

**Correspondence between Farnham Maynard and Napier Waller**  
concerning the War Memorial Window

**Maynard to Waller**

December 12, 1946.

Dear Mr, Waller,

Thank you for looking in yesterday for a talk. I was very glad indeed to know that you would be willing to create our second window in the south transept to match the New Guinea window in the north.

I quite understand that we have to wait for it, and may not be able to get it in the next year; but I suppose it would not be unreasonable to hope for it in the following year. I know we should all rather wait and have it produced by yourself, than through impatience lose something that we feel you only can give us, which would be suitable and worthy to correspond to that which you have already provided.

The window would be erected as a Thankoffering for victory and peace, and in memory of those who gave their lives in the War.

Perhaps I might here set down a few of the thoughts which I expressed yesterday, and which are the outcome of some reflection upon the theme suggested and the manner of setting it out. These are preliminary suggestions only and we shall look to you for guidance in many matters of treatment as before, so that the window may have a unity and integrity about it, as well as being beautiful in its parts, just as the other.

Not only because of the extraordinary variety of types of service rendered in the last war, but also because of the infinite variety of types of service needed in building the Kingdom of God, it is suggested that the theme of the window might be the utterance of Christ "Wisdom is justified of all her children." The occasion you will remember was that in which some sneered at Him because He ate and drank, and then they sneered at St. John the Baptist because he did not. We should like the window to depict servants of God from different centuries, selected because of the different ways in which they served.

Then it seemed that the whole window should be treated in twelve panels, as before, and that each should not only show some saint or hero, but should show him in action of a characteristic kind. So the window would tell a story on the theme of the text. I was delighted to know that this thought appealed to you as a good one.

The very rough notes which I handed you yesterday were not intended in any way to fix the choice of subjects; but rather to convey the idea; and I think they need to be worked over again so that finally we get the best combination possible, taking in consideration the artistic treatment as well as the intellectual conception. We could perhaps have a further talk about this before very long, so that in your spare time, if you ever have any, you might dream about one or other of the panels.

In considering our plans we have assumed that the cost of the window will be the same as the last; if this should not be so will you please let me know.

My very kind regards to Mrs. Waller please. I was very glad to know that she was making good progress towards recovery.

Yours sincerely,

## Maynard to Waller

April 7, 1947.

Dear Mr. Waller,

It is a great satisfaction to me to be able to write to you definitely and ask you to undertake the window for us which we hope to see erected in the South Transept of St. Peter's, to match the beautiful window you have given us in the North Transept.

In conversation I think I told you that we had a discussion on this at our Annual Parishioners' Meeting at the end of February. The question then discussed was the suitability of placing this window in position as our War Memorial, and whether the general subject which I suggested was the best. The result of that discussion was an agreement that we should ask you to undertake the work, if you would be willing to do so. This has now been confirmed by the Parish Vestry and I have been asked to write to you requesting you to do this according to my letter to you of December 12th last. I was able to say that we had been in conversation about it and that you would do so, but could give no definite or early date for its accomplishment. We were all agreed that we would rather wait your own time than ask another artist to do the work for us.

I am enclosing a pamphlet just issued<sup>‡</sup> which will be of some interest to you I think, and will remind you of the plan we have already discussed. I shall look forward to a talk with you when you have the time so that at least some of the subjects and actions may be determined upon and that you may be able to dream about it at your leisure, and perhaps get out a preliminary colour sketch sometime, as you did for the first window.

I hope you had a good Easter and that Mrs. Waller is now in better health.

With all best wishes and thanks,

Yours sincerely,

---

<sup>‡</sup> The pamphlet Maynard refers to here is almost certainly the Easter Number of the **Parish Paper** for 1947. A transcript of the relevant sections of the *Vicar's Letter* from that issue is available from <http://www.stpeters.org.au/gallery/warwindow/papers/pp-warwindow.pdf> .

**Waller to Maynard**

Crown Road  
Ivanhoe. N21  
April

The Rev. Canon F. E. Maynard,  
St Peter's Vicarage.

Dear Canon Maynard,

Thank you for your letter to me and for enclosing your fine Easter Letter to your people. I have read the latter with great interest and admire the clearly stated appeal for the Spirit of Wisdom and a greater authority. It is a lead for the feelings of the people.

It was kind of you to again make a notice of the North window and further to connect me up with the South window project. I do find myself somewhat concerned about this and my immediate undertaking, which now is the Canberra War Memorial windows, and just how much I would be able to do, apart from a proper continuance of that work. I can think of nothing better than the end of 1948 or beginning 1949. Another mundane and rather awkward consideration, is that I cannot make the undertaking "work out" at less than £800. I realize I should have informed you of this before your intentions were published; and consequently I am completely content and in agreement if you decide that other arrangements be made, particularly because of my vague anticipations about time.

If however I am required to go on, I think we could begin at once on the subject matter and its disposition, so that I could make every opportunity to prepare the colour design and get some part of the work forward. So I could call on you on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 4 and 6 pm.

For your further information I should say that I am not committed to any other work than the Hall of Memory decoration at Canberra.

A reply was sent to Canon Robertson, Canberra, in which I explained a priority unsettled arrangement with yourself; and further made a suggestion about their design and subject. I have not heard from Canon Robertson, and take it that the long wait for the window is not suitable for his church.

A long standing promise to Rev. Ball, St John's Heidelberg, the preparation of a sketch for a "purification", I haven't yet fulfilled, but will submit that shortly. I doubt if my treatment of the subject is just what is wanted and this work may not develop further.

I will wait for a time from you if we are going to discuss the new subject matter together.

All best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Napier Waller.

**Waller to Maynard**

Crown Road  
Ivanhoe. N21  
12 . 4. 47

Dear Canon Maynard,

Since posting you yesterday, I have gone through some notes of cost in relation to the area of the window. After recalculating the measurements with a similar scale of treatment, I find that I should have quoted you £740 – for the group of three windows.

I am sorry that I made and posted this mistake of reckoning.

Yours sincerely,  
Napier Waller.

**Maynard to Waller**

April 15, 1947.

Dear Mr. Waller,

Thank you for your letter received a few days ago, and for your letter of the 12th in which you make a new estimate of the cost of the window. I was very glad that this, with the reduced figure reached me to-day because we had a Vestry Meeting this evening, and we were able to consider the first in the light of the second. We now understand that the window will cost £740.

I am now happy to be able to say that we unanimously decided to accept your estimate and desire you to proceed with the work. Of course we shall be glad if you find it possible to beat your time estimate.

You suggest coming in for a talk in the late afternoon on a Monday Wednesday or Friday. This would suit me excellently. May I suggest Wednesday 23rd. at 4.30 p.m. ?

Yours sincerely,

**Waller to Maynard**

Crown Road  
Ivanhoe.  
28 . 7. 48

Dear Canon Maynard,

Your suggestions for the three bottom panels of the window design are well in mind, but I have not been able to get at the drawing lately. However, I hope I will have something soon to bring to you.

I think the alterations should improve the design as a whole.

Yours sincerely,  
Napier Waller.