



## STEPPING THROUGH THE ARCHIVES



### THE BELL

We are part of living history. That is exciting to me. I decided that for the February issue of the Vision I would find out what I could in the Archives about the history of our bell. I found single paragraphs in several different places as follows:

- “The “iron-tongued minister” deserves a paragraph (this is in notes written for the Magill Methodist Church Centenary in 1955) It continues .....
- “In 1859 an old ship’s bell was purchased by the Sunday School for 5 pounds and brought across from Melbourne. For 96 years it has not failed to send out its reminder and invitation to worship in the sanctuary. May it long continue to do so!”
- Bell – Situated currently in Foyer of Sunday School Hall (this was in Olive Walton’s notes in preparation for History of Magill Methodist – Uniting Church 1855 - 1990)
- *(I am not sure when the bell was put in the Foyer of the Sunday School Hall but I would say it remained there until 1994 when the Hall and Foyer renovations took place. LDP)*
- 19 March 1957 Discontinued ringing bells for evening and morning services
- In 1992 with the redevelopment of the Church Hall and Foyer the bell found a new home in a garden setting in a bell house attached to the eastern side of the nave of the church.
- Since 1992 the bell has been rung 33 times during Tenebrae Services to signify the 33 years of Jesus’ life.

Now in our living history the bell is being rung again. The ringing of the bell started again in 2014 introduced by Rev Steve Thompson. It is rung as a “Call to Prayer” to let us know that it is time for the 9.30 am service to begin.