

August 2016 marks the Centenary of the Unveiling of St Paul's World War I Honour Board

On Sunday 13 August 1916, His Excellency the Governor General unveiled the church's Honour Board.



(The first two extracts are taken from www.monumentaustralia.org.au. The third is from Trove.)

'His Excellency the Governor-General will unveil the church honour board tomorrow morning at the service in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Leichhardt Street. There will also be unveiled, by relatives, brasses to the late Dr. McSwaine, Dr. Nisbet, Rev. A. Gillison, Lieutenant Colin Ross-Munro, Lieutenant Holmes Nisbet, and Private Thomas Windle. The Rev. Moorhead Legate will be the preacher at both services.' The Brisbane Courier (Qld), 12 August 1916.

'A plaque commemorates Reverend Andrew Gillison, a minister of the church from 1905 to 1909, who died of wounds at Gallipoli in World War One when serving as a chaplain.



In respect of the death through wounds received on the battlefield at Gallipoli, of the Rev. Andrew Gillison, M.A., chaplain major to the 14th Battalion of the Australian expeditionary forces, special memorial services were conducted in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Leichhardt street on Sunday evening last, at which charge the late minister was prior to his departure for the south, for many years the much loved pastor. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. R. Stalley, of Sandringham, Melbourne, a very close friend of Mr. Gillison, and Rev. R. Moorhead Legate, minister of St. Pauls.

The pulpit and railings were draped in mourning, and over the back wall of the pulpit was gracefully hung a large Union Jack, on which was placed a beautiful white wreath, indicating that the reverend gentleman had fallen whilst doing duty for his country. In the font and on the communion table were beautiful white wreaths.' The Telegraph (Brisbane), 6 September 1915.

Front inscription
IN MEMORIAM
The Rev. ANDREW GILLISON, H.A.,
Minister Of This Church
1905 - 1909
And Who As Chaplain To The
Forces In The Great War, Died
AT GALLIPOLI
Of Wounds Received
When Succouring His Comrades.
This Tablet Is Erected
By The Congregation.

UNVEILING OF MEMORIALS

'A solemn service of commemoration was held in St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Leichhardt street, yesterday morning, when an honour board bearing the names of members and adherents of the church who are serving at the Front, or have fallen, was unveiled by his Excellency the Governor General and brass mural tablets to the memory of three former ministers of the church and three soldiers killed in action were unveiled by friends and relatives.

His Excellency, who was accompanied by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, was received at the entrance to the church by Sir Robert Philp and Messrs Jas. Forsyth, MLA, and James Chapman (managers). A large congregation was present, including a new draft of reserves of naval cadets, the Rev. R. Moorhead Legate being naval chaplain.



Mr Legate preached from the words, "And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty; and the gold was the gold of Parvaim." The beautiful temple that Solomon had built to the glory of God had crumbled in dust, he said, but God was now building to Himself a noble temple throughout the world, the living stones of which were the men and women the Master Builder had selected with due care. The board and tablets to be unveiled bore the names of those who had ministered in holy things, and whose full value would only be known when the secrets of all hearts had been revealed, and of men who had made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives for their friends. All these had set a shining example for those who remained behind to follow, and were as precious stones built into the temple of the Most High.

His Excellency then unveiled the honour board declaring: "I unveil this board of honour to the glory of God and in commemoration of those who have died in the King's service, and for our sakes." Here followed the unveiling, one by one, of the brass tablets, the scene being pathetic as one relative after another stepped from a pew and removed the Union Jack covering. The honour board bore the following names: - W. A. Fisher, Kenneth McSwaine, Sir David Hardie, M.D., Dr John Hardie, T. Windle, Sydney Jones, J. M. Davidson, A. Galbraith, Nurse Dorothy Brown, T. Holmes Nisbet, John Fleming, Cyril M. Windrum, John M'C. Hodge, Keith Ross-Munro, Colin Cameron Ross-Munro, G. Groundwater, W. Argo, Harold Paton, Thomas Macleod, David R. Stitt, Fred. J. Biggs, Victor A. Spiers, W. Fleming, James Allen, Alec. B. Laing, Alex W. Nisbet, W. McDonald, Henry G. Gessner, Ranald Ross-Munro.

The tablets were to the memory of the Rev John Fleming McSwaine, D.D., LL.D., minister of the church from 1876 to 1898; the Rev Thomas Nisbet, D.D., minister from 1898 to 1904; the Rev Andrew Gillison, M.A., minister from 1905 to 1909, and who, as chaplain to the forces, died at Gallipoli of wounds received when succouring his comrades; Thomas Windle, 9th Batt. A.I.F. who was killed in action at Gallipoli May 8, 1915; Thomas Holmes Nisbet, Lieutenant Otago Infantry, killed in action at Gallipoli, August 7, 1915, aged 23 years; and Cameron Colin Ross-Munro, Lieut. Royal Field Artillery, killed in action at Merville, France, April 23, 1916.'

Acknowledgements

Photographs supplied by John Huth / Dianne Parker, Presbyterian Church of Qld Archives

<http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/display/103526-st.-paul%60s-honour-roll>

This wooden honour roll commemorates those who served in World War One. It was originally unveiled in 1916 with additional names being added to the roll at later dates.

Information on the names of those listed on the Honour Board today has been compiled using the World War 1 Records search facility of the National Archives. This collection of information can be found at

<http://stpaulspcevents.blogspot.com.au/p/our-war-history.html>

The **About Us** page on St Paul's Presbyterian Church website also references Honour Boards.

<http://www.stpaulspc.org.au/about/our-story/>