

## **16. Centenary Windows**

The beautiful stained glass windows in the west wall were the gift of Mr W E Whitehead to celebrate the centenary of Methodism in Victoria in 1935, and to commemorate the work of the Victoria Home Missions and the Methodist Inland Mission.

## **17. Memorial Plaque**

The plaque below the centenary windows is a memorial to Mr and Mrs W E Whitehead, foundation members. Mr Whitehead was a trustee for many years, secretary of the Church Trust, and, in turn, secretary and superintendent of the Sunday School in the days of large enrolments. For many years he was lay treasurer

of Victoria Home Missions and the Inland Mission. Mr Whitehead's dedication and service were equalled by the loyal devotion of Mrs Whitehead.

## **18. Temporary Display of Memorabilia**

### **19. J K Forsyth Memorial**

The late Major-General J K Forsyth CMG made his home in Hawthorn, and for many years lived in close proximity to the Auburn Church, of which he was a trustee. The memorial was erected by the 4th Light Horse Regiment Association, of which he was president.

### **20. Rolls of Honour**

There are two Rolls of Honour, one to servicemen and women who served in the Great War, and the other to those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the Second World War.

### **21. Stone from Wesley's Chapel**

To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Auburn Church building in 1939, a piece of stone from Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London, dated 1777, was presented

to the Trustees, and thus established a direct link between this church and the foundations of Methodism in England.

### **AFTERWORD**

The Auburn Methodist Church (now Uniting) was always regarded within the Methodist Church in Victoria as one of its most historic churches. It was often referred to as a "Cathedral of Methodism", and many of Methodism's finest ministers

and preachers regarded the appointment to this church as the high point in their service within the Church. Many were appointed to the highest office, of President of the Conference, during their term of office here.

We hope you have enjoyed your tour of the Church, and that you will sign the Visitors' Book in the Narthex before you leave.

*March 2004*

# Notes for a self-guided tour of Auburn Uniting Church

**T**he building now known as Auburn Uniting Church was designed by

architect Alfred Dunn (1865–1894) in the American Romanesque style. It was opened on 12 September 1889. Items of interest relating to the history and the people of this congregation, since its founding in 1853, may be observed by following the numbers set out herein. Begin in the Narthex, and follow

the numbers around the Church in an anti-clockwise direction.

These notes are an updated version of those prepared by the Reverend Geoffrey Vertigan, minister of this Church from 1971 to 1974. Separate notes are available for the Organ, the Hall and the Manse.

## ***NARTHEX***

### **1. Hydraulic Engine**

The hydraulic engine was used to power the Organ from 1889 until replaced by an electric motor in about 1922. Melbourne once had many buildings with lifts powered by hydraulic power, but very few examples of a hydraulic engine to power an organ blower are in existence.

## ***SANCTUARY***

### **2. Pews**

As well as being an architect, Alfred Dunn was renowned as a furniture designer, and designed furniture for some of the grand homes of the Land Boom era. It is almost certain that he designed the pews and other original furniture in the Church himself. Several redundant pews have been removed, but they are in safe keeping and will be used for additions and repairs as required.

### **3. Cato Memorial Windows**

The late Mr F J Cato, in whose memory the stained glass windows in the east wall were unveiled, was a leading layman at Auburn for many years. An owner of Moran & Cato, grocers, his interests extended far beyond the Auburn Church. His generosity to Home and Overseas Missions and to educational institutions was a feature of his stewardship. "Cato College" and the "Cato Lecture", delivered every three years by a preacher from overseas, owed their existence to his vision and generosity.

## ***THE MINISTER'S VESTRY***

4. Historic items include:

- the photograph of the laying of the Foundation Stone on 26 July 1888;
- the Architect's Drawing of the proposed suite of buildings;
- the brass and porcelain hat and coat hooks;
- the wash basin in a cedar cabinet – a reminder of the days when preachers had long and dusty travel on horseback in order to fulfil preaching engagements;
- a photograph of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of 1864;
- a facsimile of John Wesley's commission to Dr Coke in America "to preside over the flock of Christ" and to administer the sacraments;
- a photograph of the Church in the 1920s, showing the picket fence which preceded the brick fence.

## ***SANCTUARY***

### **5. The Pulpit**

Built in 1962 to replace the earlier central preaching point, the new pulpit is a fitting

memorial to the Reverend Professor AE Albiston, a "prince of preachers". He was stationed at Auburn in 1917, and altogether had an association with this church over a span of 42 years. He was President of the Methodist Conference in 1919, Professor of Theology at Queen's College, University of Melbourne, for 17 years, and President-General of the Methodist Church of Australia in 1938–41.

### **6. Symbolic Monograms and Pulpit Drape**

There are four monograms on the pulpit side panels, designed by Roy Brisbane, the gift of John and Ella Purvis in 1972. The drape with the ancient IHS monogram was made and donated by Beth Littler, wife of the Reverend Ian Littler, minister 1997–2002. It replaces an earlier one donated by the Reverend and Mrs J Stanley Waite (1960–67). An adjacent brass plate explains the meanings of the symbols.

### **7. Ambo**

The Ambo was given to the Church in 1995 by Swinburne University of Technology

to commemorate the life and work of George Swinburne, founder of the University and long-term member of this congregation.

### **8. Font**

The baptismal font was the gift of the Auburn Congregation in memory of the Reverend Robert Williams, who died in 1944, while President of the Methodist Conference and Minister at Auburn.

### **9. Organ Memorials**

Not visible, but splendidly audible, are the Choir/Positive Organ and the Swell Mixture, additions to the Organ during its 1967 re-building (see separate notes).

They are gifts in memory of John and Katherine Woodhouse, the gift of their family, and of Arthur James Dangerfield, the gift of his wife. The refurbished Clarinet 8' reed stop is the gift of Mrs Winsome Cousins, in memory of Miss Winsome Clucas, a faithful and devoted chorister from 1933 to 1985.

**The organist's chair** is a thanksgiving gift of Mrs L Stringer, a devoted and loyal chorister from 1919 to 1983.

### **10. Flower Pedestals**

The twin flower pedestals in the Communion area were donated by the then Trustees and the Congregation in memory of the Reverend Henry Clarnette, President of the Methodist Conference in 1953, who died while Minister at Auburn in 1954.

### **11. The Screen**

Standing between the Communion Table and the Organ console is a simple but effective screen in wood, the gift of the late Dr Leonard Ball and Mrs Ball. It was designed by Mr Roy Brisbane, a former member of the congregation, who was until his retirement an artist with The Herald and Weekly Times.

### **12. The Cross**

The Calvary Cross, with its three steps said to signify Faith, Hope and Love, stands immediately above and behind the Communion Table, and perpetuates the memory of William and Mary White, a gift of their son Mr Graham White.

### **13. The Communion Table**

The gift of the Whitehead family in memory of their parents, Walter and Lydia Whitehead. The Communion Table is the focal point of public worship.

The silver candlesticks on the Table are the gift of the Contag family, post-World War II refugees, who lived in the Manse as guests of the Reverend and Mrs Stanley Weeks from 1957–1959.

### **14. The Lectern**

This fine example of ecclesiastical furniture, with the traditional eagle bearing the Holy Scriptures, is symbolic of the holy gospel taking flight into all the world. It is a memorial to the late R Aitken Pryor, a former trustee and treasurer, and his wife Eleanor, who were foundation members at Auburn, the gift of their family.

### **15. The Prayer Desk**

In October 1962, Mr John Purvis and his wife Ella celebrated fifty years of marriage

and forty years of active association with the Auburn Church. As an act of thanksgiving to God they presented the Prayer Desk, which is used by the minister at every service of worship.