

**Jesus is Lord**

**Newtown Mission  
Uniting Church**

**1840 + 150 = 1990 AD**

**To Celebrate One Hundred and Fifty Years  
of Christian Worship in Newtown:**

- Wesleyan Methodist 1840 - 1901
- Primitive Methodist 1854 - 1901
- Congregational 1855 - 1967
- Presbyterian 1859 - 1965
- Methodist 1901 - 1977
- Uniting 1977 - 1990

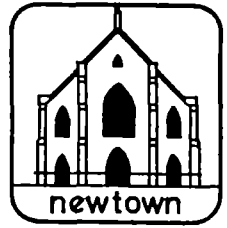
***"...fruit  
that  
will  
last"***

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Jesus is Lord Uniting Church in Australia Newtown Mission

*Jesus said " You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."*  
(John 15:16)

When the district was still rural and when the great country estates were just beginning to be broken up; before the trees were felled and the swamps drained and before the first railway line was opened; in those days the good news of Jesus Christ began to be shared in peoples homes:



## ***Wesleyan Methodist***

During the year 1840 cottage services were held in New Town, then called O'Connell Crescent. By the next year the services were held in a room about 30 x 12 feet, which had been made possible by removing the dividing wall between two brick cottages situated near the corner of King and Eliza Streets. In 1849 it was recorded that "a small portion of land, 51 x 100 feet, has been purchased in a very eligible situation, on which a brick Chapel in the Gothic style is being erected, 51 x 30 feet."

When Newtown was created a Circuit in 1855 there were no less than fourteen preaching places: Newtown, Toxteth (Glebe), Stanmore, Ashfield, Canterbury, Botany, Moorfields, Botany Bay, Camperdown, Peeks (Peakhurst), Tempe, Rocky Point (Rockdale), Petersham, Longbottom (Burwood).

The present chapel was built in 1860, the first galleries erected in 1865, and the present galleries in 1872. The pipe organ was installed in 1878 and enlarged in 1910. The present hall replaced the original chapel in 1890. The front classrooms were removed for shops in 1913.

## ***Evangelism***

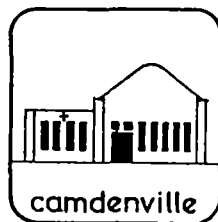
The first and "greatest" overseas evangelist to Australia, the Rev William ('California') Taylor, preached three sermons at the Newtown Wesleyan Anniversary, and gave an address at the Public Meeting in September 1864. One hundred were converted in one week of mission. A "celebrated barrister" sought and found reconciliation with God, became a most efficient Christian worker, and through his agency a number of lawyers were converted.

The following year Taylor gave his services to help raise funds to erect galleries in the chapel. In return a grateful Trust gave him permission to make a return visit to deliver four lectures for his own funds during the month of July 1865. In January 1880 when the Rev Charles W. Graham stood in the Newtown Church to be ordained to the Christian ministry he gave an account of his conversion in a mission conducted by William Taylor: his first impulse was to tell others of Christ, and in so doing his own spiritual life was strengthened. (E. G. Clancy, 1989)

*"...fruit that will last"*

## *Primitive Methodist*

The foundation stone of the first Primitive Methodist chapel in Sydney was laid on Friday 18th August, 1854, near Mr Goodsell's Brickyard, Newtown. The stone was laid by Mr J. Pemell, a sermon was preached by Rev John Sharpe followed by lunch, a Public Meeting and an appeal for funds. All on a day chosen by the Governor for "humiliation and prayer to the Almighty that He would render the Allied forces victorious over the ambitious tyrant of the North" (The correspondent to the Sydney Morning Herald could not resist a "dig" at the Primitive Methodists - "a lunch instead of a fast, a collection for a chapel instead of for the widows and orphans of our brave soldiers".)



In 1860 Rev Jabez Langford became second minister of the Sydney circuit and then in 1861 the first minister of the Newtown circuit, with other churches at Marrickville and Botany. Great differences developed between Langford and his colleague Rev Robert Hartley in 1863. Langford left and within one year established his own chapels: Zion Chapel in Cook's Road, St. Peters; Ebenezer Chapel in Denison Street, Kingston; Providence Chapel in Waterloo and Salem Chapel in Shepherd's Paddock. These later became the first chapels of the United Methodist Free Church.

Rev E. Cook Pritchard became the minister of the Newtown (St. Peters) church repairing the damage caused by the defections. In 1865 Rev George James became minister followed in 1868 by Rev John Foggon and in 1871 by Rev James Studds. The debt on the old chapel was cleared and a new church building opened on Sunday 16 December 1871. Canterbury and Botany having been incorporated in other circuits, Friday evening services began at Macdonaldtown.

Rev William Sparling commenced his ministry in 1872 and was succeeded by J. H. Dash (1874-5), John Penman (1876-80), J. A. Foggon, for a second term (1881-4), E. C. Pritchard, for a second term (1885-6), Emmanuel Masterman (1887-9), William Kingdon (1890-1), W. Sparling, for a second term (1892-4), Philip S. Young (1895-9) and James W. Leadley (1900-1). A Sunday School with Lower Hall as well as Upper Hall was completed in 1900. (E.G.Clancy, Primitive Methodists, 1989)

With Methodist Union in 1901 May Street became part of the Newtown Circuit with King Street, Erskineville and Camdenville.

The final service at May Street St. Peters was held in March 1968. Funds from the sale of the property were used to upgrade the Camdenville chapel and purchase a residence.

CAMDEN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY



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*"...fruit that will last"*

## ***Congregational***

In the year 1855 services were conducted by Rev Charters in the house of Mr Phillips of Newtown. The same year the Rev Samuel Chambers Kent arrived in Sydney, holding services in the home of Mr Handley of Enmore and also in his own home in Newtown. After the completion of the first portion of the church building in December, 1856, a fellowship was formed consisting of 37 members and an invitation was extended to Rev S. C. Kent to become minister.

The church was enlarged two years later, the foundation stone being laid by the famous London preacher, Rev Thomas Binney. The school hall adjoining came a little later, the site was enlarged and the infant school was built with considerable improvements and additions.

Rev D. Mossop succeeded in 1872, and he in turn by Rev. J. A. Dowie in 1875. When bubonic plague struck the suburb he buried 40 members of the congregation in one month. But filled with faith that Christ would heal those whom the devil sought to destroy he prayed for three members of one family and saw them instantly healed. He later went to the USA and founded Zion City, taking the title Elijah.

Rev Warlow Davies accepted the Pastorate in 1878, which he held for 28 years. In 1908 Rev Absalom Deans began his ministry, followed by Rev J. J. Willings in 1913, Rev Mearns Massie in 1921, Rev Louis Farr in 1929 and Rev L. G. Bennett from 1933 until his retirement in 1987.

When the King Street property was sold in 1967 a new church building was opened at Ryde as Denistone (Newtown Memorial) Congregational Church.

## ***Education***

The Congregational Theological College and High School began their joint career in Newtown on July 12th, 1864. Camden Villa, the home of the Hon. Thomas Holt, was offered on the most generous terms, and his contribution was about £4000.

Rev. S. C. Kent was elected first Principal. Dr. Fraser became Principal in 1872 and continued until 1909. The Boy's School had to face less prosperous days, and was disbanded, while the theological college continued as non-residential in the City.

"The old house disappeared, the once lovely gardens became covered with shops and dwellings, until nothing of the old school remains but a memory." Camden College is now a part of United Theological College.



*"...fruit that will last"*

## *Presbyterian*

When the Municipality of Newtown celebrated its Jubilee in 1912 there was still alive one member of St. Enoch's Presbyterian Church who could recall the cottage in which the first services were held 53 years earlier, in 1859.

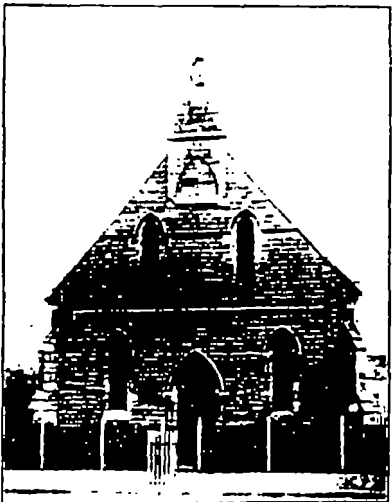


The church itself was established according to regular and proper form some two years later and met for a time in the old Oddfellows' Hall. The first minister was Rev William Scott Donald, followed by Rev A. Gilchrist. The first church was built in 1865 at the corner of Wellington and Lennox Streets and seated about 240 people. Rev A. M. Tait ministered for only two years then Rev Robert Collie for 15 years.

In 1885 a new church building was secured with a seating capacity of 600. Rev T. W. Dunn attracted large congregations and his after church meetings in St. George's Hall drew immense crowds until his sudden death at age 50. Rev R. J. Wallace added almost 500 members to the Communicant's Roll in a three year ministry. Under the leading and inspiration of Rev C. E. James the Coronation Hall was erected in 1911.

Many men and women gave long years of service: W. Rigg was Treasurer for 38 years; John Mars was Session Clerk for 30 years; Mrs Fremlin 40 years with the Women's Guild; Miss A. Harvey Young 40 years with the Sunday School. Messrs G. and C. Robertson who were officers to the last of St. Enoch's days could remember back to a full church in 1904.

St. Enoch's was declared to be unsafe in 1962 and demolished in 1964. The congregation continued to meet in the Coronation Hall, then at the Congregational Church and later at the Methodist Church.

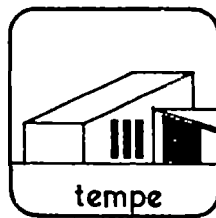


MAY STREET ST. ENOCH'S

*"...fruit that will last"*

## Tempe

The Village of Tempe became a recognised preaching place of the Newtown Circuit in 1855 with services being held first in homes. Land in Hart Street was donated for a chapel and the building was opened on Thursday 18 January 1856. It was built of brick, 24ft x 16ft x 11ft high, with porch and belfry. There were benches with no backs, so that people would 'sit up'. There was no pulpit, only a small raised platform with a table.



This was the base for outreach in the area until the Tempe Park church building was constructed in 1884. The new brick building was 36ft x 26ft inside and opened on 20 July. Within months new classrooms were added and in 1887 it was extended 12ft onto an adjoining allotment. In 1892 the parsonage was built next door and extended in 1896. Additional land completed the 210ft frontage to Railway Road. The Hart Street chapel was used for some evening services and for a time by a Branch Sunday School until 1902 and was sold in 1903.

On 2 February 1902 a new church building was opened at Tempe Park increasing the total floor space to a total of 5,450 square feet. Outreach services were held in a hired hall at Tempe between March 1904 and January 1906 when permission was given to buy and build on a site in Station Street. The opening of the new Tempe Mission Hall took place on Saturday 27 October.

Worship, outreach, Ladies Church Aid groups, Sunday School, and the Old Boys and Girls Reunion were a part of the Christian witness of the Tempe Park Methodist Circuit until 1969 when both properties were sold in order to build a new centre mid-way between at Lymerston Street.

Funds were not sufficient to complete the planned parsonage but in 1983 the Newtown Mission acquired the adjoining residence at 21 Lymerston Street and in 1984 undertook extensive renovations of the property as well as structural repair work to the church building.



THE OLD CHURCH. ERRECTED 1849-1858.  
NEWTOWN

*"...fruit that will last"*

## **Methodist Mission**



When the 1928 Conference constituted Newtown Circuit a Mission it was "with a view to the adoption of the methods in use in many of the crowded city areas to reach the unchurched masses. It is fitting therefore that the new order of things should start under the inspirations of a preaching mission which for weeks the ministers and church have been prayerfully preparing for."

It was later reported that "apart from the fact that there were between forty and fifty adults who professed conversion to God, numbers of outsiders were attracted to hear the Gospel in an impressive atmosphere, and a considerable amount of religious interest was stimulated in the community. It was a special witness for Christ which many have observed"

## **Uniting Church**

With the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977 the Newtown Mission Parish consisted of congregations at Newtown, Camdenville and Tempe. For some years an active outreach at Camdenville was led by Pastor Marcus Luedi.

Rev Don Drury was called in 1978 to establish a new ministry at Newtown: a regional charismatic renewal centre with local evangelistic outreach; breaking much ground for the things which have followed.

Since 1984, under the leadership of Rev Ron Brookman, the local congregation has been released by the Holy Spirit into action through evangelism, counselling, healing, education and welfare ministries.

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This pamphlet gives only brief extracts from 150 years of worship, service and witness of the uniting churches in Newtown. In due course a fuller history will be prepared for publication. Reminiscences are invited from former members of the churches in order to fill in and "flesh out" the more recent past. Your written or photographic contributions may be sent to Ross Daddo, PO Box 412 Newtown NSW 2042 (Phone 559 1740).

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*"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty ... so that no human being might boast in His presence. (1 Corinthians 1:27)*

*And so to God only wise be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen."*

*"...fruit that will last"*



## **Newtown Mission**

*..chosen and appointed to  
bear fruit that will last  
1840 + 150 = 1990 AD*

**Renewal Centre**  
Charismatic Worship  
Healing Prayer  
Evangelism  
Drop In Centre  
Meals Ministry  
Counselling  
Welfare

### **Christian Communities**

Linthorpe Household  
Wilson Household  
Gardeners Household  
Camdenville Household  
Tempe Household

**Messiah College**  
Biblical Discipleship

**Resource Centre**  
with Kairos &  
Vineyard Ministries

**Close to the Edge**  
Drug and Alcohol  
Rehabilitation Ministry

Tax deductible donations may be sent to  
Newtown Mission Benevolent Fund

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### **Elders**

Rev Ron Brookman  
Danny Pachos  
Merv Brown  
Con Stamos  
Ross Daddo  
Ron Malliate  
James Picton-Warlow  
(Parish Secretary)  
Elsie Giffen  
(Parish Treasurer)

Office Secretary:  
Peggy White

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