

## HISTORY OF GINGIN UNITING CHURCH

Gingin was first settled around 1850 and soon after this a group of Methodists started meeting. The first service was conducted in July 1854 at the homestead "Creaton", by the Rev William Lowe, who travelled the 50 miles from Perth on horseback. At this service, nine children were baptised.

In 1869, Thomas James Jones, who lived in the little cottage in Weld Street (now Mrs Jones cottage) and then over the road at the Granville (now CU@Park), surrendered part of his land of SL262 as a gift to the Wesleyan Church. Charles Masters was engaged to build the Church and the clay to make the bricks was obtained from the gully on the other side of Weld Street. The Church was completed in 1870 and a visiting clergyman, Rev McInnes conducted services.

Regular services were then held by lay preachers and Home Missioners. The first ordained minister, Rev Henry Robbins, was appointed in 1898. By this time, the railway had arrived in Gingin (1891) which made travelling much easier, though it would be many years before motor transport replaced the horse and cart as the usual means of transport.

In 1914, a Methodist manse was constructed behind the Church, and was extended in 1921. It was built of weatherboard and consisted of four rooms with a passage from the front door. The kitchen and bathroom were enclosed off the back veranda. A tennis court also existed between the house and the railway line. The Manse was demolished in 1969 due to white ant infection.

Many ministers came and went over the years, including sisters Elise and Ruth Rudeforth from 1915-1919. (Ruth, then Mrs Jones also took charge

of the Church during World War 2). The last resident missionary, Neville Creagh left in 1953 and since that time the Church has continued, thanks to the services of visiting missionaries, ministers, theological students, lay preachers and members of the congregation.

During the 1990's the Church was completely renovated and a small hall built, which has now been equipped with an air-conditioner. The outside of the Church was repainted in 2009 and in the last few years the inside of the Church was renovated. We now also have a magnificent stained glass window in the porch, made by Dale Jansen which was dedicated at the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service.

Rev Geof Lilburne was our Minister from October 2012 until November 2022. We do not currently have a full-time minister and instead we have a diverse roster of visiting preachers throughout the year, or we run the services ourselves.

Our special services are at Easter, our Anniversary in July, Harvest Festival and Christmas Eve. We also join with other Churches in Gingin every fifth Sunday, at the World Day of Prayer and at Carols in the Park at Christmas.

One of our main Church missions is YouthCare, supporting chaplaincy at Gingin District High School – a very important outreach to the community.

There are activities for children at each Sunday service, and a Nativity service at Christmas. In 2013 we commenced Messy Church with an enthusiastic band of helpers including members of other churches, and this continues to run several times per year. From the start it has been very successful with often up to 50 children and their families joining together with lots of fun activities based on a biblical theme. There is a short worship time and also afternoon tea and a simple evening meal.

Our Church continues to be maintained by a small, but enthusiastic congregation, with outreach to the local community and beyond, and we hope it will continue to do so for many years to come.

#### EVENTS SINCE 1854

- 1854 First Methodist Church service conducted at the home of John and Ann York at *Creaton*, Gingin on 28 July 1854 by William Lowe, who travelled the fifty miles out from Perth on horseback, baptising 8 children.
- 1868 July 4<sup>th</sup> Deed of surrender of an acre of land by Thomas James Jones of *Granville*, for the building of the Church.
- 1870 Methodist Church built in Weld Street, Gingin by Charles Master, with the minister travelling up from Perth for services.
- 1898 First resident missionary, Mr Walter Prior. Started the annual exhibition. First ordained minister to live in Gingin – Rev Harry Robins.
- 1914 Manse built in Church Street, Rev Arthur Mason being the resident minister.
- 1921 Manse extended – now 4 rooms with kitchen and bathroom on back verandah.
- 1916-18 Ministry by Rudeforth sister, home missionaries to Gingin.  
1941-43 Elsie Rudeforth, now Mrs Eber Jones conducted services, aided by the army padres stationed in Gingin.
- 1947-53 Seven Methodist Missioners. Working at different times, for about 3 Months.
- 1949 Car purchased for use of Minister, sold in 1953.
- 1952 Conveniences installed by Gingin Road Board at back of Church.
- 1953 Last resident missionary to Gingin – Mr Neville Creagh.
- 1953-57 Mogumber Mission staff took the Church services.
- 1967 Manse demolished. Theological students came up from Perth to take the services at this time.
- 1970 April 5<sup>th</sup> centenary of the Gingin Methodist Church. Old Muchea schoolroom purchased in Archibald Street, Muchea for Church Services, Sunday School and events.
- 1977 Pulpit, altar table, font, and large cross to Gingin Church from Mogumber Mission.

- June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Church at Gingin became the Uniting Church in the Swan Presbytery. Regular Ministers/lay preachers for services twice a month.
- 1978 Church now under the National Trust.
- 1982 September 5<sup>th</sup> Activities Room opened behind the Church.
- 1983 Organ replaced with electronic one.
- 1984 Old school building at Muchea demolished – plaque on site.
- 1988 Reproduction stained glass windows installed, instead of light green venetian blinds. Church carpeted.
- From 1990 Galvanised roof replaced with shingles, donated by Mr DH Dewar. Damp proofing to Church; interior and exterior of Church painted; cushions for pews; lattice erected around toilet. Gardens reticulated.
- 1999 Church Council commences in place of previous Parish Council. Sculpture in foyer, donated by Mrs Vida Gibson.
- 2000 April. Chaplaincy commenced at Gingin District High School.
- 2002 23 June 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Uniting church celebrated with a breakfast and service. Light to toilet.
- 2003 Improvements to electricity. Muchea block to Chittering Shire.
- 2004 Home Group bible study commences. June - new organ
- 2005 13 Mar – Farewell service for Rev Norm Hogg. Feb – curtains to Activity Room. June – native garden. Old Agricultural Hall chairs to tip. July – ceiling installed in Activities Room. Microwave. Oct - trees chopped near Activity Room.
- 2006 Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Rev Brian Heath commences Ministry 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month. Paving and gardens redone.
- 2007 New Urn. Garden furniture. Natives to garden and side fence. Together in Song hymnbooks purchased. Chaplain at GDHS working for 5 days.
- 2008 Name tags. Advent club commences with Nativity Presentation at Christmas service.
- 2009 Rail & post replaced. New Notice board. Church roof oiled. Fire extinguisher for Activities room. November – outside of Church completely painted.
- 2010 Progressive Dinner in January. Autumn Fair & Car Boot Sale commences on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in March until 2013. 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Church building celebrated in July with service attended by Moderator, Ken Williams followed by lunch. Together in Song CD music used for services and CD player purchased. Old organ donated to Godwins.
- 2011 Fold-up table purchased. Old tree in grounds cut down. Church – guttering and downpipes renewed. Evening home group this year. Advent club continues with Nativity Presentation at service and Carols in the Park. Minute book 1977-2009 and other documents to UC Archives.
- 2012 Rev Brian Heath leaves 23 September and Rev Dr Geof Lilburne commences in October on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays where possible. Activities Room - new galvanised iron roof , trees trimmed on either side, gutter guard to gutters, new carpet.
- 2013 New Curtains, Air conditioner & whiteboard to Activities Room. Bibles for pews in Church. Messy Church commences 2 monthly in June. Native plants to front garden.
- 2014 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Home Group Bible Study. Stained glass window for porch. Celebrated 160 years of worship. Keyboard or CD now used for music.
- 2015 Windows at front of church repainted. Church renovations. White storage cupboard in Activities Room & new gas stove. Path redone. Organ to Treasure Trove. Fold up tables for Messy Church.
- 2016 Inside of church painted and skirting boards renewed. Six new hymnbooks.
- 2017 Trees around activities room removed or cut back. Roof oiled. 12 Hymn Books donated by South Perth Uniting Church. Patio, wall & small shed built. New gardens. 2 x gazebos purchased.