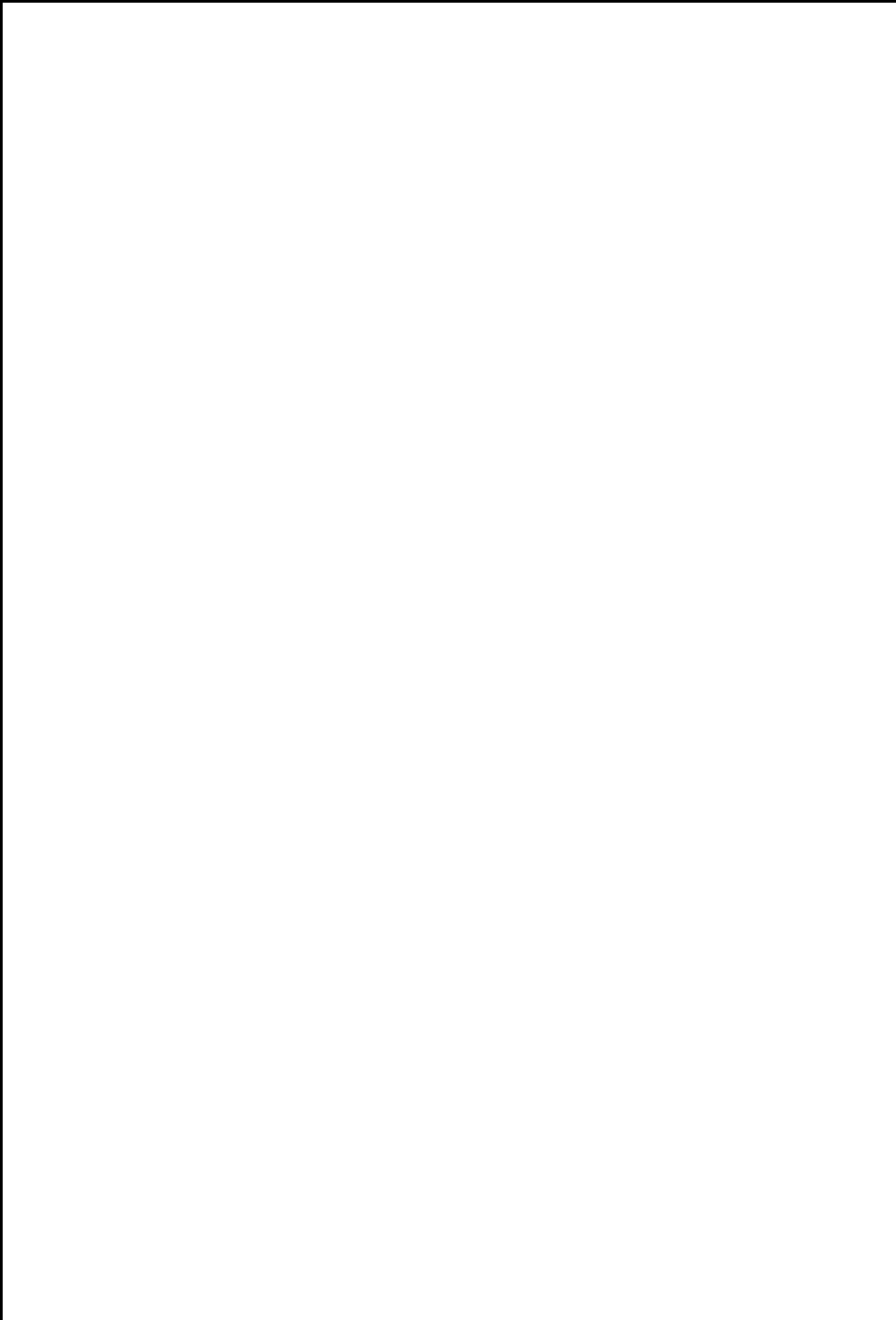




Five Dock Uniting Church

*150 Years of
Methodist / Uniting
Church Worship
in Five Dock
1864 - 2014*



Contents

Foreword.....	2
Acknowledgements	5
150 Years of Methodist/Uniting Church Worship in Five Dock.....	7
The beginning of white settlement.....	7
The meaning of Methodism.....	7
The beginnings of Methodism in Australia.....	7
The early history of Five Dock and surrounding areas.....	9
Spread of the Gospel in NSW	12
Spread of the Gospel in Five Dock.....	12
Spread of Methodism in Australia	14
New growth in Drummoyne	15
Methodism comes to Drummoyne.....	15
Times of Change.....	16
Ministers appointed to Five Dock 1861-1968	17
The First World War and Great Depression	18
Ministers appointed to Drummoyne 1905-1968.....	19
Plans at Five Dock church	19
The Second World War and after	22
The Five Dock Church in action	22
Five Dock and Drummoyne Churches.....	25
Ministers appointed to Drummoyne 1968-1985.....	25
Ministers appointed to Five Dock 1968-1985	26
Ministers appointed to Five Dock–Drummoyne 1986-2014	28
Drummoyne Rotuman Congregation.....	29
The fourth Five Dock Church	30
Into the Future.....	32
2014 Celebrations.....	34
Continuing on.....	35
Some photos of Ministers of the Word at Five Dock/Drummoyne (where available).....	36
Time Line.....	38
List of References	40

Foreword

Visitors to the present Uniting Church in Garfield Street, Five Dock may be surprised to see that in a niche near the main entry there is displayed a piece of stone from John Wesley's chapel, brought back from England by Rev Alan Walker (later to become Rev Dr Sir Alan Walker) and a large Bible which dates from 1868. At the rear exit from the main church foyer they will find dedication stones dated 1866 and 1898 and in the western vestry many of the original plaques, including War Memorials, which were formerly in various places in the building.

This monograph will explore the history of Methodism in the Five Dock–Drummoyne area over the last 150 years and its connection to the present and future of the Uniting Church in Australia. However it is important to remember that any local church history should be placed within the context of both its administrative body and local growth area. Writing of Methodist history from 1812-1975 in *Great the Heritage*, there is an interesting reflective essay "The Changing and the Changeless (an Historian's Reflections)" which is worth quoting:

Australian Methodists are taking a momentous step. They have decided not to continue as they are and have been. They are leaving the house of their fathers... There is a rhythm in Christian history of renewal and decline, expansion and contraction. European settlement of Australia coincided with a brilliant phase of revival in Western Christianity of which Methodism was perhaps the major expression. Australian Methodists in the early colonial period were representatives of the youngest and most dynamic religious movement in the English speaking world. A mixture of danger and seemingly unlimited promise provided a unique local stimulus in NSW... In the second half of the century the Methodists stood out statistically. Their share of the population as shown by census returns doubled... In an age which still construed the world in religious terms, Methodism made Christianity accessible to the common man... Methodism was a system as well as a life; the two were intermeshed... A quiet revolution was in progress... Pipe organs and brass band are musical indicators of the diversity of turn-of-the-century Methodism... The historian of religion must be wary of mistaking change for decay... This was a new situation in western history... Evangelical religion had staked everything on Scripture; Methodism was supremely a preaching cause... there

was a loss of coherence; at one extreme anti-modernism, at the other a spongy liberalism... One may see in Methodism's remarkably decisive vote for union an expression of the yearnings for reconciliation which is at the root of the Christian religion. Yet it would be unrealistic not to see also an expression of institutional need, a need to return to a more regular Christian order...

My thanks to members of the 150th Anniversary Committee and the many individuals who have assisted in this work.

Intellectual Author:
Richard C Peck
Drummoyne
June 2014

Acknowledgements

The Five Dock–Drummoyne Congregation is indebted to the 150th Anniversary Committee for their planning and preparation for the Sesquicentenary celebrations 30th-31st August 2014. Members were Sue Brockway (Chair), Lindsay Brockway, Robert Burns, Gwenda Cant, Phillip Cant, Lorraine Clark, Sue Jones and Ian Monk. Mr Richard Peck spent considerable time researching material for this history booklet and the Committee is grateful for his work. Other people with particular skills were co-opted to assist with specific tasks and their support has been greatly valued.

This booklet *150 Years of Methodist / Uniting Church Worship in Five Dock*, marks the sesquicentenary of Methodist / Uniting Church worship in the Five Dock area. It owes a great debt to two earlier works which cover the history of the Five Dock–Drummoyne Uniting Church. The most detailed history is the booklet *“In the Beginning” Five Dock Methodist Church Centenary, 1964*, written by K G Allars and published by the Trustees of the Five Dock Methodist Church to mark the centenary year of 1964.

In 2004 the booklet *“Into the Future” A History of Five Dock and Drummoyne Uniting Churches 1864-2004* was produced to mark the completion of the refurbishment of the Five Dock Church building. The three booklets together provide a comprehensive overview of 150 years of Methodist/Uniting Church worship in Five Dock.

Dedication

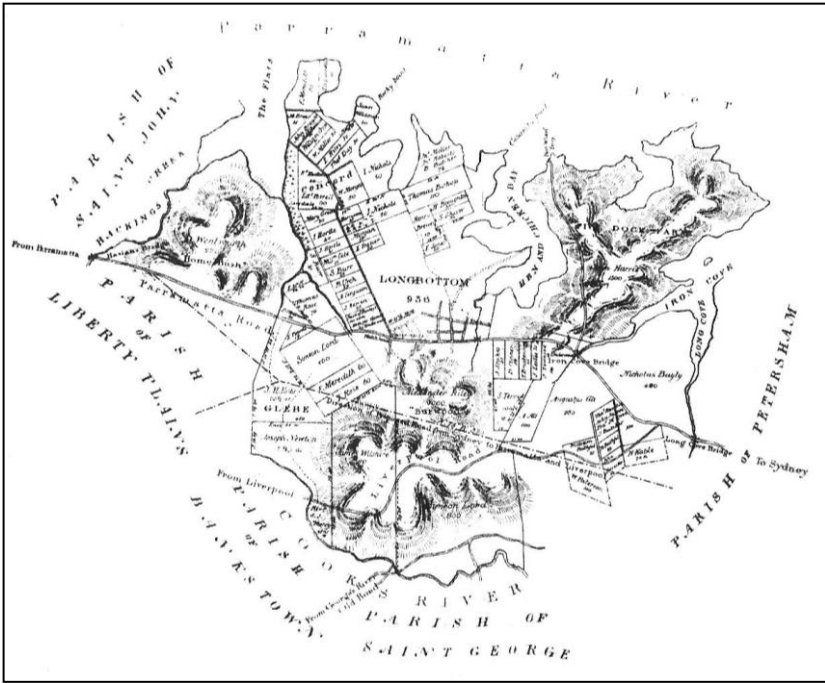
This book acknowledges the faith and dedication of people, past and present for their service to God, the One who knows their strivings and love of Him in Jesus Christ.

<i>Intellectual Author:</i>	Richard C Peck
<i>Chair & Sub-editor:</i>	Sue Brockway
<i>Layout:</i>	Phillip & Gwenda Cant
<i>Cover Illustration:</i>	Sue Jones - Living Lines

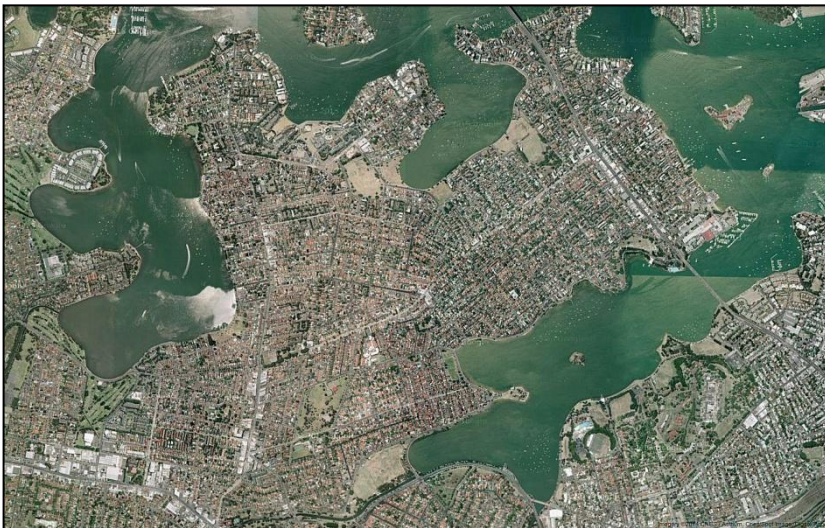
Produced by the Five Dock–Drummoyne Congregation

Printed by Morgan Printing 210 Lyons Road, Five Dock 2046

June 2014



Map of the area around Five Dock farm before it was sold to Samuel Lyons



Five Dock and Drummoyne today from Google Earth

150 Years of Methodist/Uniting Church Worship in Five Dock

The beginning of white settlement

After the settlement at Sydney Cove was founded in 1788, it took several years of exploration before the area of Five Dock was named. Travelling up the Parramatta River, five small docks or inlets were found at a point named Five Dock Point and the surrounding bay was named Five Dock Bay. The remaining docks can still be seen under the approaches to the old Gladesville Bridge. In January 1806 a land grant of 1500 acres was made to Dr John Harris who called it Five Dock Farm. The author of the church's 1964 history speculated that Harris may have been introduced to the area by Samuel Ash Clode, an early missionary with the London Missionary Society. However Harris did not develop his farm.¹

The meaning of Methodism

Methodism (derived from the Greek *methodos*, pursuit of knowledge) grew out of the "Holy Club", a name given to a group of young men at Oxford of whom John Wesley was one. The group was mocked with many nicknames. The word Methodism came about because they were known for their methodical habits. Initially they merely sought reform within the Church of England, but their vigorous missionary activity spread throughout the British Empire. However the movement did not form a separate denomination in England until after John Wesley's death in 1791. Charles Wesley, John's brother, was a prolific hymn writer, creating much of the hymnody of the Methodist Church.²

The beginnings of Methodism in Australia

"The early Anglican chaplains were all sprung from the evangelical³ mould, Old Testament Christians who judged their fellow citizens hardly and so were even harsher towards the convict population. Their religion was one of rules and regulations rather than of sympathy and kindness;

¹ Booklet *In the beginning* produced for the Five Dock Methodist Church centenary in 1964, attributed by Eric Russell in *Drummoyn, a western suburbs history from 1794* (2nd ed, 1982), p.111 to K G Allars. This booklet has been used extensively for factual information in preparing this history.

² Taken from Wikipedia article on Methodism.

³ "Protestant doctrine maintaining that the essence of the Gospel consists in the doctrine of salvation by faith, good works and sacraments having no saving efficacy" (Concise Oxford Dictionary).

they believed in an ordered society and were very conscious of their own privileged position in such a society”.⁴ The Rev Samuel Marsden (“the whipping parson”) had been impressed by John Bowden when Master of the Great Queen Street Charity School in London, and on his arrival in Sydney, Bowden was given charge of the Male Orphan Institute.

The first Methodist class meetings were held in Sydney and Windsor in 1812.⁵ On the urging of Bowden, the first Methodist minister in Sydney, the Rev Samuel Leigh, arrived in 1815. Quietly devout, it is said he accomplished much on circuit, co-operating closely with his theologically like-minded Anglican colleagues. At Castlereagh he met a remarkable lay man John Lees, who later built at his own expense, on his own land, the first Methodist Chapel in Australia. By 1820 Leigh had twenty places on his circuit at which he preached.⁶ The first district meeting of Methodists was held in Sydney in 1826 and after 1831 there was a new religious lease of life in the country west of the Blue Mountains.

⁴ J J Auchmuty, *A new history of Australia*, 1974, p.55.

⁵ Wesley Mission Sydney website. For more detail see K Whitby & E G Clancy (eds), *Great the Heritage: The story of Methodism in NSW 1812-1975*.

⁶ F K Crowley, *A new history of Australia*, p.54.

The early history of Five Dock and surrounding areas

In 1836 entrepreneur Samuel Lyons bought Five Dock Farm and subdivided it into farmlets and villages. Stately mansions in rural surroundings appeared, such as Barnstaple Manor owned by Brent Clements Rodd and there were many market gardens in the area. However, communications were slow and the residents of Five Dock were relatively unaffected by happenings at the seat of government less than ten miles distant. The only major road was the Parramatta Road, apart from itinerant ferry traffic along the Parramatta River.⁷

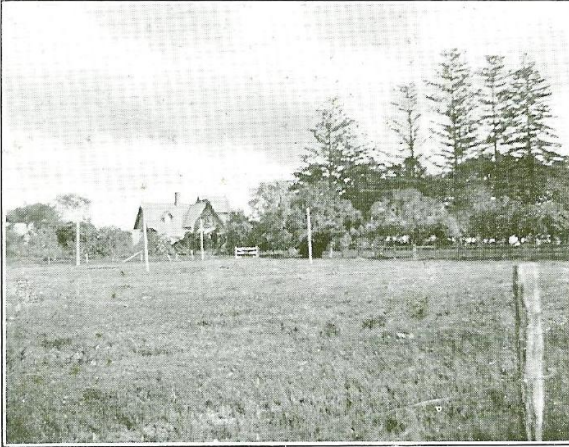
Brent Clements Rodd (1809-1898) came to Australia as a free settler in 1822 and took up law. In 1839 he married Sarah Janet and they took up residence in Barnstaple Manor at Five Dock.

Rodd bought up more acreage and built a large windmill on his land. Their large family is today remembered by streets in the area.



Brent Clement Rodd and Sarah Janet Rodd

⁷ Russell, p.74.



HISTORIC BUILDINGS

[All Rights Reserved]

ERECTED in the year 1838 by Mr. B. C. Rodd, this fine old residence, one of the first to be built in the locality, is a well-preserved specimen of early colonial architecture. Although its grounds are now considerably curtailed in area, owing to successive disposals of various portions of the estate, the old Manor House was originally surrounded by a fine garden, its stately avenue of pine trees being a landmark in the district. A curious feature of the building is a portion of the upper stone work, which is thickly encrusted with oyster shells, and the problem as to how the shells became fixed in this curious position was somewhat hard to understand until it became known that the stones were first of all immersed in the Parramatta River for a time, where they soon became covered with oyster shells, and in that condition were then worked into the building. The house is a replica of the old Manor House in Devonshire, of which county the Rodd family were natives.

Postcard showing Rodd's Barnstaple Manor

Many Five Dock streets were named after mayors. Others were named after early landowners: Ramsay Road, Taylor Street, Mitchell Street, Betts Avenue, Friend Avenue, Harris Road, Gildea Avenue and Bennett Avenue. Rodd Road, Trevanion Street and Barnstaple Road are named after Brent Clements Rodd and his family.

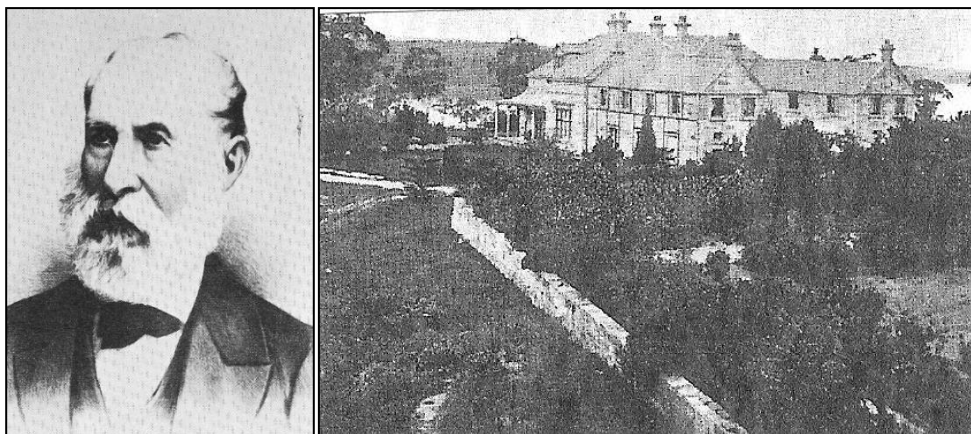
Other streets are named after ships in the Great White (American) Fleet which visited Sydney in 1908 and still others after prominent people - Queens Road after Queen Victoria, Garfield Street after the American President and Henry Lawson Avenue. Coronation Avenue was named for the coronation of King George VI. Yet others derive their name from earlier well known buildings: Arlington Street after the Arlington Hotel, Erina Avenue, Fairlight Street and Waterview Avenue are others.⁸

Kirrang Street is taken from the Aboriginal name for wattle. Wangal Place takes its name from the Wangal Clan of the Eora Tribe who originally inhabited the area. The Aboriginal name *Warrembah* (a place where salt and sweet or fresh waters meet) was originally used for the whole Drummoyne area, according to Clements Tremain Rodd (1843-1927) who lived in a house of that name at 100 St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne. Wareemba as a suburb was only named fairly recently.

⁸ See F P Miller, A F Fandome, J McBrewster (ed), *Drummoyne* p.85f.

Brent Clements Rodd told the Rev John Dunmore Lang in 1870 that it would be “no desecration of the Sabbath” to open a reading room of the Free Public Library in Sydney from 2pm - 4pm on Sunday afternoons. “Mechanics, artisans and working men” who did not attend church would otherwise go to public-houses. He was informed there was no Bible in the library.⁹

William Wright (1807-1890) was a merchant and island trader who purchased an extensive area of land on the Parramatta River in 1853, naming it “Drummoyne Park”, apparently from a place he had known in Scotland.¹⁰ He landed in Sydney in 1838 and was the first to recognise the commercial viability of kauri gum. The suburbs of Five Dock and Drummoyne are now part of the City of Canada Bay named after the settlement of Canadians in the area after their rebellion against British rule in 1840. Abbotsford is named after a small village in Scotland and the house of Sir Arthur Renwick. Russell Lea takes its name from Russell Barton’s estate near Bourke and his mansion on the north side of Lyons Road. When this estate was subdivided in 1913, the agents advertised it cleverly as “between two trams”.



William Wright and Drummoyne House

⁹ Russell, p.90.

¹⁰ From *drum* (a ridge) and *moyne* (a plain).

Spread of the Gospel in NSW

The writer of the Wikipedia article on early churches particularly noted that “early Methodists were drawn from all levels of society...but the Methodist preachers took the message to [those] who tended to be left outside of organized religion at that time”. The editors of *Great the Heritage* note “the liberality of laymen in presenting land to the church [across Sydney] was well evidenced”. In July 1846 there were 40 churches, 70 preaching places, 12 ministers, 127 class leaders, 1917 church members, 8810 attendants at worship, 35 Sunday Schools with 2203 scholars, 253 Sunday School teachers and 32 day school teachers.¹¹ 1851 saw the discovery of gold and in 1856 New South Wales was given responsible self-government.

Spread of the Gospel in Five Dock

The spread of the Gospel in the Five Dock area commenced in earnest in the late 1850s with the establishment of St Albans Church of England in 1859.¹² At this time a village was developing along the Great North Road, the original road north from Sydney, surveyed in 1826 by John Oxley. The area’s first school was opened at St Albans in 1861 and later became Five Dock Public School.¹³

It was not long before Methodists became interested in the area as well. There was at the Wesleyan Church in Newtown a very active group of local preachers who fortunately kept accurate records of their proceedings. The first reference to Five Dock is an entry for 18th June 1862 “*That Bros. Bowmer & Henson be deputed to enquire at Five Dock, if there be an opening there*” and on 24th September 1864, “*That service be commenced at Five Dock on Sabbath next and continue each Sabbath morning 11 afternoon 3*”. The Rev Samuel Ironside commenced services at the Betts family home in Lyons Road in 1862. During 1863 there were minutes recording the need to purchase a building to use as a chapel and school.

¹¹ *Great the Heritage*, p.10

¹² New church built 1924. Merged with St John’s Ashfield (commenced 1840 as the first church between Sydney and Parramatta) and St Oswald’s Haberfield in 2008 to become CCIW (Christ Church Inner West Anglican Community).

¹³ “Advance Australia Fair” was written by Peter McCormick, its headmaster 1865-6. In 2007 its Parents & Citizens’ Organisation celebrated a centenary- the oldest in the state.

A most important entry appears in the Newtown Circuit Schedule Book for September 1864 which makes the first reference to the admission of new members of that branch. There were two members, with three on trial. It is for this reason that the Five Dock Methodist Church Centenary was celebrated in September 1964. There were five members in 1865 and three in 1866.

In 1866 ***the first Five Dock church*** was built, in Lyons Road, (then a mere bullock track) opposite the intersection of Trevanion Street, on land later occupied by the Christian Broadcasting Association. This was on land given by William Wright (who also owned the land occupied by St Albans). He gave title of the land in 1871.

The foundation stone was laid on 27th March and the church was opened on Sunday 2nd August 1866, having cost £300.



The first Five Dock church 1866
“A quaint little church nestling
in a group of turpentine trees”

By this time Five Dock had come under the supervision of the Ashfield Wesleyans.

Services at the first Five Dock church were held at irregular intervals. By 1875 it appears that attendance was poor and a matter of concern. In 1878 it was decided to hold only afternoon services although the church archives note that on 3rd September 1878 a special religious service was held at Five Dock, “the moon to be taken advantage of in such case.”¹⁴ In 1879 services were changed to monthly, then on two nights a month. Sadly, this could not continue.

¹⁴*In the Beginning, p.9.*

On 14th July 1880 the Ashfield Quarterly Meeting resolved that the Lyons Road property be sold and that a site be secured on Parramatta Road. The first church was sold on 5th May 1883 to Judge Peter Faucett for £400.



It eventually passed to Drummoyne Council in 1928 and was demolished as it was in poor condition.

The foundation stone from the first church is set in the present church at the rear of the entry foyer.

The foundation stone for the first Five Dock Church was laid on 27 March 1866 by Mrs Wright, the wife of William Wright

The original Bible from the first Five Dock church is still held by the church and can be seen in the entry foyer.

Spread of Methodism in Australia

Writing the Bicentennial history of Australia, Rob Linn asks “Why did people gather in chapel and church? It could be a matter of religious duty. Some went to find peace and consolation; others to reassure themselves that the civilisation of the old world could indeed be transplanted in the new. Some agreed with Governor Gipps [who said] at Cook’s River that it was hard to live six days in the world without going to church on the seventh...When British inhabitants in Adelaide in 1838 joined in public ceremonies they did so most often within a church.”¹⁵

Ellen McEwen, writing some 50 years later, concludes “People attended church on Sundays for their own mixtures of reasons. Their religion provided them with spiritual guidance and comfort. The church building, small or grand, provided a setting for the celebration of the most important rituals of their lives. In church they also marked the passing of the seasons... [and] for many people much of their social life centred on the church.”¹⁶

¹⁵ In Alan Atkinson & Marian Aveling, *Australians 1838*, pp.230, 224.

¹⁶ In G Davidson, J W McCarty, Ailsa McLeary, *Australians 1888*, p.354.

The first Methodist Conference met in Sydney in 1855. In the ten years to 1860, Wesleyans increased by 32 per thousand, Roman Catholics 23 while the Church of England showed a decrease of 81.¹⁷ In 1860 there were 35 Methodist circuits in Sydney, 276 chapels and preaching places, 42 ministers, 178 local preachers, 256 class leaders, 23,751 adherents and 3820 fully accredited church members. Home Missions were established, a church paper begun and a Book Depot prospered. Central Methodist Mission was established in Sydney in 1884, “developing a unique word and deed ministry focussing on social justice and evangelism for the poor and needy of Sydney”.¹⁸

The various branches of Methodism established in Australia merged, with a union of all groups, except Lay Methodists, forming the Methodist Church of Australasia in 1902. City and Inland Missions came into being.

New growth in Drummoyne

After the opening of the Iron Cove and Gladesville Bridges in the 1880s, the suburb of Drummoyne took on a new life. The new century saw the Borough of Drummoyne on a wave of material prosperity - its population was growing rapidly, more houses were being built with the subdivision of large estates, good public transport was provided by the ferries and a new electric tram service from Ryde to the city. Five Dock, on the other hand, an area nearly twice the size, remained “nearly as much up the country as though 500 miles from Sydney”.¹⁹ Five Dock received its first tramway in 1890 - a steam service to Leichhardt Town Hall. The line was extended to Abbotsford in 1893 and electrified in 1905. One writer concludes that the biggest nuisance to local residents during the 1890s was the herding of cattle through local streets on their way to the Glebe abattoirs.²⁰

Methodism comes to Drummoyne

The first meetings of a Drummoyne Methodist Congregation were held in Carrington Hall in 1886 and the **first Drummoyne church** was opened in 1888 in Birkenhead Road (later Bridge Road then Victoria Road from 1931) near Edwin Street. It was initially attached to the Balmain Circuit, then part of a new West End Circuit in 1893 and eventually attached to Five Dock in 1905. The **second Drummoyne church** in College Street

¹⁷ *Great the Heritage*, p.12.

¹⁸ Wesley Mission, Sydney, website.

¹⁹ Russell, p.129.

²⁰ Miller, Vandome, Brewster, p.84.

was opened in 1910 with membership of 115. A Sunday School was built at the rear in 1913. In 1919 minutes record a vote of thanks to God for the Armistice and keeping the congregation safe during the influenza epidemic. Because of this individual communion cups were purchased at this time.²¹

Times of Change

A site for a new Methodist church in Five Dock in Garfield Street was



The second Five Dock church 1898

The new Five Dock church opened on 2nd October 1898 at a total cost of £492. Already there was discussion about enlarging the church.

At the request of Five Dock it was separated from the Ashfield Circuit in 1905 and joined to Drummoyne Circuit. In 1914 the union with Drummoyne was severed and Five Dock joined the Haberfield circuit. However, in 1933 Five Dock again stood on its own. Drummoyne fostered the infant Gladesville congregation until it became a circuit in its own right in 1935.

Dock in Garfield Street was found in 1891 and was purchased for £262/10/-. In the meantime the congregation met at Five Dock Town Hall where the Sunday School had an average attendance of 23 in 1897 with 61 on the roll in 1898.

The foundation stones of the **second Five Dock church** were laid on 16th July 1898 by a number of people including Lady Renwick, Mr Sheppard, Mr W White, Mr J Wade and Rev E J Rodd.



Foundation stone, second Five Dock church 1898

²¹ Manuscript history of Drummoyne church 1900-37 (now in FD-D archives).

In 1922 a church hall was erected at Five Dock and used temporarily by the Department of Education due to over-crowding at Five Dock Public School until the Abbotsford Public School opened in 1924.

Church attendances varied between 130 and 180 people. Honour Rolls and Memorial Tablets were erected in 1923. A parsonage was purchased in 1928 from the family of an active worker in the church, Miss Henderson. The house was in Garfield Street, adjacent to the church and Rev R B Lew became the first resident Minister at Five Dock Methodist Church.

Ministers appointed to Five Dock 1861-1968

1861-63	Samuel Ironside	1907-1911	S Varcoe Cocks
1864	Joseph Oram	1911-1914	W H Howard
1864	William Wilson	1914-1915	Granville Cocks
1865	William Fidler	1916-1918	Francis Branch
1866	Richard W Orton	1919-1923	William M Woodhouse
1867-1869	George H Holmes	1924-1926	Tom Ellison
1870	Thomas R McMichael	1927-1930	Richard Piper
1871	Henry Wales	1929-1932	R B Lew
1872-1874	Walter J Davis	1933-1936	Knox Read
1875	Frederick Ward	1937-1939	David C Hughes
1876	Samuel Wilkinson	1940-1942	W H Willey
1877	James G Middleton	1943-1947	Harold E Cosier
1878-1880	George Woolnough	1948-1952	Claude L Connor
1898	Rainsford Bavin	1953-1957	William J Harper
1899-1901	William Clarke	1958-1961	Dr A Cryil Cato
1905-1906	Joseph Bryant	1962	R Clarence Pereira (supply)
1905-1906	Frank T Walker	1963-1967	Albert J Davis
1906-1907	Wallace Deane		

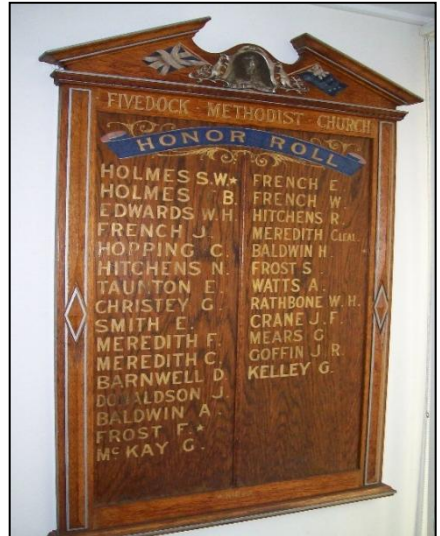
thereafter Five Dock–Drummoyne Circuit

The First World War and Great Depression

The First World War saw many local men join up, while on the home front residents contributed to local and national patriotic funds. The district Honour Roll includes over 600 names. There was an abortive attempt to change the name of Five Dock in 1922 which was defeated in a referendum. A local newspaper, *The Drummoyne Examiner*, described “Five Dock” as a ‘horrible name’, ‘distasteful’ and giving ‘an impression of squalor’. Five Dock underwent more subdivisions and many of its brick houses date from this time. There was also minor industrial development. In recent years, several former industrial sites have been re-developed as residential housing.



World War I Honour Rolls



The year 1928 saw the first motion pictures in Five Dock at the 1500 seat Victory Theatre. The depression of the 1930s was a time of distress and heartbreak stemming from worldwide unemployment. Men and women lost confidence but local government did what it could to help people. Food was distributed and relief for the unemployed offered. Land clearance projects were begun. The world's largest petrol station in 1940 stood at the corner of Parramatta and Great North Roads. It had more than two dozen pumps of all brands!

Despite the hard times a splendid pipe organ was purchased by Drummoyne members in 1928. New church buildings were erected by St

Mark's Catholic in 1920 and St Bede's Church of England in 1930. At the Drummoyne church in 1941 there were major internal renovations which resulted in an improved worship area. The altar timber came from a tree struck by lightning and obtained by the incumbent minister.

Ministers appointed to Drummoyne 1905-1968

1905	F T Walker	1933-1934	T M Taylor & R J Kennedy
1906	W Deane	1935	T M Taylor
1907-1910	S V Cocks	1936-1940	R C Oakley
1911-1913	W H Howard	1940-1944	C A S Woodhouse
1914-1916	G C Percival	1945-1948	H S Doust
1917-1921	R J Murray	1949-1953	W C Francis
1922-1926	G Laverty	1954-1959	F A King
1927-1930	R S Brown	1960-1964	L B Smith
1931	R S Brown & W Douglass	1965	G J Dillon
1932	T M Taylor & W Douglass	1966-1967	A J Bingley

then amalgamated with Five Dock

Plans at Five Dock church

In 1929 a meeting recommended a new church be erected but plans for the new church were put on hold because of the world depression. However, in 1931 a new kindergarten hall was erected using voluntary labour. In 1935 there was a resolution to proceed with the building of a new church. Sensibly the Trustees refused to go ahead unless 80% of the costs were covered by advance subscription. A building fund was established and the Pearson Bros. won the tender to build the church for the sum of £1,598.



Demolishing the second church 1939 (“the walls of Jericho...”)

The Rev Alan Walker brought back from England a stone from Wesley’s 1777 chapel in London. On 21st May 1939, at the unveiling of this stone, Rev Percy Lennox Black (b.1884) read the following poem he had composed:

*A thousand sacred memories
Around these stones entwine
Which, built into this edifice
Tell of life divine*

*A life sustained by vital faith
In which the olden days
Survive, triumphant over death
To God’s unceasing praise.*



Foundation stone for the third Five Dock church 1939 laid by William C Brown, architect

The third Five Dock church, Garfield Street, was opened in 1939. Foundation stones were laid by Mr William C Brown (architect) and descendants of those who laid stones in 1898.

Miss Pickering, the church historian, unveiled the stone of the pioneers.

At the opening of the new church on Saturday 20th May 1939, the following hymns were sung:

“O Thou whose hand has brought us”

“Spirit divine, attend our prayers”

“Jesus where'er Thy people meet”

“O God what offering shall I give”



Church historian Miss G E Pickering in 1939 setting the 1866 Pioneer's stone



Opening of the third Five Dock church 1939



Third Five Dock church 1939

The Second World War and after

The Second World War saw the citizens of Drummoyne on active service in many parts of the world. On the home front, others manned essential services, worked in munitions factories, performed part-time duties as air raid wardens or joined the Volunteer Coastal Patrol. Women in particular found themselves thrust into many new roles.

After the Second World War, the suburbs of Drummoyne and Five Dock changed, as did the whole of Australia, with a boosted immigration programme. Post war immigration changed the face of Five Dock with the influx of migrants from Italy. Multi-storied housing began to appear.

The Five Dock Church in action

The new Five Dock church swung into action only to be faced with the turmoil of war. In the early years of the war, church life and activities such as Sunday School picnics and anniversaries continued.



Sunday School Anniversary 1941 Five Dock



Sunday School teachers picnic 1942

Plans for a replacement organ for the 1909 Packard organ were postponed until a pipe organ was installed and dedicated as a Soldier's Memorial in 1952. Later, on Christmas Day 1976, a new Allen digital organ was dedicated to replace the pipe organ which had then become uneconomical to repair.

Extensions and renovations to the kindergarten were completed in 1954 and two years later the large neon cross was paid for by Mr Collison in memory of his wife. Mr Collison also offered to install chimes to play music before and after services and this was accepted. Further additions to the Sunday School including additional rooms and the porch were opened in 1959.

During these years various groups flourished within the congregation - the Sunday School, Methodist Girls' Comradeship, Order of Knights, Parents and Friends Organisation, Brotherhood and Choir were all active.

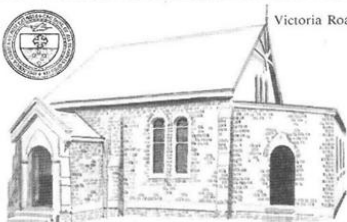


Five Dock choir 1983

An All Age Sunday School was established allowing adults to engage in study at the same time as the regular Sunday School. This was the vision of the Rev Dr Cyril Cato, Minister from 1958-1961. In 1962 a property was purchased at No. 4 Garfield Street for use by the All Age Sunday School. Space was also available for family accommodation and several British immigrant couples made their first home in Australia at No. 4 Garfield Street.

However needs change and in 1978 the decision was made to sell No. 4. This allowed further renovations to take place in the hall providing two rooms for meetings and Sunday School accommodation, resulting in the spaces known as the Cato Lounge and the Garfield Lounge. The naming of the Cato Lounge was in respect for Dr Cyril Cato, who sadly died in 1962 while in ministry at Five Dock.

1986 - The Centenary Year

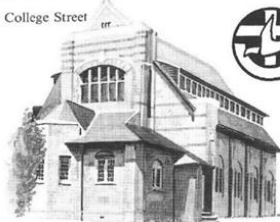


Victoria Road

of the Drummoyne Uniting Church

"For the Lord is good; His
steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all
generations".
Psalm 100:5.

33 College Street



Methodist Church — Church Union — Uniting Church in Australia
1886-1977 1977 1977-1986

The main events of the Christian Year will be highlighted during our Centenary Year celebrations —
HARVEST — EASTER — PENTECOST — CHRISTMAS —
Special Centenary Services and Re-Unions on Sunday July 20 & 27.

Taken from the calendar issued to celebrate Drummoyne church centenary

Five Dock and Drummoyne Churches

People grew up and moved away. Church membership declined. In 1960 a new parsonage was purchased at Church Street, Drummoyne replacing the original 1908 parsonage in Collingwood Street. The circuits of Five Dock, Drummoyne and Haberfield (later closed) were re-amalgamated in 1968. In 1977 the Methodist Church of Australasia merged with the majority of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Congregational Union of Australia to form the present Uniting Church in Australia.²²

Ministers appointed to Drummoyne 1968-1985

1968-1969	A J Bingley
1970-1972	J W Spencer
1973-1974	D Lindsay
1975-1980	B Allen
1981-1983	C Udy
1984	M Reeves
1985	L R Miller

²² No other local churches joined the union so the Methodist churches of Five Dock and Drummoyne became the Uniting Church.

Ministers appointed to Five Dock 1968-1985

1968-1973	C W Drury
1973-1980	R P Smith
1981-1985	L R Miller



In 1975 a stained glass window was relocated from the Enfield church which had ceased to function. Misses Freda and Jean Weiss were well loved members of the congregation with Freda involved in the All Age Sunday School and Jean as organist and Sunday School superintendent.

When the Enfield Methodist Church was closed the Weiss family decided to relocate the stained glass window which they had placed there in memory of their father Frank. The window was dedicated to the memory of Frank and Ethel Weiss and was placed in the then entrance porch to the Five Dock church.



*In memory of Hopping,
Davies, Thomson families*

*In memory of Frank
& Ethel Weiss*

In 1986 a stained glass window, in memory of the Hopping, Davies and Thomson families from 1900, was placed on the other side of the entrance porch, a gift from present family members.

A gift from an anonymous donor has allowed the church to install lighting to highlight the stained glass windows at night and be a witness to the local community.

While separate services were maintained at Five Dock and Drummoyne churches, combined services were held for major religious festivals. Drummoyne celebrated its centenary in 1986 and Five Dock celebrated the 125th anniversary of the reception of the first two members on 24-25th June 1989. In 1998 the Five Dock and Drummoyne congregations agreed to remain separate congregations but share in worship and related activities. The inaugural service for the coming together of the two congregations was held on 5th July 1998 and in March 2003 the two congregations became one, the Five Dock–Drummoyne Congregation of the Uniting Church, meeting at the Five Dock church.

A dedicated leadership team over the twenty years of 1986 - 2007 ran a Kid's Club for primary age children. Particular mention is made of the leaders in this time: Jean Weiss, Esmay and Syd Rennie, Joyce Wasson, Sue England and Fran and Jack Harding, who were well supported by helpers from the congregation who committed their time and energy each week. The following is an extract from the first written report:

"Wednesday Club began meeting on 23^d July 1986 after a well-attended weekend of preparation and instruction for leaders and supporters run by David Young. The Club has a varied programme of games, choruses, stories, memory work and craft and a two course meal is provided each week. Dedicated support from a team of leaders and helpers has seen us through many happy and successful afternoons and some minor difficulties along the way. The average weekly attendance during 1986 was 34."

The Rev Dr Robert Hillman, with a background in Church Growth principles, was appointed as supply to Five Dock in 1987. One of the decisions from his time was the establishment of a church office to assist in the administration of the parish and act as an information and communication centre. Initially the office was set up in the church vestries.

Ministers appointed to Five Dock–Drummoyne 1986-2014

1986	Lindsay R Miller
1987	A Hill, C Barton, R Page (supply)
1987-1988	Robert J Hillman
1988-1995	Bruce W Noble
1996-2003	Trevor Lunney
2004-2011	Peter Hoe-Seung Chung
2011-2012	Donald W Everhart (supply)
2012-	Donald W Everhart

The congregations engaged in a series of Mission Planning Conferences in the 1990s, resulting in the strengthening of worship and leadership resources. In 1998 the mission statement: *To be a people of faith in Christ, sharing His love with all people* was adopted.

An approach was received from a person wanting to start a Child Care Centre in Five Dock, asking if it was possible for them to lease the main Sunday School hall, together with the classrooms in the western wing and the unused land at the rear of the hall. Extensive consultation took place with groups from the congregation and agreement was reached. In 1994 the Garfield Street Child Care Centre commenced operation. The same proprietor has operated since 1994 and a good spirit of cooperation exists between the child care and the church. Rent from the child care centre provides funds for property maintenance.

As the level of commercial activity and traffic noise increased in Garfield Street, it was realised that the manse adjacent to the church was not suitable as a residence for the minister and his family. So in 1994 property at No. 3 Garfield Street was sold with proceeds used to upgrade the former Drummoyne manse in Church Street, Drummoyne. The upgrade was completed in 1997. Funds available from the sale of No. 3 Garfield Street enabled relocation of the church office to the front rooms of No. 5 Garfield Street in 2000. This office is now an integral part of our organisational and administrative structure.

In 2001 agreement was given to the HoJu Joong-Ang (Korean) Uniting Church congregation to have joint use of the Five Dock church and hall properties for Sunday worship and early morning prayer. This group continued meeting at Five Dock until December 2011.

In May 2012 an approach came from Presbytery on behalf of the Sydney The Lord's Church Faith Community for temporary use of the church for their worship. This group met at Five Dock until April 2013 when accommodation became available at the South Strathfield Uniting Church.

An approach was made by a person in the community for agreement to lease the vacant land at Drummoyne church in order to build a purpose built child care centre. After lengthy approval processes the centre was opened in 2006. In 2010 this lease was sold to a second operator.

Drummoyne Rotuman Congregation

In 1982, a small faith community of Rotuman people began meeting at Drummoyne church. In 1991 the group formally separated from the Wesley Central Mission to worship full-time at Drummoyne church. In 1992 the Drummoyne Rotuman group was officially recognised as a separate entity (Fellowship) at Drummoyne.²³ Following negotiations, it was agreed in 1996 that the Drummoyne Rotuman Fellowship officially become the Drummoyne Rotuman Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia and be the third congregation within the Five Dock–Drummoyne parish. Rejeli Clayton, Chairperson of this congregation in 2006 said: *“The journey forward has not been smooth... we have journeyed through thick and thin, through good times and bad times... there's still a lot to be done in the years ahead”*.

As this report is being written, a more current history is taking place with the Drummoyne Rotuman Congregation joining with the Wesley Rotuman Congregation to become the Sydney Rotuman Congregation of the Uniting Church based at Drummoyne. A service recognising this amalgamation is to be held in July 2014.

²³ A detailed history is part of the 2006 Annual Report.

The ‘fourth’ Five Dock Church

Discussions begun in 1990 to redesign the interior space of the Five Dock church proceeded slowly but did not come to fruition. The idea was revived in 1997, an architect was engaged and agreements reached. Many delays were experienced, mainly because of costs, and finally in 2003 a builder was engaged.



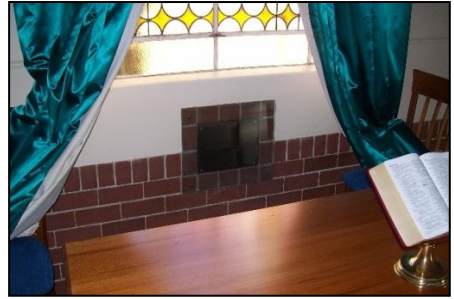
The ‘fourth’ Five Dock Church after refurbishment 2004

The redesign of the Five Dock church effectively turned the church around, added a new entrance area and kitchen and toilet facilities together with new furniture. During this time the congregation held morning worship in the Drummoyne church property. The refurbished church was re-opened on 14th November 2004. The resulting attractive and welcoming worship area is affirmation of the tenacity and perseverance of members of the Refurbishment Committee in giving oversight to this project.

When the church was being renovated in 2004, a “time capsule” was discovered in which the research notes of Miss G E Pickering were discovered, wrapped in a copper container, plus many photos of the 1938 construction. We know very little else about this remarkable lady except for this discovery. Her material, together with an updated church history, was rededicated in 2005 in a proper time capsule, located under the western window of the church.



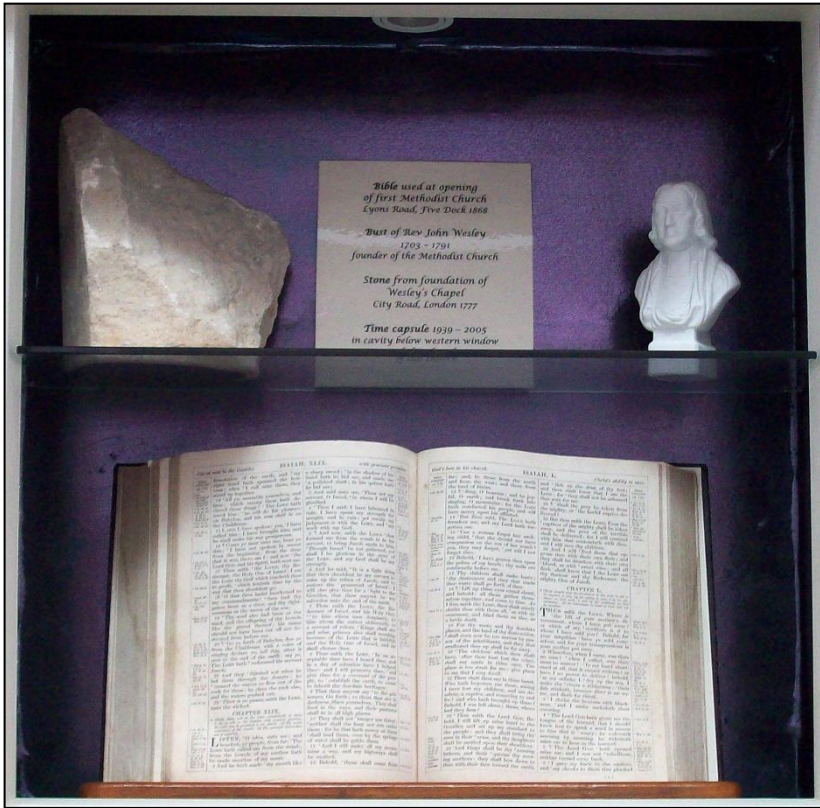
The 1938 “time capsule”



The 2005 “time capsule”



Interior of church prior to 2004 refurbishment



Foundation stone from 1777 Wesley Chapel London, John Wesley bust, and Bible used at opening of first Methodist Church Lyons Road Five Dock 1868

Into the Future

The first Census of 1911 showed that Methodists were 13% of Australia's population.²⁴ Noting an increase in population between the Census of 1933 and 1947 of 14.3%, Rev K T Henderson in *The Australian Way of Life*²⁵ notes a Methodist increase of 27.4%. He attributes this, in the words of the Rev Alan Walker, to



²⁴ R Ward, *A Nation for a Continent* (1977). p.22.

²⁵ (1953), p.116. The book was edited by George Caiger.

(a) the intensive development of youth work, (b) the Home Mission system where strong and weak parishes are linked, (c) the strongly developed social conscience of Methodists and (d) the ‘mateyness’ or sense of fellowship which characterised Methodist groups.

Recent church history reveals the congregation to be a vibrant community seeking to be true to their faith. There is continuing fellowship through small group, Bible study groups, Wednesday fellowship, men’s breakfasts and support for community groups such as Meals on Wheels. The congregation actively supports the Uniting Church “Living is Giving” and “Lent Event” programs and Wycliffe translators Matt and Donna Toulmin working on Bible translation in India.

In 2010 congregation members loyally supported various activities, for example the Bible Society campaign “**Jesus. All About Life**” which provided opportunity for the congregation to hold events which typified our congregational life and to which others could be invited. Monthly Sunday night ‘Tea and Video nights’ were an outcome of the **Alpha** teaching course and provided a time of learning and fellowship. An evening Contemporary Worship Service was commenced under the Rev Peter Chung, however in spite of the commitment and prayers of a dedicated group, there was no major response from young adults in the community and the services ceased.

On 5th August 2012, the Rev Don Everhart, spoke of the New Covenant between God, the Five Dock–Drummoyne Congregation and himself as 40th minister at Five Dock and stated that he truly believed God had a plan for this church in Five Dock. He ended the service with the hymn:

*In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song.*

Preaching a week later at Mr Everhart’s Induction, Presbytery Chair Rev Niall Reid noted that it is not so much the church but the community that has changed in the last 25 years and that we need to continue to endeavour to be a vital part of the community in which we live.

2014 Celebrations

The Planning Committee for the Sesquicentenary took into account limitations of space available in our hall facilities, so rather than holding a formal dinner on Saturday 30th August 2014, it was decided to have a reunion picnic at Lane Cove River Park.

On Sunday 31st August people are invited to gather at the site of the original church, corner of Lyons Road and McKinnon Avenue, to acknowledge the link between the original site and the present site by walking to the present church. The 9.30am Service of Celebration will be led by our present minister, Rev Don Everhart and the address given by the Rev Dr Brian Brown, Moderator. An historical exhibition will be mounted and a commemorative plaque will be unveiled. After lunch there will be a 'Pleasant Sunday Afternoon' with musical items and reminiscences before a closing Devotion.



Interior of church 15 June 2014

Continuing on

This history of 150 years of Methodist/Uniting Church worship in the Five Dock area, is not only about bricks and mortar but rather a reflection on the way in which the people of the Church have steadfastly striven to be part of an active, committed Christian community, sharing in the fullness of life in Christ through their church and its mission. Within our membership there is evidence of a strong sense of communal life. We can be seen as people with God-given talents and gifts able to co-operate to do “good things” together – both for our fellow congregation members and our extended community.

With God’s help we seek to grow our church and be a witness to our community. Sometimes we receive a green light, while other times we hear a “not this way” or “not yet” signal, telling us to pray and think again or to wait for His timing.

Our trust is in the God who is the same, Yesterday, Today and Forever.

150th Anniversary Celebration Banner

*On the back cover of this booklet
is a photo of a specially made banner
which features a collage of photos
representing Five Dock church life.*

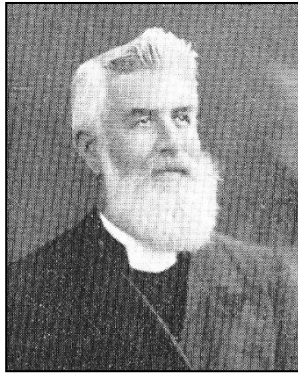
*It will be presented on Sunday 17th August, 2014
and will be on display in the church
during and after the Anniversary Celebrations.*

*Thanks to Sue Jones, Julie Austen and Gwenda Cant
for the design and production of the banner.*

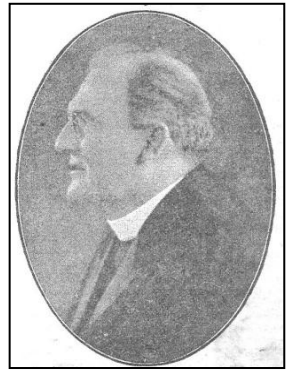
Some photos of Ministers of the Word at Five Dock/Drummoyne
(where available)



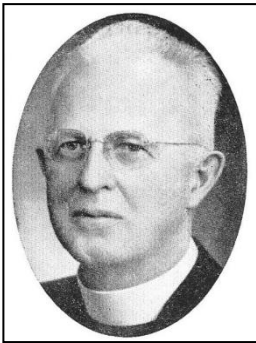
J Oram



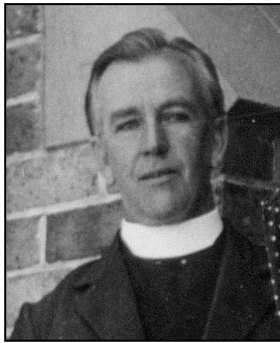
R Bavin



S V Cocks



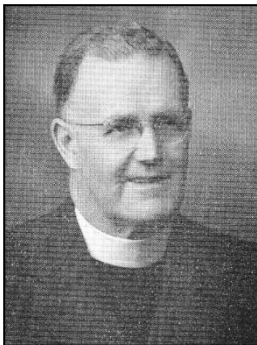
R B Lew



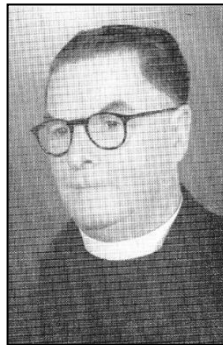
D C Hughes



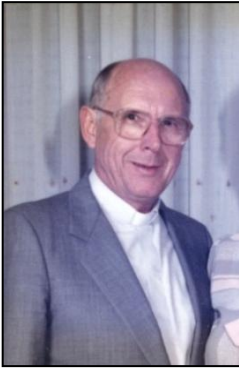
H E Cosier



C L Conner



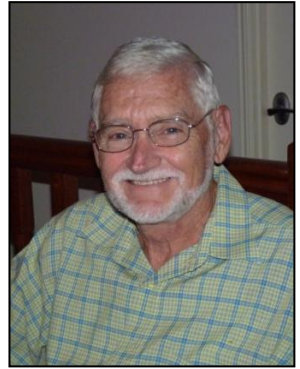
A J Davis



C W Drury



R P Smith



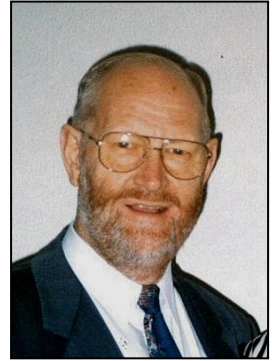
B Allen



L R Miller



R Hillman



B W Noble



T Lunney



P Chung



D W Everhart

Time Line

- 1806** Grant of land (1500 acres) to Dr John Harris known as his Five Dock Farm
- 1812** First Methodist class meetings – Sydney and Windsor
- 1815** Rev Samuel Leigh (first Methodist minister) arrives in Sydney
- 1836** Samuel Lyons bought Five Dock Farm
- 1862** Wesleyan Church Newtown – Lay leaders Bowmer and Henson deputed to enquire if there is an opening at Five Dock
- 1862** Services commenced at the Betts family home Lyons Road, Five Dock
- 1864** (September) Newtown records admission of two members of the Five Dock branch of the Wesleyan Circuit of Newtown, three others being on trial
- 1865** Newtown records proposed a grant of land be obtained at Five Dock. Also, Newtown circuit was divided and Ashfield was the head of a new circuit to take in Five Dock
- 1866** (27 March) Foundation stone of First Five Dock Methodist church laid
- 1868** (2 August) First Five Dock Methodist church Lyons Road opened
- 1871** Certificate of Title issued for gift from William Wright of land on which the church was built
- 1881** (13 July) Discontinuance of Services at Five Dock owing to small attendance
- 1883** (5 May) Lyons Road building sold to Judge Peter Faucett
- 1897** Ashfield records show resumption of meetings at Five Dock
- 1891** Purchase of site in Garfield Street, Five Dock
- 1898** (16 July) Foundation stones of second church laid and (2 October) Church opened
- 1898** Record of 61 Sunday School scholars discovered when second church remodelled in 1938
- 1905** Five Dock church separated from Ashfield and joined to Drummoyne circuit

- 1914** Five Dock union with Drummoyne was severed and Five Dock linked with Haberfield circuit
- 1920** Hall built at rear of Garfield Street church. Five Dock public school held classes until 1924
- 1928** (17 December) record of purchase of a Parsonage adjacent to the church
- 1929** (18 November) Proposal for a new church
- 1930** onwards – Depression Years delay plans for a new church
- 1933** Five Dock and Haberfield circuits separated with Five Dock becoming a separate circuit
- 1938** (30 November) Tender of Pearson Bros for \$1598 for building new church accepted
- 1939** (18 February) Foundation stone laid for church in Garfield Street
- 1939** (20 May) Garfield Street church opened
- 1954** (30 March) Kindergarten hall extensions authorised
- 1959** (February) Further extensions to the hall were opened
- 1962** (21 February) Decision to secure property at 4 Garfield Street for All Age Sunday school
- 1964** Centenary Celebrations Sun 30 August, 5th and 6th September, Sunday 13th September
- 1977** Formation of The Uniting Church in Australia
- 1994** Garfield Child Care Centre commenced
- 1996** Drummoyne Rotuman congregation became third congregation of the parish
- 1997** Drummoyne minister's residence upgraded
- 1998** Church office located in residence
- 2003** Drummoyne and Five Dock congregations became one, named Five Dock–Drummoyne
- 2004** Completion of refurbishment of Five Dock church
- 2014** Sesquicentenary of reception of first members of Five Dock church

List of References

Allars, K G , “*In the Beginning*” *Five Dock Methodist Church Centenary 1964*, Sydney, Trustees of the Five Dock Methodist Church, 1964

Annual Reports for the Period July 2005 to June 2006, Sydney, Five Dock–Drummoyne and Drummoyne Rotuman Congregations, 2006

Aveling, Marian and Atkinson, Alan (eds.) *Australians 1838*, Broadway, NSW, Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Associates, 1987

Caiger, George and Australian Institute of International Affairs, *The Australian Way of Life*, Melbourne, Heinemann, 1953

Clancy, Eric G and Whitby, Kath (eds.) and Methodist Church of Australasia, New South Wales Conference, *Great the Heritage: The Story of Methodism in N.S.W., 1812–1975*, Sydney, Division of Interpretation and Communication of the NSW Methodist Conference, 1975

Crowley, F K (ed.), *A New History of Australia*, Melbourne, William Heinemann, 1974

Davison, G, McCarty, J W and McLeary, A (eds.) *Australians 1888*, Broadway, NSW, Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Associates, 1987

Into the Future: A History of Five Dock and Drummoyne Uniting Churches 1864-2004, Sydney, Five Dock–Drummoyne Uniting Church Congregation, 2004

Methodism, Wikipedia: the Free Encyclopedia,
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodism>

Russell, E, *Drummoyne: A Western Suburbs History from 1794*, 2nd ed., Drummoyne, Council of the Municipality of Drummoyne, 1982

Uniting Church in Australia Five Dock–Drummoyne and Drummoyne Rotuman Congregations

Ward, Russell, *A Nation for a Continent: The History of Australia, 1901-1975*, Richmond, Vic, Heinemann Educational Australia, 1977

Wesley Mission
http://www.wesleymission.org.au/About/Our_History/Default.asp

150 YEARS OF WORSHIP FIVE DOCK



1864 - 2014

150th Anniversary Celebration Banner