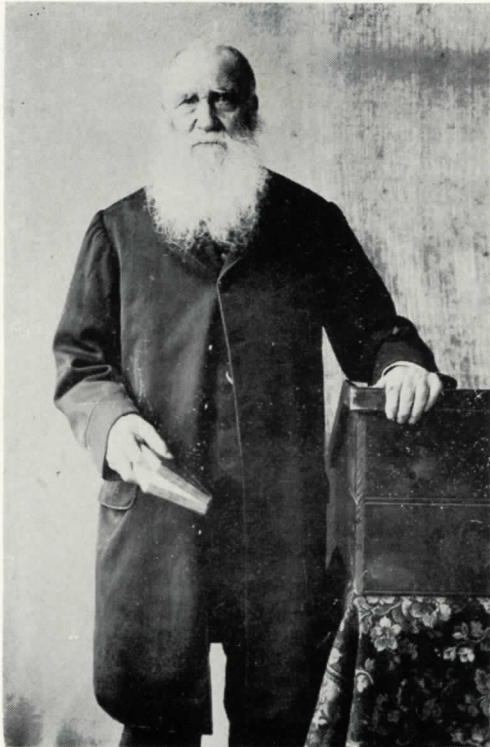


BENDIGO

CHURCH of CHRIST



CENTENARY — 1866 — 1966



W. DAVIES, OUR FIRST PAID PREACHER

The following have ministered with the Church in this sequence:

- F. ILLINGWORTH
- W. M. GREEN
- SYLVESTER
- BROCKWAY
- CHAS. WATT
- W. J. WAY
- W. S. HOUCHINS
- DR. JAMES COOK
- C. QUICK
- F. COLLINS
- A. W. CONNOR
- CYPRUS MITCHELL
- A. J. INGHAM
- S. J. SOUTHGATE
- J. F. GIBBINS
- ALF HINRICHSEN
- A. E. HURREN
- A. N. HINRICHSEN
- B. J. COMBRIDGE
- G. M. MATHIESON
- C. J. ROBINSON
- HORACE CAVE
- R. V. HOLMES
- G. J. ANDREWS
- M. J. DRAKE

FOREWORD

"The Beginning of the Cause in Bendigo dates back as far as 1866, when five brethren met together and commenced worship and preaching according to the New Testament teaching".

This is how A. B. Maston wrote in the "Jubilee History" of the Church of Christ in Bendigo. His words indicated the pioneering spirit of the founders of the Church. From these five men the Church grew to fifty members in 1869 and today has one hundred and fifty members. One minister preached to as many as four hundred people in the church's meeting place.

These facts show how the early zeal has been maintained throughout a century, though it has varied at times in intensity. The Church today, meeting in three congregations, is awake to the spirit of mission and purpose in the tradition of Churches of Christ.

This historical review is not meant to be exhaustive, but is designed to give a brief account of the life and witness of a church throughout a century.

With its heritage of yesteryear and vision of the future, the Church recognizes its deep thankfulness to God. As the present minister, I am conscious that I follow in a wonderful line of fellow preachers, and, like them, minister to a wonderful people.

MILTON J. DRAKE



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OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH — TEMPERANCE HALL, 1907

Back Row.—Messrs. J. R. TURNER, J. ELLIS, T. J. COOK, F. COLLINS, M. POLLOCK, F. COOK.

Front Row.—H. SIMS, A. J. STREADER, Pastor F. COLLINS, Dr. COOK, J. SOUTHWICK.

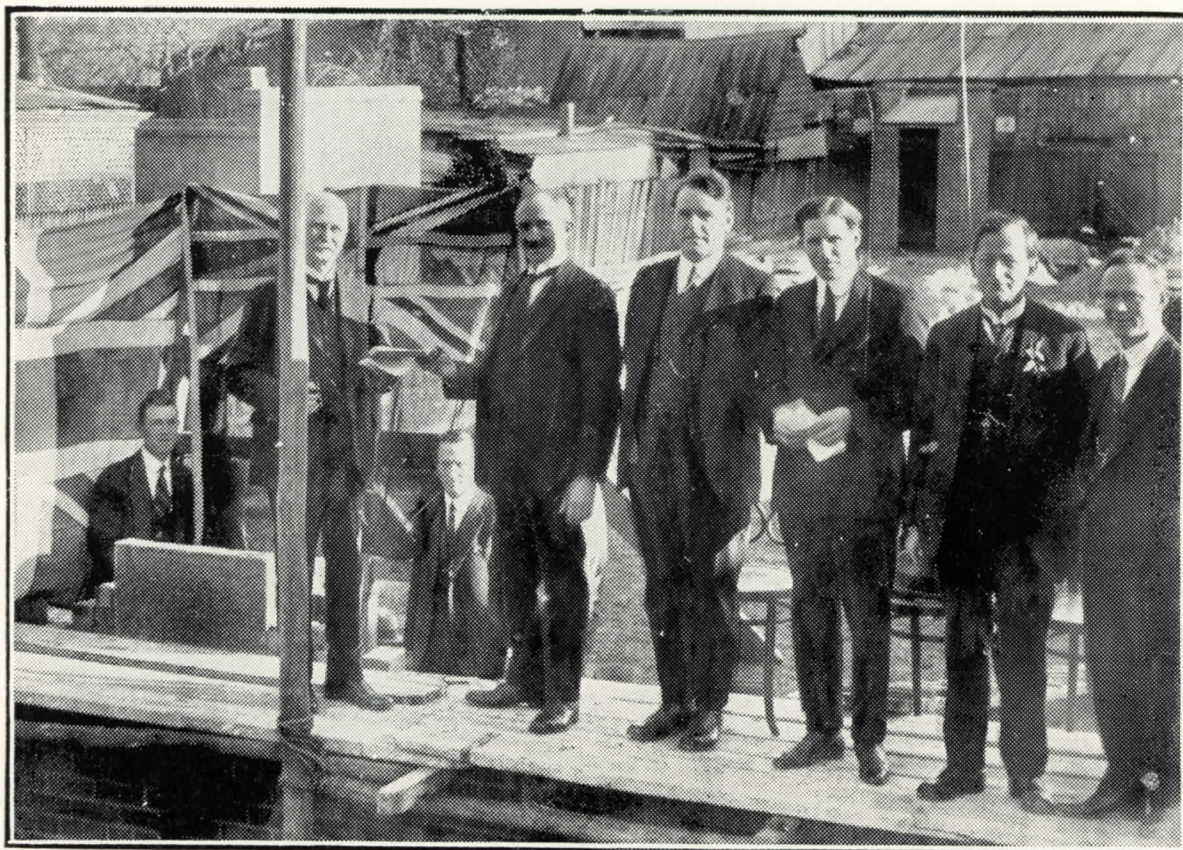
HISTORICAL STATEMENT

“Hitherto has the Lord helped us, therefore not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Your NAME we give the glory”. “One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts”.

The early history of the Bendigo Church of Christ commenced in 1866, when Brethren James White, H. Cordner, David Buckan, Campbell and Milke met together in the Temperance Hall and continued to worship and preach according to the New Testament.

By 1869 the membership was 50. The first tent mission, under Evangelist Tom Hagger, resulted in a great ingathering. 1902 — Outside Melbourne, Bendigo was largest church in Victoria. Dr. James Cook preached to packed hall, 400; frequently numbers could not gain admission.

When the gold rush waned, many left for W.A. and other diggings. There were several tent missions. Missioner Harry Harwood (born in Bendigo) on site of present Y.W.C.A., Missioners A. W. Connor, Hagger and Clay, Ira D. Paternoster (1920) and Hinrichsen (1927) on site where Provincial Motors now is.



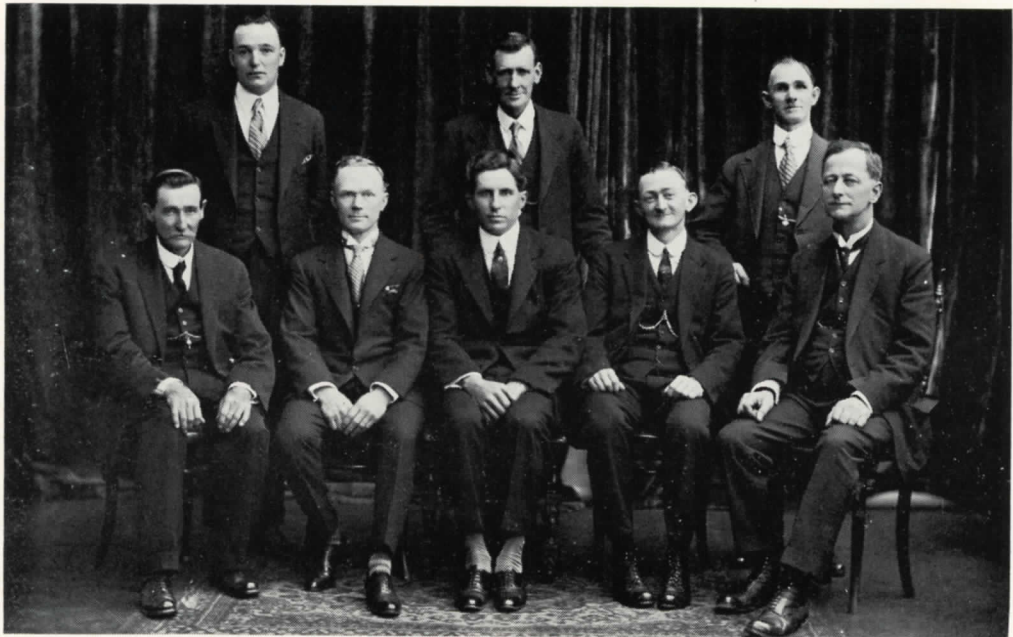
DEDICATION AND LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE BY MR. ROBERT LYALL

CHURCH HISTORY

Services were held in the Temperance Hall, View Street, Bendigo, for approximately sixty years. For many years services were also held at Eaglehawk, Derby, Golden Square, and in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bogle at Kangaroo Flat. The latter were discontinued when the family moved to Queensland, and when Dr. Cook retired, the Wade Street building, Golden Square, was closed. Meetings at the other two places were discontinued.

We had owned the land in Short Street for approximately 18 years before the present Chapel (front page photo) was constructed on it by Mr. David Streader. Mr. Robert Lyall performed the dedication ceremony, Saturday, 4th December, 1926. There for the occasion, Sunday 5th, was Mr. A. W. Connor, who conducted three services that day.

The present School Hall was added, and opened by the Mayor of Bendigo, Cr. G. Bennetts, on Saturday, 14th April, 1934. Mr. W. Gale, then popular Home Mission and Young Peoples' Organizer, was Guest Speaker on Sunday 15th.



DEACONS — 1926

Sitting.—Messrs. H. SIMS, A. E. STREADER, A. A. HINRICHSSEN (Evangelist), D. KENLEY, J. ELLIS.
 Standing.—Messrs. E. DUUS, F. W. COLLINS and E. GUMMOW.



S. S. OFFICERS AND TEACHERS — 1926

Front Row.—Mrs. F. COLLINS (Cradle Roll Supt.), Misses C. E. WEPPNER, G. RENAUT, EUNICE STREADER (Front Sitting — School Pianiste), Mrs. A. R. POLLOCK (Kindergarten Supt.), Miss RUBY WEPPNER (Kindergarten Pianiste), Miss LOIS STREADER and Mrs. J. R. TURNER.
 Back Row.—Messrs. F. W. COLLINS, S. J. LOWNE, A. A. HINRICHSSEN (Evangelist), E. DUUS (Asst. Supt.), A. E. STREADER (Supt.), D. A. KENLEY (Sec.), J. ELLIS, A. R. POLLOCK, REG. M. STREADER.
 Inset.—A. LEA (Asst. Sec.).

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1866 — CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS — 1966

SATURDAY, 29th OCTOBER —

6.30 p.m. Homecoming Tea and Welcome
Social Evening — City Hall

SUNDAY, 30th OCTOBER —

11.00 a.m. Worship and Communion Service
Broadcast over Station 3BO
Guest Speaker — Mr. A. Ross Lloyd

3.00 p.m. Pleasant Sunday Afternoon and
Official Opening of Additions to Church Buildings
Guest Solist — Miss Jean Milne

7.00 p.m. Old Time Gospel Service

A I M

Our Centenary Aim is \$6000, to cover the costs of additions and alterations to our Church Buildings — comprising Minister's Study, Church Office and new Porch and Foyer. The Thanksgiving offering will be received Sunday afternoon, 30th October, 1966.

MONDAY, 31st OCTOBER —

Bus Tour for Visitors around Bendigo and district — 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER —

Picnic Day at Ravenswood

WEDNESDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER —

Prayer Meeting and Thanksgiving Service

THURSDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER —

Special Christian Women's Fellowship Meeting

FRIDAY, 4th NOVEMBER —

Free Day
Christian Youth Fellowship Concert — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, 5th NOVEMBER —

Old Time and Modern Dress Social Evening

SUNDAY, 6th NOVEMBER —

Closing Services of Centenary

Speakers:

Mr. R. PRITCHARD - 11 a.m.
Mr. M. DRAKE - - 7 p.m.



MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD — 1966

Front Row.—Messrs. H. E. LANGLEY, Mrs. R. HOUSTON (Sec.), G. E. DOOLAN, M. J. DRAKE (Minister),
D. A. POTTER (Minister), A. D. PETTIGROVE, W. SMITH.
Back Row.—A. E. WILDE, R. A. LACY, E. H. DUUS, R. J. GLENISTER (Treasurer), C. F. HOUSTON,
R. G. PERL, J. H. LANGLEY.



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP — 1966

Front Row.—Miss F. VERCOE, Mesdames D. JONES, J. POLLOCK (Pres.), D. ANDREWS, L. DYER (Sec.),
I. LANGLEY (Treas.).
Back Row.—Mesdames H. BRIGGS, E. BANNINGER, E. MORSHEAD, G. GOVE, L. LANGLEY, M. WHITTING,
A. JACKSON, A. PERKINS, E. LACY, D. OWINS.
Inserts—Left to Right.—Mesdames I. RANDALL, E. SPENCER, J. STEVENS.

Grateful thanks is expressed to Our Heavenly Father for faithful and wise Official Board Members, all who supported most generously this ambitious programme by interest-free loans, gifts and work for the honour of Our Lord and Master and the salvation of souls. May we never lose the marvellous vision of the mission of the Church of Christ and increase our work and witness for Him. We record our most grateful thanks to the Department of Home Missions for assistance with Church projects. In 1927, Bendigo became self-supporting, but during recent years we have been assisted by the Properties Corporation and the Home Mission Department to consolidate our work, establish Churches at Spring Gully and Kangaroo Flat and develop Camp Eppalock as a Brotherhood Project for young people and Church families.

We trust you will visit, inspect these properties, encourage us, but most of all, come! — and give us an opportunity to enjoy fellowship together. Over the years we have had so many outstanding and faithful members, who have proved illustrious Christians. Obviously we cannot mention you all by name, but we salute you, greet you and thank you. May the power of God possess you, the love of Christ enfold you, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit thrill and inspire you as you co-operate in our Centenary.

In recent years, when Mr. C. J. Robinson was Minister, work was commenced with a Sunday School that still continues to grow at Spring Gully. The Recreation Hall was rented, but when Spring Gully residents built a new hall, we purchased the old building and a large block of land. The Sunday School, under the leadership of Mr. Ron Lacy and his loyal staff, is a model of efficiency and happiness, while weekly worship and gospel services are conducted by our two young Ministers, Mr. M. J. Drake and Mr. David Potter.

When the Eildon Weir water conservation project finished, and the Water Commission sold their buildings there, Mr. Reg Enniss, of the Properties Corporation, recommended the purchase of two of these. Two buildings were bought, dismantled, transported to Bendigo and one was reconstructed according to Architects' plans to become the Kangaroo Flat Church building. Most of this work was done by voluntary labour.

The block of land fronting Burr Street was purchased by the Bible School and was paid for by most Church members contributing one penny per week, by house gatherings and social evenings in the hall. The Manse was erected on part of the land, and the rest reserved for future expansion. The block of land adjoining the Church was not available when the Manse was built, but we have since purchased it. Later we purchased the block with a factory building on it at the rear of the Church Hall. This is now let to a tenant. The Church and Manse are free of debt.



SHORT STREET CHURCH SCHOOL AND CHRISTIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



SPRING GULLY CHURCH SCHOOL

PRESENT AND FUTURE

Our Minister, Mr. Milton Drake, assisted by Mr. David Potter, serves us faithfully and well. We are one Church with three congregations: Short Street, Spring Gully and Kangaroo Flat.

Our Minister-Elect for Bendigo is Mr. Roland E. Pritchard, whose acceptance of our invitation cheers us wonderfully. We have launched forward in faith with our Special Centenary Projects. Interest-free loans, gifts, work and prayers have greatly helped the Church to carry out her mission, consolidate the work and witness to the Glory of God and our Redeemer Jesus Christ.

To all who have served across the hundred years,
To those who still serve in prominence or obscurity,
Loving, most grateful tribute herein paid.
The one important reality is "that in all things
CHRIST might have the pre-eminence".

Now thank we all our God,
With hearts, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things hath wrought,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our parents' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

WE CAN ONLY HELP PAY OUR DEBT TO THE PAST

BY MAKING THE FUTURE DEBTOR TO US



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KANGAROO FLAT CHURCH SCHOOL



CHURCH OF CHRIST, WADE STREET, GOLDEN SQUARE — 1923

Church of Christ is Being Extended for Centenary

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Extensions to the Church of Christ at Short Street, Bendigo, will be ready in time for the Church's centenary celebrations at the end of October this year.
In fact, the new building is the Church's centenary project.
Costing about \$6000, it will provide a glassed in annexe for mothers with babies, a new main entrance and a study and office for the minister.
Work on the building, pictured this week, is being done by the building firm of Mr. F. Ham, of Bendigo. Architects are Coleman and Draper, Melbourne.