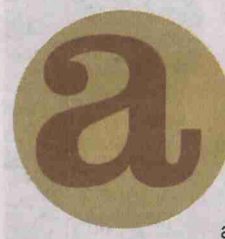


High praise

St Luke's of South Wagga turns 100

at the archives
Wayne Doubleday



centenary of worship will be celebrated this September at St Luke's Anglican Church, on the corner of Shaw and Docker streets, South Wagga.

It is not known when the Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga obtained the land for a new church but the very first owner of that particular block of land was a schoolmaster from Appin, James Poulton.

Poulton purchased the block on November 25, 1867, for the sum of eight pounds, 16 shillings and 11 pence. He began to dispose of portions of the large block in 1878.

■ THE CHURCH
FROM 1908, Anglican services for the growing population of South Wagga were held in the home of Mr and Mrs Frank Woods of "Foxborough Hall", indicating the need for an Anglican church in this community.

St Luke's, a brick building with an iron roof, was designed by Mr WJ Monks. At the end of September 1913 a tender presented by Messrs C Hardy and Co for the sum of £533 (\$1063) was accepted, being the lowest tender received.

The plans allowed for 140 people to be seated in the 14x25ft main body of the church and included was an 18x9ft porch, and a vestry of 7x9ft. The

building was expected to be completed within 12 weeks.

On September 14, 1913, the ceremony of the Laying of the Foundation Stone was started with a procession of the Sunday school children, with some adults, headed by the Citizens' Band marching from St John's Hall in Baylis Street.

Outside the hospital in Edward Street, the Bishop of Goulburn, Dr Barlow, the Acting Rector Rev GE Menlove and the Rector, Rev GL Williams joined the procession along with the choir.

When St Luke's was almost completed, a license was granted on November 27, 1913; a Communion Service was celebrated on the morning of November 30, 1913 with the church being formally dedicated at 4pm on the same day by the acting Rector, Rev GF Menlove with a large congregation present.

Prior to the consecration of the church in September 1924 by Bishop Radford, assisted by Archdeacon Pike, the church building was renovated and many big improvements were made to the fittings. A decoration scheme had been set in place and many sacred pictures were expected to arrive from England for the walls.

■ THE HALL
FOR many months, voluntary workers had spent their spare time to erect the weatherboard building which had been built mainly for the use of the Sunday school.

In February 1924, about 200 people joined together to witness the opening of St Luke's new hall. During the evening, a program of music was broadcasted by Mr LG Pimblett of the Riverina Wireless Company.

The parishioners of South Wagga would go on to enjoy a variety of social evenings in the new hall and the Ladies Guild held many fund-raising functions. Archdeacon Pike was even hopeful that they would be able to install a small motion picture plant.

As the years passed, it was necessary to keep the church and hall maintained, and no doubt the people who return for the centenary celebrations will have many fond memories to share.

■ THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
THE children's Sunday school was started at Easter 1914 by Mr H Hansard who was described by Archdeacon Pike as the "Father of the Sunday School".

Mr Hansard was Superintendent until 1925 when he resigned and his position was filled by Miss Dora Wulff. Miss Wulff was dedicated to serving the Sunday school for many decades.

Sunday school picnics were eagerly looked forward to by the children and were held at various venues, one such being Newtown (Collins) Park when in 1923 120 children were entertained with races and games organised by Mr Hansard and Mr Croucher with the assistance of 10 teachers.

In August 1936, when the annual party of the Sunday school was held there were more than 200 children to take part, many who attended in 'fancy dress'. A competition was held to judge the costumes, the winners being: fancy - Ray Patterson, Dorothy Smith, Marie Patterson and Margaret Nation; humorous - Ron Smith and Jack Perry; original (girls) - Peggy Perry and Gwen Miller; original (boys) - Wallace Fife and Reg Reberger; pairs - Bobbie and Valerie Allen; non-Sunday school children - Anne Fife and Gwen Hieneke. The party closed with the singing of the national anthem and the children receiving a basket of sweets.

In 1947, *The Southern Churchman* reported that the St Luke's Sunday school consisted of 150 children with 14 devoted and enthusiastic teachers.

If anyone has photographs of anything relating to St Luke's Church and Sunday school, it would be appreciated if they would contact the CSU Regional Archives on 69 253 666. The photographs would be scanned and returned immediately.

References: NSW Land and Property Information; St John's Anglican Church Archives; *The Daily Advertiser*: 15 Sept and 29 Nov 1913, 30 Sept 1915, 13 Nov 1923, 27 Feb and 22 Sept 1924; Aug 1936; *The Southern Churchman*: 1 Sept 1947.

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what you need to know

■ The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward inquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.