
Anglican Church in Australia
Diocese of Adelaide
Retreat House, Belair

SRG 94/60
Series list

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“In 1941, through the faith, vision and generosity of Rhoda Webb, wife of the Rector of Belair at that time, the Retreat House was bought by the Webbs, for the sum of £2,500, to be used as a Retreat and Conference House.” (Retreat House Information brochure). The impressive stone building was constructed in 1881 as an Inebriates Retreat and extended in 1898 and by then known as Hope Lodge and used for the rescue of inebriates and the training of missionaries. In 1907 Alexander Downer bought the property, and by 1935 all but 9 acres of the original 100 acres had been sold for housing and the main building had become derelict. In 1963 a further division of the property was made. The western half of the property was developed as St Barnabas’ Theological College. The original building continued as a Retreat and Conference Centre managed by Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name from 1967 to 1989. In 1965, the Retreat House property was transferred to the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide and administered under a Board of Management. In 1992 an Interim Board for Spirituality and Retreats was formed and In 1995 the Julian Centre ministry of spirituality began (SRG 94/62). When St Barnabas’ College relocated to an ecumenical campus at Brooklyn Park in 1998, St John’s Grammar School at Belair purchased both properties and established a Secondary Campus on the site. (References: Diocese of Adelaide “Vision Statement for the Ministry in Spirituality and Retreats”, 1992; Betty Ashton & Peter Mussared, *Retreat House, Gloucester Avenue, Belair*, booklet published by St John’s Grammar, March 2001.)

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- Minutes of the Committee of The Retreat and Conference House Association. 60/1
1944-1965. 17cm.
Volume 1: Missing prior to transfer
Volume 2: 19 June 1944 - 11 May 1951. 3cm.
Volume 3: 7 June 1951 - 6 October 1965. 14cm
- Minutes of Retreat House Board. 60/2
1966-1992. 14cm.
The Retreat House Board replaced the former Committee. Its first meeting was held 8 February 1966. In 1992 the Board of Spirituality assumed responsibility for the management of Retreat House.
File 1. 8 Feb. 1966 - 12 Aug. 1976. 7cm.
File 2. 14 Oct. 1976 - 8 Aug. 1985. 8cm.
File 3. 1985-1992. (unofficial). 7cm.
File 4. 1970-1974. 1.5cm. Board minutes and other papers, some missing from Minute Book.
File 5. 1990. 1cm. Official minutes and other papers, unbound.
File 6. 1991-1992. 1cm. Chairman's file, includes official minutes for 1991.
File 7. 1962-1965. Miscellaneous minutes and papers.
- Correspondence. 60/3
1958-1991. 8cm.
File 1. 1958-1978. 2cm. Includes transfer of Retreat House to Synod 1964; sale of land to St. Barnabas. 1961-1963; documents, 1960-1969; documents, 1970-1978; Chairman's correspondence 1988.
File 2. 1978-1986. 3cm. Includes correspondence re heritage listing (1980) and cessation of management by Community of the Holy Name.
File 3. 1973-1986. 1cm. Includes correspondence file kept by Reverend A.G. Daw, Chairman; correspondence 1958-1991. File 4. 1958-1972. 1cm. Includes general correspondence and treasurer's file.
File 5. 1991. 0.5cm. Includes correspondence for Board meetings.
File 6. 1982-1986. 0.5cm. Includes letters and guests and meetings.

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- Vestry Record Books. 60/4
1942-2005. 12.5 cm.
The Retreat House Chapel was renamed the Community of the Holy Name Chapel when the Community was installed there on 18 February 1967. The Board for Spirituality and Retreats continued to hold retreats and conferences after the Community ceased their ministry until November 1997 when it established the Ministry for Spirituality at the Julian Centre, Mile End. The Chapel of the Holy Spirit was built beside the main building to hold larger congregations. The chapels were deconsecrated by Archbishop Ian George in 1998.
Volume 1. Retreat and Conference House Belair, April 1942 - January 1960.
Volume 2. Retreat and Conference House Belair, 26 February 1960 – 29 August 1985.
Volume 3. Retreat and Conference House Belair, Holy Spirit Chapel, 30 August 1985 – 15 Novemembr 1996.
Volume 4. Community of the Holy Name Chapel, 12 February 1967 - 31 December 1982.
Volume 5. Community of the Holy Name Chapel, 1 January 1983 – 8 May 1996; Julian Centre Chapel, Mile End, 18 December 1997 – 22 December 2005.
Volume 6. Retreat House Non-Anglican Service Register, May 1962 – May 1993.
- Services Record Book. 60/5
1978-1988. 2cm.
Details of services held by the Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name.
- Guest/Visitor Registers. 60/6
1942-1996. 33cm.
13 volumes registering names of participants in conferences, retreats etc., and visitors to the House.
- Financial Records. 60/7
1949-1990. 14cm.
File 1. Cash Book. 1949-1967. 2cm.
File 2. Annual Balance Sheets. 1961-1965. 0.5cm.
File 3. Working papers. 1966-1969. 1cm.
File 4. Journal sheets. 1949-1979. 6cm.
File 5. Treasurer's Reports. 1965-1990. 4cm.
File 6. Insurance records. 1964-1969. 0.5cm.

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| Housekeeping records. 1948-1953, 1989-1994. 3.5cm. File 1. 1948-1953. 1cm. Bookings register. File 2. c.1989. 0.5cm. Housekeeping records. File 3. 1993 Housekeeping diary. 1cm. File 4. 1994 Housekeeping diary. 1cm. | <u>60/8</u> |
| Bookings and Programmes. 1987-1989. 6cm. | <u>60/9</u> |
| Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name, Reports to Board. 1969-1987. 0.5cm. | <u>60/10</u> |
| Declaration of Trust and Related Papers. 1965-1980. 0.5cm. | <u>60/11</u> |
| Future of Retreat House Committee. 1986-1989. 0.5cm. Includes Partners in Mission Profile, 1989. | <u>60/12</u> |
| Properties considered for Clergy Retreat. 1939. 0.5cm. | <u>60/13</u> |
| Sketches for Chapel. 1962. 0.5cm. | <u>60/14</u> |
| Buildings and Maintenance. 1966-1988. 2cm. File 1. 1966-1984. 1cm. File 2. Correspondence with Jackman and Treloar.1982-1988. 1cm. | <u>60/15</u> |
| Mortgage Papers. 1961-1963. 0.5cm. | <u>60/16</u> |
| Fortieth Anniversary Papers. 1982. 0.5cm. | <u>60/17</u> |
| Historical Papers. 1939-1982. 1cm. Includes information about bequests, furnishings, Book of Remembrance, various leaflets. | <u>60/18</u> |
| Retreat Literature. 1978-1981 and undated. 0.5cm.Includes Fr. Homersham's 'Retreat House Letters', Canterbury Book Depot, 1957. | <u>60/19</u> |

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| Verses by Rhoda Beatrice Webb n.d. 1cm. Privately bound and printed with a foreword by Bishop Robin and inscribed 'Retreat House 26.10.27'. | <u>60/20</u> |
| Reports to Synod. 1974-1977, 1983-1988. 0.5 cm. | <u>60/21</u> |

Retreat House Photographs

60/22

These photos are copies of photographs which hung in the foyer of Retreat House. With negatives.

1. Summer House – “Gazebo”. “In memory of Francis John Mayger, Priest, Rector of the Parish of Belair and regular mid-week celebrant at C.H.N. Chapel. Member of Retreat House Board from March 1979 until his death on 28 June 1985. As a member of the Grounds committee Fr Frank had a special interest in the ‘Gazebo’. Inset photo of Fr Frank Mayger. The original was a gift from Mr and Mrs Glen Chester (Report to Synod 1987).
2. Sisters’ Chapel, Retreat House. Photograph of sketch of sanctuary by Nancy Gemmell.
3. Ludewigs’ Cottage. Photograph of drawing of “the cottage built by Mr G. A. Ludwig in the 1950s and was situated at the back of the Retreat House, on the flat in front of the College. It was demolished in 1967. Some of the slate roof was set to the Cathedral of St. Peter, Adelaide to be used for repair if nec. As the roof appears to be the same”. Artist unnamed.
4. Violet Hillier.
5. Miss Mollie Williams, first Warden of Retreat House Belair, 1942-1952.
6. Father A. S. Homersham, Resident Chaplain 1943-1954, Retreat House Belair.
7. The Gazebo in 1967, Retreat House, Belair.
8. Photograph of portrait of William Grant Broughton, Bishop of Australia, 5 June 1836, also showing his coat of arms.
9. Photograph of sketch of Retreat House, looking north, by Nancy Gemmell.
10. Photograph of sketch of The Retreat House, Belair from north-east, by Nancy Gemmell 1983.
11. Photograph of sketch of Retreat House from south by R Ballinger 1975, before porch over front door was constructed.
12. Father A.S.Homersham in study
13. Photograph, black and white, of watercolour of front of Retreat House by Nancy Gemmell, showing porch over front door. No date.
14. Mary Theodora Thomas, wife of Bishop Nutter Thomas, died 12 March 1941.
15. Rt. Revd Arthur Nutter Thomas, Bishop of Adelaide 1906-1940.
16. 35 mm strips of black and white photos reproduced in this series.

Architectural drawings and papers relating to Retreat House and Conference Centre, Belair
1941-1978 17 items (all outsize except for 1.)

1. Specification to convert existing building into Chapel November 1959
2. Sketch plan (pencil) of sisters' chapel, with part of a letter above
3. Revised plan (dyeline print) for chapel by Russell & Yelland, 38 cm x 55.5 cm
4. Plan (dyeline with watercolour) for conversion of building into chapel, by Russell & Yelland, (nd) 55.5 cm x 76 cm
5. Electric light plan for Retreat and Conference House, 38 cm x 22 cm
6. Plan for alterations and additions by Dean W. Berry & Gilbert (nd), 53 cm x 86 cm
7. Ground plan showing sewerage routes, blue biro pen on folded paper, 48 cm x 74.5 cm
8. Plan of alterations to existing bathroom etc by Dean W. Berry & Gilbert (nd), 48 cm x 60 cm
9. Blueprint plan of measured drawing 2073 of ground floor by Louis R. Williams, 1946, 50 cm x 67 cm
10. Blueprint plan of measured drawing 2074 of front elevation by Louis R. Williams, 1946, 21 cm x 69 cm
11. Sketch plan 2077 (dyeline print) of proposed extensions to ground floor by Louis R. Williams, 1946, 62 cm x 76 cm
12. Sketch plan 2078 (dyeline print), 1946, of upper floor by Louis R. Williams, 1946, 62 cm x 76 cm
13. Sketch for Altar for sisters' chapel (pencil on tracing paper with dyeline print), 50 cm x 75 cm
- 14-15. Two dyeline prints of Altar in sisters' chapel, 59 cm x 84 cm
16. Ground plan (dyeline) of Retreat House with annotations for drainage and sewer lines, 37.5 cm x 49 cm
17. Plan (dyeline) of proposed new entrance portico, August 1978, 42 cm x 59 cm

60/23

Illuminated manuscript of Blessing of the Retreat and Conference House, Belair by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Adelaide The Right Rev. Bryan Percival Robin MA on Saturday 18 April 1942. In embossed leather cover with printed copy of the dedication of the chapel of the Holy Spirit by the Lord Bishop of Adelaide The Right Rev T.T. Reed on Saturday 29 October 1960 at 3 pm, inside front cover. The original is held in the Reserve Collection. A set of colour photographs of each page 16 cm x 21 cm held here.

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Artefacts

60/25

Handmade nails found at the site of the Ludewig Cottage, Retreat House grounds, and believed to have been originally used for the Cottage about 1886. Originals held in Reserve Collection. Two potographs of nails.

Retreat House Fete Committee

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1983-1989 1 cm.
Minutes of meetings, planning information.