

West Mitcham Church and Cemetery



1854

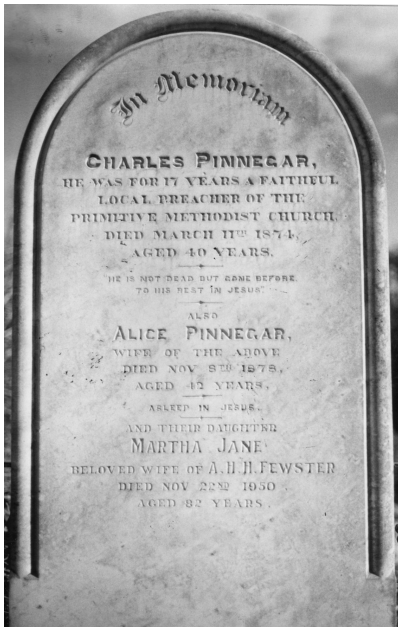
Township of West Mitcham laid out by Custance & Hinkley, contractors. Thomas Lashmore began a slaughterhouse and shop on the corner of Blythwood Road and Brook Street, this property was later owned by Mases also butchers.

1862-3

Services held at Robert Chaplin's residence near the corner of Blythwood Road, and Braemar Street and also at Belair where Robert's son John Chaplin lived.

1865

A Trust was formed and a block of land bought for a Primitive Methodist Church from J Mellor, the church was opened on 3 Sept 1865.

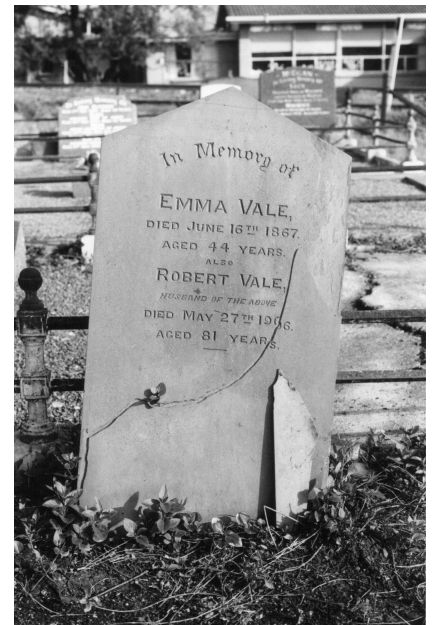


1867
Robert Vale has the oldest tombstone although the plot was not taken out until 1880.

1870
Sunday School established with 51 children and grew to 82 by the end of the year.

1874
Charles Pinnegar was buried in Plot No.1 in the cemetery and was one of the original trustees.

1879
Railway line surveyed through the church property dividing the Church from the Cemetery. (see front page picture)



1883
Railway line opened and with it came many more residences to the area.

1884
Dec 16 – the foundation stone of a new church was laid by Mrs Chiles and the building was designed by Thomas Parker. Built of Mitcham blue stone by J Bruce.

1885
April 15 – New building opened.

1888
A new trust was formed still including members of the Chaplin family plus J. Blythman and George Creek.

1923
Slate roof replaced, a new ceiling was fitted and the windows made to open!



1935
Young People's Christian Endeavour Society founded.

1940
A new room was built on the northern side of the old church for the Sunday School.

1955
Soldiers' Memorial Hall built and opened by Thomas Playford MP.

1965
Original church demolished for a new hall, vestry, classrooms and kitchen.

1967
Father & Son Teas introduced in 1927 were discontinued after being an annual event.

1973
Belair Road widened resulting in 43 re-interments in the cemetery.

1990
Five home units built on the old tennis courts adjoining the southern side of the cemetery.

1994
Church closed and the congregation encouraged to transfer to Uniting Churches at Mitcham or Daw Park.

1995

Land Care Environment Action Project conducted for six months to record the "Changing Lifestyles in a Mitcham Community" by Workskill and Mitcham Council with 15 to 11 trainees.

1996

Human Kinetics, publishers, were established by John & Chris Halbert in the church complex.

Sources:

History of the City of Mitcham - WA Norman 1953.

The first Century - West Mitcham Methodist Church 1865-1965

West Mitcham Methodist Sunday School centenary booklet 1970.

The Torrens Park Estate - Oborn & Preiss 1981.

LEAP program research 1995

Family Connections in the Cemetery

Over 50% of the people in the cemetery are related to each other.

The most well known names from around the West Mitcham area of over 60 years ago are Chaplin, Stagg, Creek and Blythman. These names dominate the tombstones of the cemetery.

The Chaplin's first came to Mitcham in 1862 and by marriage, became related to Cooter, Betts, Pope, Duggan, Rundle. The long standing Creek's are related to the Huish, Sowden, Kennedy, Rosewarne, Masterman, and Harriet and Eli Smith. The Huish are also believed to be related to Barnes as a stillborn child by that name is recorded as being buried with a Huish. There are at least 4 different Smith families buried in the cemetery. The Blythman's are also related to the Rayner's, Bennie, Evans, Jacob, Canny, McEgan, Moyse, Mules, and Stella and George Smith. In turn the Stagg family are connected to O'neils, Chants, Gates and Gales.

The Drefke family lived along Blythwood Road and in Brooke Street. Most of the males worked in the quarry. The Drefke's are connected to Traeger, Gill, Warnecke, and Glasgow.

We have assumed that some of the names are related as they share the same plot and/or tombstones. The following names fall into this category.

Pinnegar, Fewster, Crocker and Wright.

Huston and, Emma & Thomas Smith.

Peters and Wells.

Luxon and Yeoman.

Wood and Patterson.

Laidlaw and Shaughnessy

Vale, May and Gully.

Germain and Stiller.

Chipleigh and Wilkinson.

Rodda and Fenn.

Drew and Michell.

Slee, Hunt and Fenn.

Seal and Faulkner.

Townsend and Bath.

Taylor and Halls.

Stephenson and Parker.

Koll and Hollard.

Morrison, Potter and Hart.

Glashom and Page.

Beotcher, Dreftel and Bergstrom.

Baker, Cleary, Carter, Rogers and Wilkinon.

Camm, Wright and Norton.

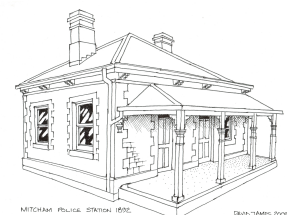
It is interesting that in plot 32, which is now under the fence line near the road, 7 infants under the age of 4 years were buried. The surnames of these children were Holingworth, Procter (3 years), Oneil (5 months), two Cleants (1 month and 2 days), White (stillborn), and Slee (9 months).

West Mitcham Cemetery Map

Burial records are available at the Mitcham Heritage research Centre.

Prepared by Mitcham Local History Service and Heritage Research Centre

103b Princes Rd, Mitcham, SA 5062
February 2005



MITCHAM POLICE STATION 1902

Drawn 2/10/05

