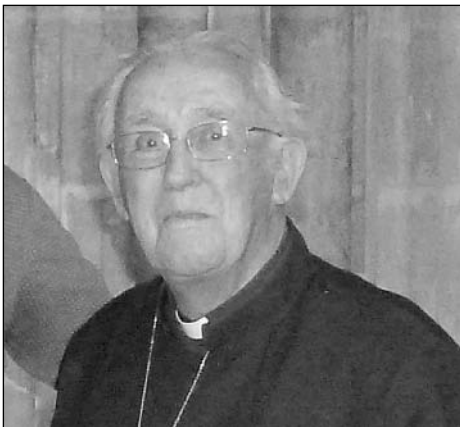


Death of the Reverend Kenneth Child PHF

Peter Sherred

Affectionally known as “The Vicar of AOz” by many Doverians, as well as by people at Canterbury Cathedral and in the Diocese of Canterbury, Ken Child died on 28th November 2019 in The Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury after a short stay there.

Widely known for his sympathetic pastoral ministry to people, especially at the times of bereavement and sadness, Ken officiated at literally thousands of funerals in the area since he came from Australia to live near Wingham in 1999. Having combined assisting in many parishes in East Kent with duties at Canterbury Cathedral since his arrival with his wife, Jenny, it was entirely fitting his funeral service should be held in the Cathedral he loved so much. So, it was in the Quire of the Cathedral, with a galaxy of the Cathedral hierarchy present, a service in thanksgiving for his life and ministry took place on Wednesday 18th December 2019 at which the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Reverend Doctor Robert Willis, officiated.



Ken Child in Canterbury Cathedral 7th July 2007

A combination of stirring hymns, appropriate readings and the majestic voices of the Cathedral choristers ensured that the many who attended for the service witnessed a beautiful send off to this man who had been a faithful priest in Australia and the United Kingdom for a combined period of some sixty seven years, having been ordained priest by the Archbishop of Sydney on November 30th 1952! The Archbishop of Sydney at the time was the Most Rev'd Howard Mowll who was born in Dover, the son of a former mayor of Dover and a member of the well-known Mowll/Worsfold families who have been active in the Dover community for centuries.

A tribute to Ken at his funeral service was given by The Very Reverend Michael Chandler and The Dean, Robert Willis, gave an address in which he advised the congregation that the Primate of Australia had sent his condolences and had indicated that Ken's remarkable ministry was still remembered in Australia. The Dean listed all Ken's activities since his migration to the United Kingdom to reside in Canterbury Diocese and praised him for his faith, his extra-ordinarily long ministry, his nature and character.

Several Dover families can testify to the quality of his pastoral care and the considerable attention he gave them. Ken Child will, indeed, be greatly missed by many people. Born in September 1927 Ken died at the age of 92. His widow, Jenny, continues to live in Wingham. A full appreciation of Ken, including Howard Mowll and the Dover connection, appeared in the Society's Newsletter in 2014 (Issue 81; November 2014; Pages 27-29).