



63rd Annual Report
of the
Golden Square Methodist Church

*To be presented at the Annual Meeting
 to be held in the School Hall on
 Wednesday, 28th April, 1915*

Pastor's Report.

IN presenting the 63rd Annual Report of our beloved Church, we give thanks to God for the mercy and blessing of the past year. Notwithstanding the drought and the war, the interests of the Church have been well sustained; the congregations have shown little, if any, diminishment, and the various agencies have been liberally supported, striking evidence of the loving loyalty and self-sacrifice of our people.

The Members' Roll has been carefully revised, the membership now stands at 250, inclusive of 65 Junior Members, who are under the capable leadership of Mesdames Saunders and Akehurst.

The Fellowship Classes, conducted by Bros. Pethard and Nicholson and the Minister, have been well attended and have proved helpful to the members. We regret that more of our members do not avail themselves of this splendid means of grace.

The C.E. Society is stronger now than it has been for several years. We thankfully report that several of our young men and women have joined as active members.

The Mid-week Service has proved a source of help and blessing to those who have attended, the attendance, however, should be much better.

The Monday evening Prayer-Meeting has been revived, we bespeak for it greater interest.

During the year the pastor has paid 786 pastoral visits, exclusive of 48 to the Bendigo Hospital. Mr. Hodge has also conducted a large class at the local State School for Scripture Instruction. We pray that the current year may be one of great spiritual prosperity.

The Sunday School still holds its own, and is a great asset to the life of the Church and its future well being. It is well officered, and the only change of note is that Mr. G. A. Pethard has been appointed Superintendent in place of Mr. R. Saunders. The School needs more teachers. A word to the wise (the truly interested) is sufficient. Scholars on the roll, 403; teachers, 37; total, 440.

A growing interest has been manifested in the Christmas Day and Good Friday services. It is to be regretted that the Watchnight Service, so dear to all true Methodists, was poorly attended. Wake up, lovers of the Lord, perpetuate old-time Methodism.

The Poor Fund has been wisely administered, and the needy cases relieved.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of Foreign Missions and Dorcas Society have done very noble work during the year. Two boxes were dispatched to the Solomon Islands, of made-up garments and piece materials, also medical and household comforts. The Dorcas Society has relieved many needy cases in the locality, and appeals to the congregation for funds and clothing for the coming winter. Mrs. Hodge, the retiring president, has manifested whole-hearted service in all the work undertaken from year to year, and has been ably supported by Mrs. W. Akehurst, secretary, and Miss Griston and Mrs. E. Leggo as treasurers.

Pastorate.—Rev. W. H. Hodge, who retires after three years of strenuous toil, carries with him the earnest prayer of the pastorate that God will bless him and his family in their new sphere of work. A farewell social was tendered to them, and gifts made. Rev. H. J. Ham, B.A., has been appointed to succeed him, and our welcome to him and his wife and family is now given.

The Men's Bible Class has been a feature of Rev. W. H. Hodge's ministry, and his presidency and help much appreciated by its members. Several gatherings under its auspices have been held, one especially—a great re-union on 26th June last, a very fine function. The members made a presentation to their president on Sunday, 28th March.

The Silver Wedding of Rev. W. H. and Mrs. Hodge was celebrated in May last. It was a unique and representative gathering, held in the School Hall, which was prettily decorated. The celebrants offered to provide the refreshments, and suggested a charge be made, the proceeds to go to the Trust Funds. This was heartily accepted by the Trustees, and the result a donation to the same of £5/17/6. We thank our friends most sincerely. We rejoice to know that Messrs. Cleve and Wilfred Hodge have volunteered for service in the Australian Expeditionary Forces.

Trustees and their office.—The death of Mr. William Johns removes one of the earliest and best known of our trustees.

The Choir has undergone a process of change. Mr. Wm. Dennis, choir conductor, resigned after a term of faithful service, and Mr. Jack Brimacombe has been appointed in his place. Additional members have been secured, bringing its total strength to 40 members. We are hoping for excellent results from the life now infused into the service of praise. We owe much to these friends. Miss Muriel Akehurst, organist, resigned in October last, after having served the Church well and faithfully, and has been succeeded by Miss Agnes P. Saunders, L.A.B. The Choir Social on June 23rd was a great success.

A new Caretaker has been installed, viz. : Mr. Geo. Williams, vice Mr. J. C. Roof, resigned.

Installation of the Electric Light.—To reduce our expenditure, and to save much trouble in lighting, two of our liberal and trusty friends undertook the same at a cost of £42, being a donation to the Trust and a gift to be credited to the Centenary Fund of Methodism. We need only mention the names of Mrs. A. T. Lanyon and Mr. G. A. Pethard, trustee, to call forth ours and your grateful thanks for this permanent token of their interest in the House of God. To celebrate the installation, a concert was given in the Church, and the proceeds of the same were donated to the Belgian Fund.

We have been indebted to the Misses Akehurst for many years in placing flowers on the Communion table, and we now present our thanks for the same, and are glad to say that Miss Elsie Akehurst will continue the good work.

The Harvest Festival was a great success, and our thanks are due to Mrs. Crump for the complete and suitable decorations made.

The Straight-out Giving Effort, through the Envelope System, has proved successful, but its more vigorous working will produce better results. Three socials were held during the year, and these can be made of service in a social way to create a strong family bond of friendship and Christian love. Amount received as per Balance Sheet, £28/3/11

The request from the Trust to our Connexional Building and Loan Fund for £100 free of interest was granted on the condition that we raised £50. This was done, and so we are relieved of paying the interest on £150.

The Balance Sheet shows a Dr. Balance of £3/3/10. The receipts have barely met the ordinary expenditure, and we shall need to more vigorously and systematically place before our people our needs, and they will not fail us. The Pew Rents show a decrease, and we shall be glad of help in this way, as sittings are available from 1/6 per quarter. On the whole, we are thankful for what has been accomplished, and our thanks are due to the Secretary and Church Steward, Mr. J. H. Crump; Assistant Church Steward, Mr. Cadwallader; and to Mr. H. C. Enticknap, for their valuable work during the year.

The Roll of Victory.—This great and innumerable host, which no man can number, has been added to, to be "Forever with the Lord." Mr. William Johns, the oldest surviving Trustee (for the last six years at Avoca), for over forty years connected with this Church. He served in the capacity of class leader, Sunday School teacher, and member of the choir. He was indeed a man of prayer and much beloved for his intense piety, large heartedness, and surpassing kindness to the sick and afflicted. Mrs. Amelia Bienvenu, a devout and loyal

Christian woman, who loved all the means of grace, a life-time Methodist. Mrs. Rose Gibson, a choice and lovable Christian, in her earlier years a Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Elizabeth Lyne, an adherent of the Church for over thirty years, was a pious and devoted servant of Jesus Christ. Mr. Arthur W. Andrew, who served the Church in a musical capacity, was much beloved and esteemed. Gone to be with Christ, Forever with the Lord. Benjamin Senior, a bright, happy saint. Mrs. Isaac Odgers, the call to her came quickly, but she was ready. She died as she lived, trusting in the Lord Jesus her Saviour; her membership extending over thirty years. Mr. George Steel made a triumphant ending. Mr. J. Wood Goddard, Mrs. Jas. Jeffrey, Mr. Richard Tippet, Mr. Ernest Whitburn, Mr. Tobias Olds and Mr. J. W. Roberts passed away, leaving sorrowing friends and relatives still with us, and we offer to them, and to all others thus bereaved, our prayerful sympathy.

“By the same grace upheld may we
So follow those who followed Thee.”

Centenary of Australasian Methodism.—This movement, Evangelistic and Thanksgiving, was inaugurated by the visit of Rev. Val Trigge in the conduct of a circuit mission held at Forest Street. Locally we know of no decisions for Christ. The visit of Rev. R. Ditterich to Golden Square, in October last, with his lantern lecture on “World-wide Methodism,” was a rare treat and an education. So far we have not caught the spirit of the movement. The Sunday School urges, as the objective of the movement for our Church, the building and equipment of a Kindergarten and Primary Room. Let us worthily celebrate this unique event befitting so great a Church.

Special Sundays celebrated during the year were Men's Bible Class Parade, Mothers' Day, Empire Sunday, Family Circle Service, Sunday School Anniversary, Hospital Sunday, Temperance Sunday, National Service, Day of Intercession, Sunday School Department, Girls' Guild Service.

The Call of King and Empire to represent us in the great War has been responded to by the following members and adherents of our Church—William Pethard, Wilfred Hodge, Thomas and Stanley Barrett, Wallie Evans, Leslie Hyde, Edward Rowe, Arthur Hocking. It is intended to have an Honor Roll placed in the Church and Sunday School recording the names of those who have or may yet respond to the Call of their Country. God bless our lads—shield and protect them. May they war a good warfare for their God, their King, and their Country. “God Save the King.”

Home Missions Deputation—Col. Rev. A. T. Holden, B.A. (recently elected President of the Conference). Good services. Annual effort, £34/6/10.

Foreign Missions Deputation—Rev. J. W. Burton. Good services. Annual effort, £33/15/7.

Gift Afternoon in Sunday School for Rev. Reg. Nicholson, Solomons Islands Mission. Great success. Mr. H. Cadwallader, who has proved an efficient secretary, retires with our best thanks, and Mr. Geo. Pethard jnr., succeeds him. Rally round the new man. The Senior Endeavour Society supports a native teacher at a cost of £10 per year.

The Visiting Preachers have been as follows:—Rev. J. Thomas, B.A.; Presidential Visit; W. C. Poole of San Francisco; W. J. Eddy, Lepers' Mission; Mr. W. F. Freeman of London; Messrs. J. Hawker and A. C. Bowman of the Local Preachers' Association.

To All Newcomers who have worshipped with us, or are associated with us in any way, we give you the right hand of friendship. Make yourselves known to us if we have not already found you out. “Come with us and we will do you good, for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.”

In conclusion, may we all take courage, with hearts full of thankfulness, that amid war and drought, God has so greatly blessed us, that we have so far been enabled to maintain our position and even to make some progress along spiritual lines. It now remains with us to make the days that are to be, filled with glad and joyous service and toil by consecrated lives.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”

(Signed) W. H. HODGE, PASTOR.

J. H. CRUMP, SECRETARY.

G. A. PETHARD, SOCIETY STEWARD.

Donations.

Mrs. Lanyon, £5/5/-; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph, £3; Messrs. Saunders, Enticknap, Pethard, Senr., W. J. Henderson, J. H. Crump, £2/2/-; A Friend, £2; Messrs. C. H. Williams, A. Bienvenue, Cadwallader, Misses Griston, L. Bienvenue, Henderson, M. Henderson, L. Johns, Mrs. P. Johns, £1/1/- each; Mrs. J. Martin, Miss Jack, E. Jack, Messrs. J. Hawkey, Manley, J. M. Roberts, W. Akehurst, Mrs. J. M. Roberts, £1 each; Mr. R. Trebilcock, 10/-; Mr. Louie Yem, Mrs. Akehurst, 10/6 each; Messrs. G. Saunders, A. Cadwallader, H. Cadwallader, 5/- each; Y.M.B. Class, per Mr. J. Brimacombe, £2/10/-

Straight-Out Giving :

Mr. Davidson, 10/-; Mrs. Keys, 10/-; Mrs. Nankervis, 10/-; Mrs. Barrett, 5/6; Mrs. Smith, 20/-; Miss Maddison, 4/4; Mrs. Trenear, 5/6; Miss Trenear, 6/-; Mrs. Mamouney, 9/5; Mrs. Pickering, 10/-; Mr. T. Pickering, 10/-; Mrs. Goddard, 9/3; E. Bruns, 10/-; Mamouney Boys, 2/5; Miss L. Trebilcock, 8/-; W. Akehurst, 6/5; Keys, 5/-; O'Brien, 7/-; Mrs. Lanyon, £1/3/6; Mr. Laity, 5/-; Miss D. Nankervis, 4/6; Mrs. M. A. Rowe, 10/3½; Mrs. Wallace, 9/-; J. Honeychurch, 5/-; Miss Pethard, 5/0½; Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Nicholls, 10/-; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Mamouney, 13/8; Mr. and Mrs. Beers, 10/-; Mrs. Wood, 12/-; Mrs. J. Medlyn, 4/4; Mrs. Hawkin, 5/4; Mrs. F. Randall, 3/2; Ladies' Bible Class, £4/1/7; Miss Henderson's Class, £4/2/8; Miss Bienvenue's Class, £1/12/9; Mrs. Hodge's Class, 9/9; Miss James' Class, £1/19/3; Collected by Mr. Saunders—Commercial Travellers, £1/6/-, other amounts, 18/7; Electric Light Installation—to be credited to the Centenary Fund—Mrs. A. T. Lanyon, £21, Mr. G. A. Pethard, Senr., £21—£42; Amounts paid in since Audit—R. Jones, £2/2/-; Mrs. Peters, 5/-; Mrs. Barrett, 2/3.

Golden Square Methodist Church.

Balance Sheet at March 31st., 1915

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
April 6th, 1914		Dr. Balance Commercial Bank ...	£1 17 4
Cash in hand	10 3	Caretaker	67 11 9
Anniversary Collections ...	£12 5 0	Organist	8 15 0
Church Social	4 5 9	Choir Conductor	12 5 0
	£16 10 9	Organ Tuning	10 0 0
Donations } See	43 15 0	Organ Blowing	4 10 0
Straight-out Giving Effort } List	26 6 1	Music	1 18 0
Straight-out Giving Socials ...	1 17 10		37 8 0
	71 18 11	Donation—President's Tea ...	2 2 0
School Payments—		Repairing Roof	2 18 0
Interest	10 0 0	Fire Insurance	2 17 2
Caretaker	29 0 0		7 17 2
	39 0 0	Interest on Private Loan ...	42 17 6
Pew Rents	49 6 0	Bank Interest, Charges Bank Book	1 19 3
Lighting and Cleaning Collections	5 9 0		44 16 9
Harvest Festival	6 8 0	Advertising and Printing ...	8 2 6
Sale of Fruit	2 6	Postage and Stationery	13 1
	11 19 6	Miscellaneous	1 8 10
Methodist Loan Fund	100 0 0		10 4 5
School Loan paid off	50 0 0	Lighting	14 11 10
Rev. Poole's Lecture	2 18 6	Private Loan Paid Off	150 0 0
Rev. and Mrs. Hodge's Silver		Methodist Loan Fund Paid Off ...	5 0 0
Wedding	5 17 6		155 0 0
Miscellaneous	13 0	Sunday School Proportion Straight-out Giving	11 11 0
	6 10 6	Travelling Expenses Rev. Cox ...	1 0 0
Dr. Balance Commercial Bank ...	3 3 10		£351 18 3
	£351 18 3	B. Sluyterman Installation Electric Light ...	42 0 0
Electric Light Installation (Mrs. A. T. Lanyon and Mr. G. Pethard)	42 0 0		£393 18 3
	£393 18 3		

LIABILITIES

Private Loans on Church	£800 0 0
Methodist Building and Loan Fund	95 0 0
Private Loan on School	100 0 0
	995 0 0
Dr. Balance Commercial Bank	3 3 10
	£998 3 10

Audited and found correct, April 22, 1915,

H. C. ENTICKNAP, Treasurer

H. J. HAM,
J. B. EDWARDS, } Auditors