

SURFERS PARADISE

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

ARCHBISHOP LAYS FOUNDATION STONE

Last Sunday marked another advance in the Anglican Church on the South Coast when His Grace the Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr. R. Halse, in the presence of about 300 visitors and parishioners laid the foundation stone of St. Johns Church of England on a site at the corner of Hamilton Avenue and Cambridge St., Surfers Paradise.

For some years the Rector (Rev. K. A. Watts) has conducted divine service at the State School and this will continue until the church, which has been looked forward to for a long while, is completed. The church which is to be of brick is being erected by Messrs Aird and Evans, local contractors and is estimated to cost about £4,000 towards which a fair amount is already in hand.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone had been arranged for January 9th but the rain prevented it and a postponement was made until January 30th, Sunday last. From a temporary platform His Grace the Archbishop conducted a very impressive service during which Dr. Halse laid the foundation stone which bears the following inscription: —

To the Glory of God

And in the memory of all who gave their lives in the Second World War 1939-45.

This stone was laid by Reginald Archbishop of Brisbane on 30th day of January, 1949.

The church as may be noted by the inscription is a memorial to those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the second World War.

The gathering on the church site in addition to the Archbishop included Rev K. A. and Mrs Watts, Reverends Archdeacon W. A. Hardy K. F. Watts (curate of St Peters) Rev J. Johnson (vicar of Coolangatta), W. Compton (St. Alban's), G. A. Luscombe, C. H. Zercho, Rev J. McDiarmid (St Andrews), E. F. Taylor (Methodist Church), A. Deans (Congregational Church), Mr W. B. Miles, the Mayor and Mayoress of Southport (Ald and

W. B. Miles, the Mayor and Mayoress of Southport (Ald and Mrs J. W. Proud), Cr E. J. Gaven (chairman Nerang Shire) and Mrs Gaven, also members of the Parochial Council and the Church and Peoples Wardens (Messrs N. N. Watts and E. L. Freeman).

St. Peters adult and junior choirs were in attendance and assisted with the singing while the organist Mr Waldie provided the music on a piano accordion.

The Rector welcomed the Archbishop, the visiting Clergy, parishioners and all who had assembled from different parts of the Diocese to take part in what was a most important function as it marked further progress of the Church of England on the South Coast. Rev K. A. Watts then read out a list of contributions that had already been handed in and which included one cheque of £50, the offerings approximating £140. The subsequent collection added another £360 making over £400 subscribed.

Mr. Watts said that all the furnishings of the church had been donated and three pews had been dedicated in memory of individuals. The church was very grateful for the gifts and he hoped that St. Johns Church will be thronged with

Johns Church will be thronged with worshippers.

THE CEREMONY

It is a great privilege for me, said His Grace to lay this foundation stone as the beginning of an enterprise to set in the middle of this delightful area a building, a house of God for all time. Those who know the Old Country are aware that mostly every city, town and village has a house of God and here in Australia we are not far behind in that respect in setting up our witness to God in His name and for glory and beauty that all who see it may know that there they may pray to God and thank Him for his goodness. No matter how beautiful the structure of a church may be they must realise its only a significance and that it is the worshippers who make it a church of God. No matter how beautiful the church is externally it is the spiritual stones, the worshippers, who by the witness of their lives and their hands make the church what it should be, the House of God. He thanked God He had put it in the hearts of the people to give of their substance to make it possible for the establishment of a Church of England at Surfers Paradise and he hoped it would soon be paid for as it was not possible for it to be consecrated until it had been paid for. It will be a great moment for the parishioners when the church is duly completed and furnished and it will stand for all time to the glory of God. It will not only be a place of worship but a viable sign that we are grateful to those who gave their lives and served their country and we thank God who gave them the courage and determination to face great peril and give their lives in the second Great War. While they realise that Surfers Paradise is renowned far and wide for the happiness and

joy which the amenities give to us they must remember that the material pleasures are not every thing and those who think of coming here for recreation and holi-

days should remember they owe a duty to God because if they did not do so they would be losing the greatest happiness of their lives. He hoped in days to come that all good things may come this way and that the church would be blessed and prosper to the Glory of God and may the residents of the district find happiness in the church in their midst.

The Rector thanked the Archbishop for coming to Surfers Paradise and laying the foundation stone of their new church. The Church Guild he said, realising that His Grace would possibly have many trowels given him as mementos of similar functions and they had decided to give him something useful in the form of an electric kettle.

In making the presentation to the Archbishop, Mrs J. Brindell, president of St. John's Guild thanked His Grace for laying the foundation stone and expressed the hope that it would not be long before he was invited to come down and consecrate St. John's Church.

The Archbishop suitably acknowledged the useful gift after which the Archbishop and the official guests were entertained at afternoon tea at Freer's Cafe.