

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HENDERSON



Centenary
1911—2011

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEKEND
16—17 JULY 2011
(activities all held on church premises except Dinner)

SATURDAY 16th:

- 12:30p.m. Mix and mingle
 View photographs & memorabilia
- 1:30p.m. Welcome & Blessing—Rev Fei Taule'ale'ausumai Davis
 Planting of Centenary Tree
 and burial of Sunday School Time Capsule
 Mounting of Centenary plaque

Afternoon tea available from 12:30—3:30pm

- 6:30p.m. Centenary Dinner at *Freyberg Community School*
 60 Roberts Rd, Te Atatu South
- 7:00p.m. Welcome & Grace—Rev Fei Taule'ale'ausumai Davis
- 7:10p.m. Buffet Meal

During Tea & Coffee:

- Apologies & short speech—Ailsa Freeman
Minute Silence *in memory of past friends*
Opportunity for guests to speak briefly
Closing Prayer—Rev Fei Taule'ale'ausumai Davis

SUNDAY 17th:

- 9:30p.m. Thanksgiving Service
- Followed by:* Light lunch
 and farewells

**ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN
HENDERSON**

100 years

1911 – 2011

**Editor: Alison Coates
Assistant Editor: Catherine Connell
Produced by: Linda Johns**

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St Andrew's Church: Following the Andrew Way

Acknowledgments and Thanks



Members of our congregation May 2011

FOREWORD

by Rev. Fei Taule'ale'ausumai Davis



“The mission of God is to the world and we the church are the hands and feet of Christ that are called to make Jesus Christ known to our community.”

Kia Ora (Maori), **talofa lava** (Samoan), **kia orana** (Cook Island), **goedemorgen** (Dutch) **boreda**, Welsh **anyonghaseyo** (Korean), **dobro jutro** (Croatian), **goeiemôre** (Afrikaans), **more visocon** (Paamese/Ni Vanuatu) **gidday** (Australian), **Good morning**

The first verse of T. Dudley Smith’s hymn are appropriate words to begin with:

*“Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.”¹*

It is a privilege for me to write this foreword. At St Andrew’s 50th Anniversary in 1961 I was just over 3 months old, born a couple of suburbs down the road in Kelston. Fifty years later I am celebrating the Centenary as the minister of this parish. This is a huge milestone in our history. It represents a vast number of people and knowledge gathered and collected over this long faith journey of hope and Christian witness.

So much has changed since 1911 and the world has shrunk through technological advancements. Our ability to communicate across the miles and the globe has widened with the internet and Skype and social networking possibilities are now a major part of our daily existence. The Presbyterian Church has declined dramatically over our one hundred year history and many church communities like ours are struggling to sustain their mission and ministry. As a result many churches have combined with other local churches and formed co-operative ventures in order to continue to stay open and be a visible presence of Christ and Christ’s mission to their communities.

By the grace of God we have come thus far. The one thing that remains sure

and steadfast is the faithful stream of people who have been the pillars of our church community over the years. Ministers have come and gone but the elders and the families that have been the glue which has held this church together over its one hundred year history remain. It is with a deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness that I pay tribute to the wonderful men and women, youth and children who have kept our church faithful and alive.

Our church family has become a multicultural community over recent years and we have at least nine nationalities represented in our congregation. Our Sunday worship is colourful and participatory. One highlight is when the children sing one of the Mainly Music songs.

It has been a privilege for me to share in ministry with the elders here at St. Andrew's for over 8 years. I believe it is a mutual blessing for us all. May God continue to shower us with the many blessings we have received over these past 100 years. May our church continue to be a beacon of hope in our community where people come and witness the love of God.

- July 2011



Centenary Committee: L to R—Catherine Connell, Ailsa Freeman, Linda Johns, Rev. Fei Taule'ale'ausumai Davis, Nele Mase, Alison Coates

OUR HUNDRED YEARS **1911 - 2011**

THE 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.

The earliest record of interest in establishing a church in the Henderson area was in 1890 when monthly services in the area began to be held. There were many difficulties: the population was small, and the Presbyterian percentage was lower than average as most of the settlers were Dalmatian Roman Catholics. The roads were bad and transport from place to place difficult. It was difficult to support a regular minister, and often the funds available could only cover unmarried students as their fee was less than qualified ministers.

St Andrew's church building's foundation stone was laid on July 8, 1911 in Railside Avenue and it is from this date that we measure the 100 years of our existence. Unfortunately, there is no record of the date of the opening of the church – however, we do know that it cost £342, paid by 1st November to Mr Grandison, the builder. The Minister under whom the project was started was Rev. A McLean, and the Minister at the time of the completion of the building was the Rev. D J Albert.

In the years between 1911 – 1930 there was slow growth in congregation numbers. The church struggled to become self supporting financially, and eventually in 1924 it rose to the status of an aided charge. A manse had been bought, and so in October 1924 the first minister, the Rev. F J Usher was appointed. Unfortunately, in spite of significant growth in membership, finances continued to prove difficult. Representations were made to Presbytery that the Henderson Parish should revert to being a Home Mission Station. This was agreed to, and Mr Usher ceased to be the minister in 1926.

During the years of the Depression, membership dropped considerably, and the church was served by a series of short ministries, mostly staffed by students and retired ministers. The pastoral needs of the congregation were often poorly served during these years, and financial problems continued to plague the struggling church.

During the years of the 2nd World War, there was amalgamation with Hobsonville, due to increasing difficulty with staffing owing to the call up for war service. The area to be covered was very large, and so a new manse was bought in Lincoln Rd (the minister had been living in the manse at Hobsonville) and Mr Alexander, the appointed Home Missioner was able to work from there more easily.

In 1947 the Rev Anderson was installed at the church as Home missionary. When he left in 1950 he was followed by Mr V Johnstone, and then Mr R Harris.

The 1950s

In 1952 The Hobsonville parish was revived under the new name of Kumeu, and Henderson was left with the area out to Waitakere and the Te Atatu Peninsula. The Rev Angus Sutherland was appointed to it, being installed in 1952. Mr Sutherland was responsible for bringing about alterations to the interior of the Henderson Church. Furnishings from St Peters in the city were available, so carpets, hangings, communion table, font, reading desk and pulpit were all involved, and a rearrangement was made so that the communion table became central to worship.

Under the Rev Sutherland the work of the parish expanded – a section at Waitakere was bought and the church in the Te Atatu area which was named St Giles, was started. The Henderson Sunday School attendance was increasing and the Bible Classes were flourishing. The status of the church was raised to a charge in 1955. In the same year the hall was enlarged, and a kitchen and small classroom added.

In 1959 the Billy Graham Crusade was held and this resulted in increased attendances in the church. Beginning in 1961 there were two services held at Henderson – 9.30 and again at 11a.m. surely a sign of increased attendance and interest in the community.

(The above information was taken from the Jubilee Souvenir Booklet printed in 1961. A copy of this booklet can be viewed on our display table, and copies can be ordered, \$5).

Reproduced from the Jubilee Booklet published 1961

**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)
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Aided Charge -

1924-1926	Rev. F.J. Usher
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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
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Te Atatu Parish separated from Henderson

1956-1961	Rev. A.C. Robinson
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