The Church of England in Wollongong:

The first church was built in Corrimal Street a little to the north of Market Street, but was in existence for less than 20 years. The present church will celebrate the centenary of its consecration on 15th December, 1959.

In 1826 Captain Bishop and Mr. Charles Throsby Smith, Chief Magistrate of the district, were authorised to conduct services. The Rev. Thomas Kendall was in the district before and about this time, while engaged in the cedar trade.

Probably the first service at Wollongong where a clergyman presided, was held in the military barracks by the Rev. Thomas Reddal, rector of Campbelltown.

In 1826 the Rev. Wilkinson was appointed to the district and he established a school in a barn made available by Mr. Throsby Smith.

On 31st March, 1833, the Rev. M. Devenish Meares, M.A., was appointed to Wollongong and the Shoalhaven. The next year four trustees were appointed in connection with the building of a church.

The foundation stone was laid on the 14th October, 1840, by the Lord Bishop of Australia. It was decided that the church should be built of stone instead of brick, but this led to a costly lawsuit with the contractors. Eventually a church of stone was erected in Corrimal Street and consecrated on 13th January, 1848.

In 1855 the Rev. T. C. Ewing called a meeting of parishioners to consider the erection of a new church on two acres of land on Church Hill.

Edmund Blacket was commissioned to prepare the plans and specifications for the new church. Subsequently, tenders were called for and the successful tenderer was Mr. P. Lahiff, his contract price being £1,400.

The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Barker on 8th September, 1858, and on 15th December, 1859, the Bishop consecrated the new church.

The Rev. Ewing remained in the Parish until 1892. During his incumbency his large parish was reduced by the creation of new ones, particularly in the north. He was succeeded by the Rev. F. R. Elder, B.A., and while he was in the parish the Rectory was constructed. The contractor was Mr. Frank Bevan, whose two sons, Messrs. A. R. and A. F. Bevan, are well known in the district.

The Rev. G. A. D'Arcy Irvine followed Rev. Elder in 1898, to be succeeded by the Rev. E. Lampard, M.A., in 1907. It was while the Rev. Lampard was Rector that the first parish hall was erected. The present hall was opened on 14th February, 1926.

As the parish became reduced in area, owing to the increasing population, all that now remains of the vast parish of St. Michael of nearly a century ago is the area of Wollongong proper, east of the main Illawarra railway line and a small portion of Coniston to the south.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: