

Special year for Anglicans

Centennial celebrations have an added importance for Inglewood's St. Andrew's Parish of the Anglican Church.

This year the Waikato Diocese, to which the parish belongs, will introduce its 'renewal 75' programme.

The Anglican vicar, the Rev. D. E. Grinder, said this was a particularly appropriate time for the programme at Inglewood. Just as the town celebrated the start of its growth, the church would reflect on the past and look to the future.

The first Anglican Church in Inglewood was built almost 100 years ago, in 1877. Designed by Archdeacon Walsh, Vicar of Waitara, it was opened for worship on October 16.

Parson Brown

The opening service was conducted by Archdeacon Govett and Parson Henry Brown, who had held his first service there in 1875.

While living in New Plymouth, Parson Brown regularly visited the settlement, and as many settlers came from Lincolnshire he was able to befriend them and understand their customs. Many were not Anglicans, but the tenacious parson was not deterred from ministering to them and offering help.

The first church was later doubled in size, but the date is not known.

The parish continued as a missionary district until 1892 when a combined parochial district was formed with Stratford, with the Rev. A. English as vicar.

In 1898 Inglewood became a separate parochial district under the Rev. C. W. Robinson, but financial difficulties in the early 1900s led to Inglewood's return to home mission status in 1912-13.

The following year it was re-established as a parochial district.

The original church in Cutfield St, on a site now occupied by Newton King's garage, remained there until 1913 when it was moved to the site of the present church.

Then at a large meeting of parishioners it was decided to build a new church in memory of soldiers from Inglewood who died in World War I.

The foundation stone of the present church was laid on St Andrew's Day, 1922, by Bishop Averill. The building was opened and dedicated on June 23, 1923. Additions such as heating and carpeting have been made over the years.

The church became part of the Waikato Diocese when it was formed in 1926.

Sunday school

Early in the 1890s the need arose for a parish hall and Sunday school. A large one was built next to Cutfield St

church, where it also served as a social centre. Later, when the borough council built a town hall, the need for the parish hall diminished. It fell into disrepair before being sold for commercial purposes.

A new hall was opened and dedicated by Bishop Holland on February 13, 1960.

The church has also had several vicarages until the present one was built in 1963.

In early years Sunday school was conducted by Parson Brown and later his daughter, Miss E. M. Brown; nowadays Sunday school takes the form of 'family' services.

Treasures

The Anglican community can also be proud of several items of historical importance to the district. These include communion vessels (a chalice and two patens, one large and one small) engraved in 1839, which were owned by the Scaldwell Parish, England, and were donated to Inglewood parish at the time of the Rev. Robinson.

Others include a stained glass window depicting the Good Samaritan, donated by parishioners in memory of Parson Brown and several memorials such as pews, of local origin.

Kaimata

Both the Anglican churches at Tariki and Kaimata have flourished for many years, and are attractive landmarks in the countryside.

St Phillip's was founded at Mountain Rd, Tariki, on March 9, 1898 and dedicated by the Primate of New Zealand, Archbishop Cowie.

St John's Kaimata, was built in 1921 as a peace offering by the Burwell Family. The site was donated by a Mr Mackie.

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