

# Golden Square Methodist Church

## Centenary Celebrations . . . Church Anniversary . . . 30th MARCH 1952

### MINISTER

Rev. Walter Bampton, L.Th.

### CHURCH TRUST

J. C. Chamney

E. W. Shipp

J. Crothers

T. E. Shipp

E. I. Harvey, (Hon. Treasurer)

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W. J. Thomas

C. C. Jorgenson, (Hon. Secretary)

N. C. Thirlwell

J. E. Mamouney

A. E. Tredinnick

Cr. G. A. Pethard  
(also Mayor of Bendigo in 1952)

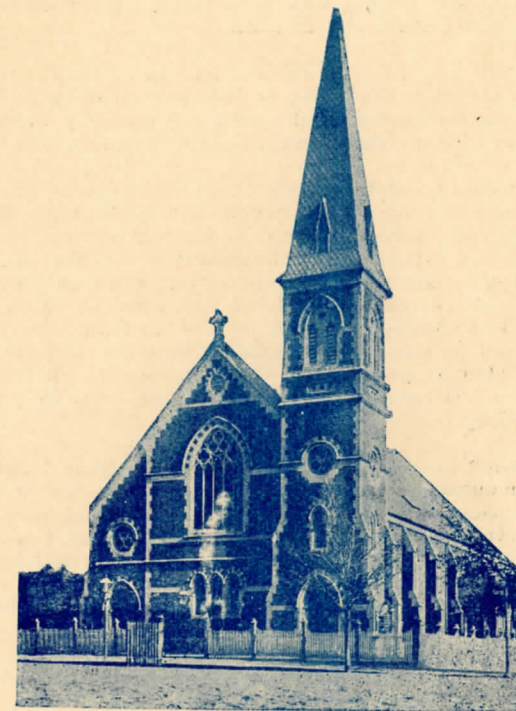
M. Warne

S. Williams

Church Choirmaster: Mr. C. Warne

Church Organist: Mr. H. Jones

# Golden Square Methodist Church



## Centenary

## 1852 - 1952



CENTENARY OF  
GOLDEN SQUARE METHODIST CHURCH  
1852 — 1952

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The Church Trustees, in their desire to fittingly celebrate one hundred years of Methodism at Golden Square, has prepared the following historical record, and memento of the occasion, for the information of members and friends.

It will also be a permanent tribute of thanks to Almighty God for the blessings that have been showered upon us during the past century, as evidenced by the imposing property which has been handed on for us to preserve and maintain for those who will follow.

It would be quite impossible, in the space set apart, to compile a complete record of the events connected with our beloved Church in its 100 years of history — for our purpose it will suffice to touch on some of the most outstanding in our church life. As a goldfield, Bendigo dates from October, 1851 when gold was first discovered at Golden Square — and the first place at which the gospel was preached in Bendigo was also at Golden Square for, in March, 1852, attracted by the news of gold in Bendigo, a number of men came to the district from South Australia, one of whom was James Jeffrey, a local preacher who was later to be widely known as "Jimmy" Jeffrey.

Golden Square was then part of the green bush and, consequently he mounted a stump as his pulpit. A tent was used for some time subsequently a wooden building that had been used as a store was purchased and when removed, renovated and cleaned, made rather a fine building for those early days in which to conduct Divine Service. This first church was erected at the end of the year 1852 on the ground of the present Sunday School buildings.

The first minister who came to this district was the Rev. Mr. Symons. He was stationed at Forest Creek, Castlemaine, and paid a visit of inspection about the end of the year 1852 but, owing to illness, was unable to do any pastoral work on that occasion. He returned in May 1853, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Chapman. He then spent a Sabbath well filled with ministerial labour. Starting from the hut near Camp Reserve, Castlemaine where he passed the night, he rode to Kangaroo Flat, thence to Eaglehawk, Long Gully and Golden Square, where he held open-air services. In August of the same year, the Rev. Thomas Raston came to take charge and, at the close of 1853, was able to report that there were five places of worship in use in Golden Square and district.

The Rev. Mr. Curry, who was also a minister in the same year, introduced to Methodism that great institution — "the tea meeting" — the first being held at Golden Square in June, 1853. The Rev. Joseph Dare arrived in 1857 and the great event, during his stay was undoubtedly the building of the new church for, in 1859, he and the other church leaders, purchased an allotment of land for £30, as a site for a new stone church, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Rev. Daniel J. Draper in April, 1859,

and the church was opened for Divine services on December 11th, by the Rev. Mr. Draper. This church, which was at the time and for many years after, the cathedral of Methodism, did duty for years until more room was required.

The foundation stone of the new large church was laid on January 5th, 1870 by Mr. Richard Allingham. This part of the church was opened on Sunday, May 11th, 1870, the preacher being the Rev. Joseph Dare. The church was completed in 1873.

The first minister to be stationed at Golden Square was the Rev. Richard Hart, and from then, onwards to the present day, a succession of faithful ambassadors for Christ have occupied the pulpit.

The Diamond Jubilee of our Church was celebrated on 28th April, 1912, when the Rev. William Shaw who was our resident minister at the Jubilee celebrations in 1902, conducted the three services. It is worthy of note that the Rev. William Shaw was in South Australia at the time and, some 60 years before, "Jimmy" Jeffrey also of South Australia was our first preacher.

The next and all important event in the history of our Church is its centenary to be celebrated this year and, at the very outset we desire to express grateful thanks to Almighty God for bringing us thereto.

To commemorate the beginning of the spiritual life in Golden Square and the District of Bendigo, three special services will be held on Sunday, 30th March, 1952 and, in preparation for this outstanding event, structural alterations have been carried out in the church. The pipe organ, which has been in use for over eighty years, has been rebuilt and brought up to date at considerable cost and is now one of the best instruments in the Bendigo district. A Local Preachers' Fellowship Meeting will also be held. These services will be preceded by a banquet and public meeting on Saturday, 29th March, 1952.

Then, in August, 1952, a series of social events will be arranged, including a renewal of the well known "Augustonian Fair" and a "Back to Golden Square Methodist Church" whereby an opportunity will be given to all those desiring to return and enter into the festivities which will mark such a historic event.

In conclusion we would very much like to mention herein the names of all those who have served and are at present serving our Church in spiritual, financial and social spheres — and what a loyal and faithful number of men and women — but, again, space will not permit and, furthermore, in so doing it is quite possible to overlook some names and thereby an injustice would be done; therefore, we now pay our sincere tribute TO ONE AND ALL.

"Our Father, by whose servants  
Our house was built of old,  
Whose hand hath crowned her children  
With blessings manifold  
For thine unfailing mercies  
Far strewn along our way  
With all who passed before us,

WE PRAISE THY NAME TODAY"

Newry Park  
+ Elmyvale

Sanders

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GOLDEN  
SQUARE  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
CENTENARY.

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BANQUET

PROGRAMME.

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29th MARCH, 1952.

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GOLDEN SQUARE METHODIST CHURCH

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

29th and 30th MARCH, 1952.

BANQUET

PROGRAMME

1. NATIONAL ANTHEM.
2. Welcome by the Chairman -  
Rev. WALTER BAMPTON, L.Th.,  
and Apologies.
3. Musical Item -  
Pianoforte Solo - Miss Esther Holden.
4. His Worship the Mayor of Bendigo  
(Cr. G. A. PETHARD)
5. The Hon. P. J. Clarey, M.H.R.
6. Cr. L. W. Galvin, M.L.A.
7. Musical Item -  
Solo - Miss Faith Murray.
8. Mr. J. E. Poppins, Victorian  
President - Local Preachers.
9. Rev. M. A. Thomson, President,  
Ministers' Fraternal.
10. Rev. R. J. Philp, Chairman of  
District.
11. Musical Item -  
Solo - Miss Wilma Warne.
12. GUEST SPEAKER -  
REV. PROF. G. CALVERT BARBER,  
M.A., B.D., PH.D.  
President General - Methodist  
Church of Australasia.
13. Vote of Thanks to Speakers  
and Artistes.
14. Doxology.

B E N E D I C T I O N.

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