



125 faithful years in Crows Nest



a 125-year history of Presbyterian, then Uniting, Church worship, witness and service in Crows Nest, Sydney

research by Lorna Bassett editing by Lin Gourlay and Peter Butt layout by Bruce Roy

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Published 2013 by Crows Nest Uniting Church http://crowsnestuniting.org.au Wollstonecraft, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

Printed by True Blue Printing http://www.trueblueprinting.com.au Crows Nest, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

ISBN 978-0-646-90328-8

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER

In these pages you'll find Crows Nest and the Shirley Road Church described as a 'sit-down place'; a place to find higher perspective; a place that grew out of personal generosity and community commitment; a place that provided nurture and encouragement, not only to individuals and families, but to whole new communities.

The story you'll read is an inspiration to a present generation, who have received so much from those who have gone before, and who hope that those yet to come find the same welcome, hospitality and encouragement we have been blessed by.

Community isn't 'a given'. It has to be worked out and worked for and worked through – and it can be a fragile gift. The people and leaders of this community have had to make sacrifices and exercise forgiveness as they grew, not just a building, but a vision and a tradition of thoughtful worship, faithful witness and loving service. Now they have entrusted us with this 'Spirited community', and we need to add new pages to this history.

Those who have worked on this record, and especially Lorna, have preserved and re-told another 'parable of the kingdom' in which we glimpse something of God's character and purpose – and God's hope for a world reconciled, renewed and at peace.

Chris Udy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication has been compiled from many sources, the author sometimes known and sometimes not. But it has been made especially possible thanks to the records collected by the late Margaret Sangster and presented to the Church by her family.

The records used include:

- Repossession of Our Spirit Traditional Owners of Northern Sydney – by Dennis Foley
- The Presbyterian July 1897
- Sydney Morning Herald 1904 and 1905
- The Messenger March and June 1904 and April 1914
- The N.S.W. Presbyterian September 1938
- *Mosman Daily* September 1983
- *Journey* August 1978, March 1988, December 1988
- History of Crows Nest Presbyterian Church 1938-1963
 compiled by W. C. Watkins. Information from this booklet has been used to enhance this publication.
- Heritage Assessment (July 2000) by Brian McDonald & Associates
- Stanton Library
- North Sydney Heritage Centre collection for allowing photographs of Crows Nest Cottage and the early church buildings to be included in this publication.
- Thanks also to our 125th Anniversary History Committee: Peter Butt, Lorna Bassett and Bruce Roy

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THE HISTORY OF CROWS NEST PRESBYTERIAN/UNITING CHURCH (1888 – 2013)

The history of the area

Before European settlement, the area of Crows Nest (as it is now known) played an important part in the life of the indigenous people. The extended area was known as Gai-mariagal and the peoples of the Crows Nest region were known as the Gammeray (or Cammeraigal) Clan.

According to Dennis Foley in his book, *Repossession of our Spirit – The Traditional Owners of Northern Sydney*, "This was a 'sit down place', a large ring area that many Eora trails radiated from". One of the trails that meandered northwards to Hornsby is now the Pacific Highway. Other trails radiated out from Crows Nest to various sites around the Harbour.

Again, quoting from Dennis Foley's book,

"[Crows Nest] ... was like a community ring where male and female, old and young should meet, plan the coming season, or prepare for battle or to pass on knowledge.

"Another important aspect of Crows Nest was its name. We are crow people and this is one of our clan's skin groups. The existence of crows or ravens in this area is synonymous of our existence."

As a sit down place, it was of great importance to the Gammeray people for their education and spirituality, as well as for handing down laws and customs.

Following European settlement of Sydney, this traditional sit down place seemed a fitting site on which to establish a place of worship. Today, the church takes seriously the traditional importance of the site to indigenous peoples.



The early residential development of the Crows Nest–Wollstonecraft region had a profound bearing on the history of the Parish. Residential and commercial development continues today to shape the fortunes of the Parish.

In 1822, Edward Wollstonecraft, a Sydney merchant, built himself a residence knows as "Crows Nest Cottage". The home was constructed on the highest point of his large estate. Perhaps unaware of the traditional significance of the site to the "crow people", Europeans called the area "Crows Nest", alluding to the lookout platforms on the sailing ships which plied the harbour at that time.

2013 is the 230th anniversary of the birth of Edward Wollstonecraft.

Edward Wollstonecraft died in 1832. His estate passed to his sister, Elizabeth, who was the wife of his business partner, Dr Alexander Berry. Dr Berry administered the estate on behalf of his wife, and they lived in Crows Nest Cottage (1835-1840). Dr Berry later built a larger home on land now partly occupied by North Sydney Demonstration School. Very sadly, his wife died in 1845, so he moved to the new residence on his own. (But according to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Berry became a recluse in Crows Nest House and died there on 17 September 1873.)

Both Berry and Wollstonecraft died childless, and so on Dr Berry's death, the estate passed into the hands of his brother, David Berry.

The Early days of the Crows Nest Church

The institution we call the Uniting Church is a combination of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational denominations, which came into union in 1977. The current Parish Church in Shirley Road was initially Presbyterian. The first Presbyterian Church in the Crows Nest area can trace its origins in a meeting of a Church Planning Committee, held

on the veranda of Crows Nest Cottage. The Committee approached David Berry (125 years ago) for a suitable site for a Presbyterian Church and Manse. To provide temporary accommodation for the growing congregation, David Berry allowed the use of land in Willoughby Road (between Burlington and Ernest Street). Here, the first church (a humble



Crows Nest Cottage

weatherboard structure) was built. This Church was opened on 2 December 1888. David Berry presented the land to the Church before he died on 23 September 1889.

The Parish was known as North St Leonard's until 1912, when the name Crow's Nest Presbyterian Church was adopted.

A Sunday School began on 6 May 1888. According to *The Messenger* (11 March 1904), "In good weather Sunday School attendance exceeds 200."

On 27 August 1899, an infants class began using a vacant shop near the old church in Willoughby Road. The initial enrolment was 31 children.

The old church building in Willoughby Road continued to be used as a Sunday School Hall until destroyed by fire in 1912.

The first monthly Church paper, *The Recorder*, was published in 1888 with members of the Ladies Committee distributing the paper to families in the area.



Willoughby Road church

The Berry brothers also feature in the development of the town and district of Berry on the NSW south coast.



For a biography of Alexander see the Australian Dictionary of Biography - http:// adb.anu.edu.au/biography/berryalexander-1773

For his brother David see the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* - http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/berry-david-2983

Alexander Berry had once been involved in acrimonious litigation with the firebrand Sydney Presbyterian, Rev. John Dunmore Lang. Lang was strongly critical of Berry's treatment of workers on his Shoalhaven estate, describing Berry as "[one] of those antediluvian oppressors for whose enormous wickedness God was pleased to shorten the duration of human life". Alexander obtained substantial damages (for libel) from the newspapers who printed Lang's words. By a strange twist of fate, it was Alexander's brother, David, who gave some of the Wollstonecraft/ Berry lands to help found the Crows Nest Presbyterian Church.



A later storm shows damage near the Shirley Road church



Original plan for Shirley Road included a tower

Nearby, in 1897, work commenced on building the Royal North Shore Hospital. This development led to an increase in both local residents and daily workers coming to the area.

Then tragedy struck for the Presbyterian community in Crows Nest. The church building was destroyed in a storm. *The Presbyterian* of 9 July 1897 reported:

"North St Leonards: It will be remembered the Church belonging to this congregation was wrecked by a cyclone which swept through the district a few weeks ago.

"The building was so damaged that it will be impossible to repair without very great cost. An appeal was made to Dr Hay of Crows Nest for funds to erect a new church. Dr Hay intimated that, on condition that a suitable permanent building is erected, he is prepared to grant a first-class site in a prominent position. It is to be hoped the congregation



Shirley Road church in 1905

will be able to take advantage of this generous offer, and that a valuable addition to the property of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales will be the ultimate result."

The "Dr Hay" referred to in this article was John Hay (later Sir John). He was the cousin of David Berry, and had inherited the Berry Estate. Sir John and his wife, Lady Hay, in fact did give the Church the land on Crows Nest Hill. Fittingly, that land included Crows Nest Cottage where the first planning meeting had been held.

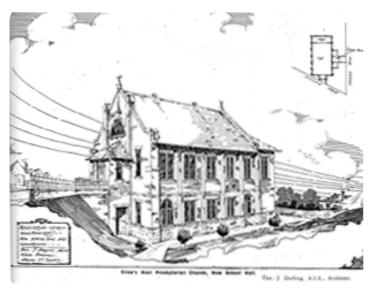
The Shirley Road buildings

In those early days, there were no heritage restrictions directed towards preserving buildings of historic significance. The "Cottage" needed considerable repairs, so in 1905 it was demolished to make way for the present Church and Manse.

Shirley Road was named after the Shirley Family who were first to build here after subdivision of Sir John Hay's estate began in 1912. Mrs Shirley was a niece of the Hays.

We have some historical records of the church building. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (15 November 1904) reported:

"The plans of a handsome building have been prepared by Messrs Joseland & Vernon, Architects. The new church will be 80' x 35' constructed of red brick with stone dressings.



Sunday School Hall plans



Sunday School Hall across the road from the church

It will give seating accommodation for 350 people exclusive of the choir – altogether the building will be worthy of the district".

Contracts were let the following May and the *Sydney Morning Herald* (May 1905) again reported as follows:

"The cost of the Church will be about £1,750. The Manse will adjoin the Church and will cost another £850."

The original plans for the Church included a steeple on the western corner of the building. This was never constructed.

The foundation stone for the new Church was laid by Sir Harry Rawson, the Governor of New South Wales, on 27 May 1905. On the same day, Lady Hay laid the foundation stone for the Manse.

A Heritage Assessment 2000, by Brian McDonald & Associates, describes the structure as

"an excellent example of the Gothic style of the Federation Period. The building is constructed in a red face brick of consistent colour with sandstone string courses, painted



arch voussoirs, caps to buttresses and stone window mullions and traceries.

Mr Watkins in his History 1839 – 1963 commented on the turnover in membership, particularly from the 1950's. He said of this "There were many goings and comings and our centre was like a staging camp where people passed through". In this regard little has changed in the decades since 1963.

Mr Watkins history also notes that in 1939 a special retiring collection of one penny per week was established. This became known as the "Grounds Fund". The fund was used to maintain the grounds around the Church, Hall and Manse, and also facilitated the purchase of plants and shrubs. The fund continued for around 20 years.

In September 1953 a start was made on constructing a new vestry. The old one was a tiny weatherboard building which gave the appearance of being very much a temporary structure. A considerable amount of the construction of the new vestry was volunteered by the men from the church, including the Minister. The additions were dedicated and opened in 1955.

However, when the old Church Hall Shirley Road was demolished and replaced with the current hall these vestries were replaced. "The south gable features panels of polychrome brickwork with red brick and liver brick in chequer board pattern.

"The windows, arranged in pairs, are lead light in small square panes. The roof is clad in purple slate with decorative terracotta ridge cappings characteristic of the Federation period."

The new buildings were completed and ready for occupation in September 1905. The original Church in Willoughby Road continued in use as the Parish Hall, until destroyed by fire in 1912.

Sir John Hay later bequeathed the Church the sum of £500, at that time a substantial amount. As his estate consisted chiefly of property, the Church accepted, in lieu of cash, land on the corner of Shirley Road and Sinclair Street, immediately opposite the new Church. In 1914, a hall was constructed on this site. It was built in harmony with the existing church building. Its use was not restricted to purely church purposes. For example, the lower hall was fitted as a World War II air-raid shelter; and the upper level was used as a polling-booth. The Shirley Road Pre-School used part of these premises for many years. The hall was regularly used for youth and other social activities. It served the educational and social needs of the congregation until 1968.

By 1968 traffic on Shirley Road had build up to such an extent that crossing the road from the Church to the hall was dangerous. Mrs Fleur de Carle came as a small baby with her mother, Mrs Erica Wyllie, to Shirley Road in 1945. She has kindly supplied some recollections of her time at Crows Nest up until 1962.

A kindergarten was located in the downstairs section of the Church Hall, whilst the older children attending Sunday School occupied the upper level. These children attended the service and during the collection crossed Shirley Road to the school hall. The children were organized into groups depending on age for their lessons. Mrs de Carle recalls there being lots of children attending both the Kindergarten and Sunday School.

The Central Presbyterian Church conducted Sunday School examinations, with many of the children from Crows Nest obtaining excellent results.

A highlight of the year was the Sunday School picnic held once a year, 'everyone come, many only on this day!' Special trams were booked and they waited for us at Crows Nest Junction to take us to Atholl Park. A huge weather shed that was used for lunch, which was a great spread including cakes from McKay's Cakes in Hume Street (for many years Eunice McKay was a very active member of the church). Games and races were organized, but there was still time to explore the old gun emplacements around the shore.

The Sunday School members also participated in athletic carnivals organized by the Welfare and Youth Department of the church. Fleur recalls Crows Nest "cleaning up" at a carnival held at Newington.

The Harvest Festival Service was held in the month of March. It was always spectacular, as the church was filled with fresh food arranged beautifully on the steps in front of the communion table. As costly repair work was necessary, the congregation agreed to sell the property.

From the sale proceeds, a new Christian Education Centre was erected on the area at the rear of the current Church. The Education Centre comprised two halls: the Shirley Road Pre-School on the ground level and the Parish A Congregational Meeting on 28th September 1986 unanimously agreed that the celebration of Holy Communion be celebrated on the 1st Sunday of every month. Up until this time the Communion Service was held once a quarter.

Hall on the upper level. The total cost for the alteration and extensions was over \$43,000.

At the same time, the former vestry and committee room, built in 1965 largely by voluntary labour, were enlarged. This was achieved by re-building the pipe organ and relocating it to a new gallery in the Church. Bricks and roofing slates from the old church hall were used to help the new section complement the existing structure.

Sir Roden Cutler, Governor of New South Wales, opened the extension on St Andrew's Day 1969.

No further renovations or alteration were carried out until after Church Union. At Church Union, the former Methodist Church congregation at Holtermann Street and the former Presbyterian Church congregation at Shirley Road combined as the Northside Uniting Church. Eventually, both congregations moved to Shirley Road as the sole place of worship.

The grounds next to the Shirley Road Church later became a much-appreciated small park open for use to the general public. Later, with financial and landscaping help from North Sydney Council, the park was upgraded, and was officially opened for community use on Sunday, 26 June 2011. In this way, it has revived its role as a "sit down place" for the whole community, reflecting again its traditional purpose since time immemorial.

The "mother of churches"

As the population of the North Shore increased, Crows Nest Parish grew in numbers and influence. On the 50th anniversary of the first church, the N.S.W. Presbyterian (21 September, 1938) reported:

"The Jubilee of the Crows Nest Churches is a very notable one, and will evoke sympathetic rejoicing, for no other congregation in N.S.W. has exercised so noble a ministry of Church extension as Crows Nest."

Indeed, Crows Nest earned the title of "Mother of Churches", being the centre from which other places of worship were established. These included Neutral Bay, Chatswood, Greenwich, Gore Hill Mission (Herbert Street), and Longueville. The mothering role of Crows Nest continued after World War I, with establishment of places of worship at Ryde, Artarmon, Willoughby, and Northbridge.

Crows Nest provided

lay supply to the newly established congregations

until they were able to

arrange for their own

For many years the Minister and lay members of the Church took Scripture Classes at North Sydney Girl's High School.



The Manse built in 1905 and still in use today. It was completely re-built in 1990-91.

North Il Leonards Resbyterian Churchon Committee moching + to Marcho 1889.

Meeting opened with prayer. Present. Rev & H. A Hutchison Kesse Junds Horning. anderson Brown Williamson Thornton LeW Gil. The Treasurer read his Northly Statement which was adopteds on the motion of Mr Williamson seo: M. McGill. In reference to a circular read by Mr Hutchison from the Church Extension, it was decided "that we are not in a position at present to contribute to this Fund. At M fear having notified through the Secretary his intention of ceasing to act as arganist after the end of the present months, M. Tunds was asked to interview W. W. fear, and ask him to reconsider his intention of resigning that post In account was received from Mi Hilliams contractor for she building for £16.7.3. being balance due to him on contract, but as the contract had not been carried out to the satisfaction of Mr Anderson, it was resolved that he see W. Williams & point out omissions, and that as soon as complete the Treasurer, could pay falance W. Williamson moved that Me anderson

in front of Church sec M: Mo Get. carriedo.

It was resolved to leave the leveling in front of thurch in the hands of Mr Thornton.

We Thornton moved that the C. Geonards. Council be written to by Secretary asking them to form footpath in front of church from Genest I to Burlington St. see by wandercon. carried.

It was revolved to hold anniversary Social on the 11th instead of 16th instant, and that the arrangement for provisions to be left to Meson Brown thornton, and that the Secretary see to obtaining forms.

We Brown Like anderson were appointed Office bearers for the present months.

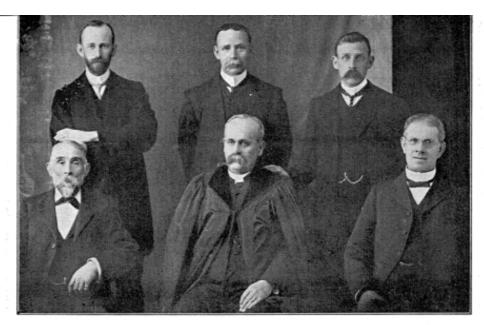
It was proposed by Mr Brown that Treasurer be authorised to pay Mr Robinson to date for cleaning of Church, also that he purchase. the necessary implements for cleaning sec. W Thomas. com:
It was proposed by W Horning that Mr W Lean in wheel if he would become a member of this committee sec. W Hilliamson: carried the meeting then closed with the Denediction.

Denny Stantehuson

Elders between 1889 and 1902 were required to sign "**The Formula**" pledging their loyalty to standards - but without persecution or intolerance or denial of the private judgment of others!

The Formiola. I do hereby declare that I do sincerely our and believe the whole doctrine contains in the Confession of Faith, as adopted in the foregoing articles, to be in accordance with the Word of God, and I do own the same as the confession of my faith; as likewise I do own the pulity of worship presently authorised and practised in this Church, and also the Presbyterian government and discipline thereof; which doctrine, worship and government Sam persuaded, are founded on the Word of God, and agreeable thereto. and Il promise that, through the grace of god, I shall firmly and constantly adhere to the same, and to the utmost of my power shall in my station assert maintain and defend the said docting worship, and discipline of this Church and the government thereof by de pions Presbyteries, and provincial and general Damods, together with the liberty and lexclusible jurisdiction there of and that I shall in my practice, conform myself to the said worship submit tot the said discipline, government. and exclusive juris deltion, and not endeavour directly or indirectly the prejudice or subversion of the same And I promise that I shall follow no divisive courses from the doctrine worship, discipline, government, and eachisive jurisdittion of this

Church, renouncing well doctrines, tenets or opinions, whatsoever contrary to, or in consistent with, the said doctrine, worship, discipline, and government or jurisdoction of the same for adopting these standards, this Church is not to be held as countenancing persecuting or intolerant principles, or any denial or invasion of the rights private judgement. 9 June 1889 William Brown . Miliam H. Whear 16th june 1888 Alex: Reddel 17 8/ 1898, It Irehibald .. Milliam Lludsay James R Mathers John Ferguson ohn Thomans Evan Stobor William Solly



Rev. W. H. ASH (1899-1909) AND KIRK SESSION.

Back Row—E. M. Stobo, W. J. Solley, E. H. Hume. Front Row—W. Lindsay, Rev. W. H. Ash, John Thomson. The survivors of this group are: Rev. W. H. Ash, Messrs. E. H. Hume, John Thomson, W. J. Solley.



THE KIRK SESSION, 1938.

Back Row—M. McDonald, H. G. Mildenhall, A. C. Russell, W. C. Watkins, A. G. Cameron.

Front Row—H. S. Archibald, W. Baillie, Rev. A. Clark, H. Thomson (Session Clerk), F. A. Moffatt.

North St Leonards Presbyterian Church formally recognised by the Presbytery of Sydney as a "sanctioned charge" on 9th October 1888. This enabled it to call a minister.

Whitein St. Staphens church, Sydney, the gindry of Oltober, 1888 years. Which place and time the Brooky tery of Sydney met and was constituted with prayer.

Inter alia

A petition was received from seventy one residents of worth It honords, who had for some time been meeting for worship under the care of the Rev. H.a. Hutsluson, B. Sc., I praying the Pretugitary to constitute them pito a lanctioned charge and to appenit and hiterian bession. Messos. Bil-christ and Brown were heard in support of the petition was and answered questions. The trayer of the petition was granted, and the Brestyley declared north its Leonards a sanctioned charge and appended the following suteria. Theseion: the Rev. R. Whenever, Modrator, the Rev. wom will—Macky with Mesons. Small and walker.

Closed with prayer

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Inter alia

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Closed with prouver.

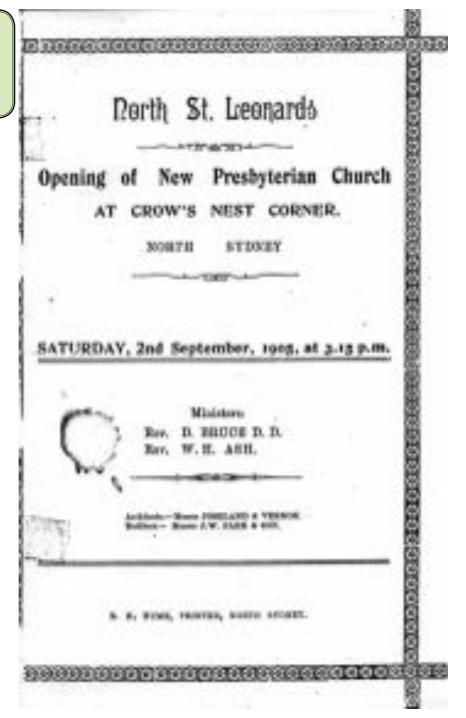
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The Baptism Register for 1888-89

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Notice the use of "North St Leonards" for addresses in what is now North Sydney and Crows Nest

Notice the continued use of "North St Leonards" but the new church is located at Crows Nest Corner, North Sydney!



MINISTRY

Eleven Ministers of the Word have served the Parish in its 125 year history (1888–2013).

All the Ministers contributed significantly to the development of the Crows Nest Parish.



Rev. H.A. Hutcheson 1888-1890

Rev. H. A. Hutcheson 1888 - 1890

Rev. Hutcheson was inducted as the first Minister. He remained in office for two years before a transfer to Cootamundra.

At the first communion service there were 17 communicants.

During Rev. Hutcheson's ministry, the church at Neutral Bay was established.



Rev. Dr David Bruce 1893-1911

Rev. Dr D. Bruce 1893 - 1911

In 1893, Rev. Dr D. Bruce was inducted as Minister. Between 1890 and 1893 the responsibility for running the church had fallen mainly on the Session, comprising Rev. A. Riddel, and Messrs S.J. Gilchrist, W. Brown, and W.H. McLean.

Rev. Dr Bruce came to New South Wales from New Zealand where he had served a term as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church. Because he was no longer a young man, and as the Parish covered a very wide area, he was assisted by Rev. H. Young and Rev. Chas Crane. Dr Bruce was the

Minister in charge.

During Dr Bruce's tenure, services were commenced at Hornsby at the end of 1893, and then at Chatswood in 1896.

In 1899 he was elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales. From 1903 to 1905, he was national Moderator-General.

Dr Bruce is the only minister to have served as Moderator of churches in both Australia and New Zealand.



Rev. W.H. Ash 1899-1909

Rev. W. H. Ash 1899 - 1909

In 1899, given Dr Bruce's role as Moderator, it was apparent that assistance was required, so the Rev. Ash was called as colleague (and later, successor) to Dr Bruce. Rev. Ash also came from New Zealand to North St Leonards.

Rev. Ash is reported as saying: "There was no church and the hall that was used was a simple shell without pulpit or vestry."

During Rev. Ash's ministry, Greenwich was established in 1899, and a Mission was founded at Gore Hill next to Royal North Shore Hospital.

33

Rev. Alex Clark 1911-1939

Rev. Alex Clark 1909 - 1939

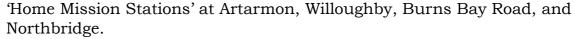
During Rev. Clark's long ministry the Church Hall was erected on the corner of Shirley Road and Sinclair Street, and the pipe organ was purchased.

The number of communicants at Crows Nest increased from 17 in 1888 to 228 members during his ministry.

In 1936 a church paper was produced, called the *Kirk News*.

During World War I, Rev. Clark was a Chaplain. In 1916, he accompanied the Australian Expeditionary Forces to England, and served for approximately 12 months at Salisbury Plains. The Rev. Hugh Paton fulfilled the role of Minister in the Rev. Clark's absence.

Rev. Clark was instrumental in establishing a church in Ryde. He then went on to develop



Rev. Clark was the first Interim Moderator of all the above churches.

Rev. Colin Dyster 1939 - 1945

Rev. Dyster was called to Ministry at Crows Nest from Walgett. (His grandfather, Thomas Dyster, had been transported to Australia in 1827 at



Rev. Colin Dyster 1939-1945

the age of 14.) Before he was inducted, World War II broke out. He remained at Crows Nest until the end of 1944, when he moved to Thornleigh/Normanhurst.

Rev Dyster had a distinguished academic and church career. In 1942, while still at Crows Nest, he was awarded a Master of Arts from the University of Sydney. He was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in N.S.W. 1971–1973, Clerk of the State Assembly 1961-1973, and Steel Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at St Andrew's Theological Hall Sydney 1951-1956.

Rev. S. Russell-Scott 1945 - 1967



Rev. Russell Scott 1945-1967

Rev. Russell-Scott was inducted as Minister in April 1945, shortly before the end of WW II. After the war, the Australian Government wanted to encourage European immigrants to make a new home in Australia. The churches were asked to participate in this project, and in 1946 Rev. Russell-Scott was appointed by the State Assembly to be the first Convener of the Immigration Committee of the New South Wales Presbyterian Church. He held this office until 1954.

During Rev Russell Scott's 22 years at Crows Nest, the area developed greatly. The population increased, as did housing developments. The

original covenant on the Berry Estate had allowed sub-division only for individual homes. After a number of appeals, building of medium and high-rise blocks of units was permitted.

Rev. Douglas Cole 1967 - 1981



Rev. Douglas Cole 1967-1981

Douglas Cole was inducted in February 1967. In May of that year he was elected Moderator of the New South Wales Assembly. Following Church Union (1977), Rev. Cole ministered to the "new" Northside Uniting Church. This now included the Methodist congregation at Holtermann Street. However, his particular responsibility was for the Shirley Road congregation. Rev. Keith Little took responsibility for Holtermann Street in a collegiate roll.

Rev Douglas Cole was also appointed head of Social Services in the Presbyterian Church, a position he held for 18 years.

In 1981 Rev. Cole announced his retirement. Sadly he died, aged 64, while still in office and before he could enjoy his retirement. His funeral service took place in Shirley Road church on Tuesday, 27 October 1981.

Rev Douglas Cole was also appointed head of Social Services in the Presbyterian Church, a position he held for 18 years.

In September 1983, the Mayor of North Sydney, Alderman Ted Mack, unveiled a plaque in the grounds of the Church to commemorate the work carried out by Rev Cole in the Parish and community.

Rev Cole was an active member of the community, and was aware of the limited open space for the public to use. He was keen for members of the community to use the garden space next to the Church. The park was upgraded, and (as mentioned above) later became a much appreciated community facility in Crows Nest.



Rev.Dr Moira Laidlaw 1982-1992

Rev. Dr Moira Laidlaw 1982 - 1991

Rev. Moira Laidlaw was ordained and inducted in February 1982. This was a significant milestone, as Rev Laidlaw was the first person to be ordained within the parish. She was one of the earliest women in Australia to be ordained to a substantial pastoral role.

Rev. Laidlaw took up full-time settlement in 1983. When appointed, she had just graduated from United Theological College in Sydney, and had lecturing obligations to the college.

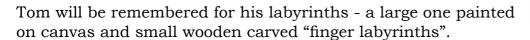
She gained her Doctorate of Ministry while at Crows Nest.

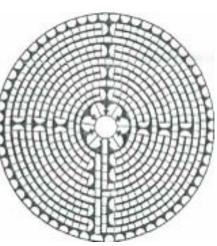


Rev. Dr Tom Plaizier 1992-2004

Rev. Dr Tom Plaizer 1991 - 2004

Rev Dr Tom Plaizer was inducted in 1991. During his tenure, serious discussions began about amalgamating the congregations of Holtermann Street and Shirley Road, which until then had continued to function as separate congregations of the Uniting Church. The negotiations came to fruition in 1993. A transfer and dedication service was held on Sunday, 6 June 1993.





Rev. Michael Barnes 2004-2012

Rev. Michael Barnes 2004-2012

The next minister was Rev Michael Barnes, who was inducted in 2004. During his ministry, a regular inter-faith dialogue was started. This included representatives of other faiths participating in Church services, and an annual inter-faith lunch.

Rev Barnes introduced an early morning Sunday service, particularly to cater for families with young children. A Family Outreach Worker was appointed (Sally Yabsley-Bell) for work with family programs.

Rev. Chris Udy 2013-



Rev. Chris Udy 2013-

The Rev. Chris Udy was inducted into the Parish in this 125th year of Presbyterian witness in Crows Nest. Before coming to Crows Nest, Rev Udy ministered at parishes in Sydney, Canberra and Lithgow. He holds senior positions in the Uniting Church, including for many years as Chair of the Ministerial Education Commission. His grandfather was minister at Holtermann Street Methodist Church from 1933 to 1936. Rev. Udy's induction was thus 171 years since the first Methodist service on the northern side of the Harbour at what is now called North Sydney but was

then known as St Leonards.

PEOPLE

Music leadership has been given by a number of musicians of great talent over the past 125 years. The first choir was established in 1888 under the leadership Mr **A.E. Gilchrist**, with **Miss Findlater** as organist. Other earlier organists and choirmasters were **Mrs S.J. James**, who volunteered her services for many years and Mr **Ray Stacey**, who also contributed greatly to the quality of music and singing.

In more recent years, we have enjoyed the musical ability of **Ces Cranfield**, **Stephen Hirst** and **Judith Turner**. Our current organist and choirmaster is **Peter Butt**.

Others have also contributed to the church music over the past 125 years, but sadly we do not have a record of all their names.

The **Archibald family** came to Crows Nest in 1898. The Rev J H Archibald was elected as a member of Session and held this position until his death. Mrs Archibald was a foundation member of the W.M.A. Their son initially assisted with Sunday School, and was later elected to the Session; he was also an active member of the Choir. Their daughter opened the first Sunday School in 1899. Another daughter, **Mrs McLaren** was Secretary of the Womens Missionary Association (W.M.A.). Both Rev and Mrs Archibald were members of the Choir.

Mr **H.G. Mildenhall** had an association with Crows Nest for over 30 years. He was a member of Session for 24 years. He first served as a Sunday School teacher, and later took on the role of Superintendent for the next 17 years. Other roles he fulfilled were Leader of the Fellowship and Member of the Committee of Management (including a term as Chairman).

Mrs Edith (Edie) Hunt (née Brainwood) was born in 1895 and lived in a house on the corner of Hume and Clarke Streets (where the Beaurepaire type garage is located today). She undertook a kindergarten course and was Principal of the Sunday School for many years. She taught Sunday School for about 40 years. She was also active in other areas of church life, including Treasurer of the Women's Guild. She was also in charge of collecting goods and sending off parcels to servicemen during World War II.

Mr **W.C. Watkins** (we are indebted to Mr Watkins for the Church's history between 1938 and 1963) joined the Church in 1927. He was soon holding many offices within the Church. He was initially elected to the Committee of Management, and then elected as an Elder. In 1937, he was appointed Representative Elder to the NSW General Assembly, a position he held until 1953. Other significant positions he held were Treasurer, Presbytery Elder, and

member of the Presbyterian Trust of the Gore Hill Cemetery. He was also elected a member of the Standing Committee of the Beneficiary Fund (a committee that came under the umbrella of the Presbyterian Assembly).

Mrs Lottie Nicol (née Gammie) was Secretary of the Northside Parish Women's Fellowship for approximately 40 years. Prior to Church Union, she was a member of the Committee of Management and an Elder. She was very active in every aspect of Church life, including as



long-time editor of the *Kirk News*. She also contributed dozens of cakes for sale on election days.

Miss Barbara Eddy was not at the Church for a long time, but her contribution was considerable. She held the position of Elders' Chairperson and was on the Board of Georgian House Retirement Centre. She also volunteered at the St James Ethics Centre, where she worked as a librarian and counsellor to the Centre staff.

Miss Margaret Sangster, who passed away late in 2012, was a life-time Elder. Her contribution to Church life was considerable. She was a person of both strong views and quiet humility. Much of the information available for this publication is due to her archivist skills. In a time before computers, Margaret prepared the three-monthly Sunday Rosters in 'copper plate' handwriting; each person on the roster received an individual copy. Margaret's congregational report for 1988 appears on pp 34-37.

Other members of the Shirley Road Church community who held leadership positions for many years included Max Sandow, Jo Melville, Nancy Rowand, Nancy and John McLean, Florence Burnett, Jean Carter, Dagmar Hudson, John Reid, Erica Wyllie and Eunice McKay. All worked tirelessly in their elected roles to further the social and spiritual life of the Church.

Many other people have served as Elders, Pastoral Carers, Sunday School Teachers, etc. It is impossible to list everyone in this brief history.

The Rev **Bruce Roy** joined the Crows Nest Uniting Church congregation in 1982, when transferred to Sydney by the army where he served as Chaplain. Since that time, he has been a very active member. On numerous occasions, he has stepped in to take the Sunday Service in the absence of the resident Minister and to give support wherever needed. Bruce has an IT flair and oversees the Church's website. His contribution to this publication has been invaluable.

MISSION

Community service

For many years the minister visited and conducted a monthly service at James Milson and Georgian House Aged Care facilities. During the 1970s, the Minister conducted religious instruction classes at Crows Nest Boys' High School and North Sydney Girls' High School. A parishioner, Mrs Edwards, took classes at the Naremburn Infants School.

C. W. Watkins' history record (1938-1963) notes that the Parents and Friends Association were responsible for a Christmas tree in the Church. The congregation was invited to place gifts under the tree; these were then used as birthday presents for the aged ladies at the Pittwood Home in Ashfield. The ministry continued until 1983, when it became increasingly difficult for the elderly ladies of the Church to make the trip to Ashfield. Some time after this, the Church's ministry to Lynvale Aged Care residence at Lane Cove began. Birthday gifts were prepared each month and taken to the residence for distribution to those celebrating a birthday. The gifts were gratefully received and in a small way helped to brighten the recipient's day.

Collecting used stamps has been a long term missionary project of Shirley Road Church. These stamps are trimmed then taken in to the Uniting Church's Stamp Sales Office. In 2012, \$23,500 was earned from the sale of used stamps. These funds were distributed to numerous small projects throughout out the country by the Uniting Church.

In 1942 the Presbyterian Church established an accommodation centre in the Haymarket. The facility was known as the Presbyterian Hospitality Centre and catered for the needs of service men. The Centre provided accommodation and meals at a reasonable cost. It was a place where service men could meet their friends.

Eighteen ladies from Crows Nest regularly volunteered with running the Centre until it closed in 1946.

When the Rev. Moira Laidlaw's arrived at Crows Nest, she asked North Sydney Council what the local church could do for the community. She was advised that the elderly and lonely were most in need of companionship and assistance.

As a result of this enquiry, five elderly 'meals-on-wheels' recipients were invited to the Manse for lunch. They were joined by a similar number of parishioners who helped with the preparation of the meal and entertainment of their elderly quests.

This initiative was known as the "luncheon for shut-ins" and was held once a month.

Shirley Road Pre-School

A private Pre-School was established in the old church hall on the corner of Sinclair St and Shirley Road. Our records do not show when this Pre-School started. However, when the new Education Centre was built on the Shirley Road site in the mid 1960s, a privately-owned preschool was located in the lower hall.

On 1 February 1972, the new Shirley Road Pre-School Centre opened as an activity of the Crows Nest congregation. The Committee of Management report of major activities for 1971 includes the following:

"Pre-School Centre. This activity has now become the direct responsibility of the church. The former director of the Shirley Road Kindergarten removed all equipment early in December after the Committee of Management made it clear that in the event of her selling the Kindergarten as a business, no assignment of the use of the premises would be granted to any purchaser. ... Steps were taken to re-equip the premises and obtain a permit to operate a Pre-School Centre. To this end a loan of \$1,500 from our Church account was



made to open a new account ... known as the Shirley Road Pre-School Centre. Thanks to the new Director, Mrs Joanne Dan and her Assistant, Mrs Edna Drake as well as members of the Committee of Management and the Congregation, we were able to open the Centre on February 1st 1972, with the necessary permit from the Child Welfare Department. There was full enrolment within two weeks of commencement and there is every prospect now of a successful enterprise for the local community and our church."

Today, over 40 years later, Shirley Road Pre-School Centre is flourishing and has an excellent reputation in the community. The Preschool caters for 50 families, over 2 groups. Staff continue to maintain a high standard. Some staff through the 40 years have given over 20 years of service. Tenley Betts, the current Director, and her team give the children a wonderful educational start in life. In 2011, the Management Committee disbanded and the Pre-School is now part of the State-wide Uniting *Care* Children's Services.

The Pre-School was rededicated in October 1996 following renovations. This work was made possible by the generosity of the Estate of the Late Mrs Mabel Watts.

The present playground was opened in May 2007 with a generous donation from church member, Mrs Joan Martin-Weber. At the opening of the playground, the Management Committee Chairperson, Lin Gourlay said:

"We especially welcome Joan Martin-Weber. Joan is a wonderful, quiet lady who has so generously donated to the construction costs of our playground. We are most grateful to you, Joan; you made it possible for us do to more than we could afford. Joan will shortly unveil a plaque commemorating her gift. Have you noticed the one next to it? It commemorates Joan's mother who also gave generously to the preschool, both financially and with her time."

The vision of the 1971 congregation lives on as the 2013 congregation continues its link with the Pre-School, including with Easter and Christmas celebrations in the church with the older children. Rev Chris Udy takes a keen interest in maintaining our connections.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship has been a mainstay of the church's activities since the outset. The ladies of the church formed a very special ministry. A "Ladies Committee" was one of the first groups established in 1888. Over the years other groups were formed, such as "The Women's Missionary Association" of 1905, "The Women's League" of 1920-1938, "The Ladies' Guild", the "Presbyterian Women's Association", and most recently "The Women's Fellowship". Under various names, they were very active groups that provided considerable assistance in financial and spiritual work both within the church and the wider community.

These organisations held many fund raising events, including bus trips to the Blue Mountains and garden visits to Bowral. Pancake Day was celebrated with much fun in the gardens of the Manse. Pancaketossing competitions for the youngsters and other games were followed by a delicious pancake supper. Ladies of the Parish showed great poise walking down the "catwalk" at Spring Fashion Parades supported by "Maureen Ann" of Lindfield.

"Temple Day" (also known as "Thanksoffering Day") was held on a Sunday in November, and members of the congregation were invited to place contributions in envelopes. These funds were used for various aspects of ministry in the Parish, particularly for maintenance.

A St Andrew's Day dinner was held each November in the Church hall. A piper gave a Scottish flavour to the event. Other artists performed during the course of the evening.

For a number of years an ANZAC Day breakfast was held at Lorna Bassett's home. On one occasion the proceeds were sent to support the Soldiers' Chapel Appeal at Kapooka.

Mrs Edith Hunt (nee Brainword) in an oral history recorded by Mrs Jo Melville notes that the original Manse was located in Willoughby Road where the current IGA supermarket is located.

Mrs Hunt also recalled a very active social life for church members and in particular for the young people. Tennis was regularly played on the court behind the church. There were chaperoned weekends to the Blue Mountains or picnics to the likes of Balmoral Beach. Dances were held in the old Church Hall and according to Mrs de Carle the hall was packed. From funds raised by Fellowship members, two girls from Burnside Girls' Home were clothed each year.

The Coo-ee group was also formed, giving retired men and women the opportunity to gather for fellowship over a cup of tea and sandwich.

Each Sunday after the service, members of the congregation gather for a cup of tea or coffee. A happy hour or so is spent chatting and generally catching up. The last Sunday of the month is always special, as those who have celebrated a birthday during the month are recognised with the singing of "Happy Birthday". We all enjoy birthday cake cooked by Mrs Alison Sandow.

CHURCH UNION 1977

The vote for church union was taken in 1973. The proposal was to join together the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian congregations in Australia. Crows Nest Parish voted to join the newly proposed Uniting Church in Australia.



The formal inauguration of the new Parish took place on 26 June, 1977. Members of the formerly separate congregations of the Crows Nest Presbyterian Church, the Northside Methodist Mission, and the Armenian Evangelical Church, marched symbolically from their respective churches to combine at the Crows Nest intersection. They proceeded together down the Pacific Highway to a dedication service at the then Dendy Cinema. The service was attended by local community leaders, together with representatives from other church denominations in the district.

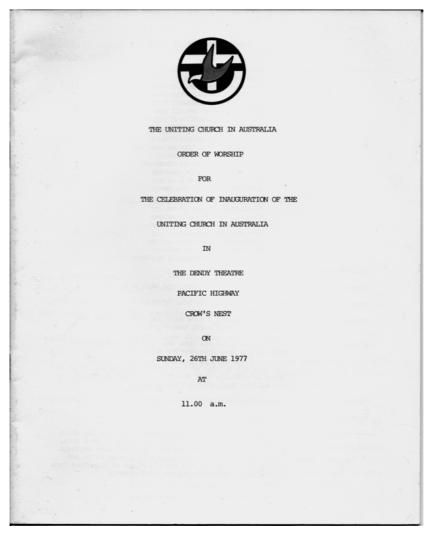
In those early days of church union, the (former) Methodist congregation in Holtermann Street and the (former) Presbyterian congregation in Shirley Road, although now part of a single church, continued to worship in their existing buildings. Rev. Douglas Cole continued to minister mainly to the Shirley Road congregation and the Rev. Keith Little continued to minister mainly to the Holtermann Street congregation, but they were jointly ministers in the new parish which had one Parish Council.

In the latter part of Rev. Dr Moira Laidlaw's ministry, discussions began about more completely amalgamating two congregations. The need for this increased when Rev. Ross Smith left Holtermann Street in 1986 and the Presbytery decided not to appoint a replacement. Rev. Moira Laidlaw then took over responsibility for both the Shirley Road and the Holtermann Street congregations. This dual responsibility continued when the Rev Tom Plaizier was inducted. However, discussions for amalgamation continued, and on 6 June 1993 the members of the Parish became one worshipping community at the Shirley Road Church, which was then renamed "The Crows Nest Uniting Church".

Before the two congregations joined, further renovations to the Church occurred. These included removing the platform where the Communion Table stood, and removing the floorheating pipes and replacing them with wall gas heaters. A passageway, later to become known as "The Cloisters", was added to the western side of the church. This permitted access to the church hall without needing to pass through the church itself or the Preschool.

The Manse was demolished and rebuilt in time for the Rev. Tom Plaizier's ministry. The residence was in severe disrepair, with plaster falling from the ceilings. The foundations had been seriously compromised, making the building dangerous to live in.

Because of its age and design, the Manse was Heritage-listed. This made redevelopment discussions with North Sydney council protracted. Eventually approval was granted on the condition that the "integrity" of the original building was retained. Thus, the Manse was rebuilt in substantially similar form, even using the bricks from the former building. The facade today replicates that of the house constructed at the beginning of the 20th century.



THE DEPRESSION, AND WORLD WAR II

The Depression years had a profound impact on the Parish. But despite the hardship of those years, the Church celebrated its Golden Jubilee in October 1938. A large congregation attended the thanksgiving service. Over 200 people also attended a Jubilee Social—"the hall was so crowded the Committee was unable to carry out the programme as it had arranged." A birthday cake was presented; the cake decoration included a model of the church, illuminated from the inside!

The year 1939 saw the beginning of World War II. The War meant a number of changes at Crows Nest, as nearly all the young men joined the forces. The women of the parish also volunteered in many ways to support the war effort.

A "Comforts Fund" was established to support the serving members from the church. Parcels were sent regularly to those in different branches of the services, and whether serving overseas or here in Australia.

Early in 1942, part of the lower-ground floor of the hall was fitted out as an Emergency Rest and Community Centre for use particularly in the event of an air raid.

Even while the War was in progress, informal discussions began about the development of a suitable memorial. Once hostilities ceased, a suggestion was made that improvements and alterations within the Church might be a suitable memorial to commemorate the sacrifice of the men and women of the Church who had served in the forces.

The proposal was that the choir stalls which were immediately in front of the organ be re-built and re-positioned, and the communion platform be raised from floor level and enlarged. A new

communion table was proposed and the pulpit was relocated. The congregation worshiped elsewhere during the alterations.

The Book of Remembrance formed a central part of the memorial. This wonderful record was painstakingly created by Mr George Greethead. It contains a record of all those from the Parish who served during the war years (the book is now located at the back of the Church). The book has been scanned and is viewable on the church web site (crowsnestuniting.org.au/community/history/remembrance/remembrance.html). The memorial was



Typical page from the Book of Remembrance

dedicated on Sunday 28 September 1947 in the "presence of an overflow congregation".

As could be expected, thanksgiving services were held following both Victory in Europe and Victory in the Pacific. All services were reportedly well-attended.

Top right: World War I memorial Bottom right: World War II memorial Both memorials list church members who served in these wars





125 faithful years in Crows Nest

100TH ANNIVERSARY - 1988

The church was 100 years old in 1988. Permission had been granted in October 1888 for the congregation to become a sanctioned charge.

One hundred years later, in October 1988, the church's journey through the century was celebrated. Various people were invited to participate in leading the services of worship. They included guest preachers from the local Presbyterian, Baptist and Catholic churches. A dinner was held at Lane Cove Town Hall on Saturday night 29th October.



Centenary re-enactment of the opening of the Shirley Road church (2005)

Significantly, given the history of the site on which the Church stands, one of the ministers to participate in the October services was Rev Harry Walker, the first Aboriginal to be ordained a Minister of the Uniting Church in NSW).

One of the most memorable services during the month of celebration was the Baptism of Jun Christopher Kuroda (now married and living in Japan) and the involvement during the

service of Father Peter Quinn, of Lavender Bay Catholic Church. Father Quinn's father was executed by the Japanese during World War II. In his sermon, he commented that his presence and participation in the service would have been unheard of as little as a decade ago.

The final service for the Centenary of Service of Worship was held on Sunday, 30 October 1988, when the N.S.W. Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, the Rev. Clyde Dominish, attended and preached the sermon.



Baptism of Jun Kuroda



50th and 100th birthdays reported in the parish newsletter of the day

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Society. Throughout the month there were guest preachers at each of the Shirley Road services: · from St Peter's Presbyterian, the Rev. Named on a love on

Alan Mortimore weights or the King · from St Mary's Roman made desemption of the C Catholic, Fr Peter Quinn The intrests bling yes from Northside Baptist indicate regressorations. Churches, the Rev. Jim distribut Minutes Asset Kime

> · aboriginal pastor Harry Walker, and

· for the parish service on the last Sunday of the month the Moderator, the Rev. Clyde Dominish.



monthly news sheet, diary and directory of the Northside Uniting Church First published 1936 as Kirk News. November 1988

Happy 100th Birthday!

Eunice McKay cuts the cake which she made and Alma Evans iced at the Shirley Road Centenary Dinner in the Lane Cove Town Hall on Saturday 29 October.

About 125 people attended, many of them former members of the Church from the 1920's on. Entertainment was provided by Eastwood Uniting Church Musical



Other important celebrations were scheduled to take place during the year. Parishioners were asked to note in their diary the following events:

> Sunday, 13th March – An open air celebration of worship in the 'pocket-park' adjoining the church. This is the part of the site of the original Crows Nest Cottage and the service will commemorate the founding of the Presbyterian cause which was begun at a meeting which was held on the veranda of the Crows Nest Cottage in March, 1888.

October – On the five Sundays in October various people will be participating in the leading of services of worship. There will be an Ecumenical emphasis to celebrate the Church's journey throughout the century. The Centenary Service will be held on 30th October.

Saturday, 29th October – there will be a reunion dinner held at Lane Cove Town Hall.

Centenary tea towels are on sale now- \$6.00 –a good idea for Christmas presents.

Thankfully, Sunday, 13 March was a bright sunny day for the service in the small park on the eastern side of the Church. Former parishioners from as far away as Scotland attended.

Following the Sunday service on 29th May 1988 an "old-time" style Sunday School Picnic was held down at Brennan Park Waverton. This was to celebrate the Centenary of the Sunday School. In her sermon for the centenary celebrations, Rev. Dr Moira Laidlaw began:

"I thought it might be interesting to try and picture what it was like 100 years ago, close enough to this very spot when that small group of people met to plan a Presbyterian place of worship in Crows Nest. Although the location is the same, the environment was very different. It would have been very peaceful and quiet, perhaps only the sound of a barking dog or the cry of a bird disturbing the stillness. Elizabeth Wollstonecraft described the Crows Nest Cottage as "Pretty and in a picturesque position, surrounded as it was with geraniums, roses and orange blossoms."

There would have been very little traffic. The steam tram wouldn't run up to Crows Nest Junction for another five years. The Post Office wouldn't be built at Crows Nest for another 23 years, but mail was delivered by posties on horseback from North Sydney where the Post Office was open from 5:15 am to 9:00 pm.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT FOR 1988

Lebert for 1988

Sincers thanks are exclended to all members of the congregation who have contributed as much of their time and talents towards the life and work of the Clusch during the year there include burnday debool teachers. Ngaire dlubbs and alicen Gorld for their faitful minerly, the doors prayer steward, reeders, flower arranges, after durch coffee makers, Leet but not least our organists

Dela involvement of members includes mouthly attendance at James Milson Mursing Home Worship services, helping with the Community Lunches, the Healing Services at Hollermann Street, Working Bees and of course the Women's Fellowship and the Evening Fellowship and the Evening Fellowship and the Evening Fellowship and the grant of Mollermann Street & Church Hall were a called and much sen watern has been accomplished to particular thanks to John Laidlan, Barne Watters and Peles Meredith for all their work

The Felate of 11 Lamont Street Las given great concern, Lowere early in January 1989 Moria & John will be moving to Lelwyn Street so that the Manae can be so built. This is but one area where Rob. Fisher has used his talents to one use this so building.

another area for concern so the condition of the steps to the other thurst horeh whis must also be attended to in 1989 Bosuce Watters Took up duties as Parish administrate - and can be contacted at the Clurch Office 10 Lamont St Ph 4396033

The Church Centenary celebrations involved a lot of consultation and behind the scenes organization. The Outdoor Service on 13th March, to commemorate the first meeting to form a Presbytesian Church in Crow's Nest, was a great success: a beautiful morning with Nicholson Street closed to traffic, an enthusiastic choir and organist, Maira's address followed by morning lea.

On 29th may after the 10.30 AM Parish Service a very happy picnes was held in Brennan Park to mark the formation of a Sunday School on 6th May 1888.

Description had been granted in October 1888 for the congregation to become a sanctioned charge to celebrate this and the church's journey through the certainy various people were invited to perheupate in leading the Services of Worship in October. They included guest preachers from the local Prestryterian Baptist & Catholic churches, abortiginal Pastor Harry Walker, with the NSW moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia on the fifth bunday. The Centenary Service of Worship-dunday 30 & October 1988 and any the Centenary Service of Worship-dunday 30 & October 1988 all services were well received and the Parcial received many blessings from being port of the experience, the gunt speakers were eloquent and expressed the feeling of warmth and welcome extended by the Parcial members. Tane Cove Town Hall was also a resounding success.

The congregation was also involved with the Moth Lydney Bi-centennial Service on 29th May in It Mary's Callolic Church, Ridge Sheet Rev. Moira Laidlaw's organization of the Pageant o tableau and the Baptist Church musicians were most impressive. The Historical walks arranged by the Ministers' 4 raternal in October were very enjoyable and informative 125 faithful years in Crows Nest

The Women's Fellowship was Lost on Ul Morch for the Kocal 1988 Women a World Day of Frayer observance her Maria Loudlaw gave the address - the theme this year was "Open Doors Ut their Ranual Luncheon on 15 th June Mrs arm Mc Callin, acres Social Worker with the Board for Social Security gave an interesting address about some aspects of the Brands work spring I sale favade Very successful stells were conducted in the Church ground con Biared, deplember and November and raised respectively \$ 745, \$ 215 and \$800. The Church, both local and otherwise, benefits greatly from the Land work ful into these efforts by a small board of women. During the year, \$2500 was forwarded to Porperly & I enance and \$500 to other bodies. The Pavil as a whole greatly appreceases this work. The Evening Parish reffereality growt held a variety of event enjoyable events from angae Day breakfast, video neght, car lief do Mt Iomah Botanical Gardens and dinners an Elders I saming seminar will be held on 25 41 25 th Jebowary 1889 for current Elders and those interested in Eldership. Election for new Elder will be held over until after this course. It is Loped that the camp planned for 28th to 30th april will be a time a blew and ship campaign well be considered in 1989 The dynod Stop Look , Listen proposal to take time between Easter & Ventecost to really take

Again it is will love and appreciation that we acknowledge the case and devotion that Rev. Moira Zaidlaw gives to the Parish, for her unfailing enthusiasm and generosity of spirit, forticularly former this year in the Centenary arrangements. Thanks once more to John Laidlaw who works unaturatedly in support of Moira and whose Lind work & organization contribute so much to the life of the congregation will completion of the life of the congregation of the works and the life of the congregation of the works and the service in the Crow's Mest one and thank god for the His continued blessing. We pray that we may be able to continue this work here & further afield in 1989.

Margaret Sangeles Congregational Secretary

PIPE ORGAN

The early history of the pipe organ is not known. However, parts of it are thought to date from the 1860s, in England.

The organ was rebuilt in Australia around 1911 and in 1912 sold to the Presbyterian Church, Crows Nest.

The organ was originally installed at the northern end of the Church, behind where the current communion table is located.

During the alterations to the church to establish a Memorial to the men and women who served in the forces during the 1939-



Interior of Shirley Road shows the orginal location of the pipe organ

1945 War, it was decided at the suggestion of the architect, that the colour of the organ pipes be changed from blue to Florentine bronze to harmonise with the colour of the maple timber.

In 1969 further renovations to both the building and organ were undertaken, and the organ relocated to its current position in the gallery.

Since 1969 the organ has undergone several maintenance programmes. In 2002 it was completely restored, with the congregation raising the significant sums needed for the task. In 2010, a generous gift from Mrs Alison Sandow, and her sons Peter and John, in memory of Max Sandow, allowed the century-old pedal board to be replaced with a modern, state-of-the-art pedal board, along with a height-adjustable organ bench.

The organ is regarded as having considerable musical and historic significance.

The first choir was formed in 1888. A Sunday School Choir, known as the Junior Choir, had its beginning in 1962. This web page has extensive information about this organ: http://sydneyorgan.com/Shirley.html

GIFTS

There have been many generous donations to the Church over the past 125 years. Some gifts were anonymous. Some were in memory of parishioners who were involved with the running of the Church. Some are marked by plaques (see pp 42-44).

Gifts include the Honour Board located in the front foyer, presented by Mr E.M. Stabo and unveiled by Mrs Stewart on 17 August 1919. This Board commemorates all those who served in World War I. It listed 105 names, including 21 who were killed in action.

Other early gifts included a Baptismal Font given by Mr W.S. Park. Another gift was a chair for the Moderator (the minister) presented in May 1927 by Mrs Horton in memory of her late son, Cyril. The Elders' Chairs plus an easy chair for the Vestry were presented by Mrs M. McDonald in memory of her father Mr James Brown, who had served as an Elder.

An anonymous donor gave the former blue covering of the folding doors at the entrance to the Church worship space.

In 2000 Mrs Jo Melville very generously donated an electronic keyboard. This instrument is in regular use.

A CONCLUDING NOTE

This book records only some of the events in the past 125 years, and the names of the people who have contributed so generously with skills and talents. It is but a selection drawn from available records and the recollections of present and past members.

In particular, it is impossible to list all those who have actively helped to make Crows Nest Uniting Church such a vibrant and active congregation. The past 125 years have been exciting and demanding. The next 125 years will be equally exciting and demanding. Let us pray for the strength and the inspiration to be up to the task.

PLAQUES



Location: Pulpit



Location: Pulpit



Location: Lectern



Location: Lecturn on Communion
Table



Inscription:

"To the Glory of God
in Memory of
Frances and Virgie Halstead
Presentted by their daughter"



Location: Ministers Chair



Inscription:

"To the Glory of God
In Memory of
Ernest Mackay 1906-1966
Presented by his wife and family"



Location: Elders Chair



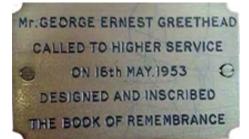
Location: Elders Chair Inscription: "Chairs refurbished by Joy Pirie 1988"



Location: Rail on right of internal right hand entry to church



Location: Rail on right of internal right hand entry to church



Location: Rail on right of internal right hand entry to church



Location: Flowers stands (2)
Inscription 1:
"In Memory of Nancy Waltho
From those who loved her
died Jan 26th 1981"
Inscription 2:
"A Tribute to
Margaret Campbell
from
All who loved her"



Location: Commemorative Book Stand



Location: Morning Tea Room



Location: Church-Vestry passage way



Location: Northern wall of Church



Location: Southern wall of Church



Location: Side of electronic keyboard



Location: Cloisters

JANE BUCHANAN

A cherished member of our church Her life was an inspiration to us

This plaque was dedicated on July 3, 2005 by Rev. Michael Barnes in the company of Ruth and Emily

Location: In the lift



Location: Outside wall of Preschool



Location: Outside wall of Preschool



Loction: Originally on gate,
now in the church near door to vestry
Inscription: "Erected
to the memory of the
PIONEER WOMEN
of this church
May 1st 1955"



Location: Garden near church entry



Location: Garden near church entry



Location: Park bench

TIMELINE

1888	Church Planning Committee met on the verandah of Crows Nest Cottage [home, at the time, of David Berry]
1888	Minister: Rev. H.A. Hutcheson until 1890
1888 6-May	Sunday School commenced
1888 9-Oct	Recognised as a "sanctioned charge" (able to call a minister)
1888 2-Dec	Opening of North St Leonards Presbyterian Church in Willoughby Road [located between Burlington and Ernest Streets]
1889 27-Aug	First infants classes in vacant shop near Willoughby Road church
1889 23-Sep	David Berry died and Crows Nest Cottage inherited by (later Sir) John Hay
1893	Minister: Rev. Dr David Bruce until 1911 assisted by Rev. W.A. Ash 1899-1909
1897	Royal North Shore hospital commenced
1897 9-Jul	Violent storm wrecked the Willoughby Road church
1905	Crows Nest Cottage demolished to make way for new church and manse
1905 27-May	Foundation stone of the Shirley Road church laid by the Governor of NSW (Sir Harry Rawson), Foundation stone of the Lamont Street manse laid by Lady Hay
1905 Sep	Church occupied. Willoughby Road church used as Church Hall.
1909	Minister: Rev. Alex Clark until 1939
1912	Pipe organ installed
1912	Willoughby Road hall destroyed by fire
1914	Church Hall constructed opposite the church in Shirley Road
1939	Minister: Rev. Colin Dyster until 1945
1945	Minister: Rev. S. Russell-Scott until 1967

1055	Oniminal
1955	Original vestry and committee room built by voluntary labour
1967	Minister: Rev. Douglas Cole until 1981
1969	Pipe organ relocated to the gallery
1969 30-Nov	Present church hall opened by the Governor of NSW (Sir Roden Cutler)
1977 26-Jun	Uniting Church in Australia inaugurated - Armenian Evangelical Church, Crows Nest Presbyterian Church and North Sydney (Holtermann St) Methodist Mission form one Uniting Church parish
1982	Minister: Rev. Dr Moira Laidlaw until 1992
1988 Oct	Centenary celebrations
1992	Minister: Rev. Dr Tom Plaizier until 2004
1993 6-Jun	Holtermann Street and Shirley Road congregations combine
2004	Minister: Rev. Michael Barnes until 2012
2011 26-Jun	Small park facing Nicholson Street (developed by North Sydney Council) officially opened
2013	Minister: Rev. Chris Udy

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