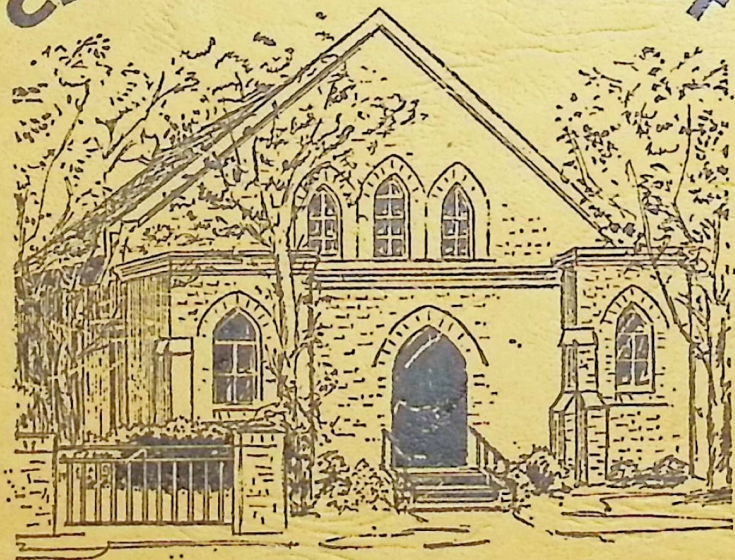


CHURCH OF CHRIST

BURWOOD



1920-1970

GOLDEN JUBILEE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

BURWOOD

Golden Jubilee

1920-1970

Souvenir Programme

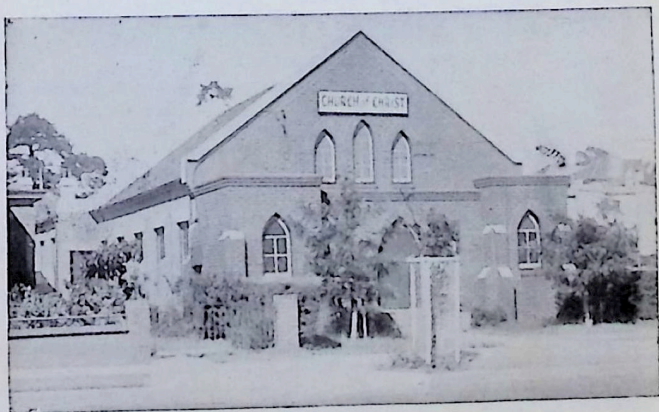
and

Church History

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CLARENCE STREET, BURWOOD

N.S.W.



Chapel Erected 1927

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

T

* * *

HE AIM of Churches of Christ is to reproduce the faith and order of the Church of the New Testament. They plead for the spiritual and organic union of all Christians, and believe that this can only be obtained by a return to the essential faith and practice of the Apostolic Church, and by the laying aside, as requirements for church membership or tests of fellowship of all that has not the express warrant of the Word of God.

We accept the Sacred Scriptures as given by inspiration of God, and the New Testament as the authoritative and all-sufficient rule of faith. We have a heartfelt faith in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Divine Son, and the Holy Spirit. The atoning death of Christ for the world's sin, His resurrection and ascension, and the glorious hope of His re-appearing are also basic elements in the Gospel which we preach as God's power unto Salvation.

Some distinctive beliefs may also be noted:—

Name: We generally use the name "Churches of Christ" for congregations, and "Christians" or "disciples" for individual believers, because they are scriptural and Christ-honouring, and also names which all Christians may adopt without sacrifice of principle.

Creed: Only one confession is required as a pre-requisite to baptism and a condition of church membership. The New Testament shows, and Christian scholarship agrees, that the earliest confession was simply that "Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God".

Ordinance: With nearly all believers, Churches of Christ regard Baptism and the Lord's Supper as ordinances appointed by Christ and intended to be perpetually observed by His church.

The Baptism which we practise is in accordance with New Testament command and example, and is the immersion of penitent believers who in the ordinance surrender themselves in loving obedience to Christ and commit themselves to His service.

Christians in New Testament days met on the first day of the week to "break bread" in memory of the Saviour. Accordingly, we have weekly Communion at the Lord's Table. The validity of our practice of Baptism and Communion is acknowledged by Christendom.

Ministry: Churches of Christ hold firmly to the scriptural doctrine of the priesthood of all believers. Christ is the one High Priest and Mediator between God and man. We wholly disregard the unscriptural distinction between clergy and laity. In the church there is the ministry of elders and deacons, for which express New Testament warrant is found, while the services of preachers and evangelists are employed for the furtherance of the Gospel, but no exclusive sacerdotal or preaching class is recognised. As in New Testament times, all should render service according to their ability.

We join in the apostolic prayer "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in uncorruptness".

(Reprinted from the Silver Jubilee booklet and prepared by A. R. Main, M.A.)

CHURCH OF CHRIST—BURWOOD

1920-1970

Early in 1920 members residing in the Burwood district felt the need of starting a cause in this locality. After interviewing residents known to members, those interested arranged to meet at the Council Chambers on April 18th, 1920. Twenty-eight members communed together, and two weeks later, May 2nd, 1920, it was decided to organise and establish a church in the district.

The first Diaconate consisted of Bren. Leo Rossell, John Crawford, Stan Laney, A. Stevenson, E. R. Childs, W. Bugden and Will Smith. Of these brethren Stan Laney and Will Smith are still in active membership with the local church and are members of the present Board of Officers. Bro. Stan Laney was appointed Secretary and served the church in that capacity for 16 years. The church has been served loyally and well by many brethren in their important and exacting office, in the persons of: S. H. Laney, 1920-35; C. Gwynne, 1936-38; R. H. Wakeley, 1939-44; T. A. Button, 1944-45; R. K. Wakeley, 1946; S. C. Woolley, 1946-49; N. Sommerville, 1950-61; W. Jay, 1961-63; W. Berlin, 1963-69; and N. Snow is the present Secretary.

The local brethren kept the work going, building up the cause and planning forward moves. The strength of the local preaching force can be indicated by the fact that in one particular month in later years Burwood brethren filled eight local and 24 outside preaching appointments.

During the vacation of 1920-21, the Church at Burwood were able to secure the services of Bro. A. R. Main, M.A., Principal of the College of the Bible and during this period he greatly assisted and encouraged the members with his excellent teaching in this early and vital stage of its existence. Bro. Main also assisted on other occasions and at all times during his lifetime took a keen interest in the church at Burwood.

The local church has always supported the policy of training and encouraging the local brethren in active work among the churches, and at the present time some 15 are able to preside at the Lord's Table, an equal number are able to read the Word of God in the services, and about 10 are able to exhort the church in an acceptable and helpful way.

STUDENT MINISTRY

The church has always been ready to encourage young men with ability to enter into the Ministry of the Word, and this encouragement has resulted in the following brethren entering our colleges to prepare themselves for this task: Harold Priestly, Les Dewberry, D. G. Hammer, Kelvin Parry, Don Smallbone, Franklyn Elliott and George Elliott, and in many cases this help has also been of a practical financial nature. Coupled with this the church has also been able to obtain the services of students from the college, who have assisted the work at Burwood; these not only receiving financial assistance for their services, but also being able to enter into active service and receive training in a practical way.

OUTREACH

The church at Burwood has always been actively engaged in "the work beyond" and in 1924 the opportunity came to start a new cause at Central Concord where a number of church families had settled. This was continued until July 1925 when the members there decided to link up with the church at Burwood. It was then decided to assist with the new cause at Ashfield, and considerable assistance was given until they were able to secure their own building and engage a resident preacher.

This vision has never deserted the church at Burwood, and assistance has been provided, or firm promises given, for proposals in other centres such as Leightonfield, Blaxland and Mt. Drutt. Since mid 1968, Miss K. Williams has been supported as our Living Link on the Mission Fields and advice is being awaited for the name of a second Link overseas.

THE HOME FIELD

The first land purchased for the erection of a church building was in Belmore Street, but this was later declared a residential area and the land was sold and the present site in Clarence Street was purchased in 1925. The first portion of the present building was erected and opened on 5th February, 1927.⁸

The church continued to make progress and arrangements were made to secure the services of our first full-time preacher, and Bro. J. R. Leach, B.A., a graduate of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, who had returned from missionary service in India, commenced his ministry of December 4th, 1927, and continued until February 1934. During this time the local membership increased from 60 to 160.

MISSIONS

During Bro. Leach's ministry The Vawter Mission was held, with great benefit to the local church, and in 1931 a further mission was held by Bro. Thomas Hagger resulting in a great spiritual uplift to the local brethren.

In the same year a local cause was commenced at Concord West, which continued until 1940 when it closed down, although the Bible School continued for some time, it too was compelled to close due to lack of local support.

In 1933 Bro. I. A. Paternoster conducted a mission which again greatly encouraged the local work. Other missions have been conducted during the succeeding years and have proved to be times of spiritual and refreshing revival.

After the death of Bro. Leach a call was extended to Bro. W. L. Ewers who served the church faithfully for a period of three years, when he accepted a call as Home Mission Organiser in South Australia. During his ministry a Tent Mission was held which helped to make our position and plea known very widely throughout the district, and later a series of Special Revival Meetings were conducted by Bro. H. G. Harwood. These were much blessed and proved to be very helpful to all who attended.

In June 1937 Bro. R. L. Arnold, from Moreland, Victoria, succeeded Bro. Ewers as preacher. His fine work among the young people as well as his inspiring messages to the church will always be remembered. He concluded a very fruitful ministry in 1941, having accepted a call to labour with the church at Ann Street, Brisbane.

at a cost of £2000/-

to be shown under Outreach

Resignation (died few months afterwards).



The Manse, 18 Clarence Street

at cost of \$2025
During the ministry of Bro. Arnold a manse was erected on land adjoining the church building, the foundation stone being laid by Bro. Leo Rossell on April 9th, 1938, shortly before his death.

In 1939, the oversight of the Petersham Church came under supervision for a period until they were able later to resume their own management and control.

Bro. D. Wakely came to us from Maylands, South Australia, on June 29th, 1941, and ministered with the church in a most acceptable way. In 1944 he was called by the authorities to a very special moral and spiritual campaign with the military forces in Queensland. This campaign was most successful and, at its conclusion, Bro. Wakely returned to labour with us until 1947, when he accepted a call to serve with the church at Hartwell, Victoria.

During 1944, in August, an Evangelistic Mission was conducted by Bro. R. V. Amos, Minister of the Church at Georgetown, resulting in many accepting Christ as their Lord and Master.

He was followed in the ministry of the word by **Bro. E. Davis**, who served the church at Burwood from 1948 to 1953 when, owing to failing health, he retired from the active ministry, later serving as Chaplain of the Churches of Christ Homes at Pendle Hill.

Bro. J. Henderson, B.A., came to Burwood following a very successful ministry with the church at Auburn, and served with us from 1954 to 1958 when he accepted an important appointment with the N.S.W. Child Welfare Department, for which his specialised training and studies had qualified him. During the latter part of his ministry, the church approved the principle of appointing an Assistant Minister and, in June 1957, Bro. S. Laney was appointed to this position which he filled with great success for about 12 months. It was also during this period that the church gave attention to a proposal that the property should be extended to provide for the needs of our rapidly expanding youth work.

Dr. A. Elliott, M.A., Ph.D., B.Sc., Dip.Ed., completed a very helpful and profitable ministry at Kingsford, N.S.W., and came to Burwood in 1958, serving with distinction until 1964 when he resigned to take up duties as Principal of the College of the Bible at Greenwich, N.S.W.

Warwick
During this time the church gave approval to the proposal to extend the church property, and the contract was let to Messrs.

Paynter and Dixon for the completion of the extensions which, together with the new appointments, new kitchen and repairs to the existing buildings, cost approximately £11,760 (or \$23,400), and we are pleased to be able to indicate that the whole of the debt on our building complex will be liquidated during this, our Golden Jubilee Year.

Also during the ministry of Dr. Elliott the church authorised the purchase of a Baldwin electronic organ and a beautiful pulpit was presented by Bro. Wal Stow and his family.

The work continued to prosper under the ministry of Bro. F. L. Ewers, B.A., who came from the church at Benteigh, Victoria, and served with us from 1964 until 1968, when he accepted the position of Deputy Principal at the Kenmore Bible College in Queensland.

Bro. R. M. Wilson, B.A., having completed a ministry with the church at Kingsford, accepted an invitation to fill an Interim Ministry with the church at Burwood and during 1968 he carried out a very helpful and fruitful service with us.

Then, early in January 1969, Bro. M. A. Pieper, our present Minister, having completed a term as President of the Queensland Conference, came to us from the church at Gatton, Queensland. During this year the church took an active part in the De Welt Mission.

PERSONAL

The church was organised with a membership of 28 in 1920, and has grown over the years. Many have gone to be present with their Lord, but four of the foundation members are still in membership with us today: Mr. and Mrs. S. Laney, Mr. W. Smith and Mrs. W. Larsson. *See Statement*

During the first month of the establishment of the church at Burwood quite a number of other members became associated with us, and of these Mr. and Mrs. W. Ellis are still on our church roll.

Throughout the years the church at Burwood has always made a real contribution to the wider work of the Brotherhood, having actively supported the various committees of conference, and has been represented on every committee. During the years the following Brethren have served as Conference President while being in active membership with the church at Burwood: 1917, Bro. Leo Rossell; 1923, Bro. John Crawford; 1940, Bro. Will Avenell; 1945, Bro. R. H. (Dick) Waleley; (1945) Bro. Stan Laney; 1960, Dr. Allan Elliott; 1961, Bro. Harry Palmer; and 1968, Bro. P. H. (Perc) Morton.

THE WOMEN'S WORK

The work of the women of the church has been sacrificial over the years, and early records show that the Women's Auxiliaries (the name has been changed from time to time over the years) was formed on 22nd August, 1921, and the President was Mrs. Crawford, Vice-President Mrs. Armstrong, Treasurer Mrs. A. Button, and Secretary Mrs. R. Eldridge. The present officers are: President Mrs. R. Millar, Vice-President Mrs. D. Pieper, Treasurer Mrs. P. Chipperfield, and Secretary Miss E. Stow.

Presidents of the Women's Conference have been: Mrs. J. R. Leach, 1938; Mrs. R. H. Wakeley, 1957; and Mrs. A. Elliott, 1961.

Since the establishment of the Christian Guest House at Croydon, the local Church has taken a very keen interest in the guests, providing transport each Sunday to the Morning Service and

speakers for a service each Sunday evening at the house, and women of the C.W.F. have arranged frequent visits to them.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

The Bible School was commenced in the Burwood Council Chambers in 1921 and was in the charge of Bro. E. Button and has continued in an unbroken witness ever since then. There have been "ups and downs" in numbers, but many faithful superintendents have led the work, Bro. A. Wilson being the present Superintendent. Similarly the Kindergarten and Cradle Roll sections have been led by faithful leaders, the present Kindergarten Superintendent being Mrs. E. Reiher, and Mrs. W. Small is the Cradle Roll Leader.

The high standard of the teaching in the school is reflected in the success of various scholars in the State examinations.

The Christian Endeavour movement has also had a prominent place in the work among youth and at one time we had three grades of Endeavour operating and assisting the young people.

The Club movement was at one time well represented and later gave place to the Brigade Movement, and at the present time we have a very active and successful Girls' Brigade Company under the leadership of Capt. Mrs. P. Ellis and a Boys Brigade Company under the leadership of Captain Max Gray, who is also the National President of Boys' Brigade, Australia. The present State President, Bro. W. Small, is also a member of the church at Burwood.

The "Outreach" spirit of the church has been further manifested by the Boys' Brigade Company. On two occasions in recent years they have journeyed to Tasmania and by means of practical demonstrations have assisted in the establishment of working companies in our Island State.

The church has also assisted the youth work of the State by paying for, and erecting, a cabin at the Youth Centre, Camp Greenhalgh, at Lake Illawarra.

We would place on record our appreciation of those of our members who have answered the Call to serve in the Armed Forces. Some made the Supreme Sacrifice, but we rejoice too, for the safe return of so many others.

The Board of Officers acknowledge with gratitude the continued blessings of our Almighty Father throughout the years, the continued witness of the Holy Spirit and the constant consciousness of the Divine presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ amongst us, and also thank all those faithful workers who have supported the work in so many ways throughout the past Fifty Years of continuing witness in this place.

APPRECIATION

In compiling these notes, we would acknowledge the work of Bro. W. Smith who compiled the History of the first 25 years, Bro. S. Laney for his help and contributions, "The Joy Tones" Arthur and Ruth Thurrowgood and Alan Pedler of Toowoomba for their Gospel messages during the week of the Celebrations, and to everyone who has contributed in any way to help this time of Jubilee to be a Witness to the Glory of God and to Him be all the Glory.

We express our thanks to Bro. John Kennedy for his Art Work on the front cover.

—W. H. Small

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE



It is my valued privilege to be serving with the church in the year of Golden Jubilee. At this time we salute the pioneers who gave themselves without reserve "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

But this is not a time to be too much preoccupied with the past. We are responsible for the present and the future. God's instruction to Israel of old has a challenging spiritual application for us now. "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you. . . ." (Lev. 25:10).

What a proclamation is ours to make! "One small step for man, a great leap forward for mankind!" was the thrilling proclamation of astronaut Neil Armstrong when he became the first man to set foot on the moon in July, 1969. But ours is even greater, for it concerns man's eternal destiny! Jesus declared that He had come to "proclaim liberty to the captives" (Luke 4:18). It is our task, given by the Lord of the Universe Himself, to continue to do this and proclaim to people bound by the chains of sin that, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:32). What a proclamation of emancipation and restoration! This is jubilee indeed!

The "last days" and "perilous times" are upon us. Let us then "hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all. . . ." No more dramatic, destiny-determining action than the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ can ever be undertaken. "Stand firm, then, my dear fellow Christians, and let nothing move you; work for the Lord always, work without limit, since you know that in the Lord your labour cannot be lost." (1 Cor. 15:58).

M. H. A. Pieper,
Minister.

GOLDEN JUBILEE PROGRAMME

* * *

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

- 5.45 p.m.: Golden Jubilee Dinner
Chairman: M. H. A. Pieper
7.30 p.m.: Golden Jubilee Re-Union Fellowship
Chairman: W. H. Small
Speaker: J. Henderson

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

- 11.00 a.m.: Golden Jubilee Back to Burwood Communion
Service
President: S. H. Laney
Speaker: A. W. Stephenson, M.A.
3.00 p.m.: Pleasant Sunday Afternoon
7.00 p.m.: Golden Jubilee Gospel Service
Chairman: M. H. A. Pieper
Speaker: M. C. Leask

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

- 6.15 p.m.: Burwood Family Dinner
7.30 p.m.: Family Fellowship Programme
Chairman: M. Gray

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

- 7.30 p.m.: Brotherhood Fellowship Night
Chairman: Dr. A. G. Elliott
Speaker: D. W. Mansell (Conference President)

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

- 7.30 p.m.: Golden Gospel Hour
Chairman: T. Scotland
Speaker: D. W. Mansell

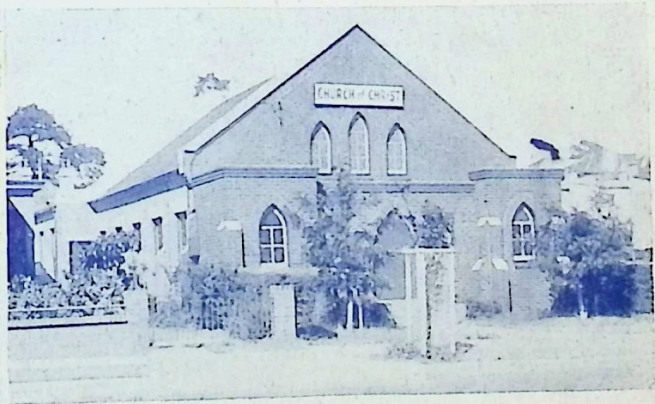
SATURDAY, JUNE 27

- 7.30 p.m.: Jubilee Youth Night
Chairman: I. Borham
Speaker: B. H. White

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

- 11.00 a.m.: Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Communion Service
President: W. Smith
Speaker: Dr. A. G. Elliott
7.00 p.m.: Golden Gospel Hour
Chairman: M. H. A. Pieper
Speaker: K. Farmer





Church of Christ, Clarence St., Burwood

Dear Friend,

The preacher and people of the above Church cordially invite any who are not attending Church Services elsewhere to attend our services.

At 11 a.m. Christians meet for Worship and Communion. At 7 p.m. there is a bright Song Service for fifteen minutes, followed by a helpful Evangelistic Service.. All seats are free and there are no collections at the evening Services.

If you have children, or know of any, who do not attend Sunday School, we shall be glad to welcome them at Three O'clock any Sunday afternoon.

Bearer of Invitation.....