

GRAVE 68: Grave of JANE FRY, Jane's parents Ensign James MCCABE and ANN**Gravestone:****Colour:** Black slate**Position:** Horizontal surrounded by plastered by brick curbing. Script face west. Condition good.**Plot:** Brick curbing capped with cement. Cracked in places**Text:** In memory of Jane Fry 1816-1858 died Charlies Hope, Rondebosch. Devoted wife of the Rev. Jno. Fry, BA, RN. Rector of St Paul's 1840-1861. Died at sea Oct 1861, Aged 59.*There is a relief of left female hand with ring in left male hand.*

Her parents are buried with her. Ensign James McCabe d. 1849 and Ann d. 1860

This gravestone transcript is very confusing. It states that the parents of Jane FRY born McCABE, are buried with her, it then says 'Ensign James McCabe d 1849 and Ann d 1860' Her parents James and Ann McCabe were buried in this grave. James McCABE held the rank of Ensign, a fairly lowly rank for a man with a daughter aged 42 but see below on Jane's parents

Jane FRY born McCABE

Birth: According to her Death Notice she was born in Battle, Sussex, England. Her parents were James and Ann McCABE. As this was before the General Registration of BMD (1837), baptism records are required to give an accurate date of birth. No record of her baptism found. Estimated year of birth calculated from age on Death Notice

Marriage:

Jane McCABE married the Rev. John FRY on 8 October 1851 at St Paul's Church Rondebosch, where John Fry was rector. The service was conducted by Bishop Robert Gray. Witnesses were G W PRINCE – George Wilson PRINCE a Rondebosch resident whose son Edward Becher PRINCE was ordained in St Pauls (Deacon 1863, Priest 1871) and he also served as curate in the parish. The other witness was A. De SMIDT, most probably Abraham De SMIDT who owned Groote Schuur and was Surveyor-General of the Cape. Both the bride and groom are entered as being of Full Age – over 21 years. Jane was resident of Mowbray at the time.

DUPLICATE ORIGINAL REGISTER.

1851 Marriage solemnized at *Rondebosch*, in the Parish of *Rondebosch* District of *the Cape* 1851

No.	When married.	Names and Surnames.	Ages.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	After Banns or Licence.	Consent by whom given, or Judge's Order.
50	<i>October 8th 1851</i>	<i>John Fry</i> <i>Jane McCabe</i>	<i>Full Widow</i> <i>Full Spinster</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Rondebosch</i> <i>Mowbray</i>	<i>Banns</i>		

Married in *St Paul's Church* at *Rondebosch* —afore said, by me, *R. Capetown*

This Marriage was solemnized between us... *Jno. Fry* *Jane McCabe*

In the presence of *G.W. Prince* *A. de Smidt*

The St Paul's Marriage Register for John FRY's marriage to Jane McCABE in 1851

Death Notice

When this was researched, digital copies of Death Notices could not be download from www.familysearch.org 'due to copyright agreements' so a brief transcribe has been made.

MOOC 6/9/82 Ref. 5033

Filed 1 April 1858

Name: Jane FRY born McCABE's Death Notice**Birth Place:** Battle, Sussex, England**Parents:** James & Ann McCabe

Age: 42 years
Married: Married to the Rev Jno FRY
Date of Death: 29 March 1858
Where: Charlie's Hope, Rondebosch
Children: None
Property: Shares
Signed: Jno FRY

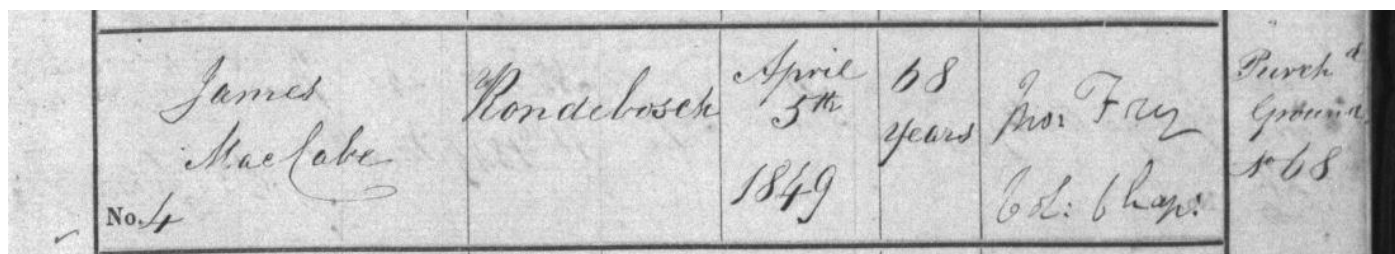
Note: Charlie's Hope was the Rev John Fry's property, approximately where Rustenberg Girls' High School is today. More information on John Fry and his eccentricity with collections of fauna and flora is given below.

There were no children from this marriage.

John FRY had two children from his first marriage to Catharina Reinira De Wet but only one survived for more than a year. This will be discussed below.

Research on Janes' parents

Jane's parents were James and Ann McCABE. According to the gravestone, James and Ann were interred with there daughter. This grave was in fact purchased to bury James McCABE and after his daughter's death, she was interred in the same grave as was James's wife and Jane's mother, Ann McCABE, when she died in 1860.



From the St Paul's Burial Register of 1849. Note that John Fry has added the grave no. in the margin.

James McCABE

According to his Death Notice, James McCABE was born in Lisburn, Ireland. Lisburn is a town about eight miles from Belfast in County Antrim. He died in 3rd Apr 1849 aged 68, so his birth would have been about 1781.

In most documents and on the gravestone, James is referred to as 'Ensign James McCabe of the 36th Foot Regiment.' Ensign is the most junior of commissioned ranks, thus implying that he had served in the 36th Regiment of Foot.

James's Death Notice also states that he had two children 'James and Jane – majors'. According to the Death Notice of Jane FRY born McCABE, she was born in Battle, Sussex.

The Army Service Record for Ensign James McCABE in the 36th Regiment of Foot was found online at The National Archives:

Reference: WO 25/792/35
Description: Folio 69.
Name: [James] McCabe.
Date of birth: 25 December 1779.
Place of birth: Lisburne, Ireland.
Regiment: 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment of Foot.
Enlisted as rank: Ensign; date: 8 September 1812. Last rank: Quartermaster; date: 10 May 1821.
Married: Ann Hopkins, date: 3 October 1799. Children: James, born: 10 June 1807, and Jane, born: 11 February 1810.
Retired: 12 October 1830.
Record Date: [1829]

The whole of this record makes interesting reading. It gives his place and date of birth. He was born in Lisburn, Ireland on 25 Dec 1779. It states that he was fifteen when he first entered the army. His commission to Ensign only happened when he was thirty-three years. This implies that he had served in the ranks for eighteen years. His next promotion occurred only in 1821, when he was created Quartermaster aged forty-two years. This was after the end

of the Napoleonic wars and thus promotion was slow and one can understand his decision to resign his commission in 1830 after thirty-six years' service in the army and not many prospects of promotion. The service record states: *Retired [can't read] of commendable service 12 Oct 1830*. The Hart's Army List of 1840 states that the Regiment embarked for overseas service in 1830. So perhaps James McCABE did not want to spend more time away from wife and family so decided to resign.

This service record does give us the name of James's wife and the date and place of their marriage. James married Ann HOPKINS in Cirencester, Gloucestershire on 3 Oct 1799. Two children are listed as born from this marriage: James born 10 Jun 1807 and Jane born 11 Feb 1810. This contradicts her age calculated from her date of death and age given on her Death Notice. She was in fact 48y not 42y.

The digital image is not of high quality and some words are impossible to read, however, his service is listed in the column headed: *List of battles, sieges and campaigns in which the officer was present...and the name of the officer in the chief command*. Here it says: *Pyrenees 20 + 30 July; Nivelle 10 Nov 1813; Toulouse Apr 1814 under General the Duke of Wellington*. Further down the column it states: *Served in regiment 1794 prior to appointment as Ensign with action at [can't read the next few words] ... at Salamanca*. In the column headed: *Wounds received in Action specifying when, where and on what occasion. What grant of pay has been received; rate of pension date and whether permanent or temporary*. Here the wounds James received in action are given as follows: *Nivelle 10 Nov 1813 Gunshot wound through the shoulder. Toulouse 10 April 1814 gunshot wound through head and [can't read.]* *Payed [sic] a permanent pension of £50 per annum from 1815*.

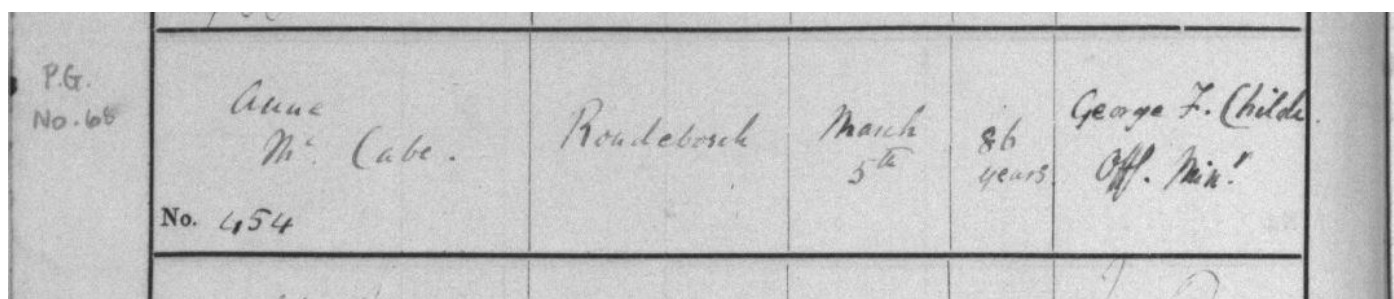
After the resignation from his commission the question arises, when did he, his wife and Jane (and possibly James junior) come to the Cape Colony?

Jane's Mother: Ann McCABE born HOPKINS

Beside her marriage, no record of baptism was found.

I could find no Death Notice but this is not uncommon for wives.

She was buried at St Paul's in the same grave as her husband and daughter.



Jane's Brother James McCABE junior

James jnr. Father's service record gives his birth as 10 Jun 1807 and under the column 'Where baptised?' it states 'Swindon Wilts.'. If James and Anne McCabe came to the Cape immediately on retirement, James jnr would have been twenty-three years and Jane would have been eighteen. I could find no 'James McCabe' that could be definitely son of James and Anne.

John FRY

Although not buried in this grave, as husband of Jane a short biography is necessary.

Birth: Desford, Leicestershire 13 April, 1802 and baptised 20 May 1802.

Parents: John FRY and Martha born LARKIN. John FRY (1775-1845) had attended University College, Oxford University obtaining a BA. He was ordained deacon on 18 Oct 1798 by Bp of Salisbury. In the Clergy Database no date of ordination to the priesthood given. He served his curacy in Dewhurst and appointed Rector of Desford on 2 Mar

1801 and stipendiary curate of Enderby on 18 Mar 1814. He diedMartha FRY born LARKIN was born 1781 – her death is not listed on familysearch.org

John FRY's Career

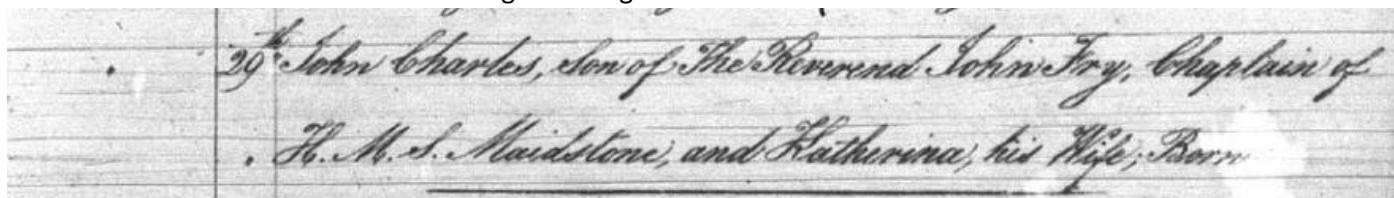
John FRY sometimes called **John Larkin FRY** was educated at home by his father. He went on to Cambridge University where he was admitted as sizar¹ at the age of nineteen at Trinity College, on 4 Dec. 1820. He matriculated in Michaelmas Term 1821 and obtained a B.A. degree in 1826. The Clergy Database lists his ordination to the diaconate on 29 May 1825 and to the priesthood on 24 September 1826, both by Bishop George Pelham, Bishop of Lincoln. He served his curacy at Thornton with Bagworth from 29 May 1825 and Cadeby on 15 Dec 1828. However, in *Messengers, Watchmen and Steward* Wim De Villiers states he became 'Chaplain, Royal Navy and first arrived at Cape Station on the brig *Narcissus* in 1827. He returned aboard HMS *Maidstone* in 1828 and returned aboard HMS *Maidstone* on 6 Feb 1831.'²

While here in the Cape in 1828 he married on 2 Dec 1828 to **Catharina Reinera de WET**. The website *Acta Militaria* dealing with HMS *Maidstone* mentions the ships movement to Simons Town, leaving Plymouth on 28 Feb 1828. By the end of the year John Fry was married. The *Maidstone* spent time in Mauritius in 1829-1830 before returning to Simon's Town in late 1830. The ship remained at the Cape during 1831. The site states: *The chaplain, Rev John Fry was a keen astronomer. Cape Town had had an observatory since 1828 and the director, Mr Fallows, developed a high opinion of Fry, so much so that when Fallows died in July 1831, Fry ran the observatory until a replacement could be appointed.* John FRY served at the Observatory until 1832. Brain Warner writes 'The assistant's lodging in the East Wing were occupied by the Reverend John Fry and his wife, the latter of whom suffered from Leprosy'.

After Lieutenant W. Meadows, who came to the Cape to be first assistant at the Observatory, had arrived from England on 4 November 1831, John FRY became SPG³ Missionary in Cape Town 1836-37; Chaplain to juvenile emigrants⁴ and freed slaves until 1838; SPG Missionary in Wynberg 1838 and Vygekraal⁵ 1839-1840. It was at Vyge Kraal that his first wife, Catherina Ryniera FRY born DE WET died. See below. John FRY served as Provisional Chaplain of Wynberg from 1840 and appointed Colonial Chaplain in 1843 and Priest in charge St Paul's Rondebosch. He was licensed at St Paul's on 2 Aug 1848 served until 1861 when he was granted twelve months leave-of-absence in 1861.

Marriages:

1. **Catharina Reinera de WET**. Also known as Catherina Ryniera DE WET. She has a variety of spellings for her second name. She was born about 1810 – from her Death Notice and membership of the DRC Cape Town aged 16 in 1826. In the DE WET family on geni.com she is listed as daughter of **Johannes Carolus DE WET** and **Helena Carolina** born **KIRKMAN** born 10 Jul 1810. Her de Villiers-Parma number is b6c10d3e6.
 - a. She married the Rev **John FRY** on 2 Dec 1828 in the Groote Kerk but by the Rev. George HOUGH, the Anglican Colonial Chaplain of Cape Town. This information is given by Prof Brian Warner in his notes on Astronomers at the Royal Observatory, Cape Town but in the online records of the Wits Anglican Archives are extremely difficult to obtain an image.
 - b. Children:
 - i. **John Charles FRY** b. 23 Sep 1831 bapt 29 Nov 1831 – St George CT d. 1 Dec 1831 buried 2 Dec 1831 St George's CT Registers



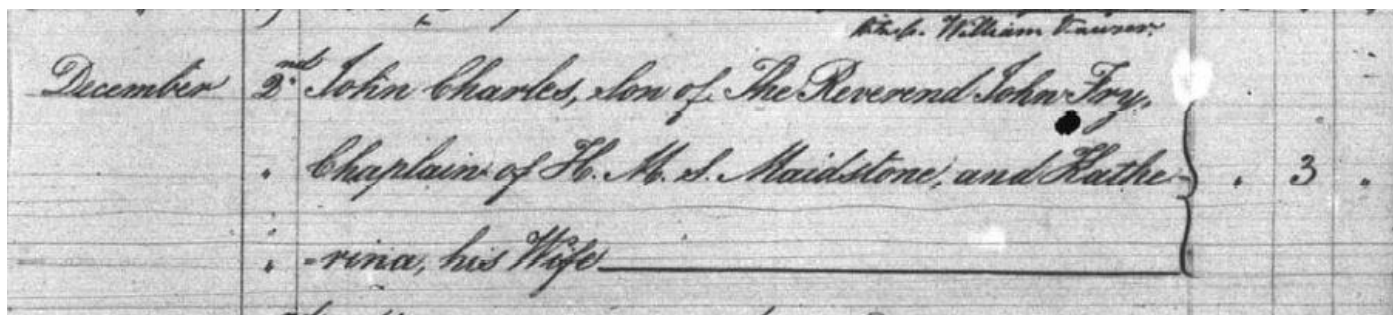
¹ Sizar is an undergraduate at Cambridge University, receiving financial help from the college and formerly having certain menial duties.

² William de Villiers, *Messengers, Watchmen and Stewards*. (Wits University: Johannesburg. 1998) p76-77

³ Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

⁴ This could be children sent out to the Cape by the British Children's Friendly Society

⁵ Vyge Krall is most probably the Cape Flats area

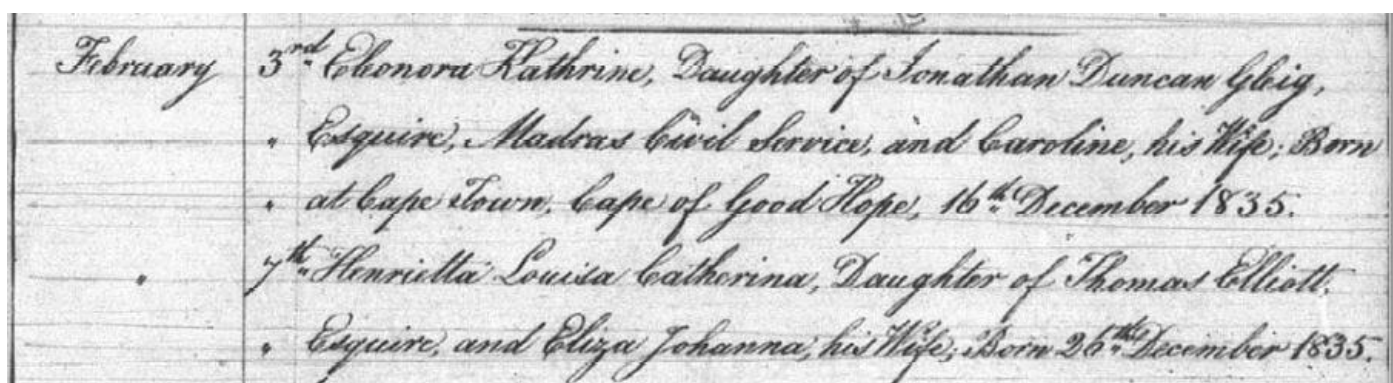


- ii. **John Larkin FRY** b 17 April 1838 and baptised at St George's CT on 10 Sep 1838. On 7 Aug 1862 he married **Jane Elizabeth ARMSTRONG**. They had the following children: Ursula Jane Tayler; Ivan Armstrong Fry; Harold Armstrong Fry; Courtland Armstrong Fry; John Robert Hope Fry; Iris Margery Fry Miriam Josephine Jousse
John Larkin FRY worked as head of security for De Beers in Kimberley
 He died 25 November 1888 in Kimberley Hospital. His wife, **Jane Elizabeth FRY** born **Armstrong** died in 1910.

2. **Jane McCABE**

Jane's information is given above

3. **Henrietta Louisa Catherina ELLIOTT** married **John FRY** on 11 Jan 1861 at St Paul's, Rondebosch by the Rev John QUINN. **Louisa ELLOIT** was born 26 Dec 1835 and baptised at St George's Cape Town on 7 Feb 1836.



Henrietta Louisa Catherine ELLIOTT married again after John FRY's death to **Alfred de??? LOUW**. She died 22 Jan 1876 in Green Point.

John FRY's DEATH

Died: 25 October 1861 on board the ship *Earl of Hardwicke* on his way to UK. His Death Notice gives the exact latitude and longitude of where he died.

Death Notice abbreviated transcript as digital images cannot be downloaded.

MOOC 6/9/98 Ref 9307/62 filed 17th January 1862

Name: Reverend John FRY B.A.

Born: Desford, Leicestershire, England

Parents: Revd John Fry Rector of Desford and his wife Larkin Christian name not known

Age: sixty years

Condition of life: Chaplain in the Royal Navy & Colonial Chaplain of Rondebosch

Married or unmarried: married by antenuptial contract to Louisa Elliot & twice married previously

Day of death: Twenty five October 1861

Where: on board the ship *Earl of Hardwick* on his voyage to England in Lat 17° 57' N Long 30° 36' W

Children: John Larkin FRY, major by the first marriage

Property: Landed & moveable & shares in joint stock companies

Signed: John L. Fry

The Landed property referred to on the Death Notice is most probably Charlies Hope in Rondebosch.

JOHN FRY'S CHARACTER:

Brian Wartner in his notes of Cape Astronomers sums it up well:

He had a reputation for eccentricity, but was a successful gardener and an exceptionally keen naturalist with numerous correspondents. In 1840 he informed the government of the Cape Colony that he and others were about to undertake an expedition from Algoa Bay to the Roshan Mountains [not identified], and would be crossing the boundary of the colony. In 1845 he wrote a letter to the editor of the South African Commercial Advertiser in support of the establishment of a botanic garden in Cape Town and three years later subscribed two guineas to the project. In his letter of 1845 he drew attention to a request by the Earl of Derby, who was then president of the Zoological Society of London, for live animals. Subsequently he wrote 72 letters to the Earl in connection with the export of live animals from the Cape to England.

In 1856-1857, and again in 1861, Fry was acting curator of the South African Museum for short periods, during the absence of curator E.L. Layard*. Around 1860 he served on the committee of the Cape of Good Hope Horticultural and Floricultural Society. He was granted leave in 1861 and was presumably on his way to Britain when he died at sea. The non-marine mollusc *Pupa fryana* was named after him by W.H. Benson.

His Churchmanship etc is discussed in Appendix A

Appendix A

Robert Gray said of the Rev John Fry, that he was '*an old Naval Chaplain, an Establishment man, who has no views about the Church*'

I find this quote difficult to interpret exactly what Robert Gray meant. Yes, John Fry had been a Royal Navy chaplain. The fact that Robert Gray used an upper case 'E' in 'Establishment man' is surely significant. I suspect he was using the term Establishment to mean a supporter of 'the Church established'. According to Britannica website, an 'established church is a church recognized by law as the official church of a state or nation and supported by civil authority.' This is what the Church of England in England was and still is.

This came about through the English Reformation in the 16th Century. The overall control of the Church in England was removed from the hands of the Pope and placed into the hands of the monarch who became the new titular head of the Church of England. The Monarch was more or less the sole the civil authority at that time. As time passed, the monarchy underwent change itself as it became a constitutional monarchy. Although the monarch was the head of the church, because of the acts creating the constitutional monarch, it was parliament and in particular the government and the Prime Minister who had the legal authority in decision making in the Church.

In the 1830s and 1840s the so-called Tractarian or Oxford Movement expressed their disapproval of the parliament's role in the governing of the Church. Gray is often portrays as being a supporter of this movement. When he was made Bishop of Cape Town, he wanted the local church to govern itself by means of synods. This was necessary as the majority of the population of the Cape were not part of the Anglican Church but of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk or Dutch Reformed Church. In 1851, Gray called his clergy together for a meeting to discuss the formation of a synod and to discuss whether laity should be admitted to it. But it was only in 1857 that a Synod of both laity and clergy was called. Five parishes in Cape Town failed to obey the call. Most sources list the three Evangelical Parishes in the Diocese, Holy Trinity, St Peter's Mowbray and St John's Wynberg. The other one I know of was St Paul's, Rondebosch led by the Rev John FRY who had felt that unless the Queen called a synod it was illegal and his vestry⁶ supported him on this. Therefore, they did not send lay representatives to the Synod. The views expressed by the Rev John Fry by this action were in support of the Diocese of Cape Town being part of the Church of England as Established and thus Bishop Gray could call him 'an Establishment man.'

The rest of the Gray's comment seems to me to contradict the first part. His refusal to attend the 1857 Synod and expressing this view to the Vestry so that laity from Rondebosch also did not attend, indicates a view of the Church, which might be contrary to Bishop Gray but still a view point.

Bishop Gray had been hoping that the British Parliament would pass a bill validating the calling of Synods within Colonial dioceses but lawyers had assured him that a) there was no reasonable doubt to the calling of diocesan synod was legal, b) that if the Imperial Parliament passed such a bill it would be an interference in the administration of those colonies with a representative government (such as the Cape Colony at that time) and c) it might appear to give the Church of England a legal status superior to that of other religious bodies (Brooke, 72). The Church of the Province of South (later Southern) Africa was formed with its own Canons and Constitution which synods created and still continue to amend today. The Anglican Church in South Africa now called The Anglican Church of Southern Africa is Episcopally led but synodically governed without interference from the civil authorities.

⁶ Under the Rondebosch Church act of 1845, the parish was administered by a Vestry of elected men. Today they would be called, the Parish Council.