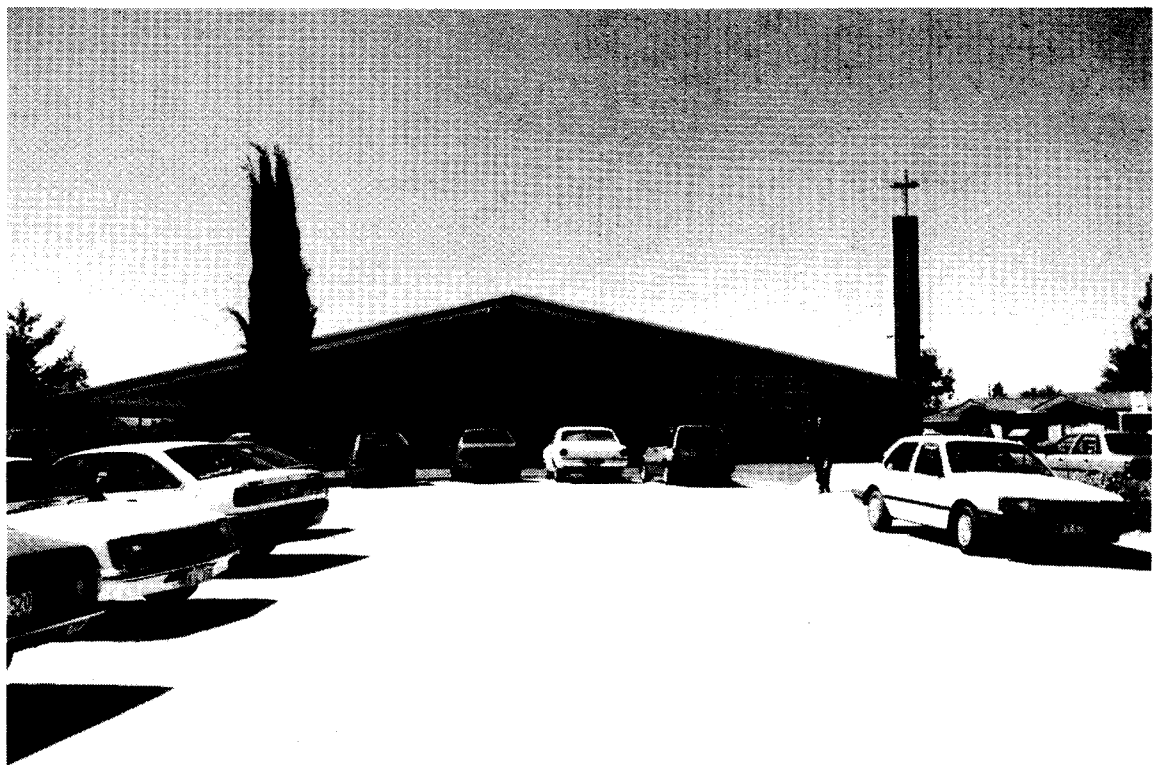
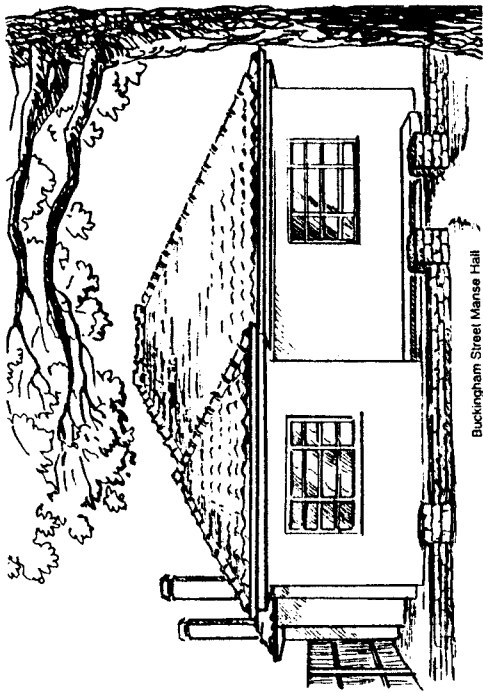


# ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALBURY

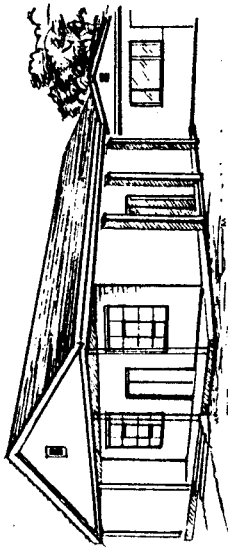


1947 - 1997

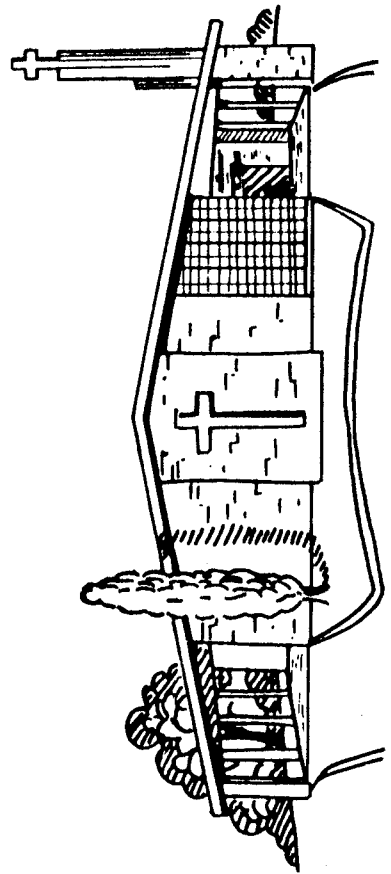
*Psalm 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said  
to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."*



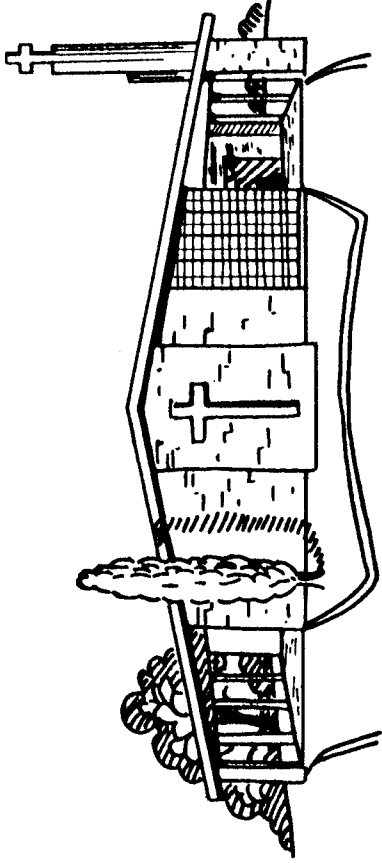
Buckingham Street Manse Hall



Wewak Street Church



*St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church  
Albury*



A Service of Praise  
to Give Thanks to God for Our

# JUBILEE

*Fifty Years of Blessings*

SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER 1997

Guest Preacher:

Rt. Rev. Bruce Christian M.E., B.D

Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church in Australia

## *St. Andrew's Albany* HIGHLIGHTS OF 50 YEARS HISTORY

- 1947 First Service in the Buckingham St. Youth Hall conducted by Rev. John Armour
- 1949 Land purchased in Buckingham St.
- 1950 Kindergarten Room built and dedicated
- 1952 Manse-Hall built in Buckingham St and officially opened and Deaconess Wyn. Hilliard appointed
- 1955 Mr Alan Mortimer appointed Home Missionary
- 1956 North Albany made a Home Mission Station
- 1960 Wewak St. Hall opened and North Albany raised to Sanctioned Charge status
- 1961 Rev Les Martin appointed as the first ordained Minister of the charge
- 1966 Rev. C.E. Bowles inducted
- 1970 Rev Ian Davidson accepted the Call to North Albany. The Op Shop was opened.
- 1971 Land purchased in Wagga Rd. Lavington
- 1974 November 9th Official Opening of present Church Complex and Manse
- 1977 As a result of Church Union and the formation of the Uniting Church, St. Andrew's became Albany Presbyterian Church.
- 1978 Mr Bill Porter-Young appointed to minister
- 1980 Rev Garry Fintleman ordained and inducted
- 1987 Rev Donald Geddes inducted
- 1991 Miss Tanya Whitbourn appointed as Youth Worker
- 1995 Mr Steven North appointed Assistant to the Minister
- 1997 Jubilee Celebrations

*To God be the glory, great things He has done!*



## *Order of Service*

- Announcements and Welcome
- Doxology Rejoice 2 (Verse 1)
- Call to Worship
- Prayer
- Hymn 56
- Scripture: Psalm 24:1-10 (P. 539 Pew Bible)  
Read by Deaconess W. Hilliard
- Prayer of Adoration and Confession
- Childrens' Address  
Rt. Rev. B. Christian
- Hymn 586
- Scripture: Acts 17:24-34 (Page 1076 Pew Bible)  
Read By Alec Phillips - Session Clerk
- Item by St. Andrew's Singers: "Hail Glorious King"
- Offering
- Chorus 46 arrangement by Peter Kirkwood  
Dedication of Offering
- Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession
- Hymn 563
- Sermon: "A Time for Trusting"  
Rt. Rev. Bruce Christian
- Hymn 163
- Benediction

# JUBILEE

The year of the Jubilee was very special in Old Testament times. It began with joyous blowing of the ram's horn which signalled a time when debts were cancelled, when land reverted to the original owners and those sold into slavery were released. (Lev. 25)

It was a time of great thanksgiving and a renewal of faith in the God who would provide every need for those who trusted in Him.

When Jesus came, He began His ministry by proclaiming a Jubilee in the words of Isaiah 61 "The Spirit of the Lord .. has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners ... to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4: 18-19)

This was the Jubilee of Jubilees when the debt of sin was cancelled and those under its slavery released!

Our Jubilee is likewise a time of great rejoicing for we look back on fifty years of God's wonderful provision and blessing. While our debts on the church building have been paid off, our greatest rejoicing is in the fact that Jesus through His death paid the debt of our sin and guilt. We have seen lives liberated from the slavery of sin and set free to serve the Lord.

Let us give heartfelt thanks and praise to our wonderful God for all his past blessings as we "proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Let us renew our faith in the Lord to bring even more blessing in the years ahead as we step out in the strength of "the Spirit of the Lord."

Donald Geddes



Rev Donald and Mrs Noela Geddes

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# ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1947 - 1997

## INTRODUCTION

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wagga Road, North Albury Lavington has a history of fifty years. This booklet is an attempt to document the main steps taken by a group of dedicated folk who, like the servants in Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Banquet, (Matthew chapter 22) stepped out in faith and invited their friends and neighbours to North Albury Presbyterian Church.

"Go out and bring in" was the commission given to the North Albury members of St David's church back in the 1940s. Today we celebrate the Jubilee of our church. We worship God and share fellowship with His children and bring neighbours and friends to learn about Him because of their dedication.

It is the story of God's challenge to a group of people to stand for Him in their neighbourhood and to share their faith by actions.

The Jubilee History book committee would like to thank all members of St Andrew's Congregation who have helped us compile this record of God's work in Albury. Thank you to every one who shared their memories with us, recorded minutes and wrote annual reports. It made our task easy.



Interior of St Andrew's

## BEGINNINGS

Back in the days when Albury was only a few huts on the Murray River a young Gaelic Minister rode up to a small slab hut on a tired horse. The rider was Rev Peter Gunn of the Gaelic Church Melbourne. His work was to lay the foundations for our Presbyterian churches today.

On 11th November 1842 the Presbytery of Melbourne resolved that missionary visits be made to outlying country districts. The task was given to Rev Peter Gunn, of the Gaelic Church Melbourne. On 3rd March 1843 he reported "that he had visited and baptised at Kilmore, Seymour, Longwood, Benalla, Wangaratta and Albury." Rev Peter Gunn made regular visits to the border area until 1851.

In 1851 Rev David Ballantyne, ordained by the Synod of Port Phillip, was "appointed to labour in the important town and district of Albury." This was the commencement of St David's Presbyterian Church in Albury and the foundations of our church St Andrew's.

The first mention of the North Albury - Lavington area is made in St David's Kirk Chronicle September 1936 where it says, " Our experiment in bringing children from North Albury and Lavington has proved successful." A request was made to commence services at Lavington. Rev H.J. Hillman conducted a service on the 4th Sunday of the month in 1937 with a small congregation.

By 1941 Albury had grown in size with the population spreading to the North. Rev H.J. Hillman and the Session and Board of Management of St David's Presbyterian Church Albury considered the advisability of opening a centre of worship at North Albury. The Kirk Chronicle November 1941 asked the North Albury folk to give careful and earnest thought to this matter "as it is believed a strong centre can be established."

A service was held in the Albury Grammar School Assembly Hall on Sunday 8th March 1942 at 9.30am. This congregation, though not large, formed the nucleus on which our church was established. Unfortunately plans were interrupted by World War Two.

By December 1945 the North Albury congregation had grown to a considerable size and as there were a large number of Presbyterians in the area it was considered essential that there should be a place of worship as soon as possible.

## ST ANDREW'S MINISTRY

16-11-1952 to May 1954	Miss Winifred Hilliard	Deaconess
19-3-1955 to April 1956	Mr Alan Mortimer	Student Assistant
April 1956 to 3-3-1957	Mr M. McBride	Home Missionary
3-3-1957 to 1-5-1959	Mr James C. Cox	Home Missionary
1-5-1959 to 15-1-1961	Mr Gerald Parker-Wood	Home Missionary
6-7-1961 to 14-4-1965	Rev Lesley Martin	Minister
1-2-1966 to June 1969	Rev C.E. Bowles	Minister
29-1-1970 to 19-2-1978	Rev Ian Davidson	Minister
13-12-1978 to 4-12-1979	Mr W. Porter-Young	Home Missionary
3-2-1980 to July 1986	Rev Gary Fintelman	Minister
27-4-1987	Rev Donald Geddes	Minister

## APPOINTMENTS TO ST ANDREW'S

28-7-1991 to Dec 1994	Miss Tanya Whitbourn	Youth Worker
Jan 1995 to Dec 1995	Mr Steve North	Assistant to Minister

## CHURCH OFFICE

1996 Merilyn Thring  
1997 Donna Irwin

## BUCKINGHAM STREET 1947 - 1961

**16TH NOVEMBER 1947**

The first service in the Buckingham Street Youth Hall was conducted by Rev John Armour. Sixty people attended and a Sunday School of fourteen children commenced with Mr D. McKay as acting superintendent. The Youth Hall was used for parties on Saturday evenings so for several years the men had to get there early on Sunday mornings to clean up for the service.

Mr D. McKay officiated at the services with Rev Armour conducting Communion Services quarterly. Later Mr McKay moved to Chiltern to live and rode his motor bike, rain, hail or shine, to take the services.

Under the leadership of Messrs Cross and D. McKay, and with approval of Rev John Armour plans were formulated and money raised for the purchase of land and to erect a building in Buckingham Street.

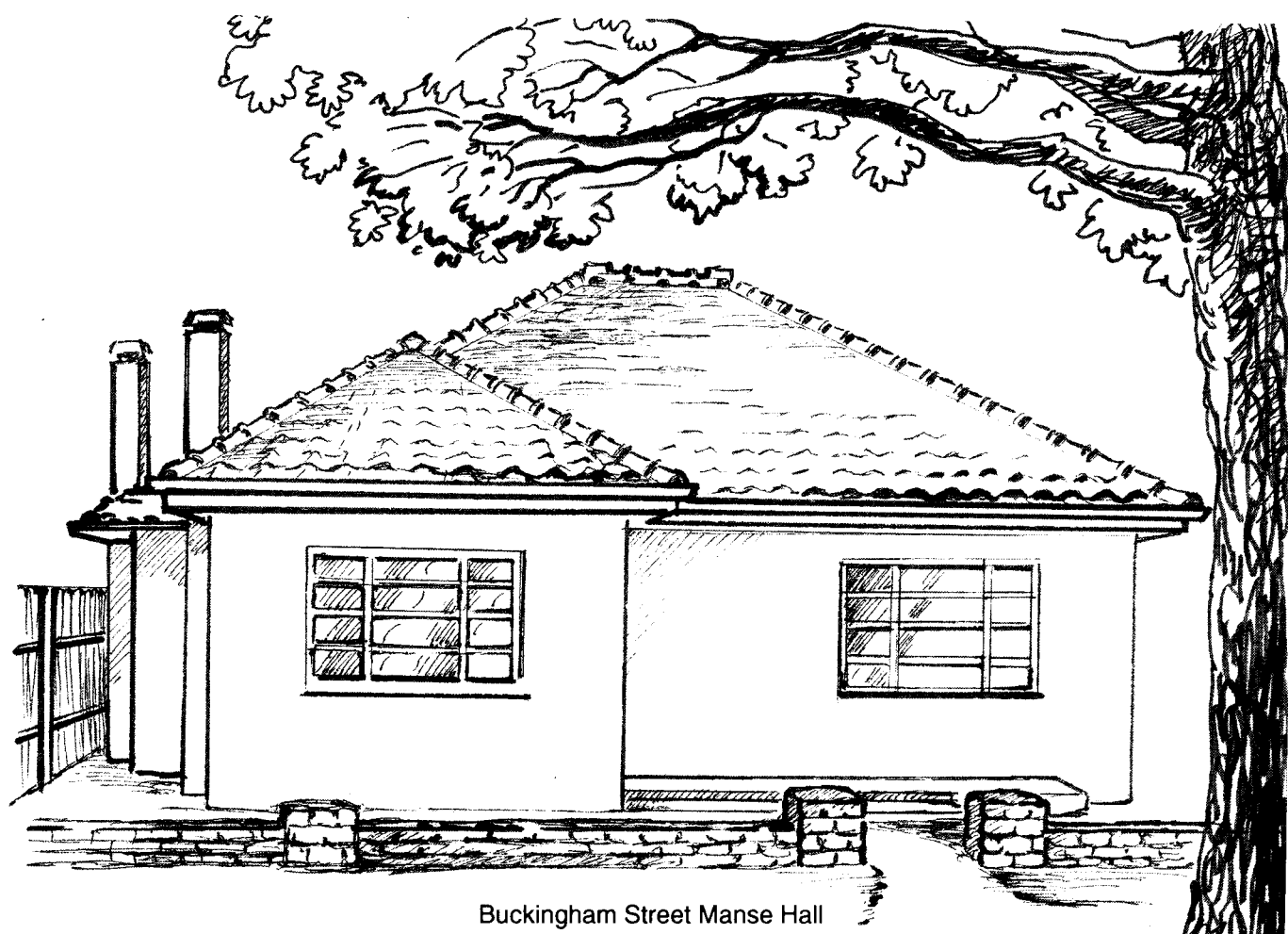
The ladies had been meeting together at the McKay home in North Street for some time before services were commenced in the Youth Hall.

**24th February 1948** marked the affiliation of the Ladies Committee. Those present on this occasion were Mrs James who was elected President, Mrs F. Abbott Secretary and Mesdames Henderson, Lee, Doland, E. Hunter, Cross and Wickham. These ladies originated a scheme to obtain promises of monthly subscriptions toward a Building Fund and, with the help of later members, this money was raised for four years.

By 1949 eight hundred pounds had been raised and a block of land purchased in Buckingham Street. Another block of land was donated by anonymous friends.

Early 1949 saw the commencement of North Albury's Board of Mangement with Mr J.K. Hunter as secretary and Mr D. Debyer as treasurer.

A Kindergarten Room was built and it was dedicated by Rev John Armour on 3rd April 1950. It was intended to use this room as a garage in later years. The room was made comfortable with carpet, curtains, a table and a few chairs for meetings and the kindergarten furniture and equipment. This was actually our first home and there, many happy hours were spent planning for the future.



Buckingham Street Manse Hall