



Uniting History SA June 2024

Editor: David Houston

“In the Praise of God”

George William Chinner was born in 1823 in Middleton Cheney, Northhamptonshire, England. His parents were John and Ann Chinner. They were Baptists. He arrived in South Australia in 1845 on the SS Templar and settled in Brighton where he joined the local Wesleyan families meeting for worship in Mr William Edward's cottage on Sturt Road.



In 1847 Mr. Chinner made a gift of his harmonium to the congregation for the first Chapel on Sturt Road (near the location of the present Church of Christ) and became its first organist. He was a very able musician and led the congregation into what would be the rich singing tradition of the Brighton congregation over the years. He married Caroline Bowen in 1849. William and George were their children. Caroline died in 1861. In 1863 George (snr) married Mary Edwards and

their children were John, Charles, Robert, Walter, Hubert and Amos.

[The accompanying image is a Self-portrait of George William Chinner thought to be done on the journey to Australia - by courtesy SLSA.]

Three of the sons and one grandson would follow him over the next 100 years and bring their gifts in music to Adelaide Methodist congregations – George and Walter at Parkside, William at Kent Town and Pirie Street, and grandson Norman at Malvern and Pirie Street. They were talented organists and choir masters. William and grandson Norman composed hymn and choral music widely used around Australia. George and John wrote hymns, publishing a Sunday School Hymnal and wrote prayers and poems for special occasions.

George Chinner opened a drapery store in Hindley Street, then in 1852 moved into partnership with William Parkin to be Chinner and Parkin, on the site of the present Myer store in Rundle Street to eventually become James Marshall and Co. Mr. Parkin is the well-known Congregational Church Benefactor through the Parkin Trust. Chinner was very community minded, taking an interest in development of the growing township of Brighton. He was one of the Councillors

elected to the first Town Council in 1858 and was elected its first Mayor of Brighton in 1860.

The Chapel in Sturt Road had become too small for the growing congregation.

In 1963 Mr Chinner gifted the land on Brighton Road. Plans to build were commenced and the Church opened on

May 1st 1864. Among other roles as a Trustee and a Class Leader, Chinner was the first Conductor of the Church choir with his second son George Frederick being organist. [Photo from Brighton Methodist Archives]



[A Special Note: The 160th Anniversary of this building was celebrated on the 5th May 2024, and was part of the SA's History Month Event program. The Church was open from 11am-3pm on the three days following for the public to explore records, read stories, examine photos, ask questions and to view the window and wall memorials including The Chinner Memorial Window. Fifty three people visited the display.]

William Bowen Chinner

William was the eldest of George and Caroline's children. He was born in 1850. He was a musical prodigy and

(continued page 4)

The History Centre

The Centre at 44a East Avenue, Black Forest, is open on Wednesday afternoons, 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Volunteers continue to serve the church and the wider community by providing advice and assistance for those involved in researching church, local and family history.

The centre welcomes volunteers to help manage the large and growing collection of documents, memorabilia, books and records of churches and agencies.

(Other contact details can be found on page 2.)

The UCA History Centre

Open Wednesdays 1 - 4pm

44A East Ave
Black Forest

Website:

historicalsociety.unitingchurch.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/UCAHistoricalSocietySA

CORRESPONDENCE:

E: manager@ucsahistory.org.au

Post: UCA Historical Society

44A East Ave, Black Forest, SA, 5035

Phone: 08 8297 8472

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dean Eland (President)

president@ucsahistory.org.au

David Houston (Vice President)

Robert Backhouse (Treasurer)

treasurer@ucsahistory.org.au

Rosemary Hocking (Secretary)

secretary@ucsahistory.org.au

Gaye Brown

Pat Button

Val Canty

Darryl Dyson

Judy Eland

Don Hopgood

You can receive this newsletter via email. Send your email address to office@ucsahistory.org.au and we will send you our up-to-date news and other items of interest.

Membership of the Society

Individual—1 year	\$20
Individual—5 years	\$80
Individual—Life	\$250
Congregational—1 year	\$30
Congregational—Life	\$250

Contact the Centre for more information.

From the President...

Everyone Has a Story to Tell



At 2.00pm on 12 May 25 visitors joined in one of SA's History Festival events. Pilgrim church (been on the street for 157 years!) hosted a street walk to explore insights about the neighbourhood bounded by Flinders, King William and Pirie streets. Guides of the walk were challenged by a number of unexpected moments. As we introduced ourselves a tanker truck arrived outside of Pilgrim, workers opened a road covering and began removing underground effluent from the Taste Australia festival on the square! We left soon after and made some progress when we called in to the former State Treasury building, now Adina, and shared information about its role in early colonial history.

We then turned the corner into King William St and found that the GPO (1872) was surrounded by fences as the site will shortly be the home of new upmarket hotel. The Town Hall (1866) was the next stop and we discovered the whole frontage was covered in scaffolding for a clean-up program! Our conversation improved when we turned into Pirie St (Epworth (1923) and former Pirie St Methodist site and hall (1851)). Visitors stayed on for afternoon tea in the Pilgrim lounge and enquired about the church's current city ministry.

A few days later I joined my Unley exercise class and during a short interlude the organiser asked me to tell others about the walk! We had a few laughs about the challenges we faced and one member caught our attention and reported that when she left school, she worked in the Treasury building and served tea to heads of the state's public service and the Premier, Tom Playford. More stories followed after her affirmative comments about the Premier and the way he offered a ride home to those who were working late. We wanted to hear more and the class leader had trouble in calling us back to order!

As a follow-up to those stories I recalled that David Hilliard had written an enlightening article titled "Religion in Playford's South Australia" and that it was one of nine included in his 2024 book, "One Faith Many Voices: Essays on South Australian Church History" launched at the Paradise of Dissent Revisited Conference on 4 May. The article provides significant insights about Playford's years in office, 1938 to 1965, and the impact of social change on church life and its role in public life.

Other personal memories came to mind including one day in 1981, when living in Whyalla, our family followed Playford's funeral on a very poor black and white TV. We watched on as his family arrived at Flinders St Baptist Church and the governor Keith Seaman alighted from the Rolls Royce and was welcomed by church leaders.

On 14 May the History Trust of SA reported on its extensive survey about diverse forms of research being undertaken across the state regarding South Australia's past. The Trust is aiming to 'join the dots' between organisations and individuals and further the depth

(continued page 3)



The UC SA Historical Society's Annual General Meeting

The UC SA Historical Society's AGM will be held on Sunday 23 June at the Unley UC, Unley Rd 187 Unley Road Unley (Cnr Edmund Avenue & Unley Road) with formal proceedings at 2.00pm, Forum conversation at 2.30 and afternoon tea at 3.30pm.

The UC SA Historical Society is inviting three former moderators to join us for the Forum, and we have prepared three questions. Dr Don Hopgood, Dr Deidre Palmer and the Rev. Sue Ellis will join us and participate in the forum. They will share their reflections around the following questions:

- What was a surprise to you in discovering something about a congregation that you did not know before?
- In your term as Moderator what did you discover about the significance of church anniversaries and the importance of celebrating the gifts and commitment of those who served and witnessed in those congregations over many years?
- Yesterday we celebrated the 47th anniversary of the Uniting Church. What could the UC SA Historical Society do in the next three years to assist congregations prepare for the UCA's Jubilee in June 2027?

(from page 2)

and breadth of research and storytelling state-wide. Check out the conclusions and recommendations of this session on their web site. <https://www.history.sa.gov.au/south-australias-history-advocate/sassi/>

Many of their diagnostic conclusions were similar to conversations members of the UC SA Historical Society have shared over the past few years. One insight can be affirmed about future directions and where we go from here. We all have a story to tell, enthusiasts, academics, retirees, volunteers, locals and those working on their family history. Collaboration, networking and joining the dots generates new insights, inspiration and commitment about the way the past informs the future.

Rev. Dr Dean Eland
President UCSAHS

Membership Update

A membership year runs from January to December, and is open to individuals or congregations and organisations. For those with annual membership, renewal for 2024 is now due. Membership fees for 2024 are:

Individual:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| • 1 year | \$20.00 |
| • (new members joining after 30 June | \$10.00) |
| • 5 years | \$80.00 |
| • Life Membership | \$250.00 |

Congregation/Organisation:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| • 1 year | \$30.00 |
| • Life Membership | \$250.00 |

(from page 1)

would go on to serve as choirmaster and organist at the Pirie Street Methodist church for 30 years. Under his leadership the church enjoyed a high reputation for its choir and congregational singing.

William was educated at St Peter's College where he had a successful education, winning the Short scholarship (named after Bishop Short) but his great love was for music performance, which was to lead him into a life-time career. He had been capably tutored by his father, George, who, as mentioned earlier, was an able musician and sufficiently respected to be on the panel of judges which in 1859 selected Carl Linger's composition to accompany Caroline Carleton's 'Song of Australia'.



In 1869, at the young age of 19 he was appointed honorary organist and choirmaster to the Pirie Street Church. In November 1872 he left for Melbourne for study purposes, returning in 1873 to Pirie Street.

He had a flourishing practice as a private tutor and in 1875 was appointed music master at Prince Alfred College. Over all he served for 30 years as choirmaster and

organist to the Pirie Street church. (Photo by courtesy SLSA)

Chinner was a prolific composer of works for choir and organ, many of which were published and gained wide recognition around Australia. Three of his most used anthems were: *Jubilate in E – O be Joyful in the Lord; Lord, thou hast been our Dwelling Place*; and, *Lord God of Heaven and Earth*. The words of *Lord God of Heaven and Earth* are:

*Lord God of heaven and earth, we bow before Thee.
Hear Thou our prayer, O Lord, and when Thou hearest,
O Lord, forgive.*

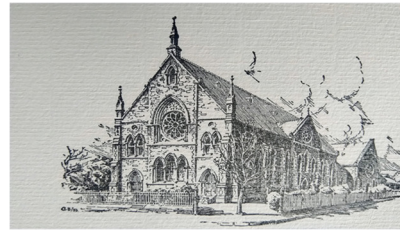
*Hear, we beseech Thee, and save Thy people.
Hear, we beseech Thee, and show us Thy salvation.
Thou art God alone.*

Sir John Stainer, who had a strong influence on Chinner's music, praised his compositions. In 1887, William wrote a choral arrangement of the Song of Australia with piano accompaniment, which was widely used.

George Frederick Chinner

George Frederick was born at Brighton in 1852. As mentioned earlier he was only 20 years old when he was appointed organist at the Brighton Church with his father the Choirmaster. At this time he also became a Leader of one of the Young Men's Classes.

He moved to Parkside in 1880 where he became choirmaster for 24 years, a much remembered Sunday School Teacher for a long period and a Church Trustee for 41 years. He had literary and poetry skills and contributed articles regularly to the Adelaide Register



and weekly to the national Methodist paper, The Australian Christian Commonwealth, for many years. He compiled two collections of

poems. One of them, 'Twixt shadow and shine' published by E.S. Wigg and Son, Adelaide in 1890 is still available. [This is a sketch of the Church by his brother John Chinner in preparation for the 1934 Jubilee]

In 1886 he wrote the hymn used by the South Australian Wesleyan Methodists to celebrate their Jubilee in South Australia. The third verse illustrates his poetic expression for such a celebratory occasion. It was called the Jubilee Hymn and sung to the tune Austria which is still the set tune for two hymns in our hymn book 'Together in Song'.

*Five decades of choicest blessing
Golden sheaves for sower's tears,
Fifty years of grace unceasing,
Claim thanksgiving, banish fears.
Toilers true, devoted, earnest,
Fruitage rich, rejoiced to see.
Saviour! With joy of harvest
Crown our brighter jubilee.*

He wrote numerous hymns including one in 1914 for the jubilee of the Brighton Church. Some hymns were set to music by his brother William and published as "A New, Easy, and Effective Service of Song, for Sunday School Anniversaries..." They were published in 1892. His growing up in Brighton always stayed with him. In his will, he left a gift of \$200 to the Brighton Church for the purchase of a new organ and piano. It was said of him at his funeral that 'He lifted the service of song and singing out of mediocrity.' At the Parkside Jubilee in 1934 George Frederick Chinner was remembered as, 'A Christian gentleman of musical and literary attainment. His rich gifts were freely placed on the altar ... above all his gracious personality was the greatest gift.'

John Henry Chinner

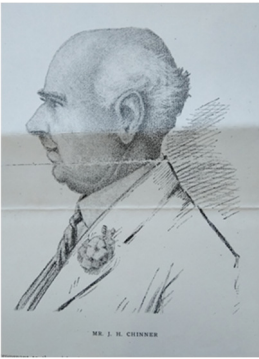
John Henry Chinner (1865-1933), was born on 30 June 1865 at Brighton, Adelaide, son of George William Chinner, and his second wife Mary, née Edwards. After attending Prince Alfred College, John undertook a course in life-drawing at the Adelaide School of Design under H.P. Gill. Art was, however, a part-time career, and never his main source of income. He worked for some years with an Adelaide insurance agent and broker, L. A. Jessop. In 1895 Chinner became manager of the Atlas Assurance Co., where he remained until retiring in 1925.



On 11 September 1889 he had married Harriet Agnes Wallace at the Wesleyan church, Parkside, where he was active all his life. Chinner wrote several hymns and like his older brother was a much remembered Sunday

(from page 4)

School superintendent, serving in this role for 32 years. He was a Church Trustee for 34 years. Biographers described him as a genial, energetic man who often wore a flower in his buttonhole as described in the cartoon form portrait below. He was a member of and office-holder in the Parkside Literary Society, won prizes for his short stories and regularly gave talks on a wide range of topics. From 1899 to 1902 he was a councillor for Fullarton Ward, Unley City Council, and was twice mayor of Unley. His favourite sport was lawn bowls, which he excelled at, representing South Australia several times.



Chinner's first paid position as a cartoonist was with the satirical weekly "The Lantern" in the late 1880s. For the next forty years Chinner worked for almost every major newspaper in Adelaide, the Sydney Bulletin and London Punch. At times he was producing one full-page cartoon and up to six caricatures a week for Quiz—no mean feat for a man with other, full-time employment.

Chinner's work also appeared in church and bowling club publications; he illustrated several books, designed invitations for mayoral functions, created personal Christmas and greeting cards, and painted water-colour landscapes.

But it was his Christian life journey that centred him in prayer and praise. In 1919 he undertook an important task in designing eight beautiful stained glass windows, remembering people and moments in the Parkside congregation's history, each reflecting a biblical images that typified the person being remembered. For one honouring his mother he chose the figure Dorcas (Acts chapter 9) with three children.

John Chinner died a few months before the Jubilee Celebrations of the Church in 1934. In the Jubilee Programme a prayer that he wrote anticipating the celebrations is included. One sentence from it speaks of his gift for prayerful expression. 'Bless to us all the hallowed and beautiful memories and associations of past years, and so inspire and warm our hearts by the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may not prove unworthy.'

Norman Chinner

Grandson of George Williams Chinner and nephew of William Bowen Chinner, Norman Chinner (1909-1961) emerged in the 1950s as one of the pre-eminent organists and choir masters in Adelaide while at the Pirie Street Methodist Church.



He was born on 7 August 1909 at Malvern, son of Charles Williams Chinner and Winifred Maud, née Cowperthwaite, a singer and violinist from Victoria. With music on both sides of his family he took his first lessons from Fred Pilgrim the organist at the Flinders Street Baptist, continuing with Pilgrim when he moved to be

organist at the Malvern Methodist church. Norman attended Prince Alfred College and in 1928 won a scholarship for organ to the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Five years later he became a licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music, London. After working in a bank and being employed by a firm of wool brokers, in 1932 he was appointed musical director at his old school.

While holding the posts of organist and choirmaster at Kent Town (1932-9) and Pirie Street (1939-47) he began to make his mark as a conductor. In 1940, he joined the Australian Broadcasting Commission as musical presentations officer in South Australia. As part-time assistant to William Cade, founder of the Adelaide Wireless Chorus he conducted the Adelaide Wireless Chorus and in 1946 took over its successor - the Adelaide Singers. They maintained a large repertoire, and broadcast part-songs and works by Britten, Palmgren, Bartok and Holst.

In 1941 he became director of the Adelaide Philharmonic Choir and over the course of the next twenty years made it one of Australia's finest. Across the early 1950s he conducted the presentation of Handel's Messiah in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney with the Philharmonic Choirs and Symphony Orchestras of each city. He had become a leading presenter/conductor of sacred music around Australia.

The Pirie Street Methodist Church and Stow Memorial Congregational Church in Flinders Street backed on to each other. In 1972 with Church Union approaching the congregations came together and formed Union Church in the City, resolving to use the Stow Church as its future home. After Union in 1977 the church and congregation became Pilgrim Uniting Church. The great organ that Norman Chinner and his uncle, William had made so well known, found its new home and in its expanded form at Pilgrim is one of the great organs in Australia.

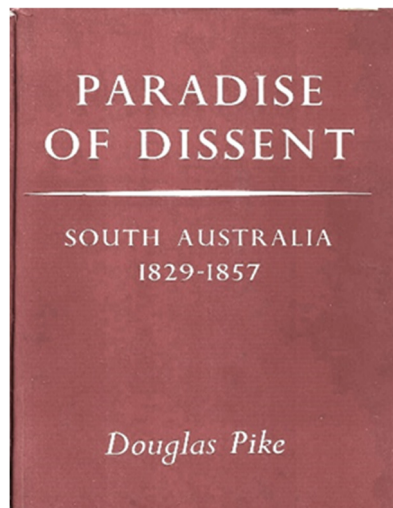
Sources:

1. Arnold D. Hunt, Brighton Uniting Church, A short History and Some Reflections, Pan Print, Torrens Park SA (1989)
2. S A Memory, State Library of SA. George William Chinner (2008)
3. Parkside Methodist Church Jubilee Booklet, George Frederick Chinner (1934)
4. Notable South Australians, Wikipedia.org., Detailed Pedia, William Bowen Chinner (2024)
5. Australian Dictionary of Biography, John Henry Chinner (2005)
6. Parkside Methodist Church Jubilee Booklet (1934)
7. Rosemary Mitchell, Epworth Uniting Church Parkside 1884-1984 (1984)
8. Arnold D. Hunt. This Side of Heaven – A History of Methodism in SA, Lutheran Publishing House, Adelaide (1985)

South Australian Church History Network Conference

Paradise of Dissent Revisited

The Network's Conference held at the Church of the Trinity Clarence Park on Saturday 4 May as part of SA's History Festival was a resounding success. The all-day conference was inspirational for many who are anxious about the future of history studies and inspired new cooperation between the denominational Church History groups and agencies including Lutheran, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Anglican, Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Church members.



Australia and overseas. When they could not get another Moravian Brethren pastor, the congregation in 1907 joined the Lutheran Church.'

Successful Network Street Walk. On 12 May, 25 visitors participated in a localised Street Walk and Pat Button, Meredith Edwards, Peter and Di Russell and Judy Eland provided hospitality and commentary.

Visitors were interested in Pilgrim Church and asked many questions about its current ministry. Beginning at 2:00pm organisers were confronted by

Seventeen Wide-ranging Topics: SACHN invited members to share insights on the topic, Paradise of Dissent Revisited 1836-1900 and 17 papers were shared with the 100 registrants who participated on the day. There were two Uniting Church presentations, Dr Brian Chalmers on "Revivalism and South Australian Methodism 1838-1900", and Rev. Dr Dean Eland on "Port Adelaide's Political Parson – J.C. Kirby's public ministry". The program also celebrated the work of the long-time academic, Dr David Hilliard, by launching his collection of influential articles produced over 40 years, *One Faith Many Voices: Essays on South Australian History*.

A Key Objective of the Network is documenting existing historical analysis of the role of Christianity and the churches in South Australia and supplementing that record through the encouragement of further research and publication with the long-term aim of ensuring that the history of Christianity and the churches is appropriately represented in South Australia's bicentennial celebrations in 2036.

Lyall Kupke's presentation on *Bethel - A Moravian Brethren settlement in South Australia* illustrates this objective. Lyall was a former teacher at Lutheran colleges in SA and NSW (1967-1993) and the Archivist at Lutheran Archives in Adelaide (1995-2014). His topic precis read -

'The district of Bethel, nine km west of Kapunda, is the site of the only Moravian Brethren settlement in Australia. It was established by Pastor Christian Samuel Daniel Schondorf, who in 1856 purchased three square miles to set up a Moravian Brethren community. Over the next 50 years a vibrant congregation was served in turn by three Moravian Brethren pastors sent out from Herrnhut in Germany. They followed certain distinctive practices which they brought from their home church in Germany. The congregation was very supportive of Moravian Brethren missions in

several challenges as trucks arrived outside of Pilgrim that were servicing the Tasting Australia Adelaide's big event in Victoria Square. Things improved when the Group turned into Pirie Street. Almost all the participants stayed on for afternoon tea and continued in conversation.

In preparing for the Street Walk Pilgrim Church members discovered current connections with the long history links of the Church with Pilgrim and learnt that the two Goode family plaques provide one link to our present partnership with the Chinese church. In the 1890s two daughters of the Goode family went as LMS missionaries to China and a descendant is now living in SA and is a PhD Student working on her family history. Visitors were also interested in Alice and Charles Todd's link to the church, Charles' Overland Telegraph achievement and its connection with the Adelaide GPO. This local street walk had proved a valuable contribution to History month's purpose.

David Houston

Can you help?

Do you know where these windows are?

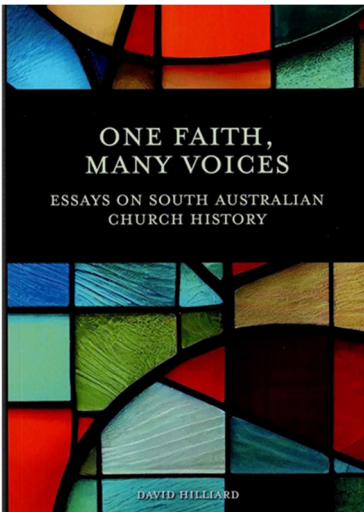
This photo is part of our collection, but it is unlabelled. We don't know where it is. The windows with pictures are memorial windows. Some of the names on the windows are:

Arthur Philpot, Frank Grove, Lois Jeffery, Bruce Collette, Violet Duncan.

Please get in touch with us if you know where these windows are.



'One Faith, Many Voices' ...



2:00pm in the Unley Uniting Church 187 Unley Road Unley.

Dr Hopgood says ... I unreservedly recommend this book. David Hilliard has done us a great service in providing a compendium of some of his articles on local ecclesiastical history written over forty years. He ranges almost from the beginning of European settlement but with a particular stress on the 1890s and post World War II. And having been attracted to the collection, we are beguiled by its elements.

Take for example 'The View from the Pew: worship and preaching in 1890s Adelaide', source material for which was largely garnered from the nineteenth century local weekly 'Quiz and the Lantern' with its often waspish reflections on preaching. Its editor, Harry Evans, son of a Baptist minister, attended 59 mostly different church services over fourteen months in 1894-95 and was not slow to share his views in print. His attendances included at the Swedenborgians and the Unitarians. At the latter he gave Catherine Helen Spence a good mark while suggesting her forty minutes would have profited from some 'condensing'.

I am old enough to remember Sunday evening services though by the time I came along they were mainly attended by the 'young fry'. I was therefore surprised to read that at his attendance at Pirie Street Wesleyan Church he was confronted by an evening congregation of 1500. In the larger Protestant churches it seems that the p.m. throng outnumbered the a.m. Evans' criticisms were not all negative. He approved of ministers with a good delivery who had something new to say.

Based on the foregoing, I was particularly taken by David's summary:

Clearly there was no golden age of preaching. Some sermons were spiritually uplifting, expanding the mind and soul. On the other hand, many sermons were pedestrian in content and delivery. Some were awful.

Congregations sat in their pews, sometimes impassive and bored, letting their minds wander. But in this they were not very different from university lectures a century later. None of us should be quick to throw a stone.

Another article has useful insights into 'The Transformation of South Australian Anglicanism' from around 1880 – the influence of the Anglo-Catholic and Oxford Movements, and another is about 'Anglicans in South Australian Public Life'. Being from a Non-conformist background, I know nothing of the Prayer Book for the Churching of Women, widely used, we are told in working class areas early in the last century. In the second of those two articles, Sir John Downer, Anglican, whose political career, State and Federal, stretched from the 1880s to World War I, is featured. Downer regarded himself as a solid conservative but was a member of the Marriage Law Reform Association, supported a widening of the grounds for divorce and sponsored votes for women but not their right to stand for public office.

Anglican Julia Farr comes in for commendation as does Alex Ramsay General Manager of the South Australian Housing Trust from 1949 to his death at a dinner at the Adelaide Club in 1978.

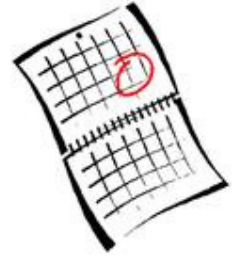
'Religion in Playford's South Australia' spans the period of my childhood and adolescence. The percentage of each denomination's share of the State's population changed little from the early thirties to the mid-sixties, based on census returns, the Anglicans were slightly down from 28.3 to 26.2 percent, Methodists from 22.0 to 20.8. The big movers were the Catholics up from 12.0 to 20.1 and, from a small base, Orthodox 0.2 to 2.5. Migration was having its effect. It was a time of religious instruction in State schools, the founding of Elizabeth, bodgies and widgies, the Billy Graham Crusade, and attempts, largely unsuccessful, to liberalise legislation on liquor, gambling and Sunday observance.

A major player was Methodism's Rev. E.H. 'Harry' Woollacott, Superintendent of the Church' Social Service department for over twenty years. I knew him through Westminster School where I taught in the 1960s. What is written here is very much in line with what I heard in that staff room. Harry had Playford's ear and, yes, for a time intervened in L.C.L. pre-selections to get the 'right' people into parliament. I recall, later, a letter to the editor in the 'Advertiser' where the writer referred to 'Woollacottism' and celebrated its decline.

The Roman Catholics are not ignored. 'St. Patrick's Grote Street' gives valuable information about Catholics in early Adelaide. We are told that land was purchased at the corner of West Terrace for a building that opened in December 1844. One of the advantages of the site, it was reported, was that it was 'surrounded by a Catholic population'. The demography was, from a

(continued page 8)

2024 Calendar of Events



Sunday 23 June, 2024—Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on this day.

Where: Unley Uniting Church

When: 2:00pm

At the AGM three former Moderators of the SA Synod will share insights and reflections on their time in office and address three questions:

- What did you discover about the gifts and commitment of those who served and witnessed over many years?
- What surprised you in discovering something about a congregation that you did not know before?
- What can the UC SA Historical Society do in the next three years to assist congregations prepare for the UCA's Jubilee year in June 2027?

Wednesday 11 December, 2024

The History Centre closes on this day for our break over Christmas and New Year.

(from page 7)

denominational point of view then, very stable. One hundred years later, my Protestant parents would refer to the West Adelaide Football Club as 'the Irish Eighteen'.

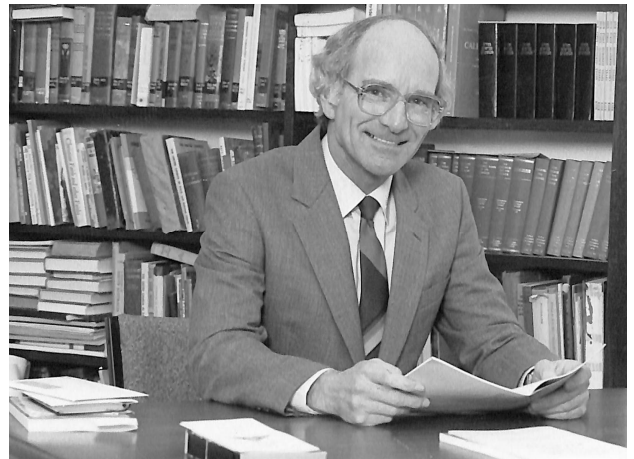
A prominent parishioner at St. Patrick's was W.J. 'Bill' Denny who held the State electorates of West Adelaide then Adelaide from 1900 to 1933. He was for a time editor of the 'Southern Cross'. He held a number of ministerial portfolios including Attorney General in John Gunn's Labor Government in the mid-twenties and headed up the 'Thousand Homes Scheme' centred almost entirely on the newly opened up Colonel Light Gardens. It was a successful attempt to shift many families from the near slum conditions in Adelaide's 'West End'. He enlisted in World War One and was decorated.

Read this from 'go' to 'whoa'. It is very useful as a reference but it is more than that. Not strictly chronological (why should it be?) there are none-the-less themes running through which give a liveliness and humanity to the rich field that David has mined.

And as historians right back to Herodotus have told us, without a knowledge of the past, how can we possibly understand the present?

Rev. David Houston

In Memoriam



Rev. Dr Charles Biggs
27 June 1931—2 May 2024

Former Chairperson of Fleurieu Presbytery
Past Moderator of the Synod of South Australia (1986-
1987)
Former Principal of Parkin-Wesley College (1976-1996)