

St. Andrews Anglican Church and school, later Morrisdale Primary school

In 1862 Bishop Gray purchased plots on the eastern side of the Dwars River, for the erection of a church and a church school. This was after a request from the Dutch Reformed Mission School that the Anglican Church see to the wellbeing of the non-Europeans in the vicinity. Interestingly, from 1850 ground had been looked at for the establishment of a church school, as well ground with living rights for congregants. Originally a private residence was used as a Chapel as well as a small school. That was before the church ground or glebe was purchased. From 1861 there was good growth in the community, with 100 European members. By 1864 the membership had grown to 500. In 1863 Reverend Albert Jeffery was appointed in Ceres, first as curator (1863-1876) and later rector (1876 – 1905).



A proper church was built, and from 1864 also functioned as a school. The vacant ground was rented by non-European families in exchange for their labor on the church building and the church grounds. The church ground was later to be known as the Glebe. In 1954 the Anglican Church was enlarged using stone purchased from the Dutch Reformed Church which had been demolished.

On 29 September 1969 a devastating earthquake struck the Boland, with a major impact in Ceres. The church was damaged and services took place in a school hall.



There was also serious damage to St. Andrews School. On 1 November 1969 the state took over the school and it was re-named to Morrisdale Primary school.

. In 1971 and 1972 rebuilding and restoration of the church was undertaken. On 1 December the church hall was opened. Another disaster struck the church in 1976 when an electrical short circuit started a fire, and part of the church was destroyed. The church was once again restored, but the thatched roof was replaced with tiles. On 20 December 1979 the church was again taken into use.

Church ground/The glebe

From 25 to 28 June 1910 the Archbishop of Cape Town visited the parish and decisions about the church properties were made. Plot residents had to conclude a formal contract with the church before 1 July if they wanted to become the formal owners of ground. Tenants could not all keep up with their rental and the finances of the church came under pressure. Properties deteriorated and there were no sanitary system. An urgent solution was required. During the term of Reverend Leslie Morris from 1949 till 1960, an agreement was entered into with the management of the Glebe. The land was rented to the church for £200 per annum. The provincial authorities approved the plan. In 1953 a meeting decided that the plots would be sold to coloured people only. New roads were laid out and others were widened. On 8 February 1953 the archbishop transferred the responsibility for the maintenance of the **Glebe** to the municipality. The name of The Glebe was also changed and from then on was known as Morrisdale.

St Andrews Anglikaanse Kerk

Biskop Gray koop in 1862 erwe Oos van die Dwarsrivier vir 'n kerk en kerkskool, nadat hy 'n brief ontvang het van die NG Sendingskool met 'n versoek dat die Anglikaanse kerk omsien na die geestelike welstand van die Nie-europeers in die omgewing. Interessant genoeg was daar reeds van 1850 af gekyk na grond vir die vestiging van 'n skoolkerkie asook grond vir latere woonregte vir lede van die kerk. Aanvanklik was 'n privaat woning gebruik vir kapel asook skooltjie, voordat die kerkgrond amptelik aangekoop is. Vanaf 1861 was daar redelike groei van die gemeente met 100 Europeen lidmate. In 1864 het die lidmaattal gegroei na 500. Eerwaarde Albert Jeffery het in 1863 diens aanvaar in Ceres, eers as Kurator (1863 – 1876) en toe as rector (1876 – 1905). 'n Amptelike kerk is gebou en as skool ook gefunksioneer vanaf 1864 af. Die addisionele grond by die kerk was gehuur deur nie -europese families in ruil vir gratis arbeid aan die kerkgebou en kerkgronde. Die kerkgrond het later amptelik as die Glebe bekendgestaan. In 1954 is die Engelse kerk vergroot en is van die klip oorgekoop van die NG Kerk klipkerk wat in daardie tyd gesloop is.

Op 29 September 1969 tref 'n verwoestende aardbewing die Boland met 'n groot impak op Ceres. Die Kerk het skade opgedoen en daar is tydelik voortgegaan met dienste in Ceres se skoolsaal. Ook was daar ernstige skade aan die St Andrew skool. Op 1 November 1969 het die staat amptelik die skool oorgeneem. In 1971 en 1972 is daar begin met die herbou en restourasie van die kerkgeboue. Op 1 Desember 1972 is die kerksaal ingewy. Nog 'n ramp tref

die kerk toe 'n elektriese kortsluiting 'n brand veroorsaak het in 1976 en brand die kerk gedeeltelik af. Die kerk word weereens gerestoureer maar die grasdak is vervang met dakteels. Op 20 Desember 1979 word die kerk voltooi en weer ingebruik geneem.

Kerkgrond/Glebe

Op 25-28 Junie 1910 het die Aartsbiskop van Kaapstad die Parogie besoek en sekere besluite rakende die Kerkgrond is geneem o.a. dat erfbewoners moes formele kontrakte sluit met die kerk voor 1 Julie as hul as wettige eienaars van die grond beskou wou word. Huurders kon nie almal byhou met huurgeld nie en dit het die kerk 'n finansiële knou gegee. Die eiendomme het met tyd al hoe meer verval en daar was geen sanitere geriewe nie. Daar moes dringend na oplossings gekyk word vir die kerkgrond. Tydens eerwaarde Leslie Morris se dienstydperk 1949 -1960 is 'n ooreenkoms aangegaan met die bestuursraad van die Glebe. Die grond is toe jaarliks aan die kerk verhuur teen £200. Die Provinsiale Owerhede het die plan goedgekeur. In 1953 is op 'n vergadering besluit dat erwe slegs aan Kleurlinge verkoop sou word. Nuwe paaie is aangelê en sommige verbreed. Op 8 Februarie 1953 het die Aartsbiskop amptelik die verantwoordelikheid vir die instandhouding van die Glebe aan die Munisipaliteit oorgedra. Die Glebe het dan ook 'n naamsverandering ondergaan en sou voortaan as Morrisdale bekendstaan.