

ST. KILDA HISTORICAL COLLECTION
150 Carlisle Street, St. Kilda

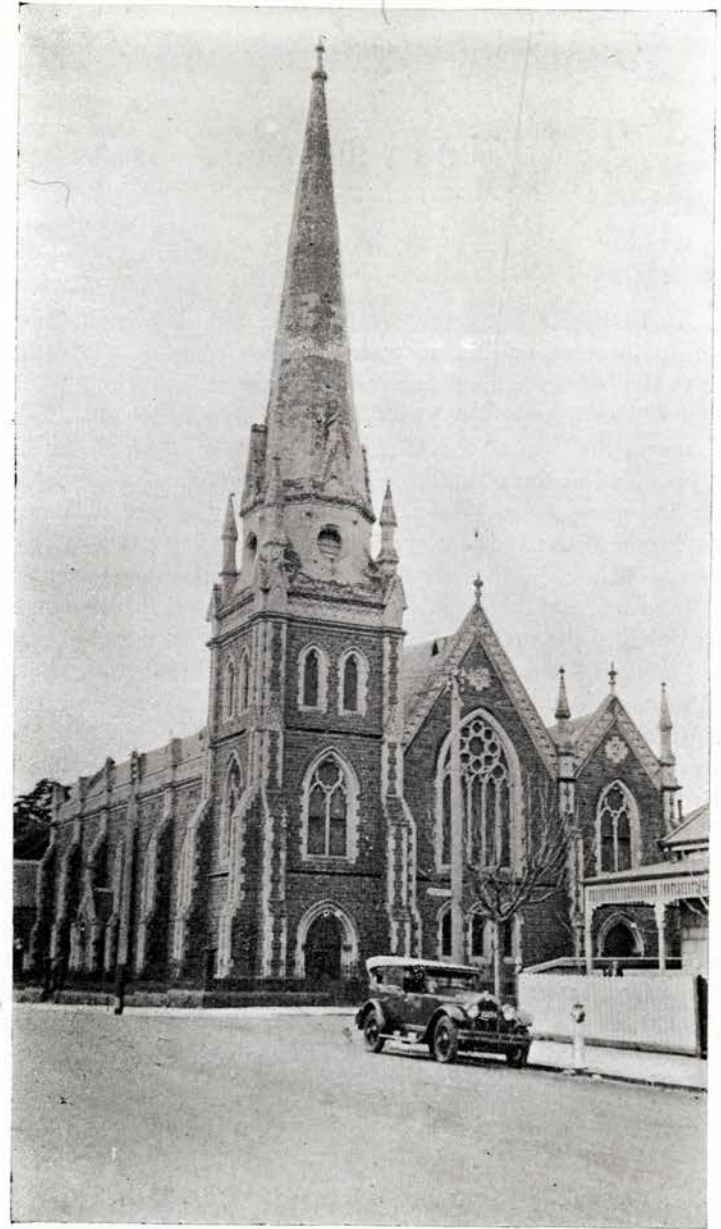
St. Kilda - -
Presbyterian
Church - -

ALMA ROAD. (Vic.)



75TH ANNIVERSARY
SOUVENIR

1855-1930.



St. Kilda Presbyterian Church, Alma Road,

Foreword.



My Colleague is entirely responsible for this book, and I congratulate him on his success. He has searched the records back to the beginning, and has produced an authentic and stirring outline of our seventy-five years' life as a Church. Several things are noteworthy. First, Dr. Robinson notes the perfect harmony that prevailed in the Church. The same is true of all the thirty years and more since. We are not given to quarrels. We have learnt brotherliness and charity. Second, the Church has never lived for itself alone. At an early date it took a special interest in Foreign Missions, and that interest has characterised it through all the years down to the present. Also, some years ago we took steps to found another Church at the south end of our parish, and this was done at considerable sacrifice. Third, the parish is no longer the kind of parish it used to be. The large homes have gone, and their place taken by flats and boarding houses. The Church in future will require a great deal of intensive work. Members must feel their personal responsibility and each do his or her part for the well being of the Church and the gathering in of those outside. Personal evangelism is the hope of the Church; each member an evangelist, each member a witness for Christ, showing forth something of the beauty of Christ likeness and doing something to gather others into the same allegiance. That the Church may be such a Church, to the glory of God and the increasing good of this city, is my chief desire as I lay down the burden I have borne for nearly thirty-one years.

DAVID ROSS.

St. Kilda Presbyterian Church

Alma Road.

1855—1930.

UNDER the impetus of the gold discoveries, Melbourne must have made amazing growth; for only twenty years after Batman had fixed on his site for "a village," enough Presbyterians had gathered in the suburb of St. Kilda, four miles from the City's centre, to justify beginning a Church. Services were inaugurated by the Free Church Synod of Victoria, and the first service was held in May, 1855, in an iron building at the corner of High Street and Alma Road. In October of the same year the congregation moved to a wooden building in



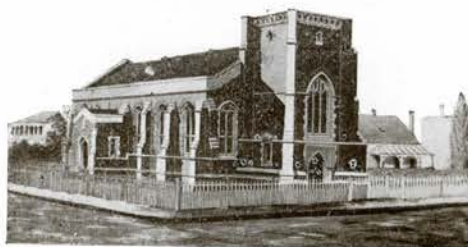
Rev. Chas. Moir. 1858-1872.

Inkerman Street, purchased from the Independent Church. It was not until the 19th March, 1858, that the Rev. Charles Moir was inducted as the first minister to the pastoral charge of the St. Kilda Presbyterian Church. His was a period of laying the foundations, and for fourteen years he laboured at that task.

The first meeting of the Session was held on 6th December, 1858, when those present were:—The Rev. C. Moir (Moderator), and Messrs. Wilson and Caldwell (Elders).

The first need of the young congregation was a Church on a central site. The present site was therefore purchased for about £1000 from Mr. Langwill, and a contract for a bluestone Church, to seat 380, was let to Bayne & Co. The Foundation Stone was laid on June 5th, 1860, and the Church was finished before the end of the year. Altogether the cost was about £4400—a big sum for a young congregation. But a Government grant of £444, an Assembly grant of £154, with donations and the proceeds of a wonderful bazaar, wiped off most of the debt by 1863. The bazaar must have been an event that was talked of for many a year. It was held in the Town Hall, lasted five days, and realised £837. In 1866 it was found necessary to add a gallery to accommodate the increasing congregation. The front pews of the gallery were let for 20/-; all other pews were 10/-. A pew rent collector was appointed, and he received a 5% commission on all he collected.

With a Church provided, the next step was a Manse. The congregation held a Government grant of land, a valuable property



The Old Church Building.

that extended from the Esplanade to Acland Street, somewhere near Luna Park. On this a Manse was erected in 1869, costing £1900.

There were no organs in those days. The Precentor reigned supreme over the Psalmody. Burning questions arose when some desired the introduction of hymns and organ. The hymn book question was once deferred, and once defeated, but in 1870 the book was sanctioned, only four opposing it. The organ seems to have been a particularly tactful bit of work, of the nature of peaceful penetration. A Mr. and Miss McEwan collected money, bought an harmonium, and presented it to the Church for the use of the Sunday School and the week-night meeting. After the congregation had time to get used to it, a petition was presented to the Session asking that its use be sanctioned in the Church. This was carried at a congregational meeting by 59 votes to 27. True to Scottish traditions, some left the Church rather than sub-

mit to this affront to their conscience. Mr. Julius Herz was the first organist, and Mr. Henderson was Precentor, when this innovation took place.

The Congregation, from its earliest days, has been privileged in having consecrated business men in its Courts. The Committee of Management of 1861 will revive old memories of some of Melbourne's leading citizens. They were:—Messrs. Wilson (Treasurer), Gray, Shaw, Langwill, Hervey, Melville, Blythe, Callender, Brown, Sloane, Gemmell, Sutherland, Ross, Dr. McKay and Mr. McCaul (Secretary). A name that appears often in the early records is that of Mr. Rattray. One of the present members dates her connection with the Church back to Mr. Moir's time—Miss Reed, of 9 Wimmera Place.

The growth in membership was steady. At the last Communion in Inkerman Street 60 took the Sacrament. In 1870 the average attendance at Communion was recorded, with scrupulous accuracy, as 83½. In the same year three weekly prayer meetings were held in various homes, and a central one at the Church. In 1867, £150 is mentioned as appropriated for the schemes of the Church, and all special collections



Rev. A. Cameron, D.D.
1873-1877.



Rev. S. Robinson, D.D.
1878-1899.

were abolished. A Minister's Bible Class was held. The Sunday School, under Mr. C. B. Gray, grew with the growth of St. Kilda. It has been missionary from its earliest days. In 1871, £27 was its contribution to mission work.

Mr. Moir resigned in 1872, and returned to Scotland. The congregation's choice then fell on the Rev. A. Cameron, D.D. He had come from Scotland to old Chalmers Church. After about two years' ministry there with Dr. Cairns, he accepted the call to

St. Kilda, and was inducted in March, 1873.

During his ministry the day school, which was connected with the congregation, and which was housed in the Inkerman Street building, was taken over by the Education Board. The headmaster was Mr. Ure, and one entry gives the roll at one period as 115.

The evidence of steady progress is seen in the fact that in 1875 plans for enlarging the Church were considered. At that time the future St. George's congregation was worshipping in the Orderly Room. A congregational meeting decided to defer "the building extension schemes of this Church until the result of the present agitation to build another Church in St. Kilda be known." The Orderly Room folk determined to adhere to its Chapel Street site. Before the matter could be discussed again, Dr. Cameron died. This was in December, 1877.

Dr. Cameron was a scholarly minister, much interested in religious literature. One minute says:—"To Dr. Cameron we owe the existence of the only worthy religious weekly journal published in the Colony." This reference is to the "Southern Cross," which he founded. The late Dr. Fitchett edited it up to the time of his death, and it is now merged in the "Australian Christian World."

In June, 1878, the Rev. Samuel Robinson was inducted as minister. A child of the Great Revival of 1859, cradled in a home that had given several ministers to the Church, strong in the Protestantism that Ulster breeds, and made wise by the experience gained in a parish in Ulster, and in another, Stockton, in Cali-



Sunday School.

fornia, he proved to be the man God needed for the expanding work in St. Kilda. He soon became a recognised leader in the Victorian Church in almost every branch of her work. He it was who began the movement for the restoration of the Bible to our State Schools. He had a large share in beginning the Mission work among the aborigines in North Queensland. He located the site for the Mission at Mapoon, and twice visited Queensland on its behalf. He was a leader in the Federation of the Presbyterian Church in Australia. By a combination of qualities—"courage with self-restraint, direct frankness with wise reserve, faith to lead with the wisdom not to lead rashly, sagacity and calmness of judgment, with the necessary stir of enthusiasm, knowledge of his own powers, with a mental consciousness of his own limitations, and a magnanimous recognition of the powers and feelings of others, a manful brotherliness, free from jealousy or smallness,



Mr. W. Simpson.



Mr. Geo. Young.

and, above all, a 'crowning common sense' and a transforming love and loyalty to the Master Christ"—by qualities such as these Dr. Robinson won a unique place in our Church's counsels. The Church of Victoria elected him Moderator in 1893, and Belfast University conferred on him the D.D. degree.

His visible monument in St. Kilda is the noble Church in which the congregation still worships. "It is an edifice which for all time will remain one of the greatest ornaments of St. Kilda, a landmark to the mariner, and an honour to its founders." The movement to build it was initiated on October 3rd, 1881. The memorial stone was laid by Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B., Governor of Victoria, on the 27th January, 1885, and the opening services were held on the 30th May, 1886. Many things conspired to delay the

project. Negotiations were entered into to buy more land beside the Church in Alma Road. Legal barriers made this impossible. Then proposals were made to build the Church and Sunday School on the one site, the school in the basement of the Church, or as a two-storey building at the rear. In 1882 the site of the present Sunday School was bought, and the building erected, and opened at the beginning of 1883. The present gallery in the School was the gallery in the old Church. The beautiful window was the gift of the Sunday School. In sums ranging from 2d. to £10, 200 people subscribed £130—the price of it.

The congregation worshipped in the Sunday School while the new Church was building, and Rev. W. Gray Dixon, M.A., acted as locum tenens, while Dr. Robinson visited Palestine, Europe, and the Homeland. Further unforeseen delays occurred. The tenders for



Mr. C. B. Gray.

the Church were more than twice the estimate. The whole scheme had to go again before a congregational meeting. The plans were amended, and in 1884 were accepted by the congregation. The total cost of the Church and School was £17,657. The old Manse property was sold, and realised £9306, and this was put to the Building Fund. Four donations of £500 were given. Mr. George Wilson, by donations and by legacy, gave £1000 toward it; and it is to his memory and that of his niece, Miss M. Watt, that the beautiful window near the front of the Church was erected by Mrs. G. Wilson Fraser (nee Watt). It was unveiled in May, 1890. It was placed over the pew in which, while health permitted, both worshipped regularly.

The Infant Class Room was added to the Sunday School in

1887. It was made possible by the generosity of Mr. J. L. Currie, who paid the balance owing after all subscriptions were gathered in. He gave £134.

In 1890 the new organ was installed in its present position at a cost of £1260, and the choir was removed from the gallery to its present place in the Church. Unfortunately the "land boom" broke just after the installing of the organ, and the debt on it remained for many years.

In 1890 a branch of the P.W.M.U. was organised in the congregation. Its membership in the first year was 150. A lady missionary in Korea was supported. This was made possible by the generous liberality of Mrs. J. L. Currie, who gave £50 for three years toward the salary.

These were years of busy life in the congregation. Sabbath evening Bible Classes for men were held; the Fellowship was started after Mr. Geo. Clarke's mission in 1888, Mr. A. Gillespie being secretary; a Ministering Children's League was formed, with a membership of 150; the "Monthly Record" was begun by Dr. Robinson; and the first Pastoral Letter of which there is record was written by him, and opens the Report of 1888. In it he refers to the complete, long-continued harmony that existed in the Church. That is a feature of the Church's life to the present day. With men like John Matheson, J. T. Cormack (Session Clerk), Charles Anderson, Thomas Alston, J. L. Currie, J. Dixon, J. Finlay, H. M. C. Gemmell, G. Wilson, G. Shaw, W. Simpson, and Dr. Rankine on the committees, it is no wonder the great building schemes offered no insuperable difficulty.

A Literary Association was organised. A valuable organisation was the St. Kilda Christian Effort Association. It began in 1889, and included the Ladies' Work Society, the Visiting Society, and the Tabernacle Society. The inaugural address delivered by Dr. Robinson was on "Shams and Shirkers." It seemed to have made a deep impression. There were at least no shams or shirkers in the Visiting Society. The ladies visited districts fortnightly, and reported absence from Sabbath School, sickness, and all cases needing help and a visit of the minister. Dr. Robinson spoke enthusiastically of the work of this Society.

The break of the "land boom" was a big drain on Dr. Robinson's energy. It carried monetary ruin all over Victoria. Dr. Robinson had always resolutely set his face and raised his voice against the methods of that time. St. Kilda Church was hit hard. The salary of the minister was greatly reduced, and economies had to be effected all round. Mr. J. Millar Smith, now a retired minister of the Victorian Church, was assisting Dr. Robinson with the

visiting. For the sake of economy his services had to be dispensed with. However, the situation was met with a dauntless spirit. But in 1898 the strain told. Dr. Robinson went to New Zealand, toward the end of the year, in search of health. He preached his last sermons in Riverton Church on February 12th, 1899, preaching, it is recorded, "with great power." On March 5th a severe hemorrhage occurred, and he came home to die. He passed away, amid the sorrow of his people, on March 30th, 1899. A selection of his sermons, entitled "Australian Sermons," with a biographical introduction, written by Dr. Rentoul, was published in 1899.

In March, 1899, Dr. Robinson died. In November of the same year the Rev. David Ross, M.A., who, as Senior Minister, is with the congregation still, was inducted into the pastoral charge. Mr. Ross has thus served St. Kilda for thirty-one years, the longest pastorate in the history of the congregation. He has been laid aside from his work since February of this year (1930), and at present his resignation is in the hands of the Presbytery, and he desires it should take effect from the end of July. At a congregational meeting, held on June 25th, it was unanimously agreed to grant Mr. Ross an annual retiring allowance of £150.

Mr. Ross served his Church at Crathie, Scotland, and St. Andrew's, Perth, W.A., before accepting the call to St. Kilda. In the Session Report for 1900, after referring to Mr. Ross' induction, the hope is expressed: "May his 'entering in unto us' be fruitful to the glory of God." That hope has been abundantly realised, and its realisation has not been confined to St. Kilda; for, through his devotional page in "The Messenger," and his work among the students at Ormond College, and in Student Conferences, he has wielded a spiritual influence, of the finest nature, all over Australia. A scholar who has kept abreast of the learning of the day; a man of method and industry, who has diligently cultivated his gifts; a preacher with a beautiful simplicity of language and clearness of thought; an adviser with a sane judgment and a mind that pierces through to the essentials of a question, Mr. Ross has been a gift of God to St. Kilda and the Church in Victoria.

His has been the task of consolidating the position of Presbyterianism here. But his, too, has been the task of largely organising the work among the young people. St. Kilda has changed since 1900. In 1907, Mr. Ross spoke "of the migratory nature of our people." Time has only intensified this. There is no longer the large family pew. In 1873, the average attendance at Communion was 97; in 1886, the first year of the new church, it was 142; in 1900, 188; and in 1928, 203. The heads of families made

up the majority of the communicants before 1900. Since then a much larger proportion of the roll is made up of young people. This is due to increasing responsibility being thrown on the young people, and the fact that their organisations are largely worked by themselves.

In 1900 the Session consisted of four members—Messrs. Young, Calder, Welch, and Lawson. In 1929 there were 12 members, with a Board of Management of 17. The Session in recent years has had two members—Messrs. G. Renfrey, Junr., and H. Usher—while both were in their twenties, and splendid service they rendered. (George Renfrey is now preparing for our Ministry, and H. Usher is having a brilliant course in American Universities, specialising in Youth Work). All this is symptomatic of the change that has come over the parish. St. Kilda, around the Church, has become largely a place of flats and boarding houses.



Rev. D. Ross, M.A., 1899-1930.



Mrs. D. Ross.

There are some outstanding features of Mr. Ross' ministry. In February of 1904 the first deaconess, Miss J. D. Robertson, began her work. Her work in the Sunday School and among the women of the Parish soon made itself felt. On June 22nd she began the Mothers' Meeting, with an attendance of 11. It soon rose to 35, and to the present day it has remained a live organisation in our Church. She also organised a "Try Band" among the children—the forerunner of the Mission Band which still carries on. Another feature of the deaconess' work, begun in Miss Robertson's time, has been the weekly Scripture lessons in the State Schools. Miss Robertson set a high standard, which has been maintained by her successors—Miss Greve and Miss Ferguson.



Board of Management, 1905.

The parish was not only consolidated, but gave thought to expansion. On August 18th, 1909, the Session sanctioned the opening of a new Sunday School in Mr. Bruce's home, Scott Street, South St. Kilda. This was the beginning of the present Elwood parish. In April, 1912, services were begun, also in Mr. Bruce's home, and in December of the same year the application of the Scott Street people to become a Home Mission charge was granted. A site had been procured at the corner of Scott and Tennyson Streets. This was gifted to the new congregation by the parent Church. A Church was erected on it, and opened on December 12th, 1912, and in May, 1913, South St. Kilda was made into a separate charge. Twenty of the new members on its roll of 42, including two elders and one manager, were from the St. Kilda Church. The "Monthly Record" of that date says:—"We are sorry to lose so many members, but it is a part of the price that must be paid for a new Church."



Miss Robinson.



Miss Ferguson.

Under Mr. Ross' ministry, St. Kilda has become a Church known for its Foreign Mission activity. Mr. Ross was for ten years Convener of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee. It was largely due to his advocacy that the Assembly took the forward step in Korea that meant more than doubling its outlay—£6500 instead of £3000. Immediately steps were taken by Mr. Ross to raise £70 a year in this congregation, and thus along with the Churches at Prahran, South Yarra, and East St. Kilda, provide £280 a year—the salary of a married missionary. Some years the Church has given more than £70, but always she had fulfilled her promise in this matter, and every September the £70 is forthcoming. The other three Churches have found it impossible to continue.

In the 1903 Report it is stated:—"The Session has sanctioned



Board of Management, 1930.

the printing and circulation of a monthly tract." This was the genesis of Mr. Ross' "Monthly Message." Mr. Hempel took charge of the distribution of it, and it soon attained a circulation of 3500. The Sale congregation took 120 copies of the "Message," and distributed it with a special front page. Copies went far and wide. It was continued until Mr. Ross visited the Homeland in 1925.

In 1905 a Men's Meeting was begun, in which Miss Robertson, Mr. T. Chirnside, and Mr. Fishley were interested. It met weekly on Thursday evenings in the hall, and it drew in a number of men who would not otherwise have connected themselves with the Church. It had great success, so much so, that Mr. Ross could say at one Congregational Meeting: "It has greatly exhilarated me when I have sometimes been depressed."

The week-night meeting has often been changed into a Bible School during Mr. Ross' ministry, with splendid results. One school had an enrolment of 140 members. Last year the school had an enrolment of 80 members, and 40 continued the school for another six weeks.

The Church has increased her property in these years. In 1902 a 10ft. strip of land was purchased alongside the Church in Alma Road. This has given more light, and set off the Church to better advantage.

In October, 1919, the splendid property, "Stanthorpe," alongside the Church in Barkly Street, was purchased for the sum of £3500, largely due to the energy, and foresight, and tenacity of Mr. H. T. McKean. It still carries a debt of £1200, but pays its own expenses and yields the Church a yearly revenue of about £250. The future may see it used definitely for Church purposes. Its purchase made possible the construction of a Tennis Court on the land, at the back, and the club is now a flourishing one. Occasionally it has won the premiership—but always it has taken a high place in the Church competitions.

In 1924 Mr. William Wilson gave the munificent gift of £1000 to put the Church in thorough repair. He had found life through Jesus Christ in the Church, and this was an expression of his gratitude. For eight Sundays the Church was closed, the congregation worshipping in the Hall, while Mr. Charles Williams, one of the Church's own old boys, renovated the interior. And the Church to-day is a testimony to his work. The Church seats were

*"Stanthorpe."*

A debt of £1200—the only debt on the whole of the Church property—remains on "Stanthorpe." The removal of this debt would be a fitting close to the 75th Anniversary.

also all re-cushioned at a cost of £285. Electric light was installed, and in the following year electric heaters.

At the same time the congregation, by a Fete, raised enough money to renovate the Sunday School. The Church, therefore, has a splendid property, valued at over £40,000, in thorough repair, and except for £1200 on "Stanthorpe," is free of debt.

To Mr. Ross fell the care of the War years. What his ministry of comfort meant only the bereaved can tell. For the men on service he met it by addressing a special message to them—a message which stood in the front of the "Monthly Record." Heartening messages they were, calculated to inspire hope in dark days, and to enable the soldiers to see in the light of eternal truth

*Ladies' Guild, 1930.*

the work they were doing. The congregation erected an Honour Board, designed by Mr. Altmann, a member of the Session. It is beautiful in design and workmanship. It stands in the Vestibule of the Church, and on it are recorded the names of all men who were in any way connected with the Congregation, and who went to the war. It was unveiled by the Right Rev. John Walker on September 28th, 1919.

As in former ministries, Mr. Ross has had the support of a splendid body of office-bearers. Of his first Session, Mr. Lawson returned to New Zealand; Mr. R. Welch, after giving great service in connection with the Allan Bequest Scholarship examinations and in the carrying through of the Jubilee Celebrations, died



Mr. G. W. Bruce.



Mr. F. Smiley.

in 1905. A memorial chair for the use of the organist was presented by his family in 1915. Mr. Calder died in 1914. He had been a great help to the Church in earlier days, in the Sabbath School and Bible Class. Mr. George Young died in 1908. He had been an elder for 40 years, and Session Clerk for 37 years. He was a great soul, a public-spirited citizen, and the founder of several great charitable institutions.

Mr. Lind, who succeeded Mr. Young as Session Clerk, carried on for 15 years, although for more than half that time he resided at Surrey Hills. On Communion Sundays he would walk over 20 miles coming to and returning from the service. He resigned in 1924, to be followed in turn by Mr. Jamieson, Mr. George Bruce, and the present Session Clerk, Mr. Frank Smiley.



Sunday School Teachers and Officers, 1930.

Mr. Lind was also Secretary of the Board for many years. He was followed in 1916 by Mr. C. L. Hewitt, who held the position until 1929. He so won the esteem of the congregation, that on his resignation to accept the eldership in the Hartwell congregation, he was presented with an address and an inscribed gold watch. Mr. E. Hull has been an excellent successor. Mr. R. Mathieson and Mr. G. W. Bruce gave unsparingly of their time to the office of Treasurer.

The Sunday School has been served by a sacrificial band of teachers through all its history. It owes much to Mr. W. Simpson,



Mr. A. Douglas.



Mr. H. Usher.

who was Superintendent from 1872 until his resignation in 1906. He died on November 7th, 1911. Such was his singleness of purpose for the Sunday School that he refused the Eldership, to which office he was again and again elected, until after he had resigned from the school. He desired to reserve himself for the school. The beautiful carved panels in the pulpit are the memorial raised by the Sunday School to his memory.

Likewise, Mr. Harper, as Secretary of the School, did great service. The Communion Table and chair are his memorial.

Rev. H. S. Legge, M.A., B.D., then a student at Ormond College, and assisting Mr. Ross, superintended for two years, and during his time the system of grading was introduced.

Mr. Douglas, appointed in 1909, brought the school to a high standard of efficiency, and he superintended until his removal

from the district in 1927. Then followed, in quick succession, three of our younger men—Mr. Harry Usher, Mr. E. Hull, and the present Superintendent, Mr. J. McPherson.

A name that often appears in the Reports as one who gave outstanding service in the Infant Department is that of Miss Cross.

The Boys' Naval Brigade played a great part in the Sunday School's life from 1903 to 1908. It was in charge of Mr. C. W. Le Plastrier, and had over 100 names on its roll.

Time would fail to tell of all the activities of the Ladies' Guild, P.W.M.U., Presbyterian Girls' Fellowship, Literary and Debating Society, Cricket and Gymnastic Clubs, Boys' Order of the Burning Bush, the Girls' Order of the Covenant, the Girl



Rev. H. Clark, M.C., M.A.



Mrs. H. Clark.

Guides and Rangers. All these organisations have given their members opportunity to express their faith.

In 1919 the Assembly crowned Mr. Ross' long service by electing him Moderator. He toured a large part of the State, inspiring the whole Church with his addresses, and enabling it to realise its oneness. Rev. E. C. Day assisted him in St. Kilda during his Moderatorship.

In 1923 it was proposed to call a Colleague and Successor to Mr. Ross. This was accomplished, when, in January of 1925, the congregation extended a call to the Rev. H. Clark, M.C., M.A., of Tokomairiro Parish, Milton, New Zealand. Mr. Clark, who had had 3½ years' experience as a Chaplain at the war, was inducted in

May of 1925. Meanwhile, Mr. and Mrs. Ross had left on a holiday to Europe. While at Home, Mr. Ross published a book of sermons—"About Jesus." This is still procurable. They returned early in 1926, and since then the work of the Parish has gone on steadily.

This history would not be complete without some reference to the work of the Choir. Old members will remember Messrs. Henderson, Spedding, and Longmuir, precentors in their day. After the bursting of the "boom" in the nineties, the Board had to economise. Mr. Forder was therefore appointed both organist



Mr. E. Gough, Church Officer, 1870-1905.

and conductor. He was followed by Mr. Watkins, Mr. F. Watmuff, and Mr. W. C. Fyshe, Mus. Bac., L.A.B. Mr. Fyshe was appointed in 1914, and still holds the position. One present member of the choir, Mr. Roy Mitchell, has given it 33 years' service, joining in 1897. All through the Reports of these seventy-five years, recognition is made of the choir's help. There were days evidently when it rose to great heights.

Nor would this short history be complete without reference to the Church Officers. They have been a goodly succession—



Members of Board of Management, 1930.



The Choir, 1930.

men who have taken a pride in their work. With unfailing courtesy and great faithfulness, they have performed their duties. The earliest record speaks of the appointment of Mr. Cumming in 1867, at a salary of £40. The next officer, Mr. E. Gough, was appointed in 1870. He resigned in 1905, after 35 years of scrupulous faithfulness in his work. He was granted a pension of 10/- a week. His successor, Mr. G. Millar, lived up to the high standard set, and when he resigned, in 1915, he was presented with a piece of plate, and later on he was elected to the Board. Mr. George Belcher filled the position as if it were a labour of love. He resigned in 1927. A presentation was made to him, and at the



*Mr. G. Belcher. Mr. T. Goode. Mr. C. T. Millar,
Church Officers, 1905-1930.*

next election for the Eldership, the Congregation showed the esteem in which he was held by electing him an Elder. The service of Mr. T. Goode, the present Officer, leaves nothing to be desired.

In this short history "the things that are seen" have received attention. It must be so. But the finest part of the Church's history cannot be written. It is written in the souls of the men and women who have been made stronger for the battle of life, and have been sent out, inspired with Christ's ideals and love, into our country's life. The heads in Sunday School and in the Church can be counted, but none can count the influence in this city's life of 75 years of faithful preaching from the pulpit, and of teaching from the Sunday School and Bible Classes. Not in the statistics and fine buildings of the Church, but in the realm of the unseen and eternal alone will the true verdict on the life of the congregation be given. The souls it has produced—this is the real test of the 75 years of life of the St. Kilda Church.

Many names have been mentioned here. But there are multitudes of nameless ones who built their lives as living stones into the Church. They made their contribution, and answered the call of God. They made possible the opportunity of to-day. They erected these buildings free of debt for this generation, and feeling it is "compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses," this generation will be unworthy of the Church's past if it turns back from the work of the Lord to-day. A glorious heritage is ours—to pass it on unshorn of its glory, to the generations yet to be—this is our task.



Honour Roll.

Wheatland Bros, (Wheatland & Huckell), Printers, St. Kilda