



1865

**St Thomas' Church
Rondebosch
16th Aug 2015**



2015

**150th Anniversary
4th Sunday of Renew 5
Building a World of Freedom & Justice**

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ

**The length, breadth, depth and height of your love
is beyond our understanding:**

**Grant that this love may so transform us
through the Living Bread you give us
that we may be bread for others as we seek
to reach out to the oppressed and the desperate
and work for justice, reconciliation and peace
among all people.**

For your name's sake. Amen

WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES at which our 150th Anniversary mandala will be blessed.

NT Lesson: Ephesians 5:15-20 p230
Gospel: John 6:51-58 p115

7.45 am HOLY EUCHARIST
Lay Ministers: Donald Grant, Elspeth Scott Millar
Reader: Sally Michell
Hymns 171; 203; 351; 396; 205

9.30 am HOLY EUCHARIST
Lay Ministers: Jacqui Samson, Tom Vine
Reader: Kathy Collins
Hymns: 171; 203; 351; 396; 415; 205
Tea will be served in the Koinonia Room after the service.

The Story of St Thomas's Church from Camp Ground Road Mission Chapel to the Church of the Parish of St Thomas, Rondebosch

On the 11th of February 1863 the Rector of St Paul's Archdeacon John Harries Thomas and his two Churchwardens, William Anderson and Thomas Jones, met the Colonial Secretary, Rawson W Rawson, and agreed to the building of a mission school room where lessons could be given to poor children during the week and religious instruction at Sunday services.

Mrs Sophy Gray, wife of the Bishop Robert Gray, was asked to draw up the plans and the Archdeacon agreed to manage the building work. On 11 March 1863 the St Paul's vestry resolved to adopt Mrs Gray's plans and on the 15th of April George Robb's tender of £630 was accepted.

On the 29th of September 1863, a piece of ground at Rondebosch, two acres in extent, was granted by the Governor to the Diocese for a Mission School Chapel. Work began with Sophy Gray laying the foundation stone of the chapel on 22 October 1864. The resulting chapel, known as the Camp Ground Road Mission School Chapel, was about 15 x 6 metres in plan with a thatched roof and a small porch with a bell-cote over the Tudor doorway facing Campground Road.

Bishop Robert Gray opened the mission school chapel on the 16th of August, 1865.

In time, as the village of Rondebosch developed and the farm labourers moved further out, the school closed for lack of pupils and the church services became the only function of the mission chapel. In about 1902, in line with the evolution from a school room into a church, Canon George Ogilvie, Rector of St Paul's after his retirement as Principal of the Diocesan College, had a vestry added to the south side of the chapel.

Further alterations included the opening of the vestry to the chapel via a wide granite archway, opening the north and south walls with arches to link the nave to new side aisles and the construction of an apse with three windows east of the sanctuary. At this

time the original bell-cote was relocated to the apex of the west gable, where it has stood ever since and weathered the worst of Cape storms. Of the original mission chapel only the west gable with the six-leafed window, the south and north walls of the current Cry Room and the porch, survived the alterations.

These extensive alterations rendered the original chapel to a regular church.

**The Rector of St Paul's, Reverend John Brooke,
dedicated the church to St Thomas on
20 December, 1903.**

The fact that St Thomas's had become a church and not a school raised administrative complications and it took the passage through parliament of the Rondebosch Church Lands Act of 1909 for the Diocesan Trustees to obtain full title to St Thomas's Church and its precincts.

**Archbishop William Carter consecrated the church
to the Greater Glory of God on the
21st of November, 1928.**

St Thomas's continued as a chapelry of St Paul's until April 1947 when it became an independent parish with its own rector and church council.

In 1963, in preparation for the Centenary in 1965, major extensions were designed by the architect Kilgour Parker, and carried out by the builder Cabion. These included a considerable enlargement of the porch, relocating its door to the east side to reduce interference from the noise of traffic.. The addition of large north and south transepts to boost seating capacity to 400, a new chancel and sanctuary and a new apse with the original three plus two new windows, two large vestries and a storeroom east of the apse, all resulted in the floor plan enjoyed to this day. The thatched roof was replaced with the dark red tiles.

**The Centenary alterations were consecrated
by Archbishop Selby Taylor in July 1965.**

During a series of workshops with parishioners in May and June 2014, it was decided to mark the approaching 150th Anniversary with a mandala, which has multiple layers of significance.

The three concentric circles radiating from the central cross,

- Symbolise the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- Represent past, present and future – founders, present members, and future generation;
- Bridge the generations of our current membership – from youth to adults and senior members;
- Exemplify us as Individual Christians and Members of a Parish within the greater Church of God;
- Connect us to the greater Anglican vision of being Anchored, Committed, and Transformed as we
- Continue our growth in Faith, Hope and Love raising the next generation of leaders.

The colours are intended to convey Jesus, the Light of the World at the centre;
With the gold representing the value of his Gospel;
Spreading to the deep blue of the entire universe.

The Rector, Venerable Keith De Vos, Archdeacon of Rondebosch blessed the mandala on the 16th of August, 2015.

