
Maitland Diamond Jubilee

Very happy and successful celebrations have just been concluded, commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of our Church.

The wonderful faith and optimism of our people who, 60 years ago, amid many hardships and much difficulty built the beautiful church, which stands today in almost perfect condition. Its lofty walls and its fine furniture add to its beauty, and it is a church one can be justly proud of.

What a mighty faith the pioneers of this district had to build so substantially and well, and what a credit to the builders and carpenters who were responsible. There is scarcely a crack or blemish within or without.

It is these wonderful pioneers the present congregation is seeking to honour, and a scheme for improving the church entrance and surroundings has been carried out as a "Memorial to the Pioneers." The iron fence and gateways have been removed, and a cement buttress built. Two large cement pillars, 12 feet apart, each with a memorial stone, and a large electric light surmounting it. Between these and in towards the entrance doors are two moon-shaped steps, and the whole of the front, and on either side of the church, is cemented.

Time has not permitted for the whole scheme to be completed, except at the church itself. The adjoining block of land is to have a new cyclone fence in place of the present post-and-wire

place of the present post-and-wire (probably the original of 60 years ago), and memorial trees are to be planted on the street frontage.

Rev. A. J. Finch, one of the oldest past ministers of this circuit, was invited for the first part of the celebrations, which began in perfect weather, with a prayer and praise service, at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 5. Quite a few attended this service, and were greatly blessed.

There was a fine congregation at 11 a.m., and at 7 p.m. the church was packed to its utmost, including many in the aisles, to hear Mr. Finch, who gave two wonderful addresses. The morning theme was "Loyalty and Hope."

Loyalty in the small duties, often unseen and unrecognised, as that of Zacharia's in the temple. A great optimism was also in the evening sermon.

At each service the choir, under the direction of Mr. F. H. Fischer, gave of their very best in such anthems as "Hearken Unto Me," "And the Glory," "Worthy is the Lamb," "A for a Closer Walk with God," "Sweet is the Sunlight," "Hear My Prayer," and the Hallelujah Chorus.

Mr. H. R. Coombe was the morning organist, and Mrs. L. M. Sturm for the evening and the musical service in the afternoon.

Misses Edna and Cath. Prouse and

afternoon.

Misses Edna and Cath. Prouse and Beryl Edwards, all of our Westbourne Park Church, were here for the celebrations and part at every service, and won the hearts of all by their charm and readiness to serve their Church with their gifts of song and elocution.

Monday eight car loads of friends visited the Point Pearce Mission Station. They visited the school, which is in charge of Mr. Grewer and his daughter, and were surprised and delighted at the work done among the native children, especially in the woodwork and domestic arts sections. The visitors took up a collection among themselves, and the scholars were to be regaled with sweets. A short service was conducted in the church by the Rev. Finch for the adult natives. Miss C. Prouse rendered a solo.

On Tuesday a Men's Banquet was conducted in the institute, under the auspices of the local old scholars of M.L.C. and P.A.C. Laden tables, most

artistically decorated in red and white, were waited on by old M.L.C. scholars. About 100 men from all parts of the district were present, and visitors from Adelaide were Mr. J. F. Ward, M.A., Headmaster of P.A.C., and Mrs. Ward; Mr. Len Clarkson, President of the Old Scholars' Association, and Mrs. Clarkson; and Mr. David Waterhouse, LL.B., Secretary of P.A.C. An apology was telegraphed from the Board of M.L.C. for non-attendance, and good wishes were extended.

After partaking of the good things provided, the chairman (Rev. H. Alvey) called on the company to

honour the toast of "The King." Other toasts were "The Pioneers," by Mr. H. H. Lamshed, and responded to by Rev. A. J. Finch, who was the superintendent minister here from 1909 to 1913, and made special mention of the sterling character of the pioneer men and women of this district—how they struggled through adversity and hardship, while their faith in God never wavered. "Prince Alfred College" toast was given by Mr. David Waterhouse, and the Headmaster, Mr. J. F. Ward, M.A., responded. He hoped all the "old boys" would make it their business to visit the school and see for themselves the various alterations that have been made. He was grateful to the organisers of the banquet for the privilege of being present at this part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Maitland Methodist Church. "P.A.C. Old Scholars" was toasted by Mr. R. A. Symons, LL.B., and responded to by Mr. Len Clarkson. The old school song carried many back to the days of their youth.

The chairman announced that it was hoped that representatives of M.L.C. would visit this town at a later date in the interests of the school.

Mr. A. W. Kelly and Mr. W. H. Bagshaw (parents of scholars) were responsible for the toast of M.L.C.

"Our Hostesses" was the final toast, and Mr. S. K. Colman proposed it and Mrs. T. E. Ash, secretary of the banquet committee, responded.

During the evening, items, all of which were encored, were rendered by Misses E. and C. Prouse and B. Edwards; Messrs. H. R. Coombe and O. E. Hedley. Mrs. G. Gunning and Miss G. Lawson were accompanistes.

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"Auld Lang Syne" terminated a very happy and successful gathering.

Children's Night was Wednesday, and a very happy time was spent at the institute and a wonderful programme was given, many little performers being under six years of age. This was their gifts to the proceeds of the Jubilee Celebrations, and in years to come we hope these tiny tots will remember the part they took to assist in making a fitting memorial to the pioneers of our Church.

The "old folk" and many other "come backers" had an unique service in the Church on Thursday night. Mr. Edgar Andrew, a past organist, officiated, and used a tune-book which nearly 50 years ago was used for the organist. A choir of 14 "past" members, quite a few being over 70 years of age, occupied the choir, and rendered, without rehearsal, "King of Kings" in a truly capable manner, and made us think it was a grand choir this Church possessed in the "good old days."

Rev. Alvey led in prayer, and afterwards introduced the Rev. R. H. Davidson, D.C.M., Chairman of the District, and asked him to take charge of the meeting. The Chairman refrained from giving an address, leaving all the time for the "pioneers," but in a very apt way just kept the meeting in the right spirit.

Rev. Alvey called the roll of the early pioneers, whilst the congregation stood in memory and honour of them. He also had the baptismal register, and the first one whose name was entered was present at the service.

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Greetings were received from all the Churches in the circuit; also the various organisations. Rev. C. Hawke brought congratulations and good wishes from our Congregational friends at Maitland. A message was read from the Church of England; also from our sister Churches at Moonta, Kadina, Minlaton, Yorketown and Balaklava.

Rev. Dorman, of Ardrossan, was present and expressed the good wishes from the friends there. The Mayor of the town (Mr. J. S. Honnor) was present and congratulated the Church on attaining its sixtieth birthday and extended good wishes from the Town Council, which had expressed itself as delighted with the improvements being made to the Church premises, which would add to the beauty of the town.

Letters were read from the Hospital Board, many past ministers and scores of other friends.

A gift of a brass flower bowl was presented by Mrs. H. Alvey, on behalf of the Methodist Girls' Comradeship; and it was announced that the electric lights on the cement pillars of the Memorial were a gift from Mr. H. H. Lamshed.

Mr. J. H. Colliver, who has been a local preacher on the plan for 53 years, and has 40 years of active service to his credit, gave a wonderful talk about the early days of the Church. He remembers the very first services which were held at "The Well" at the late Mr. Henry Lamshed's original home. He spoke of the difficulties of getting to the services. Many people would walk for miles, or ride in a jolting dray, drawn by a heavy draught horse, through the then dense mallee scrub. But mere

then dense mallee scrub. But mere trips like that did not deter the Methodists of those days from attending Divine service. He remembers the erection of the present church 60 years ago, and paid great credit to the builders and carpenters, because the building and furnishing is still practically without crack or blemish.

Quite a number of other "returned" friends spoke of their early association with the Church, and of the influence many of these early Methodists had on their lives, and of the decision for the better life made within these walls. How pleased these friends of earlier days were to have this opportunity during this Diamond Jubilee to come back and tell of these things and the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Opportunity was taken for the presentation of a circuit gift, an illuminated address, to Mr. J. H. Colliver, whose wonderful service has been mentioned. The presentation was made by Mr. A. B. Ferguson, who has had a life-long friendship with the recipient. Mr. Colliver was thoroughly taken by surprise, but delighted at the

gift, which apart from a brief address and signed by stewards of all the Churches had a photo of his home, which has been the ministers and preachers' haven of rest for so many years.

Friday, at 3 p.m., saw a big crowd assembled outside the Church for the unveiling of the memorial stones to the pioneers. Rev. Alvey gave a brief outline of what had been done, and that yet to be done, to beautify the church surroundings. He said it was the wish of the trustees that Mrs. H. Gunning and Mr. H. H. Lamshed, two of the

and Mr. H. H. Lamshed, two of the oldest living members, should unveil the stones which are placed in the cement pillars at the entrance; these were then covered with Union Jack and Australian flags. Briefly and feelingly Mrs. Gunning unveiled the first to the Memory of the Pioneers of this Church. The inscription is: "To the Memory of the Pioneers of this Church, 1875."

Mr. H. H. Lamshed, the oldest official in the Church, after giving a brief talk on the early pioneers connected with it, unveiled to their memory and to the Glory of God the second stone, bearing the inscription: "Diamond Jubilee Memorial, 1936. Erected in Remembrance of the Pioneers, Maitland Church, 1875-1935."

A tablet was also placed on the Church porch, which was a gift many years ago from Mr. Elias Greenslade, and a daughter, Miss F. L. Greenslade, was asked to unveil it. In a few well chosen words, and expressing the thanks of the children and grandchildren, she unveiled the stone to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her father. On this stone the inscription is: "Erected to the Memory of Elias Greenslade, the Donor of this Porch, 1912."

Immediately following this ceremony a service was conducted in the Church, which was crowded. Rev. F. Lade, M.A., President of the Conference, was the invited preacher for the occasion, and he gave a beautiful address on "Be Ye Reconciled to God." Great thoughts, simply and beautifully expressed, five hymns, and Mr. H. R. Coombe at the organ, made everyone feel that it was good to be there.

there.

The gift of a very beautiful communion table was made by Mr. H. R. Coombe on behalf of his wife and himself. He asked the Rev. Alvey to accept it on behalf of the trustees. It was gratefully accepted and dedicated for the future service of the Church.

So that visitors and friends need not return to their homes for tea, this had been prepared in the Sunday-school hall. The tables and the whole of the room was decorated with dahlias and asters. The women of the Church had everything in readiness, and the Comrades waited on the tables. They had a very busy time, too, right on till 7.30 p.m. At 8 p.m. a concert was held in the institute, where every seat was occupied. An excellent programme was presented to a most appreciative audience. Each individual item was encored, and the artists gave of their very best to a delighted crowd. The choir rendered anthems, and some of the children's items were repeated and received with delight. Those taking part were Mesdames Lionel Greenslade, T. B. Noble, G. Gunning; Misses Jean Tiddy, G. Lawson; Messrs. H. J. Greenslade, H. R. Coombe and H. Davey, and the three talented Westbourne Park friends and Miss Doris Walsh, of Adelaide. Mr. F. H. Fischer conducted the choir, and Mr. S. K. Colman acted as chairman.

Sunday, 12th inst., and once more perfect weather. The preacher for the day was our beloved President of the Conference, Rev. F. Lade, M.A. His morning sermon touched on the sorrow of Mary weeping at the tomb, and of the great joy when Jesus again

the great joy when Jesus again appeared before the disciples. Miss C. Prouse sang Jude's Consecration Hymn.

There was a wonderfully optimistic note throughout the day, as there had been on the previous Sunday, and a looking forward for greater service.

At the musical service in the afternoon the church was full, and the choir of 30 rendered anthems; Misses C. and E. Prouse solos; Miss B. Edwards and C. Prouse recitals; and solos by Messrs. H. Davey, G. Gunning and H. J. Greenslade.

The evening service, which was the closing of the celebrations, will long be remembered by that splendid congregation. The congregational singing was inspiring, the choir at its best. Misses Prouse rendered as a duet, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and Rev. Lade was at his very best on the text, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believed."

When the benediction was pronounced and we realized the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations were concluded, and we mingled with the friends and visitors, one was delighted to hear the joy and pleasure expressed by all for the wonderful pleasure it had been to

meet again. Many words of congratulation were spoken for the way that everything had been planned and carried out.

Monday morning saw many of the visitors preparing for home, and we trust that their journeys were accomplished without harm or accident.
