

Centenary History
of the
Presbyterian Church
in
New South Wales

Volume II

BY
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SYDNEY
ANGUS AND ROBERTSON
1905

Church was originally known as divine service in 1850. The Rev. both he and his congregation were even years ago, the Rev. Samuel leading the trustees, petitioned the ed into the communion of the Wales. They stated that they reached in their church in all time lines of the Presbyterian Church of any other denomination. After ayer of the petition was granted. ries resigned with the view of e in connection with our Church. n accordance with the request of esbytery allowed him the rent of s he received, and at his death the ty of the congregation, and is so s have been supplied without a been kept in repair at considerable ither the Presbytery nor Home expense. During all these years he Interim-Moderator. For some l charge, and he holds services nings and superintends various or and other Presbyterian churches nor the Session has had any desire but they are prepared to take steps he view of applying the proceeds ies, as far back as 1872, estimated 00; possibly it is much larger now.

ALE.

ly services conducted by Messrs. A., about the year 1883. wo young men, funds were raised ng, the foundation stone of which h was opened for divine service by ., and J. M. Ross, on the 30th s been extended since, when Mr. uttee, and services are regularly held by ittee, under the supervision of the

ST. ANDREW'S, SYDNEY.

The movement for the erection of this church was originated at a public meeting of Presbyterians in the Southern part of Sydney, presided over by the Hon. Colonel Snodgrass. A grant of land having been obtained from the Government—on what was then the leading thoroughfare—the foundation stone of the church was laid by Colonel Snodgrass in 1833, and in September, 1835, it was opened for divine service. It cost over two thousand pounds, of which nearly one half was contributed by the Government.

The Rev. Dr. John McGarvie was the first minister, and gathered together a very influential congregation. He died in 1853, much lamented, after a faithful ministry of twenty-one years. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Dougall, who ministered to the congregation for fifteen years, until his removal to East Maitland. He was a cultured man and was much esteemed. He was succeeded in 1869 by the Rev. Robert Lewers, during whose ministry the church was re-seated and a platform substituted for the pulpit at a cost of £300. In 1873 he accepted a call to Eaglehawk, Victoria. The Rev. William Moore White, LL.D., was inducted the same year. During his pastorate the church was enlarged, and embellished with a number of beautiful stained glass memorial windows, a fine pipe organ, and otherwise improved. He demitted in 1884, and went to England. A successor was not chosen until September, 1885, when the Rev. Alexander Miller, M.A., was inducted, and continued minister till, in 1896, he was translated to Chatswood. Since 1896 there has been no settled minister. The congregation, indeed, almost became extinct, until a number of Welsh-speaking Presbyterians joined two or three years ago. They are now ministered to by a Welsh-speaking minister, the Rev. R. E. Davies, as stated supply.

ELDERS :—1841—Messrs. Thomas Barker, John McKay, W. McIntosh; 1843—John Hunter; 1844—Alex. Anderson, Chas. Gill, — Fairbairn, — Ferrier, — McLean; 1847-1854—(no records); 1876—Mr. W. Calder, the Hon. Alex. Dodds, M.L.C., Messrs. — Houston, Wm. Bain, Alex. Thomson, J. Lennox; 1880—W. Alexander, James Harvie, P. D. McCormick; 1882—J. D. Rutherford, W. H. Tindell, John Wright; 1886—the Hon. Alex. Kethel, M.L.C.; 1887—Messrs. E. Gregory Fairman, Robert Cook, Richard Alcock; 1890—J. M. Smail; 1902—E. Jones, Joseph Jones, Rees Jones; 1904—B. D. Williams, N. McBurney, John Lewis.

ST. LEONARDS NORTH.

The North St. Leonards Presbyterian Church was started in March, 1888, in the verandah of the Crow's Nest Cottage, kindly lent for the purpose. A committee of management was appointed. Two

of their number having waited on Mr. David Berry, of Shoalhaven, they obtained from him the promise of a site for a church and manse. In October of that year, a petition was presented to the Presbytery of Sydney, praying that the congregation be formed into a sanctioned charge. The petition was granted, and an interim Session appointed, consisting of the Revs. W. M. Dill Macky and R. McKinnon (ministers), and Messrs. P. Small and J. Walker (elders), the Rev. R. McKinnon, Moderator.

A wooden church was opened in December, 1888, by the Rev. Dr. Gilchrist, who had become Moderator of the Interim Session. The Rev. H. A. Hutchison, B.Sc., who had organised the charge, was inducted as its first minister. The first elders were the Rev. Alex. Riddel, Messrs. A. J. S. Gilchrist, W. Brown, and W. H. McLean. The first communion was dispensed to seventeen communicants. A preaching station was opened by Mr. Hutchison at Watersleigh, which ultimately grew into a separate charge—the Neutral Bay parish. In 1890 Mr. Hutchison was translated to Cootamundra, and a call was addressed to the Rev. David Bruce, D.D., but circumstances having led Dr. Bruce to pay a visit to Europe, the induction did not take place till February, 1893. The parish, as at first constituted, embraced a large area, but so rapid has been the increase of population, consequent on the extension of the means of communication, that, in the space of seven years, five fully-sanctioned parishes and three Home Mission causes have been created within the limits of the original parish.

Dr. Bruce being elected Moderator of the General Assembly, and having determined to visit, as far as possible, all the congregations of the Church, it was deemed desirable that he should have a colleague. For a time, during Dr. Bruce's absence, the parish was supplied by agents of the Home Mission Committee, but in 1899 the Rev. W. H. Ash, formerly of Dunedin, New Zealand, was inducted as colleague and successor, Dr. Bruce retaining his status as senior minister.

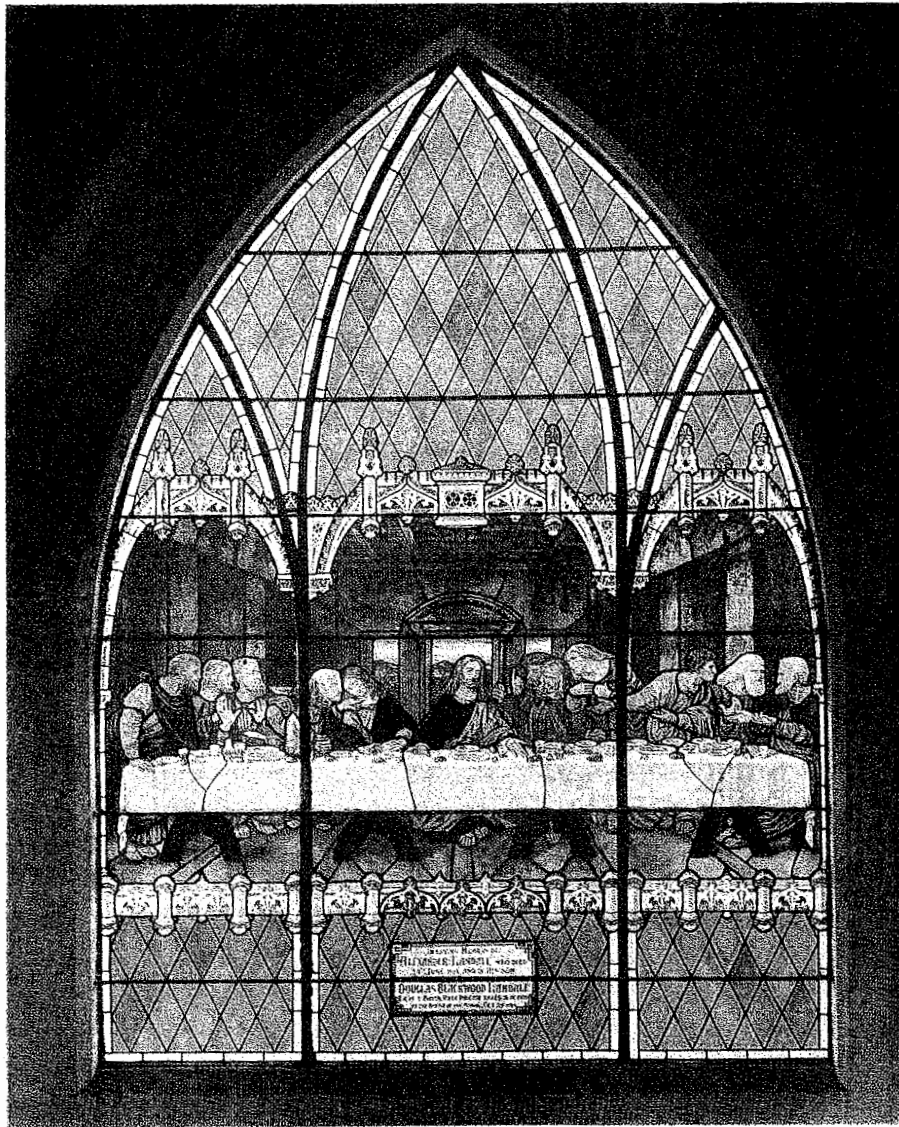
The membership has largely increased since the settlement of Mr. Ash. The church has been enlarged, renovated and re-seated. A substantial sum has also been contributed to a fund for the erection of a large church, with a manse, on the old "Crow's Nest" site generously given by Dr. John Hay, of Coolangatta. The site is that of the cottage upon whose verandah the congregation first assembled for worship. The buildings have just been completed, the foundation stone of the church having been laid by His Excellency Sir Harry Rawson, and of the manse by Mrs. John Hay, on 27th May, 1905. The new church occupies one of the most commanding positions on the North Shore, and the congregation has good ground for anticipating a prosperous

future. The church was officiated by
Rt. Rev. Dr. D. Bruce presiding,
M.A., B.D., preaching the charge.

In the beginning of 1890, a church was built on Gore Hill, on the western bank of the river, where brickworks exist. Within a few years a hall was built, and almost without cessation of much activity, and is high up in service and Sunday school. The senior minister has been greatly helped by those whose names deserve to be recorded. The whole of their spare time is given to it. A fine piano has been donated.

List of ELDERS:—Messrs. the Rev. Alex. Riddel, Mr. A. J. S. Gilchrist, Messrs. *William Lindsay, *D. McInnes, *John Thomson, *E. M. Stobo, and *Wm. Sollis.

Early in the year 1875, Mr. Walker (afterwards General Secretary) and other elders, commenced to hold services in Foresters' Hall, Waterloo, and continued in success until, in January, 1877, the church was licensed. The church Extension Committee were attended with such success that a petition from the Presbyterian Synod to the Presbytery, praying to have the charge sanctioned, was granted. The result of the petition was unanimously called for and obtained and inducted by the Synod. Mr. Curtis continued in the charge for months' leave of absence, and then he resigned his charge, having been succeeded by the Rev. A. A. Stobo.



"This do in remembrance of me."

THE CHALLENGE OF THE YEARS

A HISTORY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
IN THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

BY
REV. C. A. WHITE, B.A.

1951

UNDER AUTHORITY
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



ANGUS AND ROBERTSON
SYDNEY · LONDON

The following churches are regarded as offshoots of Chatswood: Artarmon, Roseville, Willoughby, Lindfield and Longueville. A kindergarten hall was opened in February 1914 and the school hall in June 1923. A manse was purchased in Anderson Street in 1927, and a pipe organ was installed in the church in June 1930. The congregation has given several men to the Ministry—the Rev. Clive Bowen; the Rev. C. S.³ Boyall (whose son Jonathan is a candidate for the Ministry), and the Rev. A. T. Meldrum. Membership reached its highest peak in 1932 when it stood at 417.

Elders past and present (since 1904): Messrs Archibald McLean, George Finlay, Walter Main, Alexander Keith, John Candlish, James Prentice, William Stronach, William Mustard, David Bradley, J. E. McLean, David Webster, P. G. Gilders, Donald Campbell, Frank J. Finlay, William Luke, James S. McCullagh, David Watt, James Wilson Adams, J. Arthur Morrison, Edward Bowen, John Downes, Sidney N. Thorburn, Herbert Jones, George Henderson, the Rev. W. A. S. Anderson, Messrs William Walker, Walter C. Allen, F. C. Dixon, Alexander McMaster, William H. Martin, Alexander G. McTurk, the Rev. Charles S. Boyall, Messrs Charles William Brown, Hugh D. Gooding, Frank R. Hewitt, Ernest M. White, Colin C. Wallace, Allan B. Caldwell, Leslie J. Lawson, the Rev. Charles A. White, Messrs J. Gordon Menzies, Duncan Nicholson, George Prentice, Alex. William Smart, William H. Robertson, Archibald John Gibson, Douglas Tosh, Peter Hamilton Watt, William Wallace Bruce, Frederick Gurney Borgnis, Joseph Young.

CROW'S NEST (ST LEONARD'S NORTH)

This congregation was started in March 1888 on the veranda of Crow's Nest Cottage. A promise was obtained from Mr David Berry of Coolangatta (N.S.W.) of a site for a church and manse. This promise was fulfilled by Dr John Hay, and the site given was that of the cottage upon whose verandah the first congregation had assembled for worship in March 1888. The first church, a wooden building, was erected in Willoughby Road, a little distance from the tram junction towards Willoughby. It was opened in December 1888 by Dr Gilchrist, Moderator of the Interim Session. The first Minister was the Rev. H. A. Hutchison, who organized the Charge and was inducted in 1888. He remained for two years and then accepted a call to Cootamundra. During his ministry he opened a preaching centre at Watersleigh, now known as Neutral Bay. The Rev. Dr David Bruce was called as his successor, but owing to his prospective visit to Europe the induction did not take place until 1893. One of the outstanding events of his ministry was the erection of the church and manse. On 27th May 1905 the State Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, laid the foundation stone of the church, and Mrs John Hay the foundation stone of the manse. The church was opened and dedicated on 2nd September of the same year, the Moderator-General, the Right Rev. Dr Bruce, who was also Minister of the parish, presiding, and the Rev. R. G. Macintyre preaching the sermon. On 14th June 1899 the Rev. W. H. Ash had been inducted as colleague and successor to Dr Bruce, and he was translated to Dubbo on 24th March 1909. The Rev. Alex. Clark was translated from Bathurst (as colleague and successor) on 3rd December 1909, and became sole Minister on Dr Bruce's death on 15th December 1911.

Dr Bruce was one of the really great men of the Church. A brother of Alexander Balmain Bruce, he was a very sound theologian. He made a reputation in two countries. In the North Island of New Zealand he filled the important Church of St David's, Auckland for 25 years—1852-77. Then he spent another 15 years as the Church Agent, exerting a powerful influence upon the general prosperity of the New Zealand Church, especially in the North Island. Coming to

New South Wales in 1892 another 19 years—59 years days was not ranked as an neglected his congregation, and to Australia was rendered Moderator (1897) and M He was Convenor of the H and a Councillor of the P.I intellectual, evangelical, and and considerate; as a brother loyal and deservedly loved

The Rev. Alex. Clark in 1939 to become a benefice: gical note, and it speaks f in the one Charge for thir tenth of that time. The Ch Neutral Bay has already t and helped to develop t Chatswood, Artarmon and Walgett on 21st Novembe: on 17th January 1945. Th on 10th April 1945, and this Charge.

Elders past and presen Donaldson, John Cameron W. Baillie, W. C. Watkir Wright, W. Lyon, J. P. M T. Stacey.

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Work was commenced in with Ermington where w Gladesville. Services in E Charge for some time incl ington. In 1916 the paris been Minister of Epping, He was translated from remained in the Charge 26 years. Under his pastor development of the distric Mr Perkins received a su of the esteem in which he years of rest before passin a mind above the average pursuing his studies for t a keen sense of humou strength of physique and bine in a blaze of righte from Armidale on 20th of Essendon, Victoria, o the Charge by translatior

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(S. NORTH)
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urch. A brother of Alex- He made a reputation in he filled the important . Then he spent another uence upon the general North Island. Coming to

New South Wales in 1892 with 40 years of service behind him, he fulfilled another 19 years—59 years' active service in all. Crow's Nest Church in those days was not ranked as an outstanding congregation, but while Dr Bruce never neglected his congregation, it may be said that his major service to this State and to Australia was rendered outside his Charge. He filled the offices of State Moderator (1897) and Moderator-General (1903-5) and adorned them both. He was Convenor of the Home Mission Committee and several other Committees, and a Councillor of the P.L.C. and Scots College. "As a preacher, Dr Bruce was intellectual, evangelical, and earnest; as a Church statesman, calm, sure, far-seeing, and considerate; as a brother Minister, sympathetic and patient; as a friend, loyal and deservedly loved."

The Rev. Alex. Clark retired from the Crow's Nest pastorate on 30th June 1939 to become a beneficiary. His ministry was marked by an old-time evangelical note, and it speaks for the solidity of his work that he was able to continue in the one Charge for thirty years, while many are ready for a change after a tenth of that time. The Charge of Crow's Nest has been the mother of Churches. Neutral Bay has already been mentioned. In addition this Charge has fostered and helped to develop the Charges of Willoughby, Northbridge, Greenwich, Chatswood, Artarmon and Ryde. The Rev. Colin Dyster was translated from Walgett on 21st November 1939 and was translated to Thornleigh-Normanhurst on 17th January 1945. The Rev. S. Russell Scott was translated from Goulburn on 10th April 1945, and is carrying on the best traditions of the Ministry in this Charge.

Elders past and present (since 1904): Messrs E. H. Hume, J. W. Eaton, W. Donaldson, John Cameron, James Brown, F. S. Eipper, R. Slater, H. Thomson, W. Baillie, W. C. Watkins, M. McDonald, T. T. Gammie, T. B. Nicol, S. S. Wright, W. Lyon, J. P. Marr, D. H. Hume, D. K. Robertson, E. C. Robertson, T. Stacey.

EASTWOOD-ERMINGTON

Work was commenced in Epping in the year 1894, and later Epping was linked with Ermington where work had been started by the Rev. S. T. Dickenson of Gladesville. Services in Eastwood were commenced on 26th May 1901 and the Charge for some time included the three centres of Epping, Eastwood and Ermington. In 1916 the parish was divided and the Rev. J. A. R. Perkins, who had been Minister of Epping, elected to remain the Minister of Eastwood-Ermington. He was translated from Woodburn to Epping on 12th October 1911 and he remained in the Charge until his resignation on 30th June 1937, a ministry of 26 years. Under his pastorate the Charge grew in strength with the ever-increasing development of the district, and he left for his successors a heritage to be desired. Mr Perkins received a substantial vote for the Chair of the Assembly, a proof of the esteem in which he was held by many of his brethren. He enjoyed several years of rest before passing into the eternal reward on 1st January 1941. He had a mind above the average, taking honours in his University course, and successfully pursuing his studies for the Ministry under very discouraging conditions. He had a keen sense of humour. "Naturally gentle, humble, and kind, he yet had a strength of physique and courage of conscience which on occasion would combine in a blaze of righteous indignation." The Rev. T. G. Allan was translated from Armidale on 20th October 1937 and served until he became the Minister of Essendon, Victoria, on 18th June 1943. The Rev. J. B. Thorn succeeded to the Charge by translation from Artarmon on 15th February 1944, and was trans-