



Let's celebrate!

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

75 YEARS OF WORSHIP & WITNESS

Sunday, 14th April

Church service @ 9:30 am

Lunch @ 11:30 am

Grace Christian Church

Panania: 206 Marco Ave

Padstow: cnr Cahors and Arab Rds

Phone: 9774-5454

Web: gracepadstowpanania.org.au

Email: gcc.panania@gmail.com

ORDER OF SERVICE

LOOKING UP

Welcome & Prayer (Pastor Becky Douglass)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

Let them sacrifice thank offerings
and tell of his works with songs of joy.

(Psalm 107:1-3,21-22)

Song: *O, for a thousand tongues*

Song: *In Christ alone*

LOOKING BACK

Reading: *The Beginnings: Dorothy Heighway* (Kim Clarke)

Solo: *He will hold me fast* (Ray Wardle)

Speaker: Rev. Terry Oades – former Minister of the Word

Song: *Great is Thy faithfulness*

LOOKING AROUND

Speaker: Rev. Steve Aynsley

– Georges River Presbytery Pastoral Relations Minister

Speaker: Karen Warren – Council Chair

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (Bob Nance)

LOOKING FORWARD

Song: *Forever Jesus*

Bible Reading (Ross Pogson)

Deuteronomy 7:6-11

⁶ For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. ⁷ The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. ¹⁰ But he does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who reject him. ¹¹ Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² to the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—
⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.
⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into communion with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Communion (Pastor Becky Douglass)

Song: *Bind us together*

Benediction



SHARE

We bring the transforming power of Christ to our community.



LIVE

We walk with Christ as He changes us to be like Him.



BELIEVE

We base our lives on God's truth found in His Word.

THE BEGINNINGS

Dorothy Heighway wrote an account of her missionary endeavours. This includes her involvement in the establishment of the work in our area. She writes:

My next assignment was as a home missionary in Padstow, Revesby and Panania. It was January 1948. This was entirely virgin soil and I had faith alone to depend on so that the words "I have no arm save Thine alone to lean on" was very true. The Home Mission office briefed me for the job by telling me that I was to undertake a survey of the area beyond Salt Pan Creek, take Scripture classes at Padstow School and arrange for Sunday School and evening service in the local hall.

I went to the school to give Scripture lessons and wrote down the names and addresses of the children. After two lessons I wandered away wondering where on earth to begin. Everywhere was the sound of hammer and saw - a town was being built before my eyes. I made my way back to the station, found a seat and spread out my map. I discovered two sisters from the Scripture classes who lived in a street straight in front of me. This seemed the obvious place to start, so I crossed a paddock, found the house, and knocked. As soon as the door was opened, I was greeted affectionately and invited in. It was the home of Mr and Mrs Wilson whom I had known at Glebe. If ever I had been guided by God's Spirit, it surely was that day, for that home became the centre of our early church activity.

The first job was to find land, for already it was a scarce commodity. Everywhere I went, I combined pastoral visiting with enquires for land until I sometimes wondered if I was a Home Missioner or an estate agent! But at last, we found a suitable block for the Padstow Church.

A beginning had been made with the Revesby building before I went there in January 1948, but had been held up because of some complications with regard to the building permit. But soon after beginning at Padstow, I started Sunday School on the ground at Revesby by piling up the bricks that had been delivered for the building to make “seats” for the children. Numbers and interest grew and by Mother’s Day, I was able to borrow some forms, and with partially completed corrugated iron walls and about half the roof in place, we had our first meeting inside to which we invited the mothers. From then on, we had a morning service and Sunday School at Revesby.

Then early in 1950 we began work at Panania. The Home Mission Department arranged for a student from Leigh College to assist and Ted Noffs (later founder of the Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross) started the Panania Sunday School on the block of land we had secured and did a lot of the initial survey work. It was then that he contacted Mr and Mrs Syd Brown in Panania Ave, quite close to our land, and they later invited us to hold the Sunday School in their home and also to hold an evening service there. We continued that way until 30th September 1950 when the little hall on our land opened for worship.

During my years in the assignment, I baptised nearly 60 infants. By April 1950, we were planning every Sunday for two services in Padstow, two at Revesby and one at Panania and I held communion services in each church once a month.

This account details the steady establishment of this new work. However, it was not without its setbacks. A notable one had to do with the Padstow church. She explains:

Through a friend I secured a very large marquee which had been used as a YMCA recreation hut during the war. It took all the men

we could muster to get the giant thing erected on our Padstow property.

One Friday night I was at Revesby with a group of young people and heavy rain became a deluge. I walked back to the station with water over my ankles in places. As I watched it cascade down the train windows, I remembered the warning I had been given: "Don't forget – if it rains, loosen the ropes on the tent!" I spent a miserable night and as early as I could, I set out again for Padstow. My worst fears were realised. The giant had fallen, and the central pole had ripped the tarpaulin apart. Here was a tragedy, not only for the cost of repair, but for our immediate needs. This was Saturday, and the next day there was a full schedule of events to be accommodated.

Looking very woe-begone, I trudged up in the pouring rain to the Wilson's place. We summoned a few friends from round about and tried to make some plans. The first thing, of course, was to move the marquee. We unlaced it into sections and loaded the pieces into to a wheelbarrow and dumped it in the Wilson's yard.

Next, we arranged to locate the different activities. Christian Endeavour would meet in the home of the Superintendent. The 11 am service was held on the Wilson's back veranda, where, during the service, there wafted to us the delicious odours of Sunday dinner – a reminder not to preach too long a sermon! Sunday School was divided with kindergarten in one home, primary in another. The evening service was held in yet another home. Carting chairs, setting up the generator for lights, arranging a bridge table with bookrest to serve as pulpit, packing away hymn books to be transported – all these became the regular Sunday routine. However, it all served to cement the fellowship together and those friendships have endured through the years.

**Ministers of the Word, Pastors, and other Ministry Agents
who have served in these churches through the years.**

Dorothy Heighway
Mr Chegwiddden
Dr Tollis
Colin Schofield
Albert Putlin
Joseph Watkins
Brian Heawood
Colin Orton
Albert Skinner
Alan Wilson
Lester James
Janet Wade
Frank McInnes
Robert MacSwan
Kevin Dilkes
Barry Aldous

Robert Wyndham
Jock Steele
Robert Page
Terry Oades
Tina Rendall
Colin Drury
Don Marshall
Sam Smith
Russell Thompson
John Bleyerven
Owen Butt
Noel Mansfield
Alex Thomas
David Bakhsh
Robert Rutzou
Rebecca Douglass

*And this is his commandment:
We must believe in the name of
his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another,
just as he commanded.
(1 John 3:23)*