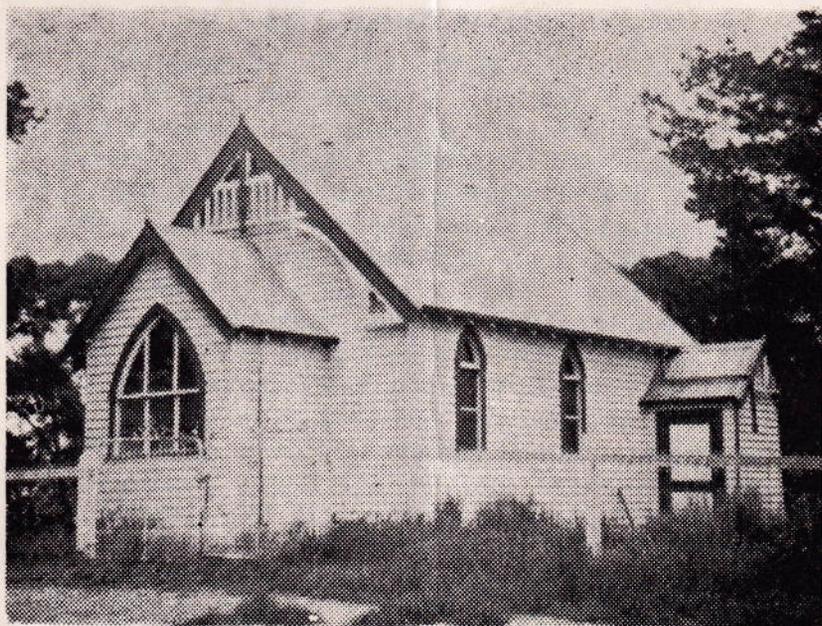


"Back-To" Souvenir Booklet

The Church Life of Arnold

CHRIST has no hands, but our hands,
To do His work today,
He has no feet, but our feet
To lead men on the way.
He has no tongue, but our tongues,
To tell men how He died.
He has no help, but our help
To bring them to His side.



St. Mary's, Arnold 1911-1976

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION—2.30 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 1976.

HYMNS—Nos. 604, 165, 242, 166.

CHURCH LIFE AT ARNOLD

The township of Arnold's Bridge came into being when gold was found at Inglewood in 1859. It got its name from David Arnold, who came from Cambridge, England, in 1845. He saw the need for a bridge over the Kangdaraar Creek to allow ore from the Inglewood field to be taken to the Tarnagulla Battery for crushing. This was built in 1859.

From these beginnings when did the Church begin to minister to the souls of Arnold's Bridge? Unfortunately, it is not known when Church ministrations began, and by whom.

EARLY YEARS

It is known that the Church of England and the Methodist denominations were the only ones to show any interest in the community at Arnold's Bridge.

METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church formed a Circuit at Tarnagulla in 1860 with the Revd. Robert S. Bunn as its first minister. His plan of services covered New Inglewood, Old Inglewood, Kingower (first service on December 23, 1860) and Newbridge, as well as three other places. He was replaced in 1861 by the Revd. John Mewton, who added New Chum (Llanely) and Bridgewater to his plan of services, along with an additional nine other centres. But there is no mention of services being held at Arnold's Bridge. The Revd. D. Annear was stationed at Inglewood in 1864, as the Assistant to the Revd. Edward King at Tarnagulla and in 1866, the Inglewood position became an Independent Circuit with the Revd. James Graham as its Minister, but still no mention of Arnold's Bridge in its plan of services. Perhaps Arnold's Bridge was served from either Bridgewater or Newbridge in those early days.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Beginnings of the Church of England at Arnold's Bridge is just as obscure. The Parish of Inglewood began in 1860, and its first Vicar, The Revd. William Chalmers beginning in May, 1862, and his district included Bridgewater, Newbridge and Tarnagulla, but there is no mention of Arnold's Bridge.

The first reference which can be found referring to Arnold's Bridge is in St. Augustine's Baptismal Register at Inglewood. We find that Baptism No. 1096, records that of Mary Ashworth, the daughter of John and Maria Ashworth of Arnold's Bridge. This service was performed by the Revd. Rowland Hayward on May 3, 1887, and from that date many places were opened up for worship. Although not mentioned, perhaps it may be assumed that Church of England services commenced at Arnold's Bridge about this time (1889) in view of the Mechanics' Institute being built in 1887—there would be a place to go to hold worship.

From the Baptismal Register (St. Augustine's) we find that Mr Hayward from 1889 to 1909 baptised 16 children from Arnold's Bridge. So it may be then assumed that the Revd. R. Hayward took the first Church of England services in Arnold's Bridge.

It is known that about the turn of the century (1900) regular weekly services were being held in the Hall, and they were held alternatively by the Church of England and the Methodist.

FIRST VICAR

The Parochial District of Tarnagulla (Diocese of Ballarat) was formed in 1905, and comprised Tarnagulla, Rheola, Llanelly and Arnold's Bridge. The first Vicar of the new district was the Revd. G. Hollow. Whether he took services at Arnold's Bridge immediately, we do not know, but by May 1, 1906 services were being held in the Arnold Hall, and were well attended. The Parochial Returns for 1906 stated that there were 26 services held with an average attendance of 30 per service, 6 communicants and there were 20 children in the Sunday School.

The Revd. E. Schweiger succeeded the Revd. G. Hollow in 1906, and he was followed by the Revd. J. A. MacQueen in 1909.

In January 1910, Mr Thomas Chamberlain gave a block of land for a site for a Church. Tenders were called for the erection of a church in September 1910. Weir Bros. of Windsor were the successful tenderers, but were unable to start building till early 1911.

Mr W. Hopkins was the Superintendent of the Sunday School in 1911, but it is on record that Mr Adam Graham was the first Superintendent of a Sunday School at Arnold's Bridge and if it was undenominational or not, we do not know.

FOUNDATION STONE PLACED

On February 2, 1911, the Foundation Stone of the new Church, to be known as St. Mary's was placed (can be seen now under the Sanctuary Windows) by Archdeacon R. J. Hayman of Maryborough, assisted by the Revds. J. A. MacQueen (Vicar), W. H. MacFarlane (Bealiba), W. H. Topp (Newbridge) and Mr. D. F. Prince (Reader at Rheola.)

CHURCH OPENED AND DEDICATED

The Church of St. Mary was opened and dedicated by the Archdeacon of The Loddon (The Ven. R. J. Hayman) on Thursday, June 29th, 1911. He was assisted by the Revds. J. A. MacQueen (Vicar), W. O. J. Jessop (Donald) and W. H. Topp (Newbridge.)

A working bee fenced the Church in November 1911.

FIRST VISIT OF BISHOP

Bishop A. V. Green of Ballarat made his first visit to St. Mary's on October 29, 1911, when he confirmed eleven candidates. The Bishop again visited St. Mary's for confirmation on October 26, 1913.

FIRST MARRIAGE

Mrs T. Wilson, the first bride to be married in St. Mary's Church, died, and was buried from St. Mary's on October 26th, 1915.

NEW VICAR

The Rev. J. A. MacQueen was farewelled in 1915, and he was followed by the Revd. T. H. Whitworth. He left in 1919, and he was followed by the Revd. F. J. Betts in 1919, then by the Revd. T. M. Smith in 1919-20, then the Revd. E. H. Hoffman, 1921-22.

The District of Tarnagulia was closed in 1922 and centres were added to Dunolly and Bealiba Districts.

WITH DUNOLLY

In July 1922, St. Mary's was placed in the Dunolly District under the Revd. C. C. Crowley. This lasted until June 1924 and with St. David's, Llanely, St. Mary's became attached to the Parish of Inglewood.

WITH INGLEWOOD

On July 1, 1924, St. Mary's, Arnold came into the Inglewood Parish where it has remained ever since. The Vicar of Inglewood in 1924 was the Revd. R. D. Peatt, B.D., M.A. Since then the following Clergy of Inglewood have ministered at St. Mary's : The Revds. Canon R. McCoy, Th.L. (1928-1933), E. H. Hoffman (1933-40), E. J. Lees, Th.L., (1940-41), A. E. Bellamy (1941-45), F. C. Willson (1945-48), J. F. Gibbons, Th.L. (1948-50), K. G. Maden, B.A., Th.L., (1950-54), A. Mourell (1954-56), E. D. T. Allitt, Th.L. (1957-60), S. H. Davies (1961-63), C. E. K. Beatty (1963-69) and L. P. G. Smith, Th.L. (1969—.)

During the life of St. Mary's, Bishops A. V. Green, D.D. and M. H. Maxwell-Gumbleton, D.D. (of Ballarat) and M. C. James, D.D., A. E. Winter, M.A., D. H. W. Shand, B.A., St. Arnaud Diocese visited and preached.

50th. JUBILEE OF ST. MARY'S

This service was held on Sunday, March 12, 1961, at 2.30 p.m. and was conducted by the Bishop of St. Arnaud (The Rt. Revd. A. E. Winter, M.A.) there being no Rector of Inglewood at that time. The Church was full—about 100 present, which included about ten people who were present at the Dedication of St. Mary's in June 1911.

"BACK-TO" ARNOLD

A "Back-To Arnold" was held on March 25-26, 1967 and a combined religious observance was held in St. Mary's on Sunday, March 26th, at 9.30 a.m. It was a service of Holy Communion and the Church was packed—165 people present. The service was conducted by the Rector of Inglewood (The Revd. C. E. K. Beatty) and shared by Pastor A. Popple of the Methodist Church.

This combined service paved the way for the Methodist congregation using St. Mary's for worship on alternate Sundays with the Church of England. This began in August 1967, and continued until January 1973, when the Methodist congregation ceased, but the Independent Methodist Church continued to use St. Mary's until January 1976, when they ceased.

DIAMOND JUBILEE SERVICES

The first one to commemorate the Jubilee of the Foundation Stone Placing was held on Sunday, February 14, 1971, at 2.30 p.m. The Church was overcrowded, and the service was taken by the Rector of Inglewood (The Revd. L. P. G. Smith, Th.L.), assisted by Pastor R. Gabrielson (Methodist). The Revd. Canon J. A. Leaver, Th. Dip., of Maryborough, preached the Occasional Sermon.

The second service to commemorate the Dedication and Opening was held on Sunday, June 27, 1971 at 2.30 p.m. Again the Church was overcrowded and the service was taken by the Rector (The Revd. L. P. G. Smith, Th.L.). Lessons were read by Pastor R. Gabrielson (Methodist) and the sermon was preached by the Bishop of St. Arnaud (The Rt. Revd. A. E. Winter, M.A.)

St. Mary's has been served by many faithful Lay people over the 65 years of its existence, too numerous to mention, but the community are very grateful for their devotion and service to God and the District—St. Mary's stands as a living witness to the principles of God.

**Leslie P. G. Smith, Th.L.,
Rector of Inglewood.**

April, 1976.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Back-To Arnold Committee sincerely thank the Revd. L. P. G. Smith, Rector of St. Augustine's, Inglewood, for his contribution of these historical facts, concerning the Church Life of Arnold.

If you are reading them for the first time they will be of great interest—If you have forgotten them, then your memories will be refreshed.

We trust that you will enjoy this small Souvenir Booklet.