



Canon William Orange Tribute

Latimer Vice-President, Bishop Henry Paltridge, pays tribute to the ministry of William Orange on the 50th anniversary of his death.

Rt Rev.
Henry Paltridge



WILLIAM ALFRED ORANGE (DIED 28 JUNE 1966)

CONVERTED IN KAIKOURA (1899-1904)

William Orange was born in Woolston, but the family moved to Kaikoura, where the choir vestry in the Anglican church has a peg labelled W.A. Orange, as here were placed the young William Orange's robes. It was at Kaikoura in a Parish Mission, that he came to know Christ as his personal Saviour during his teenage years, before reading Theology and attending University in Christchurch.

At University he studied Greek, Hebrew and Philosophy,

EVANGELICAL MINISTRY IN SUMNER (1930-1945)

After ordination, William Orange was a curate at St. Saviour's, where the 2016 meeting was held. He was acting vicar at St Barnabas for a period, but his first Parish was at Waikari. However he is best remembered as Vicar of Sumner.

There his Evangelical ministry, based almost entirely on direct Bible exposition, became a model for "orange pip" clergy. Besides his pulpit

ministry, a Sunday afternoon Bible Class over the years attracted men, mostly students, from all over the city. Many, like Harry Thomson and Roger Thompson, were called to ordination; others, such as Bishop Maxwell Wiggins, served overseas as missionaries. Still others such as Professor Edwin Judge, became prominent laymen. William Orange also took the opportunity to preach from a sand pulpit on Sumner beach during the CSSM missions held there during the Christmas holidays.

PRECENTOR AT THE CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL (1949-1962)

The precentor in a cathedral is the cleric responsible for the direction of choral services. However Canon Orange's ministry did not end there, as in the city centre his expository ministry attracted a considerable following both at the Cathedral and the University Evangelical Union. In a room of the Cathedral tower he had a men's bible class for a time, but when Rev Roger Thompson became vicar of St Martin's Church, Spreydon, he began a Sunday afternoon Bible Class along the Sumner lines, and Canon Orange's students moved there.

WILLIAM ORANGE MEMORIAL LECTURE

William Orange was one of the founders of the Evangelical Churchmen's Fellowship set up in 1946, which later became the Latimer Fellowship. Each year the Latimer Fellowship sponsors a lecture in memory of this outstanding evangelical leader and biblical expositor. The topics presented cover issues needing to be looked at biblically using local and international speakers. This year the lecturer was one of the few remaining 'Orange pips', Edwin Judge, an Emeritus Professor of Ancient History from Sydney. He spoke on the topic, 'How religion created science'. A copy of this lecture and others from past years can be found on the resource page of the Latimer website: latimer.org.nz/resources