

ARMADALE UNITING CHURCH.



A BRIEF HISTORY.

WRITTEN & RESEARCHED

By

DR. JOY PARNABY.

1996.

ARMADALE UNITING CHURCH

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Both the churches which came together to form the Armadale Uniting Church in 1977 began as Sunday schools set up by neighbouring churches. Armadale Presbyterian Church began as a Sunday school established in Orrong Road by Toorak Presbyterian church in 1876, and Armadale Methodist church followed the purchase in 1881 of a dance hall in Boundary Road (later to be renamed Kooyong) by the Prahran Circuit steward for the leaders of Mt. Erica church.

The 'Eighties in Victoria was the decade of the land boom, stimulated by the railway network which was set up in the Seventies. Suburbs developed especially along railway routes. In 1879 a railway to Oakleigh was opened up and both our churches were set up close to Armadale station, on either side of the railway line.

Thus the first step towards a Methodist church in Armadale was taken when the Mt. Erica leaders resolved "To make an inroad upon this place", and purchased a dance hall in Boundary Road for 310 pounds, and set up a Sunday school there. The site was much too small for a church, and the trustees began to look for land nearby and in so doing came into contact with one of Victoria's leading land boomers - James Munro.

In 1876 Munro came to live on a 72 acre block on the North West corner of High Street & Boundary Road and built a large house "Armadale" named after the fishing village on the far north coast of Scotland where he had gone to school.

From 1876 - 1891 he was a member of the Board of Management of Toorak Presbyterian Church, was a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly from 1874 - 1883, 1886 - 1893, and became Premier and Treasurer in 1890 - 1892.

Throughout his career he was an ardent teetotaler, a founder of several coffee palaces, as well as a land boomer with land in various parts of Victoria and leaseholds in Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia.

In 1887 he founded the Real Estate and Mortgage Bank with his son-in-law R.L. Balding as manager.

One of Mt. Erica's beloved class leaders, Mr. Ryall, persuaded Munro to give a block of land on High Street for the church, although Munro's first response was reported to have been " Why come to me, I am a Presbyterian, you know."

This block was found to be rather too noisy for church purposes, so with Munro's consent it was sold and the proceeds applied to buying more land beside the Sunday school on Boundary Road. The foundation stone of the church was laid in May 1886 by Munro, who placed a handsome donation upon it, and afterwards gave generous help.

It is interesting to find that Munro's son-in-law R.L.Balding, was an early Superintendent of the Sunday school and the first Secretary of the Trust of the new church for several years, resigning as Secretary in February 1892 when his Real Estate Bank had gone into liquidation. In February 1893 he went bankrupt but continued on as a Trustee of the church for a number of years. His father-in-law, James Munro also went bankrupt in February 1893, sold "Armadales", coming back from Brighton each day by bicycle, to continue business in High Street as a real estate agent.

The Depression of the 'Nineties had set in, with bank closures and bankruptcies and it came very close to the church. The notion of ever-expanding prosperity and endless progress which underlay liberalism was proving to be a limited concept. At the Annual meeting on the 10th October 1892 the Trustees felt " that so many of our friends are struggling with the waves of adversity at present sweeping the colony " that this was no time to make special efforts to raise money for church debts or a new Sunday school.

At the end of the 'Nineties things had improved, and R.L.Balding wrote in 1898 - " Armadales is now one of the most flourishing places in our connexion. The congregations are large and week night meetings well attended and although there is a heavy debt on the property, the finances are healthy. The contribution from Armadales to the Circuit funds have, from time to time, considerably exceeded those from other churches in the Circuit. Two large and well managed Endeavour Societies help to keep up a good spiritual tone among the young people "!

- 1881 MARCH. A hall purchased by the Prahran Circuit Steward, J.A.Wise, for Mt. Erica leaders for 310 pounds, and a Sunday school set up.
- 1885
- 1887 Further purchases of land adjoining the hall.
- 1886 MAY. The foundation stone of the church was laid by Hon. James Munro. The church was in the Malvern Circuit.
- 1891 SEPT 1. The Secretary of the Trust, R.L.Balding to see their neighbour in Clarendon Street, Mr. McCutcheon, with a view to buying him out at a price not exceeding 375 pounds. No sale took place and six years later Mr. McCutcheon is again on the Trustees' agenda.
- DECEMBER. The Trustees recommend to the Quarterly Meeting the purchase of a parsonage at a cost not exceeding 1600 pounds. It is not clear when 2 Erskine Road was purchased but in 1905 a telephone was installed.
- 1892 MAY. Plans for a new Sunday school are approved. "Armadale Hall" hired for a Sunday school while the new building is erected.
NOV 6. The new Sunday school opened. A cricket club is organised.
- 1893 Mrs.T.E.Moran presented the church with a cabinet organ.
- 1896 JUNE. Electric light was installed in the church. The Dorcas Society was remodelled as the Ladies' Guild and Dorcas Society.
SEPT. The Trustees vote 5 for and 6 against Methodist Union which was achieved in 1902.
- 1897 JUNE. Attention was called to a serious nuisance arising on the adjoining premises in the occupation of Mr.McCutcheon, cabman, through the drainage and offensive odours from his manure pit.A complaint to be made to the local Board of Health.In October 1898 a letter was sent to the Central Board of Health. This seems to be the last reference to this issue - a reminder of the cab ranks outside railway stations well into the 20th century.
- NOV 19th. The steeple was blown down by a severe storm. A temporary roof to be placed over the tower, " with as little expense as possible. In view of the Trust finances, the Tower steeple be not rebuilt."
- 1898 There was some tension between the Trustees and the choir in the 'Nineties over the choice of tunes and anthems, and the singing of solos, and it was not until 1898 that the organist received any payment for his services. In May 1920, less than a fortnight after his arrival as minister, Rev.Brian Wibberley, Mus. Bach., suggested at the Leaders' meeting that the choir should march in together a few minutes before the service started and remain standing until the preacher sat down. "It was decided to accept this suggestion and ask members to refrain from climbing over the back seats."

1902 The Methodist Literary & Social Guild was flourishing. The syllabus for half year ending Dec. 31, 1902 indicates the width of interests and the quality of the speakers.

THE Guild meets in the Methodist Schoolroom, Kooyong Road, at 7.45 p.m., on alternate Tuesdays.

Ladies and Gentlemen desirous of becoming members are requested to hand in their names to the Secretary, or to any member of the Guild.

Subscription, One Shilling per half year, payable in advance.

Visitors cordially invited.

ARMADALE Methodist Literary and Social Guild.

President Rev. W. T. HIATT.

Vice-Presidents:
Mr. W. H. HARRISON. Mr. J. R. PEScott.

Committee:
Miss CLARKE Mr. M. BENNETT
" PARKER " T. HOLDING
" A. WORDIE " F. T. MEYERS

Treasurer Mr. A. BRIEN.

Secretary:
Mr. A. T. SHARP, 30 Gladstone Avenue, Malvern.

SYLLABUS.

Half Year ending 31st December, 1902.

July 22—Impromptu Speeches MEMBERS.

Aug. 12—Lecture (Illustrated) "The Eye" Dr. GAULT.

" 26—Paper—"International Arbitration"
Mr. A. H. WOODFULL, LL.M.

Sept. 9—An evening with Cowper Rev. W. T. HIATT.

" 23—Paper—"Town and Country Life"
Mr. J. R. PEScott.

Oct. 7—An evening with The Old Flag.

" 21—Prepared Speeches— Mr. W. P. DAWSON.

"Our Recreations—Their Influence for
Good or Evil" Mr. M. BENNETT.

"Factory Legislation" Mr. T. HOLDING.

Nov. 11—Discussion—Pulpit v. Press
Opener, Mr. W. B. McOUTCHEON.

" 25—Social Reunion MEMBERS and FRIENDS.

Annual Recess 1st December to 28th February.

1903 MAY. At the Leaders' meeting, the former Secretary of the Trust, R.L. Balding, protested against Dr. Sugden, a very popular preacher, being invited to preach on Anniversary Sunday because he had recently travelled by train on a Sunday.

AUGUST. " This meeting affirms its conviction that the Sunday travelling which led to a protest of a Trustee at the last meeting.... was owing to no arrangements for conveyance having been made by the officers " -in charge of Dr. Sugden's preaching arrangement.

1908 APRIL 1. Armadale Sunday School; Numbers for year ending 31.3.08
Scholars enrolled.. Boys =108 Girls =200 Total.. 308
Average attendance .. 200 Teachers on roll.. 32
Scholars admitted during year.. 78 Average attendance.. 27
Scholars leaving during year.. 84

1911 H.W. Beardsley is appointed Secretary of the Trust.

1913-14 A Pipe Organ was installed - the console of Indian Anjilly; a tubular pneumatic system and an electric starter.

1914 The Womens' Auxiliary for Overseas Missions report indicates that the society had been meeting for some years.
1925 Mrs. Moran - President.

The following material, and the copy of the Methodist Literary and Social Guild Syllabus on page 5 were contributed by Mr. Stanley Graham.

ARMADALE METHODIST CHURCH.

1. The following organizations flourished in the 1920's and 1930's, and were well attended :-
 - (a) The Young Worshippers' League filled the south transept of the Church each Sunday.
 - (b) The Christian Endeavour Society met weekly in the Sunday School.
 - (c) The Ladies' Guild was very active and supported not only the Church but other needy causes affiliated with the Methodist Church.
 - (d) The Dorcas Society met regularly and was well supported by the ladies.
2. The Church Cricket Club was reformed in 1933 after 20 years absence and in the following seven years won 3 Premierships in the South Suburban Churches Association. The Club did not re-form after the 1939-45 War.
3. A Badminton Club was formed in 1937-38 and was very successful in Church Competition. The Club wound up soon after the War ended.
4. Stan Graham joined the Church Choir in 1929 as a choir boy and was given the task of keeping the Roll Book each Thursday night at Choir practice. He has been a full time member since then. The Choir numbered 22-24 at that time.

1920	A large majority vote for Church Union Melbourne South			
	Members entitled to vote	Question 1.		Question 2
	8263	YES	NO	YES NO
	Trustees entitled to vote	5037	419	4817 365
	891	578	76	578 65
1921	DEC.11 Unveiling of memorial window for soldiers who died in World War 1.			
1925-6	The tower and the steeple are completed			
1928	JAN.12 The Sunday school burnt to the ground with all contents NOV. Foundation stone for new Sunday school laid by Mrs. Moran. To be named Wesley Hall.			
1929	By the end of the year the Sunday school hall was in use.			
1931	"Back to Armadale" celebrations to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary.			
1933	MARCH 28 Dr. Magnus Kiel nominated as a Trustee. JULY He becomes Treasurer			
1940	Christmas DayUnited worship with the Baptists and the Presbyterians at Armadale Methodist Church.			

- 1944 FEB. 18th H.W.Beardsley resigned after 33 years as Secretary of the Trust.
JUNE 9 Dr.Magnus Kiel appointed Secretary of the Trust as well as Treasurer and in this decade the Church emerged free from debt
- 1945 JUNE Church Thanksgiving Service on National Day of Peace
- 1946 MARCH 24 - A Memorial tablet was unveiled by Rev.Keck supported by the Past President and Officers of the Returned Soldiers' League.
APRIL 7. Honor Board unveiled.
NOV. Victor E. Terrell, Sunday school Treasurer from 1942 is welcomed as a Trustee
- 1947 NOV.3 Dr. Magnus Kiel resigned as Treasurer.
Stanley Graham appointed Treasurer.
Dr. Winston Kiel appointed Assistant-Secretary.

DEC.14 A memorial window in memory of Mrs.Graham was dedicated by Rev.F.T.Cleverdon.
- 1949 FEB.14 Dr. Winston Kiel and Stanley Graham appointed Trustees and Dr. Winston Kiel as Secretary of the Trust.
- 1950 Sunday school dislocated by the Polio Epidemic.
- 1954 Dedication of memorial lamps to commemorate the work of Dr. Magnus Kiel who died in 1949.
- 1956 The Seventy Fifth Anniversary.
- 1957 The unveiling of a war memorial in memory of Captain Keith Hummerston who died in Korea, May 1950.
- 1958 Good Friday - combined service with Baptists and Presbyterians at Armadale Methodist Church.
- 1962 Armadale Methodists take part in the UNITED CHURCH CRUSADE at Malvern Town Hall on March 19th, 21st, 23rd, & 25th; followed by a campaign to contact as many as possible of the 700 who attended the closing session of the Crusade.
- 1970 JAN.1 Amalgamation of Malvern and Malvern South Circuits.

A critical survey of declining membership at both Church and Sunday school. " The nature and type of our community is changing. Southern Europeans ... are moving into some areas in large proportions ... at the east end of the Circuit population mix is more stable."
- 1971 Armadale Methodist Church shared in two weeks of evangelical visitation and census of the district.

OCTOBER - a motion to Conference presented by Dr.Weatherlake re the falling membership of Church and Sunday school

- 1971-72 Cornwall units established in Grandview Grove on the site of the former Grandview Grove Chapel and Sunday School.
- 1972 Vote on Church Union - as part of Malvern Circuit vote:
 YES .. 613 NO .. 38
- 1974 The organ was restored and on 4th August was dedicated by the Chaplain General, Rev. C.K.Daws as the Stanley Elliott organ to celebrate the late Mr. Elliott's 52 years as organist and choirmaster.
- 1890 born Eaglehawk, attended Melbourne Conservatorium.
 Organist at Bendigo's St.Paul's
- 1916 A.I.F. Egypt and France
- 1919 home and organist at Armadale
- 1924 topped Australia at Sydney Conservatorium exams with L.A.B. L.R.S.M. conferred on him.
 In the late 1930's he was offered the position of organist at Wesley Church and as City organist for Melbourne Town Hall, but he remained at Armadale. He was Stanley Graham's uncle, and brought him up with a great love of music.
- 1975 Reta Berry, who had been a missionary in New Guinea and was very interested in craft, was prayer convenor for the W.A.O.M. and was its representative to the Central body.
- 1977 JUNE 22 the Uniting Church came into being - Armadale churches to be in the Presbytery of Nepean.
- 1980 Methodist Parsonage sold.
- 1981 MARCH - Centenary celebrated.
 MARCH 22 - Preparation Sunday
 10.15 am Rev. Dr. R. C. Weatherlake
 7 pm Rev.J.H.Newnham ... " Meet the Preacher "
 Soloist... Betty Just - a favourite soprano soloist for a number of years.

It is hard in a survey of this nature to indicate what an important centre the church had become for its members - the depth and nature of the fellowship they enjoyed. In the outline for the Centenary one catches a glimpse of the familiar pattern of experts at work in their special fields, working together for a memorable occasion.

ARMADALE, KOORYONG ROAD, CHURCH CENTENARY.

It is proposed that the Centenary Celebrations of the Armadale, Kooryong Road, congregation should be held on Sunday, 29th. March, 1981.

The proposed programme is :

- 10 a.m. Worship
 The Rev. E. K. Ditterich

 Morning Tea in Wesley Hall

 Lunch in private homes
- 3.15 p.m. Organ Recital
- 5 p.m. Buffet Tea in Wesley Hall
- 7 p.m. Worship
 The Rev. H. W. Abbey

An historical display is proposed.

The Organising Committee has appointed the following sub-committees:

Promotion and Publicity

Dr. F. W. Kiel (secretary)
Mr. S. Graham (assistant secretary)
Mrs. W. Vears
Mr. M. Adams

Historical Display

Miss B. Just
Miss I. Reeves
Miss B. Terrell

Catering

Mrs. B. Abbey
Mrs. J. Adams

Floral Arrangements

Mrs. J. Kirkpatrick

Music

Mr. W. Kirkpatrick

Members of the congregation are invited to offer suggestions to any member of the sub-committees and to provide names and addresses of former worshippers.

ARMADALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In 1876, soon after his arrival in Melbourne, Rev. Murdoch MacDonald, first minister to Toorak Presbyterian Church, visited the district of the brickfields in Orrong Road, between Malvern Road and High Street, and established a Sunday school in a draughty building, with one of the elders of Toorak Church as Superintendent. There were nine teachers and an average of fifty-three scholars.

In his report to the congregation near the end of his first year, mention is made of a prayer meeting which had developed on the Orrong Road site.

"I would urge upon the congregation the duty of considering whether we ought not to conduct missionary operations on a more extended scale." (quoted P.16 J.Wischer. "The Presbyterians of Toorak.")

The Session and Management of Toorak were not in favour of the formation of a separate congregation there on the grounds that it was too close to Toorak Church. It could not be more than a mission and so in March 1884 a Mission Hall was built in Orrong Road at a cost of just over 1000 pounds, and a missionary, Mr. Valentine, appointed.

Early in 1890, however, a deputation from the Mission conferred with the Toorak Board of Management. By this time the Mission "had virtually become a church, with morning and evening services on Sunday" (Wischer p.39) Toorak Management made the following generous proposals:

1. To make over to the new Congregation their land and building in Orrong Road with power, should it be thought desirable, to sell the property and apply the proceeds to the purchase of a new site, and the erection of a church, in a more suitable part of the district.
2. To give towards providing a suitable stipend for the Minister of the new Congregation, a grant of 150 pounds for the first year, 100 pounds for the second year, and 50 pounds for the third year!

(Report of the Board of Management for year ending 31st Mar. 1891)

Orrong Road congregation accepted these two offers and in October 1890 land was bought in Denbigh Road by Mr. Duncan Love, an elder of Toorak Church.

On October 20th 1890 Rev. A. C. Smith was called, and on 15th January 1891 he was inducted. The Orrong Road congregation accepted the proposal to hand over the Orrong Road site in exchange for that site.

In February 1891 a Board of Management was elected and preparations were made to build a brick building to seat 300 to serve for church and Sunday school purposes, and in April 1891 the contract was let for the construction of the Hall, and the opening services were held on 16th August 1891.

"The church was called St. Andrew's - its badge St. Andrew's Cross of Scotland and the Burning Bush of Moses. The church adopted the motto "We have been burned but not destroyed."

(Jill McDougall- Church Community and change. 1985

Religion in Prahran 1836-1984. Prahran Historical Series No 6)

- 1892 April 11th. The second Annual Meeting and the Depression of the 'Nineties had developed. The minister voluntarily surrendered 50 pounds of his 400 pounds stipend for the years 1892, 1893 and 1894. The manse was rented; the organist asked for a salary - "it was impossible to entertain this request." In 1892 the ladies of the congregation held work meetings and collections were taken up in 1893 for the poor "in our neighbourhood."
- 1893 the local Session was elected, the Young Peoples' Guild was formed and the first picnic was held in Caulfield.
- 1894 a branch of the P.W.M.U. was formed
a new organ purchased
There were 102 communicants, 60 having joined in 1894.
The organist was asked to have 'old and well-known tunes' as far as possible.
- 1895 The Dorcas Society was established.
- 1900 A cricket Club formed.
- 1902 The foundation stone of the church was laid by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Right Rev. Alexander Hay.
- 1907-8 In outreach to Caulfield about 100 homes were visited and a Mission Sunday school, named St. Stephens, was set up in a private home in Balaclava Road which was later to develop into a church.
- 1909 A Social and Literary Association was established and the Mens' Association of 1908 merged with this society.
- 1914-18 World War 1 brought heavy casualties to church families. Honor Boards were placed in the church in commemoration.
- 1919 Anniversary services were not held this year on account of health regulations and masks were worn in church to cope with pneumonic influenza.
- 1920 August - a strong vote for church union. In answer to the question "Do you approve of Union on the proposed basis," - 186 voted yes, 53 voted no.
- | | | YES | NO |
|--------------|-----|-----|----|
| communicants | 294 | 144 | 37 |
| adherants | 217 | 42 | 16 |
- Two young boys write Vote Yes in white chalk on the roof of the church the evening before - Sunday morning the caretaker refused to climb up to the roof. - the Fire Brigade was called in !
One of the young boys, Professor Lewis tells the story in his book "Sunday at Kooyong Road" and he was glad his mother let him stay away from church on that Sunday morning.
- 1923 Alterations are made to the Sunday school.
- 1925 a weekly freewill offering envelope system was adopted.

- 1927 Rev. David Millar, Minister of the church, was made Moderator of the Victorian Assembly
- 1930's more hymn books were purchased -
the choir had paid soloists -
- 1932 JAN.. "It was the wish of the congregation that Mr. Murphy (the base soloist) be asked to sing solos more frequently."
- 1936 APRIL 5th.. A memorial window was unveiled to commemorate the life of Mr. A. W. Jack, choirmaster for 30 years; leader of the Young Mens' Bible Class and an elder.
- 1939 MARCH.. the dedication of a hand-carved pulpit to commemorate the ministry of Rev. David Millar. (1908 - 1933)
- 1940 SEPTEMBER.. Soldiers' Welfare Association formed to provide Christmas parcels and knitted goods to be sent to the troops.
- 1941 Fiftieth Anniversary of the induction of the first minister, Rev. A. C. Smith.
- 1942 " The departure of nearly all the young men for active service... has caused a temporary suspension of the Young Mens' Bible Class." (Annual Report 1942)
- The Minister gave part of his time to Chaplaincy, conducting worship at Point Cook every Sunday morning. With the departure of Mr. Fox, the Sunday school Superintendent, for military service, the Minister acted as Superintendent from 1941-45. Mr. Fox took over again in 1946.
- Sunday school picnics were held as usual at Edithvale.
- 1946 Miss Betty Emms joined the choir as paid soprano and choir leader for three years before joining Scots Church choir in 1949. She returned to Armadale in 1957 as choir leader, was elected to the Board of Management in 1962 and became an elder in 1974.
- 1950 The Diamond Jubilee Fete raised 413 pounds, 9 shillings and 3 pence.
- 1952 NOV 10th.. Bruce McMullin was appointed a member of the Board of Management and in 1953 became Assistant Treasurer and one of the envelope stewards.
- 1953 No. 5 Wattletree Road came to the church under the (1946) will of W. McIlwrick, a solicitor and Secretary of the Board of Management from 1900 - 1936, to be used as a Manse. McIlwrick had not only been a dedicated churchman, but also a member of the Prahran Council from 1911-1943, Mayor of Prahran 1915-16 and 1930-31, with special concern for the unemployed in the depression of 1929 and funding of institutions for care of the blind.

This was a large property, and a tennis court was built behind the new manse and was officially opened by the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Edmund Herring, in February 1958

- 1953 SEPTEMBER.. Bruce McMullin became chairman of a committee to raise money for church purposes, and in October he and two other members of the Board investigated the envelope system and obtained more subscribers to the system and by
- 1956 the church was reported to be free of debt.
- 1957 Combined services of Methodists and Presbyterians at the Baptist church at Christmas; and in 1958 a combined service of the three churches at the Methodist church on Good Friday proved valuable exercises in church unity.
- 1958 NOVEMBER 3rd.. The sudden death of Dr. Gordon Murray Tallent, for many years an elder and from 1937 " the most beloved Secretary " came as a profound shock. His father had been Treasurer ; he had been baptised in the church and many remembered him as did Miss Acklom - "always at the door, before and after the service to speak to the people, especially visitors."
His memorial - carved entrance doors to the church with a Gothic arch, and above, a window depicting Christ washing the disciples' feet - was unveiled at the morning service on 18th June 1961.
- 1959 Early in 1959 Bruce McMullin became Secretary of the Board of Management and for the next 10 years two themes were dominant - the establishment of financial stability within the church and the forging of closer links with neighbouring Protestant churches.
AUGUST 2.. The dedication of the Good Samaritan window to commemorate active service in World War 2. Dr. T. Steel, who deputised for his father Mr. David Steel, handed over the window and it was unveiled by Lt-Gen. Sir Edmund Herring. The Scottish regiment made available the Guard, the Bugler and the Piper.
- 1960 MARCH.. a stewardship campaign.
Later in the year 65 Denbigh Road was purchased for 5000 pounds for a manse after a fire on the premises, and No.5 Wattletree Road was sold.
SEPTEMBER 10th.. Dedication and opening of the new manse by the State Moderator, the Right Rev. C.W.Auldism.
OCTOBER 18..The first meeting of the Session at the Manse.
70th Anniversary...
NOVEMBER 29 .. Special evening service to which the Armadale Methodists were invited - Rev. Rex Matthias was the preacher.
Combined services with Methodists and Baptists on Good Friday and Christmas Day.

- 1961 Dr.T.H.Steel became a Trustee after the death of his father, David Steel, in January 1961 and was an elder in the church up till Union and an elder in the Uniting Church for some years. His father had been Session Clerk from 1926-1956, a Trustee and a member of the Board of Management. Dr. Steel's grandfather, also Dr.T.H.Steel, had been one of the leaders of Toorak Church - Session Clerk from 1882-1892, and had been one of the two elders appointed to investigate the need to provide ordinances for Presbyterians in Armadale and Malvern in September 1884.
- APRIL..Bruce McMullin, Secretary of the Board of Management moved that a combined mission be held with the Baptists, Methodists and Anglicans in Malvern Town Hall in March 1962.
- 1962 MARCH 19-25th.. the UNITED CHURCH CRUSADE was held in Malvern Town Hall- its central theme, church unity.
- March 19... 500 attended the opening meeting on Monday night. Rev.Alan Walker, Director of the Methodist Mission to the Nation, spoke on " Christianity and Social Problems."
- March 21... Wednesday - 300 heard Dr.W.L.Carrington, Director of Marriage Guidance Council of Victoria speak on " Making the Most of Family Life."
- March 23... Friday - The Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr.F.Woods and the Moderator, Dr.A.C.Watson and the former President of the Methodist Conference, Dr.A.H.Wood - "The United Church - where we stand." (numbers attending not given.)
- March 25... Sunday - Nearly 700 heard Professor D.M.Himbury, Principal of the Baptist College speak... "On Going the Second Mile."
- JUNE...Representatives of the four churches met and decided to hold at least one combined meeting each year. A committee representing the four churches organised a visitation of contacts who came to the Mission.
- 1962-3 A series of discussion groups was initiated by Bruce McMullin to consider social issues and church unity.
- 1962 Miss Betty Emms and Miss Patricia Acklom were chosen as members of the Board of Management.
- 1964 Under the title "Christianity Today - Public Problems and Social and International Problems" - a wider audience was sought for Any Questions Panels - 500 circulars were distributed and those coming to the church hall were asked to bring written questions with them. The meeting on June 10th was concerned with Biblical Problems, with Rev.S.A.Goddard as chairman.
- The Panel - Rev.Father B.Fleming, Dean, Newman College
Rev. Roberts, Chaplain, Wesley College
Very Rev. Thomas, Dean of Melbourne
Professor Harry Wardlaw, Ormond College

Meanwhile, on the home front....

- 1962 a coffee bar was set up for young people after church on Sunday evenings.
- 1963 The Sunday school became Junior Church
- JULY 7 .. a Memorial window for Mr. David Steel was dedicated.
- 1964 OCTOBER 4 .. combined service at Holy Advent
- 1965 NOVEMBER 29 .. Dedication of the "Burning Bush" memorial window donated by Misses Shedden, in memory of their parents and to commemorate the Church's 75th Anniversary.
- 1966 FEBRUARY.. A combined census of Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans and Roman Catholics.
APRIL .. The Session supports the formation of Armadale District Interchurch Council.
- 1970 OCTOBER 4 .. Combined services on World Communion Sunday at the Baptist Church.
Visitation of the district with the Methodists, to contact new families.
- 1972 JUNE 26 ..Vote on Church Union. 77% in favour.

NOVEMBER 4 .. Congregational Meeting. Attention was drawn to the decline in attendance at Quarterly Communion from 200 in 1968 to 125 in 1972.
- 1973 A second vote on Union - 84.97% in favour.

AUGUST 19.. Bruce McMullin, who had been made Assistant Session Clerk in 1970-71, and Acting Session Clerk in 1972, was made Session Clerk.

Miss Patricia Acklom retired after 15 years in the Junior Church and Sunday School, 13 as Superintendent.
In 1974 she was elected as an elder.

Mrs. Lesley McMullin, who had been active in the Sunday School and Junior Church - leader of the Girls' Bible Class, a member and secretary of the choir, was elected an elder in 1974 and chosen as a representative of the Elders for Presbytery. In 1973 she began a course at the Theological Hall.

NOVEMBER 4 ..Dedication of a window to commemorate Noel B. Challen who died 22 September 1972.
In 1917 he became a member of the congregation, 1932 was on the Board of Management. 1942 an elder, having been leader of the Young Mens' Fellowship, a player in church cricket, football and badminton teams; a member of the choir for many years and for 10 years Session Clerk.

1974-5 *The church organ rebuilt.*

1974 *MAY 1 ..The decision of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to enter Union.*

Informal discussion between Session and Methodist leaders, on a variety of issues - boundaries of the Parish, arrangements for services to be made by a Provisional Parish Council, the position of Toorak Village Church.

1975 *AUGUST - The incorporation of Toorak Village Church by Armadale Methodist Church was accepted by the Session on an interim basis only.*

1976 *Rev. Collard succeeds Rev. Tanner.*

Bruce McMullin was made Moderator of the Presbytery of Melbourne East, a position which he held for 6 months up to the date of Union.

The Uniting Church.

1977 JUNE 22.. The Uniting Church came into being -

the Armadale churches located in the Presbytery of Nepean

The Australian Hymn Book published.- "a vital part of Union." (Breward p182)

I quote from Deaconess Lesley McMullin's " Summary of Events at Armadale Uniting Church Between the Date of Union and October 1981" which was read to the Presbytery of Nepean on the occasion of the meeting at the church in Kooyong Road. At this date she was Chaplain at Mount Royal.

"When the Uniting Church came into being in June 1977 there were four congregations in the Parish of Armadale, namely:

1. This church, which had been known as the Armadale Methodist Church, Kooyong Road, the minister at that time having been Rev. Dr. Robert Weatherlake.
2. The church which had been known as the Armadale Presbyterian Church, Denbigh Road, which was at that time under the leadership of Rev. Dick Collard.
3. Toorak Village Church, or Toorak Methodist as it had been called. This church had for some years been under the care of Armadale Methodist, and prior to union, Dr. Weatherlake had emphasised that it should stay under the Armadale umbrella, rather than become, with Toorak Presbyterian, part of Toorak Uniting Church.
4. The fourth church was the Malvern Road Congregational, which had been known as Prahran Independent Church, and was at that time under the care of Rev. John Woodruff.

At the end of that year of union, 1977, several changes took place.

Rev. John Woodruff left Malvern Road Church and went to Huntingdale. Rev. Dr. Robert Weatherlake left Kooyong Road and went to Mont Albert. Rev. Howard Abbey came from Lilydale to take the place of Dr. Weatherlake at Kooyong Road. So the parish now had four congregations and two ministers, Rev. Dick Collard and Rev. Howard Abbey.

On August 1, 1979 the two Armadale Congregations, Kooyong Road and Denbigh Road became one congregation, although at this stage they were still worshipping separately. There were three congregations in the Parish, Armadale Uniting, Toorak Village and Malvern Road.

ARMADALE UNITING CHURCH.

On the 1st November 1979 we began in the Armadale congregation to alternate the morning services on a monthly basis from Kooyong Road to Denbigh Road, with evening services continuing to be held at Kooyong Road. At the end of 1979 there were two significant changes for Armadale. Malvern Road congregation became detached from the Armadale Parish and became part of Prahran. Rev. Dick Collard also left Armadale Parish to take up chaplaincy duties at the Alfred Hospital and assist in the Prahran Parish.

That left us with one minister, Rev. Howard Abbey, and two congregations, Armadale and Toorak Village, still worshipping in three locations.

This situation has prevailed until early 1981, when with the sale of the Toorak Village Church (which needed a lot of repair) and the dispersing of its members to surrounding congregations , we became Armadale Uniting Church still worshipping in Kooyong Road and Denbigh Road alternately on a monthly basis under the leadership of Rev. Howard Abbey.

Mr. Abbey's five-year term will terminate at the end of 1982, so a new ministry will be taken up at Armadale beginning in 1893.

Questionnaires to the congregation have revealed that the congregation would like to see only one property in use, but a decision has yet to be reached on which one should be used. There are two schools of thought in the congregation. One thinks that we should leave the matter of disposal of the property in abeyance and get on with the matter of going out to the community in Armadale. The other feels that until we solve our own property problems and begin to worship in one building only, we will never get out to the community."

Early in the following year, on 14th February 1982, at the Annual General Meeting of the Uniting Church held at Denbigh Road -

"the Congregation resolved that the Presbytery of Nepean be requested to appoint a committee of at least three persons to decide which church buildings in Armadale Parish should be retained for Parish purposes."

The Presbytery Committee decided in favour of the Kooyong Road site, and on November 8th 1982, after a full discussion, the Armadale Parish Council accepted the Presbytery decision.

On January 27th 1983 the new Minister, Gerritt Peterschlingmann was inducted. He worked hard to secure suitable tenants for the Denbigh Road church, and to make the most of the Kooyong Road site. Late in 1985 Denbigh Road church was let to the Korean Church of Melbourne, and on 23rd February 1986 the renovated suite at Kooyong Road was officially dedicated.

On January 30th 1992 Rev. Dr. Max Champion was inducted as the new minister of Armadale Uniting Church.

MINISTERS AT ARMADALE METHODIST CHURCH.

John J. Brown	1886			
John. G. Wheen	1887			
James Hutchinson	1889			
E. Orlando Knee E.R.G.S.	1890			
Nathaniel Bennett	1892			
James de Q. Robin M.A.	1893			
John J. Brown	1896			
A.E. Albiston M.A., B.D.	1899			
W. T. Hiatt	1902			
E. T. Cox	1906			
D. J. Flockhart	1908			
F. J. Nance M.A.	1911	-	1913 President of	
B. W. Heath	1915		Conference.	
Brian Wibberley Mus.Bach.	1920			
Wm. Harris	1924	-	1925 President of	
H.S. Heath B.A.	1929	-	1929 " " "	
H. W. Frederick	1933	-	1933 " " "	
R. E. Hooper	1937			
H. A. G. Keck	1941			
F. T. Cleverdon E.D.	1946	-	1947 President of	
J. T. Duggleby	1950		Conference	
A. E. Waite	1953			
A. A. Lyons	1960			
R. J. Philp L.Th.	1962			
S.C. Blainey	1963			
H. J. Williams L.Th.	1966			
R. C. Weatherlake M.A;B.D;PhD.	1970-77			

MINISTERS AT ARMADALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

[Mr. Valentine. Missionary. 1884]
 A. Campbell Smith M.A. 1891
 A. J. Wade 1902
 David Millar 1908 - 1927 Moderator.
 C. J. Vernon McKeown M.A. 1933
 A. C. Weber 1949 June - October
 J. B. Allison 1949 October
 J. S. Tanner 1955
 R. McDonald Collard B.A. 1976 - 1979

MINISTERS AT ARMADALE UNITING CHURCH

R. C. Weatherlake M.A., B.D., Ph.D. 1977
 H. W. Abbey 1978
 G. Peterschlingmann B.A., B.D. 1983
 Max Champion B.A., B.D., Ph.D. 1992

Council of Elders of Armadale Uniting Church, December 1982.

(Chairperson.). Lesley McMullin

P. Acklom	Dr. T. H. Steel
L. Brown	V. Bruce
B. Terrell	B. Emms
W. Vears	I. Reeves
A. B. McMullin	E. Ryan
Rev. Howard Abbey	

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MALVERN - 1971 CENSUS STATISTICS.

1. Total Population 1971	50,560	(marginal decrease)	
2. Age Distribution.			
	<u>1961</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1971</u>
Under 20	13,707	14,344	14,542
20 - 29	6,698	7,494	8,893
30 - 59	18,342	17,762	17,067
60 and over	10,121	10,358	10,058
3. Religion.			
Church of England	17,682	16,040	14,029
Catholic and			
Roman Catholic	8,488	11,484	12,087
Greek Orthodox	300	2,121	3,496
Methodist	4,347	3,766	2,841
Presbyterian	7,471	6,679	5,545
No Religion	137	730	4,194
Not stated	?	?	2,953
4. Women in the Workforce			
1954 - 6,379	1966 - 8,432	1971 - 7,546	
5. Marital Status.			
	<u>1954</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1971</u>
Now married	22,047	22,031	22,621
Never married	20,087	22,453	22,249
Separated	644	945	947
Divorced	430	618	730
Widowed	3,651	4,012	4,013
6. Housing			
Houses	11,247	11,235	11,716
Flats & Units	1,174	4,021	5,437
Total Occupied			
Dwellings	14,289	16,337	17,263
Number of people dwelling in flats in 1971 - 9,216			
7. Place of Birth.	Total overseas born in 1971 - 12,014		
	<u>1961</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1971</u>
Australia	40,869	38,509	38,546
U.K.	3,162	4,008	3,928
Asian & African	454	1,157	1,614
Greek	94	1,393	2,158
Other European	2,383	3,392	3,553

Note: 2nd generation migrants will appear as Australian born.

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