

Areegra Celebrates 101 years

St Marks Anglican Church at Areegra celebrated 101 years of faithful worship recently. Late last year Peter Schulz drew Reverend James Wood attention to the fact Areegra had celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1970. It was then decided that it would be appropriate to consider a celebration in 2021. Rev James lead the service which saw long term congregation member Peter Wyllie return to read the gospel.

Part of the service was dedicated to story telling. Bill Powell recalled coming to the church as a child. At the time there were various churches scattered throughout the district. People would come to church on a horse and buggy and there was a dam where horses could be watered while families attended church services. In those days Friday was the day for shopping in town, Saturday was set aside for sport and Sunday was devoted to church. Bill recalled how his grandfather played the organ and later his mother and how the stain glass windows were donated by his family.

Margaret Dart spoke about coming out to Areegra for an evening service at the time when she turned 40, only to return home find a surprise party had been organized. Glen Liersch spoke about one of his aunts who found herself in an awkward position after the presiding pastor had been invited home for lunch after a service when the family barely had enough food in the house to feed themselves. On the way home they noticed a vehicle approaching and it hit one of the notorious potholes on the Borung Highway which saw a full bag of groceries end up on the road. They tried to stop the car but were unable to do so, but it gave them the ingredients to ensure they had lunch organized.

Gwen Holland recalled how many years ago a guild function was held at Areegra where a colorful argument occurred but was later resolved amiably. Gwen and husband Boyce have appreciated being warmly welcomed by the Areegra congregation after St Paul's Brim closed a few years ago.

A plaque organized by Fiona Holland and donated by Leirsch family was installed both inside the church and on the narrow church gate which recognizes the heritage of 101 years of faithful worship.

