




One Hundred Years

*A
Message
from the
Minister*



A great deal of planning, working and praying has been done during recent years in preparation for this great occasion — our Centenary. It has done us good to make these preparations. We have seen something of the result in the material improvements to our church property, but, at the same time, we have been conscious that the effort has brought this blessing — the members of the congregation have been challenged in their own lives and have been drawn closer to one another.

We are convinced that this occasion must be more than a mere milestone in our history marking the end of an era. It must be, if it is to be a worthy event, an occasion which vindicates again the faith of the pioneers. In lonely surroundings and difficult circumstances, men and women became utterly convinced that a Divine compulsion was laid

upon them to witness to simple New Testament faith. Their faith demands on our part, at this time, sacrifice and dedication.

We are persuaded that unless we make this occasion to be, in a very real way, a declaration of our own faith, we shall prove ourselves unfaithful to the heritage of the past and unmindful of the demands of the times in which we live.

Therefore, let us declare our faith that Jesus Christ alone is the Hope of the world. Believing that He has committed to the church both the faith and the power, let us go on from this occasion into the new century. And, being conscious of a Divine imperative, let us make our witness to the grace of God in Christ relevant to the needs of our day.

R. C. BOLDUAN.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Chesterville Road Cheltenham, Victoria
1857 — 1957

The Story of a Century

BEGINNING AND DEVELOPMENT

It is stated in early records that a church of Christ pleading for New Testament Christianity took root in this district in the latter part of 1857. There was, in fact, a beginning in the northern end of the district and a beginning in the southern end. Within a very few years the cause at Chesterville and the cause at Beaumaris came together and became the cause at Cheltenham.

The main facts, briefly, are these. James Keir and his wife came from Crossfields, Scotland, to settle in Nepean Road and immediately set up the Lord's Table in their new home. They were ultimately joined by others, notably brethren Organ, Penny, Potts King and Walker.

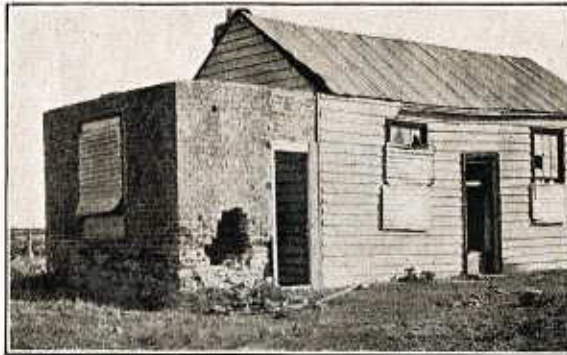
Thomas Walker and his wife had come from Chester, England, and the area in which they made their home became known as Chesterville. Meetings were first held in the respective homes of James Keir and Thomas Walker, but by 1859 a chapel had been built near the corner of Wickham and Chesterville Roads. Associated in this work were the following brethren: Ruse, Sears, Fairlam, Brough, Cameron, Allen, LePage, Meeres, Perry, Monk and Holdsworth.

In 1858 a cause started in Beaumaris. At the end of some diligent searching of the Scriptures, H. Hilliar and S. Judd came to this new position and, after having been immersed by the Baptist minister at Brighton, they commenced meetings in the Charman home on the

corner of Balcombe and Charman Roads. Into that fellowship came the following families: Charman, Moysey, Fisher, Ruse, Hayes and Bodley. By 1860 or 1861 a chapel had been built on the corner of Patty Street and Charman Road. This building was enlarged in 1866 and became the home of both groups, Beaumaris and Chesterville, about 1870.

Five years later the church was ready to begin a new venture. Feeling somewhat removed from the centre of the district, members decided to secure the Mechanics' Institute in Nepean Road for Sunday evening services. The success of that venture led to the buying of land in Chesterville Rd., close to Nepean Rd., and the erection of a brick chapel in 1878. The architect for the building was J. Brough, and the builder was Mr. Evans of Ballarat. Mrs. Charles Brough laid the foundation stone and the chapel was opened for worship on December 8 of that year.

This period of development and growth laid the foundation for the work in the years which have followed. After eighty years there yet remains ample room for expansion in the future, and the original building, incorporated now with later additions, is a constant reminder of the quality of the work of the pioneers. During the years, some alterations have been made to the original chapel of 1878. Some interior alterations were made about 1930. Then, in 1956, in preparation for the centenary, further alterations were made as follows: a new ceiling at a



Remains of first chapel, Chesterville Road, opened 1859 or 1860. This picture was taken in 1937 since when the building has been demolished.

lower level; new windows as memorials to some of the early members; new choir gallery; elevated baptistry; a new pulpit. At the front of the chapel, in place of the former porch, a large entrance porch together with a nursery or crying room for parents with very young children, was built. At the rear, between the chapel and the school hall, a minister's study, robing rooms, board room and modern kitchen were added. The centenary building plan has not yet been completed. It includes the erection of a building at the rear of the present kindergarten and primary hall to provide urgently needed extra accommodation.

Architects for the additions to chapel were Plaisted and Warner, builder, J. L. Richards.

CHURCH OFFICERS AND MINISTERS

Throughout its long history the church has been loyally and efficiently served by many brethren who have given years of dedicated service as elders or deacons. Church secretaries have been: W. Ruse, W. Meeres, R. W. Tuck (who served for over 40 years), L. Hutchinson, F. E. J. Smith, E. G. Brough, F. T. Daff and the present holder of that office, C. L. Ward. Church treasurers have been: E. T. Penny, W. H. Barnett, F. W. Martin, S. W. Hayes, M. W. Daff, R. A. Kemp and the present treasurer, C. A. Ferris.

We record, too, the names of those who, through the years, have been the min-

isters of the church and preachers of the gospel: A. H. Bryant, T. H. Bates, W. T. Clapham, H. Goodacre, J. P. Wright, C. Moore, W. H. Martin, W. Stevenson, G. B. Moysey, J. Pittman, M. W. Green, W. Judd, J. Strang, H. Mahon, T. B. Fischer, A. P. Wilson, S. H. Mudge, P. R. Baker, G. P. Pittman, D. Wakeley, A. Brooke, J. E. Allan, V. C. Stafford, J. C. Cunningham, and the present minister, R. C. Bolduan.

YOUTH WORK

An early record says that "the possibilities of the early training of the children were not forgotten by our worthy pioneers." At Chesterville in 1859, and at Beaumaris in 1863, Bible Schools were commenced by the brethren. This work has been continued and developed down through the years. In 1902 a school hall was built, C. Fleming McDonald being the architect and supervisor. This has served admirably as the centre of our work among the young, but it soon proved inadequate for the overall task. The demands of kindergarten work led to the building of the "E. T. Penny Hall" and this in turn was enlarged in 1936 to meet the needs of the school. All this has been made possible by the devoted service of numerous workers who have been led by such superintendents as T. Walker (first superintendent at Chesterville), W. Ruse (first superintendent at Beaumaris), R. Judd, C. Brough, E. T. Penny, R. W. Tuck, F. Chipperfield, H. Brough, F. T. Daff, R. W. Barnett and the present superintendent, B. E. Ward.

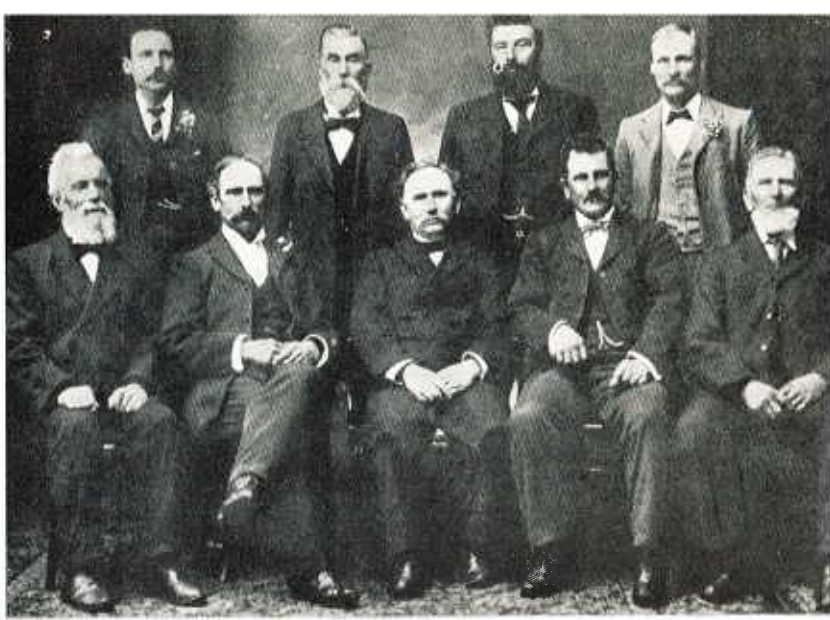
Youth auxiliaries have been established during the years to meet the needs of changing days. A Drum and Fife Band at the turn of the century, Kappa Sigma Pi and Phi Beta Pi Clubs, Christian Endeavour Societies, Young Worshippers' League. Present youth groups



The chapel as it appeared in 1956 before alterations were made. The paling fence was replaced some years before by a brick parapet.

**BOARD OF OFFICERS,
1909**

Standing: H. Foreman, R. L. Judd, W. Woff, S. Organ.
Seated: W. Judd, R. W. Tuck, H. Mahon (minister), W. H. Barnett, J. Fisher.



BOARD OF OFFICERS, 1937

Back Row: G. Brough, W. Neil, L. F. Thomas, E. G. Brough, A. M. Daff, R. Barnett, W. A. Follett, M. W. Daff.
Front Row: E. A. LePage, H. Brough, F. E. J. Smith, G. Organ, E. Mansfield, S. W. E. Hayes, W. H. Hayes.

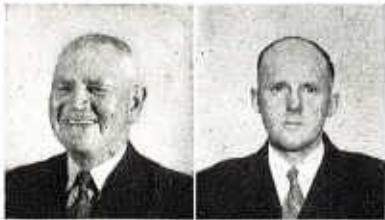




BOARD OF OFFICERS, 1957

Standing: R. W. Barnett, C. A. Ferris (Treas.), S. W. Deane, J. R. Acquiroff, P. Payne, B. E. Ward.
 Seated: M. W. Daff (Elder), V. D. Wallington (Elder), C. L. Ward (Secretary), R. C. Bolduan (Minister),
 F. T. Daff (Elder), V. C. Stafford (Elder).

Absent when above photograph
 was taken:
 R. Barnett, W. F. White.



are Good Companions (girls), Explorers (boys), and Christian Youth Fellowship. The Mothers' Club conducts a gymnasium for girls. Tennis and cricket clubs provide recreational activities within the church fellowship. All these agencies have proved to be a real help to the work among young people.

THE MINISTRY OF PRAISE

A very valuable ministry has been exercised by those with musical abilities. The many members of the choir have given unstinted and consecrated service, adding to the beauty and effectiveness of the worship of the church. We record with gratitude the work of the choir masters who have led the choir in such a grand way: R. and J. Judd, G. Daff, E. Green, G. Clayton, J. Simpson, F. Chipperfield, C. Judd, H. Mitchell, J. Y. Buckley and our present leader Valentine Woff.

Many have helped as organists and pianists through the years. Very many years of devoted service have been given by the present organiste, Miss F. Brough and pianiste, Mrs. V. Woff.

WOMEN'S WORK

Many women have shared ably in the joys and struggles of the church. It is impossible to measure the value of their varied contributions. They have generously worked and given for the centenary building project.

Over the years service has been given through a variety of organisations — Deaconesses, Dorcas Society, Women's Mission Band, Snowball Society, Young Women's Fellowship, and Mothers' Club. Since 1956 the women's groups have been co-ordinated in the Christian Women's Fellowship which, in its turn, links the work with the State, Federal and World organisations of the same name.

MEN'S WORK

Various men's groups have existed for study, fellowship and Christian action. More recently the Christian Men's Society was established. This group sponsored and carried out, in addition to numerous other projects, the landscaping of the grounds surrounding the chapel and the new manse acquired in 1956.



DEACONESSES

Miss A. Brough, Mrs. A. E. Vennell,
Mrs. V. D. Wallington (seated).

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

Standing: T. Frazer, S. W. Deane, Miss A. Brough, M. W. Daff, Mrs. J. N. Ayers, Mrs. S. W. Deane, Mrs. G. Hall, Mrs. M. Bellgrove.

Seated: Mrs. L. W. Monish, Mrs. M. Ward, Mrs. V. C. Stafford, Mrs. J. Botterill, Mrs. K. Allan, Mrs. M. W. Daff.





CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF Back Row: R. W. Barnett, F. T. Daff, J. R. Acqueroff, G. L. Daff, G. J. Stevenson (Treasurer), P. Payne, C. A. Ferris, B. H. Whitehead.
 Middle Row: V. C. Stafford, T. Frazer, Miss A. Brough, L. M. Stafford (Secretary), B. E. Ward (Superintendent), Mrs. S. W. Deane, Miss M. G. Deane, W. Gray.
 Front Row: Mrs. J. Botterill, Miss R. Bolduan, Mrs. F. H. Heber, Miss M. Bolduan, Miss J. Follett, Miss L. Griffiths, Mrs. F. Spivey, Mrs. R. Verity, Mrs. R. Cleworth.
 Absent: Misses V. Thomas, J. Morey, P. Judd, Mrs. C. A. Ferris, Mrs. E. Whitehead, R. Verity, R. Cleworth, J. McCarthy.

Below: Chapel and Main School Hall, Pine Street frontage.

Right: Interior of Chapel.





CHOIR Fourth Row: B. H. Whitehead, P. Payne, W. Gray, E. Mansfield, F. T. Daff, R. W. Barnett, G. Murray, A. A. J. Lake.
 Third Row: G. L. Daff, Miss M. Bolduan, Miss R. Bolduan, Miss M. Judd, Miss W. Combridge, Miss Y. Barnett, Mrs. R. C. Bolduan, Mrs. V. C. Stafford.
 Second Row: V. C. Stafford, Miss G. Colvin, Mrs. A. A. J. Lake, Mrs. A. Richards, Mrs. E. Mansfield, Mrs. W. A. Follett, Mrs. K. Adams, Mrs. R. G. Judd.
 Front Row: Mrs. V. Woff (pianiste), V. Woff (conductor), Miss F. Brough (organiste).
 Absent: Mrs. B. H. Whitehead, Mrs. C. A. Ferris.



Centenary Celebrations

Guest Speaker: G. R. STIRLING, B.A.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 — CENTENNIAL SOCIAL.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 —

11 a.m., Worship: "TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS." Anthem: "O Saviour of the World."
(Broadcast 3LO).

7 p.m., "WHO MADE GOD?" Anthem: "Hear My Prayer." Soloiste: Jean Milne.

SPECIAL WEEKNIGHT MEETINGS — 7.45 p.m., OCTOBER 21 to 24.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 — CENTENNIAL RECEPTION, Brighton Town Hall (by invitation). Musical and vocal items by Max Olding (piano), Ron Smyth (violin), Mrs. C. G. Taylor, Valentine Woff, Keith Hall.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 — CENTENNIAL CONCERT by Victorian Churches of Christ Choral Society. Conductor: Valentine Woff. Pianiste: B. Winifred Lee. Assisting artists.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 — CENTENARY SUNDAY .

11 a.m., Worship: "CHURCH AT HELL CORNER." Anthem: "I Waited for the Lord."

3 p.m., P.S.A. Speaker: REX MATHIAS, M.A., Dip.R.Ed., "THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD."
Soloiste: Betty Fairbank.

Buffet Tea in Hall.

7 p.m., "YOU TOO CAN LIVE!" Anthem: "Jesus Shall Reign." Soloist: Valentine Woff.

After Church Fellowship.

WOMEN'S Work — 32nd Birthday Rally — TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2 p.m. —

President: Mrs. M. Ward; Devotional Leader: Mrs. G. R. Stirling; Speaker: G. R. Stirling.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2.30 p.m. — GALLERY OF SCHOLARS' PROJECTS illustrating Christian Education today. Girls' Gymnasium Display. Afternoon Tea.

TEMPLE DAY CENTENARY OFFERING.

GORDON R. STIRLING, graduate of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, gained Bachelor of Arts degree at New Zealand University. Served churches at Lower Hutt and Palmerston North, New Zealand, before being appointed Dominion Youth Director. Called to Australia to become Youth Director for South Australia in 1945. In 1953 appointed the first minister of the newly formed Canberra church. Church in Canberra has grown from seven members in 1951 to 111 today. Sunday School, commenced in 1954 with a handful of children, now has enrolment of 210. Five youth groups total 176 members — the largest Christian youth work in the Federal capital.



WE WOULD BE BUILDING!

At the close of one hundred years we salute those who went before us. Many of them are known only by name to the present membership, but their works remain. "Others have laboured and you have entered into their labour."

Our task remains the same as theirs—to bear witness to the grace of God in Christ Jesus and to make disciples. Our situation is different, however, and we will need a spirit, an approach and methods fitted to this hour.

"New occasions teach new duties;
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of truth."

With a church membership of 247 and a school enrolment of over 300, we face the challenge of a new day, right here in our community and in the mission of Christianity to the world.

● This district is rapidly changing from a rural centre to an industrial and residential suburb. Hundreds of homes have been built in the last few years and hundreds more are soon to be erected. This calls for outreach and a wider ministry.

● As a people we have pleaded for Christian union. That plea is no longer distinctive but our plan for unity remains distinctive. We have a mission to other Christian people, "our dear brethren of all denominations," as Thomas Campbell called them. We have a new opportunity to make our contribution in the modern ecumenical movement. Our witness can only be made in relationship with other Christians.

● In the last 100 years invention has followed invention with incredible swiftness, bringing us into the atomic age. It is an era fraught with tremendous possibility for the good or ill of all mankind. For the Christian Church, the brotherhood of mankind can be only brotherhood in Christ, built not on human achievement, but on divine forgiveness and divine love.

We are both God's building and God's builders. The years ahead demand an outreaching church — informed, concerned, committed. Let us resolve that we shall not offer to the Lord that which costs us nothing. Our life, our time, our talents, our treasure are all His Who is the Church's one foundation.

*Men who to me are but a thought
Worked here before I came.
That I build well on what they
wrought
Is Duty's silent claim.*

*Men who will not know I was here
Will build on stones I lay.
The making of their distant year
Is in my hands today.*

*And so we come, and so we go;
But when the walls stand fair
Against the future's sky, I know
My labour will be there.*

*Though patternless the task may
seem
Today, a promise sealed,
It is a portion of a dream
Some day to be revealed.*

—Clarence Edwin Flynn.

What we stand for . . .

For the Christ of Galilee,
For the truth which mak men
free,

For the bond of unity
Which makes God's
dren one.

For the love which shines in
deeds,

For the life which this world
needs,



For the Church whose triumph
speeds

The prayer: "Thy will be
done."

For the right against the wrong,
For the weak against the strong,
For the poor who've waited long
For the brighter age to be.

For the faith against tradition,
For the truth 'gainst supersti-
tion,

For the hope whose glad fruition
Our waiting eyes shall see.

For the City God is rearing,
For the New Earth now appear-
ing,

For the heaven above us clear-
ing,

And the song of victory.

—*J. H. Garrison.*