

DN 18/2/99

Many attend Tikorangi celebrations

ST LUKE'S CHURCH at Tikorangi was the focus of much attention and nostalgia during its 90th anniversary celebrations at the weekend.

The occasion was marked with a dinner at the Tikorangi Hall on Saturday night, and a jubilee service at the church on Sunday. Among the 130 people that attended the service were three of the earliest members of the parish.

Clarice Proctor (90), Arthur Foreman (83) and Roy Griffiths (86) have been members of the parish from its very early days. Mr Griffiths still lives in Tikorangi, while Mrs Proctor and Mr Foreman are Waitara residents.

All three were prepared for their confirmations at St Luke's back in 1918 and went on to be confirmed at St John's in Waitara. The three early parishioners were also at the church for a confirmation service in 1986 which was officiated by Rev Brian Davis, now the Archbishop of New Zealand.

Mrs Proctor, then Clarice Smart, married her late husband in St Luke's. Mr Proctor died tragically while painting the St Luke's sanctuary over 30 years ago.

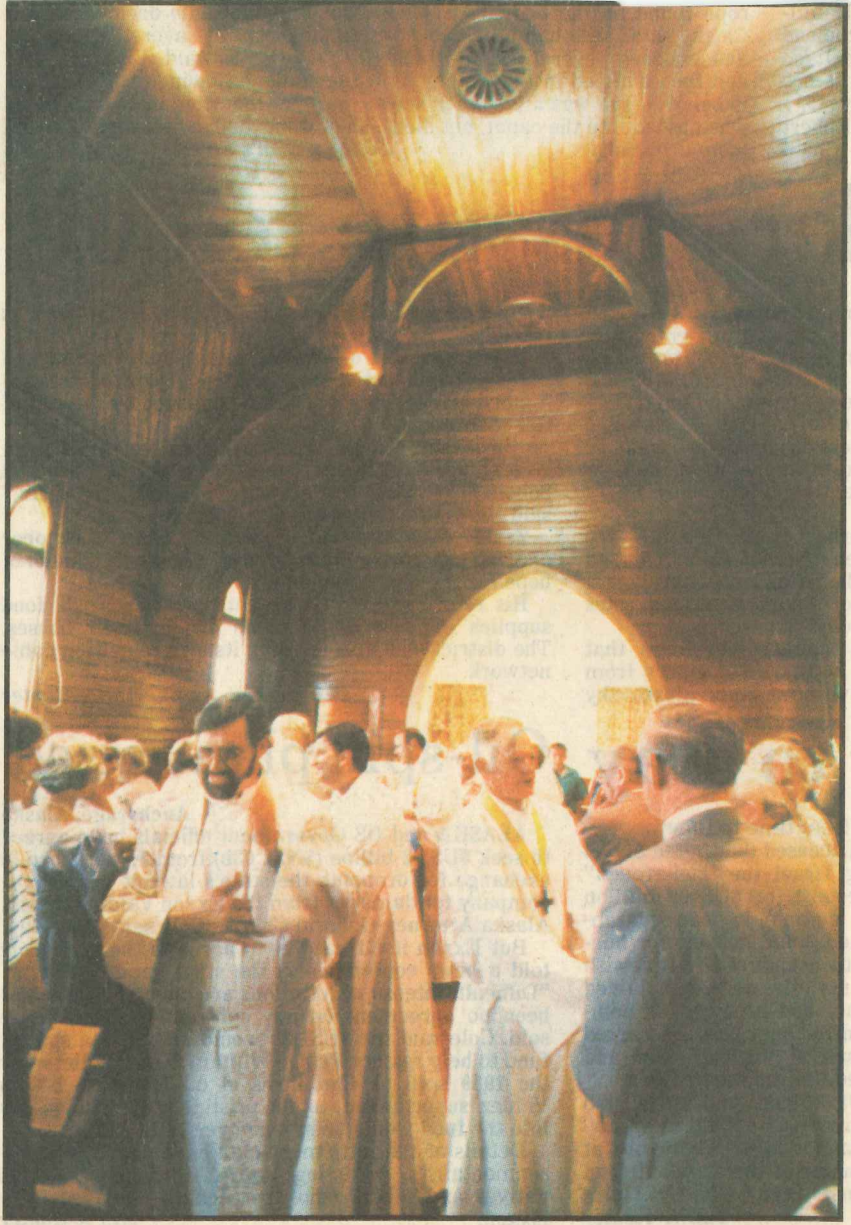
The Bishop of Waikato Rev Roger Herft officiated at yesterday's service, which included dedications of a new organ and a new bell to the parish. The organ was donated by the Mahy family in remembrance of Mr and Mrs C. P. Mahy. The bell was bequeathed to St Luke's by the late Mrs C. M. Snell, whose father helped establish the church in 1900.

Until its installation, the bell is hanging on an oak tree that was planted in the church grounds in 1925. According to former Tikorangi resident Wilf Faul, the tree was one of two planted by children from the Tikorangi School in memory of William Massey. Two of those students, Mr Faul himself and Felix Jury, were at the jubilee service.

Auckland City Mission's Rev Paul Bathurst was guest speaker at the jubilee dinner on Saturday night, when a historical re-enactment tracing the church's development was presented. Gay May said she researched old church records to gather material for the presentation which was acted by members of the CWI drama group.

A presentation was also made to Wilf Faul. Church committee secretary Ian Vickers said Mr Faul had served the church and community for 50 years, and was presented with an illuminated address in recognition of his work.

Last month St Luke's was renovated in preparation for the jubilee weekend. The timber was oiled, lighting replaced and new carpet laid.



Parish members and visitors exchange greetings at St Luke's 90th jubilee service. The Bishop of Waikato Roger Herft (centre back) led the service, assisted by Tikorangi's Rev Bernard Faul (left) and Rev Dr Bill Adams-Smith (right).

Photo: ADRIAN MALLOCH



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CHURCH : St Lukes Tikorangi