

~ Historical Note ~

A Notable Anniversary

This month we mark the tenth anniversary of the Commission and installation by Bishop Brain of the Very Reverend Stephen Williams as the seventeenth Vicar of the Cathedral parish and the eighth Dean of Armidale. Many parishioners and visitors attended the service, at 7.00 pm on Friday 18th February 2002. The first Vicar, the Reverend Henry Tingcombe, was inducted by Bishop William Tyrrell in 1846, and the first Dean, the Very Reverend John Bell, Vicar, was installed by Bishop J.S. Moyes in 1945.



After a processional hymn by the choir and clergy the Bishop told the congregation that the Vicar-elect would have committed to him *'the care of the flock of Christ in this parish, the oversight of the Cathedral services, preaching the word of God and administering the sacraments, offering hospitality'* and being in partnership with the Cathedral Chapter. Later in the service the Bishop would ask the congregation *'to share with (Stephen) the worship and witness of the Christian community'*, its response being *'We will gladly do so, with God's help.'*

As the service proceeded, led by the choir and organist Terry Norman, lessons were read by Judith Lamb and David Ward, and the sermon was preached by the Rev Peter Robinson, Rector of Bomaderry. The Cathedral wardens Kevin Birkett, Rod Ferris and Matthew Tierney, presented the Vicar-elect to the Bishop *'to be commissioned as the minister of this parish'*. He was then required to promise *'with the help of the Lord'* faithfully *'to administer the doctrine, sacraments and discipline of the Lord Jesus Christ in the parish'*, to assert firm belief in the Christian faith and to be loyal to the Anglican Church and its expression in worship. The Registrar, John Hansen, read the licence, and the Vicar was duly commissioned. Four symbols of ministry were presented to him: A Bible (the gift of St Mary's Church West Armidale), a Prayer Book, water signifying Baptism and bread and wine signifying Holy Communion.

The Installation of the Dean followed, with Archdeacons Clifford Ainsworth and Bruce Bennett, for the Cathedral Chapter, presenting the Vicar to the Bishop, who installed him after requiring his promise *'to observe and keep the Statutes, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations of this Cathedral Church.'* The Registrar read the Letters of Appointment and the Vicar was Installed as Dean, the Bishop leading him to his Stall.

This brief account of the formalities of the service is only a vignette of an occasion which was an awe inspiring act of worship and Christian fellowship. As a congregation we now give thanks for the faithful and fruitful years of ministry which have followed. (A copy of the service, with a full list of participants, may be borrowed from the Cathedral Archives and Jean Newall and Shirley Dawson).

Jean Newall

~ Prayer Points ~



- ❖ Thank God for his faithfulness and blessings to us at the beginning of the year.
- ❖ Pray for Simon and Alison, Ella and Zoe as they begin life and ministry in Armidale.
- ❖ Pray for the teaching of SRE this term: for Les Moreman in the High Schools and many Scripture teachers in the Primary Schools.
- ❖ Pray for the Women's Conference at Walcha on Saturday 3rd March and men@glen on 9th and 10th March. Pray for the speakers: Janet Riley, Rick Lewers and John Anderson.

