



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HENDERSON

1911 - 1961

JUBILEE SOUVENIR

BOOKLET



Minister : Rev. A.C. Robinson

Foreword

First, I would like to say a word of thanks to the Very Rev. J.D. Smith, who has compiled this account of the story of our Church and Congregation. When one realises the incomplete records available, and the meagre nature of some of them, one can not only pardon some omissions, but feel amazed and grateful that so much has been included. Many hours of painstaking work have gone into it, and Mr. Smith is to be complimented on the result.

You are invited to read this record thoughtfully - it contains food for thought. There is cause for thankfulness, for appreciation of loyal service given over the years. Such an occasion as this reminds us that we have entered into an inheritance. Because others have served faithfully before us, we have the opportunity to serve in our turn, and, with God's help, to pass on a yet richer heritage to those who will follow us.

Let us give thanks to Almighty God, in whose name this cause has been built, and in confident faith in him let us face a future with ever widening horizons of service. In this rapidly growing community opportunities to serve our Lord are not lacking. Let us go forward into the future in faith made the stronger by our realisation of the way God has used his servants in the past.

A.C. Robinson.

Ministers and Home Missionaries
1911 - 1961

Part of the Avondale Parish -

1911-1912	Rev. D.J. Albert
1913-1915	Rev. W. Marshall
1916-1919	(War Years) Vacant
1920-1922	Rev. A. McDonald

Separated from Avondale 16/9/20

Home Mission Station -

1921-1923	Rev. R. Mitchell (Part time)
-----------	------------------------------

Aided Charge -

1924-1926	Rev. F.J. Usher
-----------	-----------------

Home Mission Station -

1927-1930	Rev. C.E. Perkins
1931-1933	Rev. W.H. Nicholas
1934	F.H. Robertson (Student)
1935	Rev. J.M. Lochhead
1936	Rev. W. Butterworth (Retired Minister)
1937 to 30/6/37	Rev. J. Milne (Retired Minister)
1937-1938	G.M. Yule (Student)
1939	W.J. Wallace (Student)

Henderson combined with Hobsonville

1940-1944	Rev. E.R. Alexander Manse, Hobsonville 1940-43 Henderson 1944
1945-1946	Rev. D.W. Morgan
1947-1949	Rev. W.A. Anderson
1950-1951	Mr. R. Harris

Kumeu (Hobsonville) Parish separated from
Henderson

1952-1955	Rev. A. Sutherland
-----------	--------------------

Te Atatu Parish separated from Henderson

1956-1961	Rev. A.C. Robinson
-----------	--------------------

Session Clerks

Mr. B.R. Younger	23/2/21 - 16/6/40
Mr. L.B. Fordyce	16/6/40 - 19/7/48
Mr. E.L. Goodenough	19/7/48 - 28/3/61
Mr. J. McDonald	21/3/61 ———

Elders

Messrs. B.R. Younger, T. McKay, A. Forson Stewart, J. Collings, Wm. Bodley, D. Crawford, L. Clarke, G.E. Soutar, J.W. Jameson, L.B. Fordyce, D. MacLeod, ✓ W. Wallace, E.R. Alexander, C.M. Spencer, J. Brown, ✓ E.L. Goodenough, ✓ W. Gilmour, A.J. Webb, ✓ J.M. Russell, D.H. Peden, J.E. Enever, J.D. Smith, A.R. Goodenough, ✓ J. McDonald, ✓ N.S. Conquer, W. McLintock, ✓ W.J. Witstyn. ✓

Secretaries to the Managers' Committee

Messrs. T. McKay, P.E. White, W. Bodley, J.F. Peatson, L.B. Fordyce, C.M. Spencer, D. MacLeod, N.S. Conquer. Mrs. R.P. Thomas

Treasurers :

Messrs. T. McKay, W. Bodley, H. Coop, J.W. Jameson, Mrs. D. MacLeod. Messrs. W.B. Gilmour, C.M. Spencer (acting) W.J.A.H. Witstyn, G.D. Kay.

Moderators appointed by the Presbytery after

Henderson was separated from Avondale

Rev. J. Pattison, R. Crockett, Thos. Halliday, J. Pattison, F.B. Barton, J.H. Combes, R.E. Evans, W. Butterworth, J.D. Smith (1939-1955).

Out Stations

During the fifty years, services have been held at the following places :

Glen Eden, Oratia, Nihotupu, Henderson Valley, Swanson, Waitakere, Te Atatu, Bethell's Beach, Hobsonville, Kumeu, Brigham's Creek, Riverhead and Taupaki.

Statistics down the years 1922-1960 from the time of separation from Avondale.

	<u>Members</u>		<u>Gross Revenue</u>
1922	18		£256
1923	19		£124
1924	19		£291
1925	63		£530
1926	74		£327
1927	80		£312
1928	94		£560
1929-30	90	16 months	£634
1931	90		£446
1932	72		£334
1933	48		£448
1934	41		£444
1935	38		£212
1936	32		£216
1937	30		£270
1938	23		£231
1939	25		£223

(Henderson - Hobsonville)

1940	25		£433
1941	48		£402
1942	52		£322
1943	59		£351
1944	57		£389
1945	61		£470
1946	65		£410
1947	68		£460

	Members	Gross Revenue
1948	82	£510
1949	85	£470
1950	88	£518
1951	89	£543

Henderson separated from Hobsonville

1952	55	£572
1953	97	£893
1954	119	£1411
1955	137	£1106

Te Atatu separated

1956	105	£1189
1957	106	£1279
1958	115	£1429
1959	144	£1721
1960	154	£1669

Early Days

The Presbyterian Church began work in the Henderson area in 1865 when it formed part of the Avondale Parish which extended as far as Helensville. It was a long time however, before any work was established in an organised way. The earliest record of a local organisation goes back to September, 1890. Some time before this, a Committee had been appointed to look after the Presbyterian interests in Henderson. The first recorded meeting shows an attendance of three women and four men with the Minister the Rev. C. Worboys. The secretary was Mr. J. Laurie, but at the next meeting he resigned to make way for Mr. R.S. West. There was an endeavour to hold a fortnightly service but sometimes it had to lapse. It was supplemented by a monthly week-night meeting.

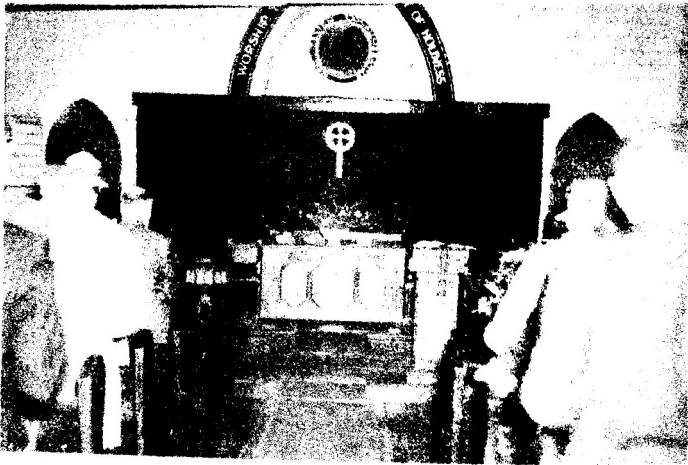
It was certainly a day of small things as far as the Church was concerned but the difficulties were great. The population was small and the Presbyterian percentage was lower than the average. Numbers of the settlers were Dalmatian Roman Catholics from whom no support could be expected. Even in 1916 there were only 846 Census Presbyterians in the whole of the Waitemata County which then included Henderson. The roads were bad and transport was by Horse and Gig except when use could be made of the railway. The records frequently mention that the moderator had to leave a meeting in order to catch a train to take him home. In the small population there was evidently considerable movement, as names appear in the records and then are seen no more. This is also reflected in the length of stay of the Ministers. Apart from the present Minister, none stayed longer than four years. In the period from 1920 to 1955 the average stay was two years and four months.

Difficult Days

We must remember that the period under review included two World Wars and two major depressions, the first in 1921 and the second ten years later. These are reflected in the difficulty experienced in obtaining Ministers and in supporting them when obtained. Instead of a story of steady progress, the Henderson one is that of a desperate struggle to make ends meet and often not succeeding in this. The more detailed account given below shows how the endeavour to rise to the status of a charge did not succeed even with aid from Central Funds and the support of a Home Missionary was later too great a burden and resort to unmarried students at £2. 5s. a week became necessary.

The bright spot in the gloom is the unfailing support given by the Women's Guild who often with no more than a dozen members were responsible for making annual contributions without which the congregation could hardly have carried on. Altogether they amounted to more than £2,375.

So in spite of everything, with the help of a core of loyal members the cause kept going and in our Jubilee we do well to remember those who kept on keeping on believing that a better day would come.



Interior of Church

The Building of the Church

Our Jubilee dates from the building of the Church. The foundation stone bears the inscription:

This stone was laid by
Mr. J.W. Stewart, July 8, 1911

A similar stone was laid by
Mr. Robert Garroway with the same date.

By a somewhat arbitrary choice the building date came to be regarded as the really effective beginning of a Presbyterian cause in Henderson. It had begun some time before as we have seen. Later on, 21st and 25th Anniversaries were celebrated in 1932, and 1936 respectively. We thus arrive at the 50th Anniversary in 1961.

Unfortunately the Session record of 1911 which was handed over to Avondale for safe-keeping, perished through damp in the safe at St. David's. So we do not have a record of the date of the opening of the Church or who officiated at the service. On August 5th arrangements were made for furnishing the church and by November 1st, the builder, Mr. Grandison was being thanked for the good work put into the building, which without pulpit or pews cost £342.

The Committee which was responsible for the erection of the Church was composed of six men and six women - Messrs. Cantwell, Younger, Duncan, Entrican, Yearbury, McKay; Mesdames Yearbury, McKay, Younger; Misses Entrican, Duncan and Gilberd. The Minister under whom the project started was the Rev. A. McLean and the Minister at the time of the completion of the building was the Rev. D.J. Albert.

1911-1920 Still Under Avondale

During the period 1911 to 1915 Henderson was ministered to by the Avondale Ministers, Rev. D.J. Albert who left in 1912 and Rev. W. Marshall who left in 1915. The financial arrangement was that Henderson sent all money collected (after the deduction of expenses) to Avondale. During this period Miss Entrican was responsible for raising considerable sums by the sale of quotation calendars, thus helping to reduce the debt on the Church, which by July 1913 stood at £190.

During the war years from 1916 to 1919 Avondale was officially listed as vacant but it was ministered to by a Home Missionary, Mr. J. Charteris, and a retired Minister, the Rev. R. Mitchell, who lived in Henderson.

The former presided at a number of meetings of the Managers and his work was evidently appreciated as the Secretary was instructed to find out from the Moderator why Mr. Charteris had not been officially appointed to the charge. At the annual meeting in 1918 the Balance Sheet showed receipts £62, expenditure £57 which was regarded as satisfactory. Mr. Mitchell's association with Henderson carried over after the separation from Avondale and altogether he served for four years but part time as he had a poultry farm of his own. Avondale with Henderson assistance purchased a horse and gig for transport purposes and this afterwards became a matter of contention when Mr. Mitchell retired from the work. He contended that Avondale had made a gift of the horse and gig to him, a claim in no way supported by the minutes, but he managed to get away with it as the managers, while still asserting their rights, agreed in the interests of peace not to push the matter to extremes.

In 1923 the Balance Sheet showed receipts £176 and a debit balance of £2. No bank account was kept, and there was stipend owing to the Minister. In order to be able to settle this debt the finance committee recommended that each manager advance sufficient to the Treasurer to pay it, but the minutes do not show whether this was actually done.

Mr. Mitchell's term ended on March 30, 1924, and the records are then taken up with preparations under the guidance of a Commission of Presbytery to obtain a Manse and to rise to the status of an aided charge. A canvas was made to ascertain the likely support and it was thought that £315 per annum might be raised.

1924 (Oct.) - 1926. Rev. F.J. Usher

The effort to make a forward move was prosecuted under the direction of a Commission of Presbytery led by the Rev. T. Halliday throughout the first half of 1924.