

COMMUNITY

From its very earliest days, the Church of Christ has been prominent in the local community. The names Moysey, Brough, Le Page and Charman are not associated with the history of the church alone, but of the whole community. In 1976 the Church established the Chesterville Retirement Village, which has grown to comprise 50 well-appointed independent-living units. The Church initiated a range of community education programs from the 1970's: the School for Continuing Education became Cheltenham Leisure and Learning in 1978 and was incorporated into Bayside Learning in 1979. In 1986 the Cheltenham Neighbourhood House opened in the Red Brick House on the corner of Chesterville Rd and Pine St, changing its name to Cheltenham Community Education and Activity Centre when it moved into the new facilities in 1997, and to Cheltenham Community Centre in 2008. Today, CCC is a significant provider of community services and a Registered Training Organisation, incorporating Child Care, Literacy Centre, Computer, Creative Arts and Lifeskills classes. Southway Counselling Centre commenced in 1997 under the Direction of Mary Dewberry, and continues to offer the community high quality counselling at low cost. The LifeStreams Spirituality Centre began under the ministry of Jenny Georgiadis in 1999 and is an exciting venture that seeks to promote the pursuit of wholeness and wellbeing amongst the wider community. The Pastoral Care ministry of the church has always been extended to the wider community, and we are pleased to offer food parcels, financial assistance, meals and friendship to people in need. Our pastoral care team presently takes worship and communion to three 'external' sites: Kingston Centre (since 1970), Chesterville Retirement Centre and Cheltenham Manor.



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Our Heritage

SOUTHERN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

- People Matter
 - Spirituality Matters
 - Community Matters
 - Life Matters

Established
1857

Our Heritage

A CHURCH THAT HAS GROWN WITH THE COMMUNITY AROUND IT

The Church of Christ in Cheltenham had its origin in two beginnings: one in the northern end of the district and one in the south. On his arrival from Scotland, James Keir commenced a communion service in his home on the Nepean Road. Eventually the gathering alternated between the Keir home and the home of Thomas Walker, who having come from the town of Chester in England, named the area around his home *Chesterville*. By 1859, the group—which included such other names as Allen, Brough, Cameron, Fairlam, Holdsworth, Le Page, Meeres, Monk, Organ, Penny, Perry, Potts, Sears and King—had built a small chapel near the corner of Wickham and Chesterville Roads. During 1858, a second group had begun meeting in the Charman family home on the corner of Charman and Balcombe Roads. Names associated with this group included Bodley, Charman, Fisher, Hayes, Hilliar, Judd, Moysey and Ruse. In 1860 they built a chapel on the corner of Charman Road and Patty Street. It was enlarged in 1866 and it became the meeting place of the two groups when they came together around 1870.

SPORT

Members of the Cheltenham Church were instrumental in establishing cricket, football and tennis teams in the district. After World War II, when churches began establishing their own clubs and competitions, the church formed a Cricket Club which operated from 1948-1980 (and continues today as the Cheltenham Park Cricket Club), a Football Club (1967-1974, now Cheltenham Football Club), a Tennis Club (1920's to present), and other teams including Netball (girls and mixed), Basketball and Indoor Cricket.

FIVE YEARS LATER the church was ready to expand. Feeling a little removed from the centre of the district, they began meeting in the Mechanics' Institute (Nepean Road) on Sunday evenings. They bought land near the corner of Chesterville and Nepean Roads, and erected a new brick chapel on the site in 1878. This chapel still stands and continues to be an integral part of the life of Southern Community Church of Christ. The official opening of the chapel on 8th December 1878 was reported as "the largest religious service ever held in Cheltenham." On Monday 9th December over 500 people attended a dinner at the Mechanics' Institute which was followed by a public meeting in the new chapel. The chapel opening also marked the commencement of the ministry of Mr. G.B. Moysey.

As the Church continued to grow, so various improvements and additions were made to the buildings. The Pine Street Hall (as it has become known) was built for the Bible School in 1902, the foundation stone being laid by Mrs Tuck, wife of R.W. Tuck who served in leadership of the Sunday School and Church for over forty years. The 'E.T. Penny Memorial Hall' was erected for the kindergarten in 1920.



The front of the chapel was remodeled in 1956 in time for the centenary celebrations. Another hall for the children's ministry was built in 1958, and the Ray Barnett Christian Education Centre was opened on 29th April 1962.

Significantly, this auditorium was incorporated into the building of the new complex in 1997 and is used extensively in the current program of the Church, Community Centre and other groups.



In 1967 a Carillon was installed in the church tower in memory of Mr Fred Deane. The section housing the V.C. Stafford Library was added in 1968 to link the chapel with the Pine Street Hall.

The 1970's and 1980's, with people such as Rev. Dr. Gordon Moyes and Rev. Gerald Rose as Senior Ministers, saw significant growth in the life and mission of the church.

This development was significantly supplemented by the amalgamation of the Cheltenham, East Bentleigh and Hampton Street Churches of Christ in 1993, and a comprehensive new facility was designed and built to accommodate the ever-increasing activity of the amalgamated Church and Community Centre. It was opened on 30th November 1997. Since then the facility has continued to be expanded and reshaped to accommodate the growing community that calls this busy hub home.



MUSIC

Music has been a strong and vital part of the life of Cheltenham/Southern. In the very early days, the congregation was known in the area for its energetic singing—the Kingston Historical Society website comments on baptisms that "took place at Munday's Beach (Cheltenham beach) and involved total immersion, with hearty hymn-singing by the crowd gathered on the sand." Cheltenham choirs under the leadership of people like Val Woff and Fay Ferris were widely appreciated. In 1966 the Christian Women's Evening Fellowship formed a choir which became the *Lowanna Singers* in 1968, entertaining and serving church and other groups around the state for over 40 years and raising thousands of dollars for charities in the process. Children's musicals have also been significant through the years. Other choirs that have formed in the life of the church include *Reflection* (1975-1981) and *Pilgrimage* (1983-2008).

Breathe
Nurture Your Soul