permanent Rector; Rev. K Hope-Jones was Priest in charge from Feb. 1907 to July 1908; Rev H.J. Organ from Nov. 1908 to June 1910. At this time in the Waterberg roads were poor, people

were/....