

were scattered, services were held in the district in private houses whenever the priest could get there.

In July 1910 George Henry Sharman came from England to this, his first parish, called "The Chapelry of Nylstroom in the Waterberg District". He married a local girl, Helen Tamsen - there is no record of where they lived for there was as yet no Rectory. At last the congregation at 24 Rivers and the surrounding area were able to set in motion a scheme for building a church; land was given by Edith Fawssett, Sir Herbert Baker drew the plan, Mr Davidson and Mr Mortimer helped build the church, and Bishop Furse dedicated the church of St John the Baptist on 15th July 1914 - 73 years ago. The detailed history of this gem of a church, and the people in the Vaalwater/24 Rivers area, makes fascinating reading. The sacristy work was done by Mrs Peacock till she died in 1935, when it was taken over by her great-niece Lois Baber who has done it ever since.

G.H. Sharman left to join up when war broke out in 1914; his churchwardens in Nylstroom had been W.I.S. Driver and A.F. Borland.

In Aug 1914 Rev. T.T. Perry came as Rector and stayed till 1917, after which there was no priest till 1920, services being taken by Rev. Wellington who came from Pietersburg whenever possible.

4. Neville Stuart Talbot: 1920 - 1932

Rev. E.R. Prance was Rector from 1920 - 1922; he was a bachelor and lived on a farm near Nylstroom with his sister.

From Oct. 1922 - Sept 1928 the Waterberg was served by Rev. J.M. Short and records show that he took services at "Nylstroom cum Warmbaths; 24 Rivers; Rooiberg and Leeupoort (which till then had been part of the Rustenburg Parish); Settlers; Naboomspruit" and presumably in private houses elsewhere.

"A Vicarage consisting of 2 rooms" was built in Nylstroom in 1923 at a cost of £270; and a garage and servant's room was added in 1926. Rev. E.R. Prance took services from Jan-June 1925 when Rev. Short was presumably on leave.

Rev. E.G. Glaisyer, a married man, was priest from Dec. 1928 to 1932. (In 1930, Nylstroom had at last an electricity scheme for the town which cost 1/- per unit; there were 115 consumers, and 70 street lights were installed. In 1931 it boasted "one of the best hotels in the country" according to the S.A. Municipal Yearbook. At that time there was still a water furrow to the town from the dam until pipes were laid after 1934. A water purification system was only completed in 1959, till which time inhabitants had the privilege of having muddy water coming from their taps after a storm!)

5. Wilfrid Parker: 1933 - 1951

This was the period of the Depression, and there was no permanent priest until 1938; no services were held at Rooiberg till 1942, but Rev F.G. Clarke from Pietersburg, Rev. Cawood and Rev. Wellington all took services at 24 Rivers (Rev. Clarke married Elizabeth Davidson; their daughter is Ros King who took over the position of Treasurer of the Vaalwater/24 Rivers congregation from Lois Baber 2 years ago).

The Service Register of St. Michael's shows that a Miss Punt faithfully conducted Sunday School services in that church from 1933 to 1939 when she retired. In 1934 Miss Forssman became secretary of the Nylstroom chapelry and also served in that capacity for many years at Warmbaths.

In 1938 the Bishop was able to appoint Horace M. Gaylard as Rector of the Waterberg - he met and married another Davidson daughter, Jane, in 1942 - also in 1942 appeared the first Parish Magazine, "The Bushveld Messenger" of which he was editor and sole contributor of the

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