

It seems fitting that the first marriage celebrated in the new Church was that of Mr. Stone's daughter, Alice, to Alex Minchin.

Mr. Johnstone was the first of a long line of Methodist Ministers serving the Rockingham area during the ensuing forty years. Altogether there have been twenty incumbents. Most of these were Home Missioners or Students in training for the Ministry and here for only short periods. In 1943, owing to the illness of Mr. Johnstone, the Rev. Fred Sampson, now Superintendent of the Fremantle Mission, was asked to help out at Rockingham. At the time Mr. Sampson was a young man and a prospective Home Missioner. As Mr. Johnstone had used only a horse and sulky for transport around the Circuit, some other means of conveyance was necessary. The then Home Missions Director, the late Rev. J. Green, allotted £10 towards the purchase of a car, but Mr. Sampson himself had only £30. The late Miss Lucy Saw knew of a car, a Standard 10, which was for sale at a cost of £135. Miss Saw and Mr. Johnstone made up the deficit and the car was purchased. As there was no Manse, Mrs. Morrison opened her home to Mr. & Mrs. Sampson until he was sent to Lake Grace three months later, taking the car with him.

Subsequently most Ministers rode the Circuit on bicycles. In April 1948, there is a trust account for £3.14.0., being the cost of repairs to the Ministers bicycle. After Mr. Sampson's departure many visiting Ministers and Lay Preachers helped the Church out of difficulties and special mention must be made of Sister Edie Owens of Fremantle Mission, who came to Rockingham in October 1948, to recuperate from an illness, and remained here as Minister in Charge from December to the following March. Sister Edie later became Mrs. Ken Cowdell, and together Mr. & Mrs. Cowdell worked tirelessly, Mrs. Cowdell holding several positions including years as Circuit Steward and as organist for twenty nine years, Mr. Cowdell as Steward and Trustee until their sad passing within eight weeks of one another two years ago.

Soon after the opening of Rockingham Church, the war situation worsened, strappings of brown paper were attached to all windows and black-out curtains were placed to cover lighting at night. During February, and March 1942, members of the Ladies Guild met evacuees from Singapore and there were many who accepted the invitation to worship and join the fellowship of the Church. A large number of soldiers were stationed here as well as at the RAAF Radar Station at East Rockingham, so in June 1943, it was decided to have supper after the evening services preceded by a sing-song led by one of the soldiers. As a matter of interest to those who remember the Rev. S. Shearn, a retired Presbyterian Minister, he was at the time Y.M.C.A. representative for the troops in this area and brought a number of soldiers to Church by truck.

After the war, the building of a Manse was completed and opened on March 10th, 1947. Its builder was Mr. A. Findlater, who received one cheque for £224 in October 1946 and another for £400 in November from the Rockingham Trust. Some of the money