

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

It is interesting to recall that when Governor Macquarie laid the foundation stone of the Cathedral in 1819 there was no Bishop and no Diocese of Australia, and the site was virtually in the bush. However the Cathedral to-day stands as a tribute to his vision. For ten years before the arrival of Archdeacon Broughton the foundations were hardly begun. Following the Consecration of Broughton as Bishop of Australia plans were reconsidered, and the foundation stone was moved from what is now the middle of George Street and laid again by the Governor, Sir Richard ^{Bowke} ~~Brack~~. The plan was to take St. Mary's Church, Oxford, as a model and to incorporate the tower on the lines of ^{Magdalen} ~~Maudling~~ College. Plans were again altered on the appointment of E. T. Blackett as Architect to the Cathedral in 1846, but owing to the unsettled state of the Colony little progress was made, and on the arrival of Bishop Barker in 1845 the Cathedral resembled a ruined Church with its pillars incomplete. As a result of the energy of the new Bishop the Cathedral was ready for consecration in 1868.

In all the circumstances it is remarkable that we have as pleasing a building as stands to-day, despite the fact that the side aisles appear too narrow for the height of the building and the pillars are ~~too~~ of such massive construction due to uncertainty about the qualities of the stone of which it was constructed. Perhaps its most pleasing external feature is that of the Western Towers. The doorway beneath them was designed as the main entrance to the Cathedral, until finally it was re-orientated in 1941 and the present entrance from George Street constructed.

In recent years one of the most notable features has been the completion of the Clerestory windows depicting the establishment of the Church in New South Wales and the advance of Missionary enterprise from Australia. Another was the reconstruction and combination of the organs existing in the two Transcepts and the building of a new console behind the Choir screen. A third has been the paving of the Chancel with Wombeyan marble which was laid before the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on February 6th, 1954. This historic event is being commemorated by the painting of a picture of the scene outside the Cathedral. The Cathedral is linked with many historic English Cathedrals and Churches by commemorative stones and also by the gift of the Barnwell Bible of 1539.

The Cathedral, as the seat of the Diocesan Metropolitan and Primate, provides the setting for many of the services which are part of the life of the Church, and provides many occasions when the State and the community come together for appropriate services. Many of these annual occasions tend to symbolise something for which the old Cathedral Guilds of England stood. The daily services provide opportunity of worship for many in the busy life of the city. Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.15 a.m. and perhaps more Church people could avail themselves of this service on their way to work. The Parishes of the Diocese and Branches of its work are mentioned daily by name. Choral Evensong is sung at 4.15 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday. A popular Lunch Hour Service is held each Wednesday at 1.15 p.m. and a session of Bible Study on Mondays at 1.15 p.m. There is normally an Organ Recital given on Thursdays at the same time. Other activities centred on the Cathedral are the

work of the Marriage Guidance Centre, the Church of England Bible College, and the Cathedral Luncheon Club , all of which have a valuable contribution to make.

For the future plans are being made for the rebuilding of the Cathedral Choir School which was founded by Bishop Barry in 1885. The school is at present housed in the former Worker Printery on the Cathedral site, and in recent years has grown in numbers and influence. The Cathedral Choir has achieved a great reputation and it is felt that the School should be more worthily housed so that the best educational facilities may be available both to Choir boys and others. The Appeal has accordingly been launched for this purpose, and donations, which are deductible for income tax purposes, may be sent to the Dean.

There has been a great deal of misunderstanding concerning the financial provision for the maintenance of the Cathedral, and it can only be said here that its endowments are inadequate to provide for all that is absolutely necessary, and the Cathedral Chapter has been compelled to take out a mortgage to cover its heavy overdraft. The Diocese as such contributed not a penny to the maintenance of the Cathedral. We should like to feel that many who have the wellbeing of the Cathedral at heart would be prepared to join the Association of "The Friends of the Cathedral" by the payment of a minimum annual donation of £1.1.0. We commend this to all readers of this Digest and also the Parishes to which they belong.