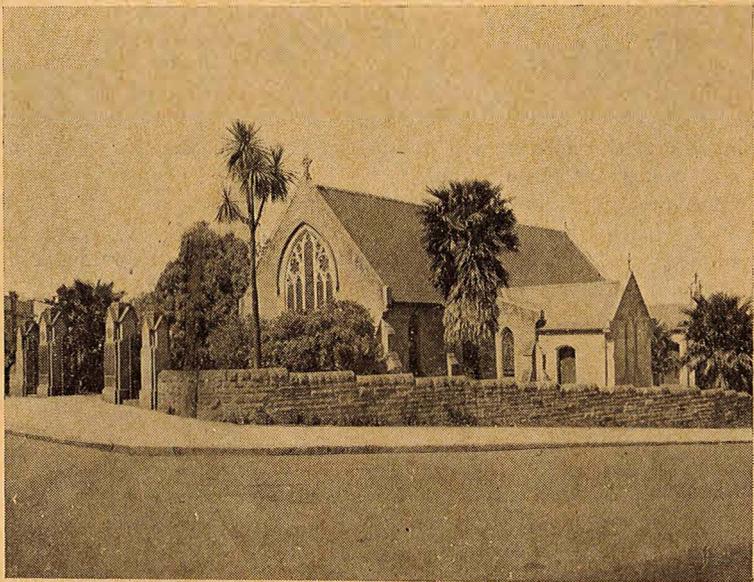


**GLADESVILLE**  
AND ITS  
**FIRST CHURCH**



CHRIST CHURCH, GLADESVILLE, 1938

## FOREWORD

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**I**T is very fitting that the Story of Gladesville and its first Church should be told by Mr. E. H. Collis, an old resident of these suburbs, and one genuinely interested both in the history of this district and in the life and welfare of the Church.

As the present Minister of Christ Church I wish to thank him and also to say how much I have personally felt indebted to those whose labours and sacrifices have secured for the Church so worthy a site and such excellent buildings. Some may remember that I have tried to put these feelings into words publicly on more than one occasion. The Church and its history here seems to me to bear the marks of a graciousness, a kindness and a reverence that appeals to the very best within us. The

Apostle Paul in one of his Epistles speaks of "a sweet favour of Christ." This is something which cannot very well be defined or analysed but is perhaps the Church's richest contribution to the life of the community. The Church exists to serve. We have the highest authority for this. Our Lord himself said "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many." And again "I am among you as He that serveth." And personally I believe the highest service which the Church can render is by a loving graciousness and willingness to serve to draw the hearts of all men towards Him who is alone "the Way, the Truth and the Life."

DAVID J. KNOX.



# THE STORY OF GLADESVILLE AND ITS FIRST CHURCH

By E. H. COLLIS

## PREFACE

I AM not sufficiently optimistic to believe that I have avoided all inaccuracy of this booklet. I have had to rely much upon oral tradition, which in the course of a century is likely to be exaggerated or distorted. But I have had the good fortune to receive assistance from those who had knowledge of the people and events of the nineteenth century. For this co-operation my thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Murray-Prior, Mrs. Edith de Crespigny Irby, Mrs. Guy Blaxland, and Messrs. V. Le Gay Brereton, Charles McDonall, E. Kelly, F. Martyn and, particularly, William Reeves. I have also leaned largely upon "A Short Account of the Early History of Gladesville," by Mr. J. W. Milne, who was the pioneer in this field of research.

E. H. COLLIS.

Gladesville,  
March, 1938.

# Gladesville and Its First Church

THE history of Gladesville opens a little uncertainly. Grants of Gladesville lands—although the district had not then received its present name—were made by the Governors of New South Wales as far back as the eighteenth century. These lands were probably worked within five years of the grants, which would otherwise have lapsed, but no record exists that anyone was in permanent residence upon them. Thus in 1795 grants of land in what is now Gladesville were made to William House and John Doody, and in 1796 to Ann Benson. In 1799 a grant was made to William Rayen of all Tennyson and in addition of the land further inland stretching as far as the Field of Mars. On the Tennyson portion James Squire planted a small vineyard and produced the first Australian wines in 1807. Many grants were made in the nineteenth century, including one of Henley to George Fieldhouse; but, if any settlement was made in the first 40 years of the colony's existence, all trace has been wiped out. Huntley's Point was granted to one Thomas Stubbs.

If we go back 110 years to 1828 we have a curious picture of the land between the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers. Gladesville was uninhabited. St. Anne's Church, Ryde, was in existence but without its tower. It was built in 1826, but Ryde was then generally known as Kissing Point, sometimes as Eastern Farms, and sometimes as the Field of Mars. St. Anne's was the parish church of Hunter's Hill, both Hunter's Hill and Ryde being then small centres of population.

Events began to move. During the Governorship of Sir Richard Bourke (1831-37), the Great North Road was built, stretching from the Parramatta-road at Croydon, to Abbotsford, and from Bedlam Point, Gladesville, to Wiseman's Ferry on the Hawkesbury, thence through St. Albans and Wollombi to Maitland, and onward to the North. The name remains to this day, although the Main Roads Board, disregarding alike history and geography, has renamed the portion which runs through Gladesville, Victoria Road. In 1832, the punt between Abbotsford and Bedlam Point became a reality, and thereafter the teams drays and vehicles between Sydney and the north went through Gladesville. Settlement crept after the traffic, and inevitably took at first the form of inns to provide rest and refreshment for wayfarers. The old cottage on Brereton's Hill against which Osgathorpe was built nearly half a century later was an inn. In the forties this inn was occupied by one Isaacs, and tradition has it that Ludwig Leichhardt spent a night there in 1848 before he vanished into the interior. But there is no more certainty on this point than about the fate of the explorer on his last unfortunate expedition. Rockend, the stone cottage at Bedlam Point, now the office of a linseed mill, but long the home of the Barton family, was originally built for an inn, but apparently failed to obtain a license. This failure was probably due to the fact that an inn had already been licensed at Abbotsford on the opposite side of the river.

The year 1836 is usually regarded

as the starting point of Gladesville. In that year John Glade obtained a grant of 50 acres, stretching from the Great North Road to the Parramatta River, between Glades Bay and Looking Glass Bay, and built a modest stone cot overlooking Glade's Bay. There he settled. About the same time the building of the Tarban Creek Asylum—now the Gladesville Mental Hospital—was begun, and in all probability some of the workmen camped or lived on the land between Great North Road and Tarban Creek. Moreover, Bateman, the puntman, lived first on Bedlam Point and later in a cottage on the Great North Road, and the road made by the side of his cottage was named after him.

Little can be gleaned of the history of the forties, but some of the hospital employees had begun to live in Gladesville. In 1848 John Glade died and was buried in St. Anne's churchyard, Ryde. In that year, Mr. Alfred Huntley, an officer of the Australian Gas Light Co., was living on what had been Thomas Stubbs grant, and Huntley's Point was named after him.

In the fifties we are on surer ground. In 1850 Mr. Reeves settled in Gladesville, and some time later built the old stone house in Bateman's road, which still stands. In that decade the land held by John Glade having passed to Mr. Billyard, a Sydney solicitor, the latter subdivided and sold the ground. It was then that Mr. R. M. Pearson, a surveyor in the Lands Department acquired the Cedars, now known as Pearson's Point, that the Ferndale, Ellora, Woodstone and other residential estates were carved out. To facilitate the development of Gladesville, as he had named the land comprised in Glade's grant, Mr. Billyard built in 1859 a wharf at Gladesville Point, at which the steamer which ran from

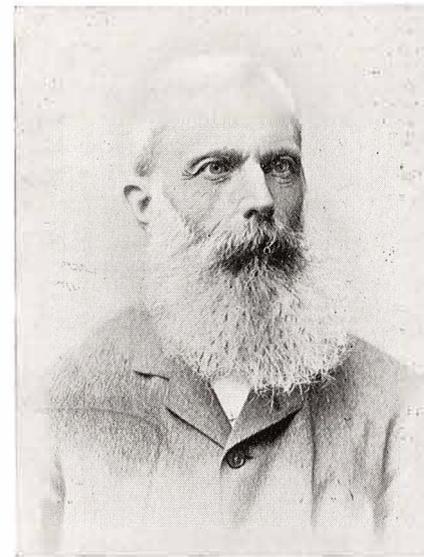
Sydney to Parramatta called, a road, now Wharf road, to connect the wharf with the Great North Road, and finally succeeded in the establishment of a post office at the new wharf. It was opened on January 1, 1861, under the charge of George Buckingham. It was in the fifties that Mr. Kelly, a veteran of the New Zealand War, settled in Gladesville, near Tarban Creek.

Hitherto the district had been generally known as Tarban Creek, but sometimes as Bedlam Point. But in the sixties, when Mr. Billyard's subdivision was known as Gladesville and also the new wharf and post-office were known as Gladesville, that name began gradually but surely to supersede the older names.

Now the settlement was becoming a village. The first shop was opened by Miss Kate Murray at the corner of Bateman's Road. The Gladesville Hotel, a cottage, faced Wharf-road on the Great North Road, the license being held by a Mr. Worthington. In the second half of the sixties the Protestant Hall was built. In 1865 Mr. Salter, a solicitor, settled in Gladesville at Ellora. Before this Dr. Bland had bought the Henley grant from George Fieldhouse. He subdivided and sold it in allotments in the second half of the sixties. For about 40 years it was known as Blandville.

In the seventies Gladesville was beginning to take the aspect which distinguished it during the remainder of the nineteenth century. Mr. Salter removed in 1870 from Ellora to Ferndale. Mr. Gerard Edgar Herring succeeded him in Ellora, later building Bracondale on another corner of the same block of land, bounded by four streets. Mr. Herring was an Englishman, a direct descendant of Thomas Herring, Archbishop of Canterbury in the eighteenth century.

Born in 1834 he arrived in Sydney in 1853. He was appointed clerk of petty sessions at Tamworth, from which he came to Sydney as a clerk in the Lands Department. During the retrenchment of the Cowper Administration Mr. Herring tried his



Mr. G. E. HERRING

luck on the gold diggings from Canoona to Kiandra. Sir John Robertson in 1861 appointed him to the Lands Department. In 1874 he was appointed chief clerk in the Department of Mines, and in 1890 Assistant Under Secretary of that department. Gladesville soon elected him as an alderman of the Ryde Municipal Council, of which he became the second Mayor, succeeding Mr. E. Terry the Squire of Eastwood. He was Mayor of Eastwood for three years in succession. He rendered great service to Christ Church, not only in its erection, but as a trustee and warden for a quarter of a century.

In the seventies Mr. Walter Campbell was established at Woodstone, on the opposite side of Wharf-road from Ellora. Curiously enough, he was another civil servant, becoming Under Secretary for Agriculture. His property also comprised the whole of one block, being bounded by Wharf-road, Bayview Terrace, Meriton-street and Ashburn Place. Mrs. E. M. Barton, a daughter of Major Darvall who had married Captain Barton, of Boree, was still at Rockend, and her famous grandson, A. B. ("Banjo") Paterson, was a boy travelling by steamer from Gladesville to the Sydney Grammar School in the late seventies. Another schoolboy river traveller of those days was William Reeves, who went to the Fort-street school. The Pearsons were at the Cedars. The wooden house known as the Gunyah in which Mr. D'Ardier long lived was built in 1873. Mr. D'Ardier married Mrs. Tribe, and Miss Tribe still lives on the estate.

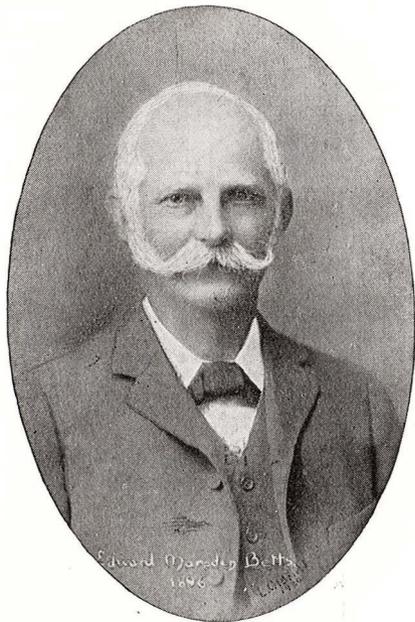
The Kelly family was the first to settle in Blandville now known as Henley. This was at the end of the seventies, for earlier this family lived "on the Rocks," near Tarban Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Cowell were in the old Gladesville Hotel. Later they built the two-storied inn, next to the old hotel. The Gladesville Hotel was closed a quarter-of-a-century ago. It is now fronted with a row of shops. Mr. Folkard was chief attendant at the hospital. Mr. Neilly lived in Linsley-street. All Tennyson was the property of James Squire Farnell a Minister of the Crown and for a brief period Premier of New South Wales.

Dr. Le Gay Brereton owned the land on both sides of the North road at Brereton Hill, but still lived in Sydney. Vineyards stretched on each side of the road. On the southern was the old cottage, which had formerly been an inn. Dr. Brereton

## GLADESVILLE AND ITS FIRST CHURCH

used the estate as a country home, to which the family regularly came. In 1882 he built against the old cottage the beautiful many-gabled house, Osgathorpe, in which he spent the unexpectedly brief remainder of his life. He died in 1886. His widow remained at Osgathorpe until her death in 1923. Her sons and daughters married and founded new homes, but the eldest son Victor, barrister-at-law, and Judge Advocate General of the military forces, remained unmarried and lived with his mother to the end. After her death the family home was sold.

In 1878 Mr. Salter moved from Ferndale to the Priory on Tarban Creek, and Dr. Little then occupied Ferndale.



Mr. E. M. BETTS

In the seventies Mr. Edward Marsden Betts was assistant superintendent of the Gladesville Mental Hospital and lived with his mother—the

youngest daughter of the famous Rev. Samuel Marsden—and sisters in the residence attached to the hospital. Apart from his official duties Mr. E. M. Betts touched life at many points. Teddy — as he was then known throughout the length and breadth of the then colony of New South Wales—made a name in sporting, civic and inevitably church circles. A famous amateur rider he acted as jockey at picnic races all over the country-side, was a member of the Australian Jockey Club, and served for many years on its committee. He was an alderman of the Ryde Council for many years and Mayor of Ryde on more than one occasion. Later he became an alderman of the Hunter's Hill Council, and Mayor of Hunter's Hill for a number of years. He was a warden of Christ Church, Gladesville, for more than 40 years. He was a man of many parts. At the end of the eighties he built Karlite on the North road for a residence for his mother and sisters.

Mr. Makinson, a solicitor, lived at Dunham at the corner of North Road and Pittwater-road. The Watkins family had a beautiful residence at Llanthony, a fairly large estate which fronted Ryde and Pittwater roads. The latter was known as Bridge-road. The Gladesville post-mistress—it was still an unofficial office — was now Mrs. Howell, who dwelt in North-road, just above the present police station. The Reeves family lived in Bateman's road.

That was the Gladesville of the seventies — a village of gardens and flowers. The steamers from Parramatta to Sydney were the only public conveyance, but those with buggies and carts could drive to the punt at Bedlam Point, cross to Abbotsford, along the North road to Parramatta-road, and thence to the city. Gladesville

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still lacked both a church and school. These were to be found at Ryde, but it was a long walk for little legs. The residents determined to obtain both a church and school at Gladesville. They were successful and both were built in 1878. For the school it was merely a matter of convincing the Government that the population was sufficient to warrant the erection of a school. The Government found the money. But for a church the residents had to raise the money themselves. They all joined in this task, but foremost among many willing workers were Messrs. E. M. Betts, G. E. Herring and R. M. Pearson.



Mr. R. M. PEARSON

In the seventies there was a church at Hunter's Hill, of which the Rev. J. H. Rowsell was in charge. It was not the present All Saints, but the chapel in Joubert-street. The Rev. Mr. Rowsell used to hold a week night service in the Protestant Hall, Gladesville, and in the second half

of the seventies, a committee was formed to build a church in Gladesville. The Rev. J. H. Rowsell was chairman, Mr. Walter Campbell, secretary, and Mr. R. M. Pearson treasurer. In the middle of 1878 Mr. G. E. Herring succeeded Mr. Campbell as secretary. All through 1876 and 1877 money was being collected, and the land was purchased from Mr. Coulter for £50. In 1877 a contract was let to Mr. Hill for the stonework of the church for £364/5/-, and Mr. Albury a contract for the remainder of the work—roof, floors, etc.—for £506/10/-. At the beginning of 1878 there had been raised by contributions £404/6/3.

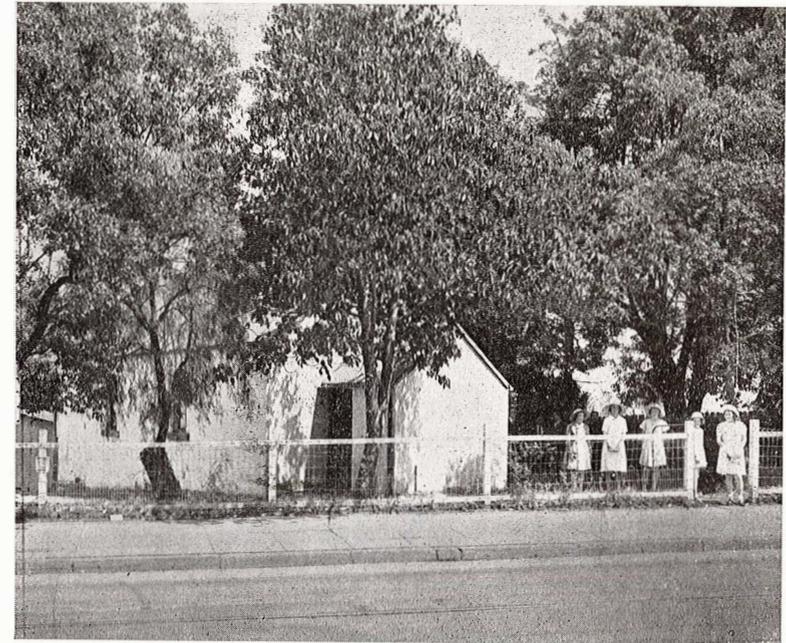
Here is a list of the collections and contributions:—Collected by Dr. Little and Mrs. Weaver, £10; by Mrs. Paterson, £14/11/6; by Mrs. Barton, £10; by Mrs. Martha Betts, £43/4/-; by Mr. Frazer, £18/18/-; by Mrs. Pearson, £7; by Mrs. Dr. Campbell, £3/10/-; by Mr. Pearson, £76/18/6. Money laid on the foundation stone, £10/6/3. Contributions: Mr. Goodman, £5/10/-; Dr. Manning, £20; Mr. Salter, £25; Mr. Herring, £20/10/-; Mr. Cowell, £10/15/-; Miss Miller £4; Mr. Coulter, £5; Mr. Jeanneret, £20; Mr. Walter Campbell, £10; Mrs. Darvall, £25; Dean Cowper, £1; Church Society, £50; Bishop of Sydney, £10; Mr. Taylor, £1; savings bank interest, £2/2/-.

In 1878 the collectors went round again, and in the meantime £400 was borrowed on mortgage. The building erected was only portion of the present Christ Church. The first building forms the chancel of the existing building. Towards the end of the year the church was ready for use and Gladesville was formed into a separate parish. The Bishop of Sydney—for the Metropolitan did not become an Archbishop until 1897—came to Gladesville and discussed the

incumbency with the prospective parishioners. It was agreed that Archdeacon R. L. King should be offered the cure. The parish was to find at least £100 a year. So small a stipend was only possible because Archdeacon King was in receipt of a pension from the Government, a relic of the days when the Church of England was the established church in New South Wales. In addition, there

been confirmed at Hunter's Hill a week or so earlier, and now made his first communion. At every subsequent anniversary Mr. Reeves has been present. The Rev. J. H. Rowsell took the afternoon services. The day's collection totalled £40/16/1.

For a couple of weeks Mr. Rowsell took the services and then the first incumbent, Archdeacon King, took charge. He was an elderly man and



The first Protestant Hall in the Colony of N. S. W., opened November 5, 1867. Purchased by Christ Church, January 1935. The land is irregular in shape, the total frontage being 81 feet.

was the salary attached to the hospital chaplaincy.

On November 17, 1878, the first service was held in Christ Church. The preacher was the Very Reverend William Macquarie Cowper, Dean of Sydney. Thirty one people partook of the sacrament, among them William Reeves, who, a boy of 15, had

took up his residence in Theta on Wharf-road, afterwards the home of the Deane family. He and his wife used to drive about in a pony phaeton and were welcome visitors at all homes, irrespective of the creeds of the occupants. A son, the Rev. Cecil King, became rector of Camden with the beautiful church of St. John, from

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which he recently retired. He died during the present year. The Archdeacon's daughter, Miss King played the harmonium in Christ Church during 1879.

The first vestry meeting was held on Easter Tuesday, April 15, 1879. Mr. R. M. Pearson was elected the people's warden, Mr. G. E. Herring the trustees' warden, and Mr. E. M. Betts was appointed the clergyman's warden. At a meeting in the following month Messrs. G. E. Herring and E. M. Betts were elected members of synod. Later in the year a bell was hung on the north-western side of the porch.

During 1880 Mrs. Cowell bought and presented to the church the adjoining allotment, and a fence was erected around the church property.

In December of that year the Rev. Stanley Howard—a brother of the Rev. R. Nelson Howard, who was later to be curate and rector of Christ Church—held a mission at the church, and on December 15 Archdeacon King preached his last sermon in Christ Church. He resigned his charge. He was succeeded in the cure by the Rev. William Lumsdaine, who was also in receipt of a Government pension, in February 1881. In the interval the pulpit was occupied upon one occasion by the Right Reverend S. E. Marsden, first Bishop of Bathurst, a grandson of the Rev. Samuel Marsden, nephew to Mrs. Martha Betts, and cousin to Mr. E. M. Betts.

The new Rector lived in Ellora, from which Mr. Herring had moved when he had completed the building of Bracondale on the same block.

In the first half of the eighties, the debt on the original church having been paid off, it was decided to enlarge the church. Mr. Salter subscribed £100, and loans without interest were received from Mrs. Martha

Betts of £50, Mr. G. E. Herring of £50 and Mr. H. Deane £50. There were many subscriptions. On December 29 the tender of John Morrison for £1575 was accepted, and during 1885 the present church was completed. But there was an overdraft of £1057/11/1 with the City Bank for which the members of the enlargement committee, Messrs. H. Deane, J. Ross, Keed, Betts, Herring and Pearson were personally liable. The rate of interest was 8 per cent per annum. However Mr. Pearson negotiated a loan of £1050 on mortgage at 7 per cent. to pay off the overdraft. This meant an annual saving of £10/10/- in interest.

It seemed a formidable undertaking for a small village. But in 1883 the Gladesville Bridge was completed and opened for traffic. Horse omnibuses ran from Ryde to Sydney every two hours during the day, and these three, four or five-horsed buses, with bugle blowing, gave an impetus to development.

By 1888 the mortgage had been reduced to £850, and at the vestry meeting in 1890 a further reduction to £450 was shown. In the next year the mortgage was paid off, but the following liabilities appeared in its place:—Church Building Loan Fund, £200; Mrs. Barton, £50; Mrs. Cowell, £50; Mr. F. B. Barton, £50; Mr. Ross, £50; Mr. Herring, £50; Mr. Betts, £25. These were loans which did not bear interest.

Mr. H. F. Barton, who had become prominent in church affairs, was the Master-in-Equity, who had built Nyrangee on the estate overlooking Glades Bay, on which John Glade's cot still stood. He was a churchwarden more than once and Mr. H. Deane also served as warden from time to time.

During the eighties the Presbyterians of Gladesville banded themselves

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## GLADESVILLE AND ITS FIRST CHURCH

together to build a church—where are now the notable tea meetings of those spacious days—and in 1889 the Presbyterian Church was opened for worship on the corner diagonally opposite the Church of England.

The nineties were probably the golden age of Gladesville as of the remainder of the colony. After the bank smashes of 1893 money was scarce and wages were low, but so

steamers, which berthed at the foot of King-street, Sydney, where a cable tram awaited disembarking passengers. Ryde and Gladesville have ceased to be rural villages, and the oldest ferry service in Australia—from Sydney to Parramatta—has now been discontinued by the Sydney Ferries, Ltd., which bought out the Parramatta River Steamship Co.

In the nineties the class war had



Unveiling Memorial Gates by the Governor General of Australia, Lord Stonehaven, April 26, 1926.  
Rev. H. G. J. Howe, Rector.  
Most Reverend J. C. Wright, D.D., Archbishop of Sydney.

were prices. The river, on which the epic sculling contests of Hanlon, Beach, Kemp, and Searle had been fought out in the eighties, was famous. It was a favourite resort of the people of Sydney, and none knew the charm of the rural villages of Ryde and Gladesville and the spacious suburb of Hunter's Hill who has not travelled in the old single-ended

not been preached, and all classes and creeds dwelt in harmony. The telephone was a rare innovation and neither motors nor moving pictures had reached Australia. Aviation and wireless were dreams.

In the nineties the names of Messrs. F. Little and E. W. Howell and of Mesdames Mackenzie and Skinner recur in the church records, and to-

wards the end of that decade Mr. B. C. Martyn came to Christ Church. By Easter, 1892, the debt was reduced by £50, and in the following year by £150. By Easter, 1894, yet another £150 was paid off. Mr. H. H. Gall served as a warden for several years, but the financial stringency which prevailed after the bank smashes of 1893 was reflected in the church accounts. At the 1897 vestry meeting Mr. W. Howell was appointed minister's warden, Mr. Frank Little elected people's warden, and Mr. E. M. Betts trustee's warden. A year later Mr. John Paterson was minister's warden.

In 1898 the Rev. W. Lumsdaine, who was now an old man, appointed the Rev. R. Nelson Howard, as curate. The appointment was only possible by Mr. Lumsdaine's transfer of his stipend to his curate. By Easter, 1889 the debt was reduced to £87/10/-, and during the following year it was extinguished. The balance sheet showed an item hitherto unknown:—Liabilities none. Christ Church ended the century in good style. In 1900 Mr. James Ross was the minister's warden.

In the past the organ had been played by volunteers, the Misses Pearson and other ladies. Now that the debt had been extinguished, Mr. Ross moved and Mr. P. Weil seconded "that a salary of £12 a year be paid to the organist in the future, if the funds will permit."

Next the church purchased the Temperance Hall—now the Sunday School—from Miss Clare Herring for £250. Miss Herring had previously given the free use of the hall for the Sunday School.

Towards the end of 1901 the Rev. W. Lumsdaine died and the curate, the Rev. R. Nelson Howard, was appointed rector. In 1902 Mr. H. F. Barton died. Mr. R. M. Pearson had died in 1900, but of the original

wardens Messrs. Betts and Herring were still serving. By 1903 the debt on the parish hall had been extinguished, and the thoughts of the parishioners turned towards providing a rectory. This however, took years to accomplish, for it was decided to take no steps until £250 was in hand.

At the Easter meeting of 1904, Mr. B. C. Martyn was nominated as minister's warden, a position which he was long to occupy. Mr. Martyn did notable work for the church. Born in 1859, he went to Ryde on his marriage, and was prominent at St. Anne's. When he left Ryde in 1898 he came to Christ Church. For 40 years he was a member of the Lay Readers' Association, and frequently took services in Gladesville, North Ryde and elsewhere. He was once, owing to the illness of the Rev. D. H. Dillon called upon at 15 minutes notice to take the service in Christ Church. His services were also available to other denominations, and he not infrequently conducted the service in the Gladesville Presbyterian Church. An architect by profession, he repeatedly gave unpaid labour when the design of a building was needed by the church.

In 1904 Mr. G. E. Herring ceased to be a warden, after having served for about 25 years in that capacity. Mr. E. M. Betts was now the only original warden still in office and Mr. E. W. Howell took Mr. Herring's place.

During 1905 it was decided to purchase the site of the rectory from Mr. Herring for £125. The vestry meeting of 1910 expressed the sorrow of the parish at the death of Mrs. E. M. Barton, who had been for 50 years a prominent figure in Gladesville. In 1910 Captain Ghest was appointed a trustee of the rectory land. Captain Ghest had been prominent in

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Christ Church for some years, and was to hold other offices during the next 20 years.

It was also in 1910 that the tramway extension from Drummoyne to Ryde was opened for traffic, and the modern development of Gladesville began.

The tender of Mr. F. Pouley to erect the rectory for £1035 was accepted, and the foundation stone was laid by Dr. Wright, Archbishop of Sydney, on December 10, 1910. A sum of £650 was raised on mortgage.

new incumbent and the growth of Gladesville's population were reflected in the size of the congregation. The financial position consequently improved, and at the Easter quarterly meeting of 1920 it was reported that £150 had been paid off the rectory debt, as compared with a reduction of £50 in previous years, and the rector was presented with a cheque for £30 as an Easter gift. The wardens were authorised to consider an increase in the stipend, and it was also decided to renovate the parish hall.



At the opening of Boronia Church Hall by Archdeacon Langford Smith, Saturday, December 2, 1933.

The building was completed in 1911.

In 1915 Mr. Herring died at the age of 80, and later the parishioners erected a memorial tablet in the church in appreciation of his 40 years service. Mr. B. C. Martyn was appointed a trustee in his place.

At the end of 1918 the Rev. R. Nelson Howard resigned the cure after 20 years service, three as curate and seventeen as rector. His successor, the Rev. David H. Dillon, came from Lithgow to Gladesville at the beginning of 1919. The vigour of the

At the 1921 vestry meeting an increase of £50 in the rector's stipend was voted.

Before the next vestry meeting Mr. E. M. Betts was dead. He was the last of the original wardens, having held that office for nearly 44 years. This is probably a record. His place was taken by Mr. Morgan. At the end of 1922 the Rev. D. H. Dillon died after an illness of a few days. Short as was his term—less than four years—he had greatly strengthened the position of the church in Gladesville.

A bequest of £100 from the late Mr. Betts reduced the rectory debt from £150 to £50.

The Rev. H. G. J. Howe came from All Souls, Leichhardt, in the early part of 1923 to take charge of Christ Church. At the 1923 vestry meeting, Captain Ghest and W. Morgan were elected people's wardens, Mr. Howell having died during 1922 after many years' devoted service and Mr. Martyn was minister's warden.

During Mr. Howe's incumbency the remaining debt on the rectory was extinguished, and a stone wall and gates in memory of the men who fell in the war of 1914-18 were built. These gates were unveiled on April 26, 1926, by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, Lord Stonehaven, and dedicated by his Grace, the Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Reverend Dr. Wright.

Early in 1926 Mr. B. C. Martyn died. At the next vestry meeting Mr. H. E. Morgan was appointed minister's warden, and Captain Ghest and Mr. A. J. Robertson elected people's wardens. In 1929 during the absence of the rector on a tour of Palestine and Britain, the Rev. R. G. B. Ashcroft was acting rector. In the previous year Mr. G. G. Looker had been appointed catechist. When Mr. Looker was admitted to holy orders, he became curate. In 1930, failing health prevented Captain Ghest from acting any longer as warden. Mr. G. H. Kelsey was appointed minister's warden, and Messrs. A. J. Robertson and A. Kimberlee were elected people's wardens. At the 1930 vestry meeting the question of a church centre at Boronia was discussed, and the rector and wardens authorised to confer with the representatives of Hunter's Hill. In 1931 Mr. Cecil Foster was appointed minister's warden, and Messrs. A. Kimberlee and A. H. Arnold elected people's wardens.

At the 1932 vestry meeting Mr. H. Newin was appointed minister's warden, Mr. Foster having left the parish.

In June 1932 the Rev. H. G. J. Howe died suddenly, and the Rev. G. G. Looker was acting rector for three months. The Rev. David James Knox, formerly of St. Paul's, Chatswood, entered upon his cure as rector on October 1, 1932. Additions to the rectory were completed in 1932. The Rev. G. G. Looker resigned his curacy during 1933 upon his appointment to St. Andrew's Cathedral. Later Mr. M. L. Loane was appointed catechist. Upon his subsequent admission to holy orders he became curate.

For some months a Sunday School had been held in a private house (that of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, at Boronia), and in 1933 the building of a church hall was undertaken by Christ Church (with the aid of voluntary labour), the Rev. D. J. Knox lending £200, free of interest, for this purpose. At the 1934 vestry meeting Mr. Hardy was appointed minister's warden, and Messrs. Gray and Miller people's wardens.

Early in 1935 the small Protestant Hall and the land attached to it were purchased for £1450. At the time of writing (1938) this debt has been reduced below £1000, more than half of which bears no interest. Again the rector lent £200 without charging interest. Money was raised by spring fetes, mainly organised by the Women's Guild, of which Mrs. Spies has been secretary, and Mrs. Thomas treasurer for many years.

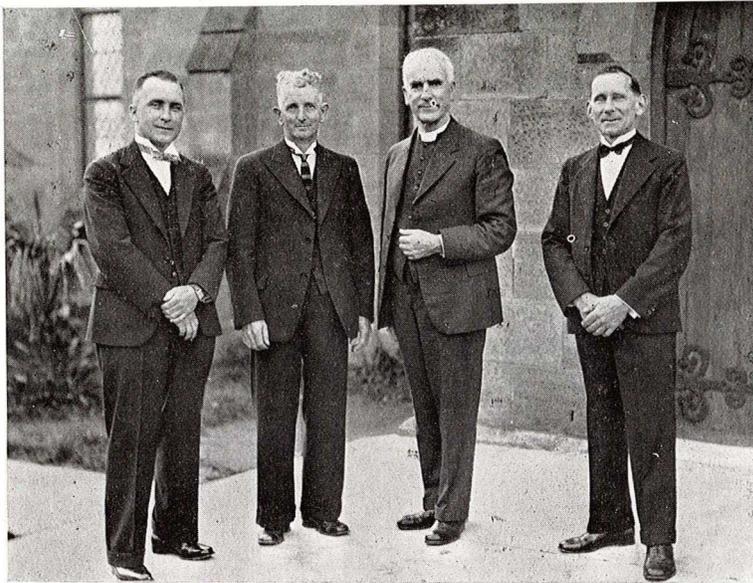
In 1936 Mr. Parsons was appointed minister's warden. At the Gladesville Centenary the Most Rev. Archbishop of Sydney, Dr. Mowll, preached at Christ Church, and the Acting Governor and Lady Street sat in the congregation. In 1937 the Rev. M. L. Loane took over the work of vice principal of Moore College but con-

tinued as curate (now in an honorary capacity). During the remainder of the year two catechists were engaged in parish work, Mr. Clive Kerle of Boronia, and Mr. Colin Sands at Gladesville.

In 1938 Mr. Broughton Knox, B.A.,

was appointed catechist in the place of Mr. Colin Sands who had resigned.

In this year also it was decided to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the church in November. For that purpose these records have been compiled.



THE RECTOR AND WARDENS, 1938.  
Mr. R. A. Gray, Mr. A. H. Parsons, Rev. D. J. Knox, Mr. E. S. Miller.

**FIRST FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

The following is taken from the first Minute Book of the Church, and bears a date earlier than the opening of the church. This shows where the first money came from and how it was expended. By the law of the church a full statement of accounts must always be submitted by the Wardens to the Annual Vestry Meeting.

**Revenue and Expenditure of Church Fund, January 18, 1878.**—Receipts: Collected by Dr. Little and Mrs. Weaver, £10; Mrs. Paterson, £14/11/6; Mrs. Barton, £10; Mrs. Betts, £36/16/6; Mrs. Betts, second list, £6/7/6; Mr. Fraser, £15/16/-;

second list, £3/2/-; Mrs. Pearson, £7; Mrs. Doctor Campbell, £3/10/-; Mr. Fearson, £76/18/6; Money Laid on Foundation Stone, £10/6/3; Mr. Goodman, £5/10/-; Dr. Manning, £20; Mr. Salter, £25; Mr. Herring, £10; second subscription, £10/10/-; Mr. Cowell, £10/15/-; Miss Miller £4; Mr. Coulter, £5; Mr. Jeanerët, £10; second subscription, £10; Mr. Walter Campbell, £10; Mr. Darval, £25; Dean Cowper, £1; Church Society, £50; Bishop of Sydney, £10; Mr. Taylor, £1/1/-; Interest on Deposit, Savings Bank, £2/2/-; Total, £404/6/3. Expenditure: Paid Mr. Coulter for Land, £50; Paid Contractor on account of completed stonework, £350;

Balance in Bank, £4/6/3; Total, £404/6/3.

NOTE.—The contract for stonework is £364/5/-; already paid contractor £350; still owing him £14/5/-.

**The Earliest Summary Financial Statement of Christ Church, Gladesville, for the Year ending Easter, 1888.**—Balance at Easter, 1887, £84/1/9; Stipend Voluntary Contri-

butions, £30/17/-; Offertory, £84/16/9; Collections for Church Society, £7/11/-; Collections for Church Building Fund, £20/4/4; Contribution for Interest on Debt, etc., £84/2/-; Receipts from Tableaux, £16/2/6; from Bazaar, £42; from Sale of Work, £1/15/-; from Centennial Fund, £15; Interest on Deposit in Savings Bank, £1/19/2; Loans without Interest, Mrs. Barton, £50; F.

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Barton, Esq., £50; Church Society, Stipend Fund, £3/17/-; Pew Rents, £60; Drawn out of Savings Bank, £90; **Total, £642/7/-.** Stipend, £150; Church Society, £7/11/-; Insurance, £2/1/-; Synod Assessment, £5; Interest on Mortgage to 22nd March, £64/18/6 Sacramental Wine, £1/2/-; Mrs. Crane, £20/10/-; Lighting, £8/4/-; Printing, Stationery, £3/14/3; Repairs to Harmonium, and Tuning, £1/1/-; Lambert Bros., Repairs, £1/1/-; Ryde Council for Kerbing, £4/13/8; Diocesan Committee, Choir Hymn Books, £2/8/-; Cheque Book, 2/1; Payments into Savings Bank, £111/19/2; Part Refund of Loan on Mortgage, £200; Balance in Commercial Bank, £58/0/10; Total, £642/7/-.

**Assets:** Cash in Commercial Bank, £58/0/10; Deposit in Savings Bank of N.S.W., £71/19/2. **Liabilities:** Loan on Mortgage, £850; Loans without Interest, Mrs. Barton, £50; F. Barton, Esq., £50.

But times are not always prosperous. The depression of the '90's is reflected in the church balance sheets, which hovered round the two hundred pounds mark in their gross receipts, sometimes rising about it, sometimes falling below.

The growth of Gladesville since the beginning of the century is again mirrored in the church accounts. Last year's is printed below.

**Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for Year ended 31st March, 1938.**

**RECEIPTS.**

Cash at Bank, April 1, 1937, £64/17/7.

**General Church Offertories.**—Christ Church £495/19/6, Boronia £46/1/11, Children's Services, £10/9/4 (£552/10/9.)

**Special Church Offertories.**—Church Missionary Society, £75/13/5, Tanganyika Mission, £2, Misses Norbury and Farrell (Tent) £111/0/6, Youth Band Mission £4, C.M.S. Medical Mission £7/4/11, Archbishop's Winter Appeal £1, Archbishop's Christmas Stocking 12/-, Benevolent

Fund £7/8/6, Home Mission Society £14/7/8, Bush Church Aid Society £12/19/1, China Inland Mission £10, Egypt General Mission £9, British and Foreign Bible Society £3/11/-, Bible School £32/1/-, Moore College Appeal £5/17/6, Zenana Medical Mission £1, Children's Hospital £2, Ryde Hospital £2, St. Luke's Hospital £2, South Sea Evangelical Mission £43/16/-, Million Shillings Fund 6/3, Tent Mission Expense Collections £39/11/1 (£387/8/11.)

**Total Church Offertories £939/19/8.**

**Special Women's Parochial Collections.**—Women's Guild Parochial Fund £85, Diocesan Festival £3/5/-, Home of Peace Circle £10/1/9 (£98/6/9.)

**General Collections and Donations.**—Stamp Albums 12/-, Sunday School Picnic and Prize Fund £2/5/6,



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Kindergarten Verandah Appeal 5/-, Rectory Fund Donation £18/18/-, Sewerage Fund (Part Proceeds Spring Fete) £20/17/4, Carpet Fund £1/5/-, Boronia Building Fund £67/19/3, Property and Building Fund £5, "Parish Paper" Advertising £10/10/-, "Church Record" £6, Telephone Account £2/5/6, Catechist and Curate Fund £19/4/- (£155/1/7.)

**..New Hymnal Purchase Fund.**—Sales of Hymnals £9/10/-, Proceeds of Choir Concert £16/9/6 (£25/19/6.)

**Legacy Estate C. H. Stear, Esq.,** £50.

Total, £1334/5/1.

**EXPENDITURE**

**Expenses of Divine Service.**—Stipends: Rector £300, Curate £90, Catechist £49 (£439). Salaries: Organist £52, Cleaners (two) £46 (£98.) Communion Wine £3.

**Payments to Missions and Hospitals.**—£348/6/10.

**General Expenses**—Registry Assessment £19/10/7, Telephone Account £14/6/8, Bank Fees and Cheque Books £1/6/8, Insurances £11/3/6, Electric Light and Gas £12/9/2, Sewerage and Sanitary Rates £12/8/8, Boronia Lease and Survey Fee £1/10/4 (£72/15/7.)

"Parish Paper" £37/3/3, "Church Record" £6, Printing and Advertising £9/4/2, Sundry Repairs and Ground Maintenance £9/18/1, Stamp Albums £3/7/6, General Synod Expenses £1/5/-, Motor Cycle Repairs and Registration £11/17/6, Clergy Widows and Children's Fund £3/5/1, Diocesan Festival £3/5/-, Home of Peace for the Dying £10/1/9, Tent Mission Expenses £46/4/-, **Sewerage Loan (Final Repayment)** £20/17/4, **Rectory Loan Repayment** £18/18/- (balance owing, £39/1/11.), **New Hymnal Loan Repayment** £37/15/1 (balance owing, £20.) **Boronia Building Fund Repay-**

**ment, £70/1/3** (balance owing, £42/5/7). Carpet Fund, £1/5/-, Property and Building Fund £5, Sunday School Picnic and Prize Fund £2/5/6, **Balance at Bank, March 31, 1938, £86/7/3**, less Unpresented Cheques, £10/18/1 (£75/9/2.)

Total, £1334/5/1.

**Church Property and Building Fund.**—Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for Year ended 31st March, 1938.—Receipts: By Donations, £7/8/-; Repayment Sewerage Loan (final by Christ Church), £20/17/4; Part Proceeds of Spring Fete, £83/19/3; Rents from Property, £84/17/-; Overdraft available, March 31, 1937, £109/4/2; Total, £306/5/9. Expenditure: To Repayment Church Building Loan Fund, £100; Interest on Overdraft, £20/2/6; Municipal Rates, £25; Sewerage Rates, £7/17/6; Bank Fees, 10/-; Insurance, 5/2; Balance (Overdraft available), £152/10/7; Total, £306/5/9.

**Loans Outstanding, Property and Building Fund.**—Rev. D. J. Knox, £300; Mr. S. Hardy, £100; Church Building Loan Fund, £200; Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd., £347/9/5; Total, £947/9/5.

**Howe Memorial Fund.**—Balance on Savings Account, March 31, 1937, £253/16/8; Donations during Year, 14/6; Interest, £5/1/1; Total, £259/12/3.

**Boronia Church Organ Fund.**—Credit Balance in Savings Account, March 31, 1938, £9/18/1.

**Boronia Statement.**—General Fund for Year ended 31st March, 1938.—Receipts: Cash on hand, April 1, 1937, £7/1/1; Parochial Fund, £44/12/6; Girls' Club, £1/18/-; Mr. McDonald, payment, £15; Fete, £50/9/5; R.M.C. Rent, £2/2/-; Building Fund, £2/19/3; Miscellaneous Donations, 8½d.; Total, £124/2/11½. Expenditure: Pay-in Slips, May 20, 1937, £7/9/8; July 26, 1937, £8/13/1 and £7/13/11; December 18, 1937, £10/10/7; February 11, 1938, £6/12/8; March 29, 1938, £7/11/8; Organ Lamp, 4/10½; Bad Coins, 1/6; Building Fund, £67/11/5; Bank (Cash), £7/13/4; Cash in hand, 3d.; Total, £124/2/11½.

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## FINANCES TO-DAY

**T**HIS souvenir of the history of Christ Church would not be complete without a summary of the progress made on the material side by the present workers.

During the last six years we have completed the Rectory and made it one of the best in the Diocese. This cost approximately £450. With the help and generosity of the Parishioners this debt has been completely liquidated.

The next important step was the erection of the Church Hall at Boronia, much needed, particularly as a Sunday School. This hall was erected by voluntary labour with material costing over £400, and due to the work of those stalwarts at Boronia the money kindly loaned for the purchase of material has been all repaid.

Then we were faced, in 1934, with the problem of the road widening, and looking to the future, it was decided early in 1935 to acquire the Protestant Hall adjoining the Church, the purchase price being £1450. This is a task the completion of which is before us. Much progress has been made. To-day approximately £600 has been paid off this purchase.

A word on the financing of this purchase would be of interest. The Rector and myself accepted responsibility and became trustees. We were successful in obtaining from the Church Building Loan Fund (a Diocesan institution for Church Aid) a loan free of interest for £500 to be repaid every six months at the rate of £50 or £100 per annum, in passing this will explain our annual Fetes that have been held since 1935. To this amount we received £100 loaned from Mr. Hardy free of interest and the Rector himself loaned the fund

£300 interest free, the balance was then arranged through the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney for £500 overdraft in the name of Knox and Gray.

A General Appeal was then made in the Parish and the first year £282 was donated, amongst this being Rev. D. J. Knox £100, Miss Woodford £50, Mrs. Young (Wentworth Falls) £50, Mr. Hardy £10, and other donations all equally appreciated. Great progress has been made by members of the Fete Committee who have raised the following amounts:—

1935, £88; 1936, £97; 1937, £106; 1938, £130.

These Fetes have not been solely for the Property Purchase. In each instance the proceeds has been divided to meet other material needs of the Church in the way of property or building.

On top of the Protestant Hall purchase, followed the sewerage of the Church properties. This cost £108 and was financed by the loan of unused money in the Knox and Gray overdraft account and this has been completely repaid, partly by direct giving and proportion of Fete money.

During this time under review the "Howe Memorial Appeal" was also opened. And to-day this stands at £259/17/3. No apologies are needed why this has not been completed as all know that the proposed road widening has held this Memorial in abeyance.

This is surely a record for the supporters of Christ Church to be proud of, for apart from these special objects the Parochial Funds of the Church have always closed each year with a small credit balance and the amounts shown on the yearly state-

## GLADESVILLE AND ITS FIRST CHURCH

ments as to donations to Missionary Societies are worthy of any Church.

Before concluding I must thank the workers and supporters of this Parish for their liberality and trust same will continue. Much there is to be done that can only be done with finance. Past history has shown the

liberality of those who have gone before and these notes of mine indicate the same spirit in the Church to-day. And the future I believe will reveal many more to carry on the work of Christ Church both spiritually and financially.

R. A. GRAY.

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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The issue of this Booklet is largely made possible by the generosity of the business people who have advertised therein. It is usual to say that advertisements of this kind are useless. We hope the present case will be an exception.



The Rectory, 1938. Portion of the Parish Hall showing in the background.

