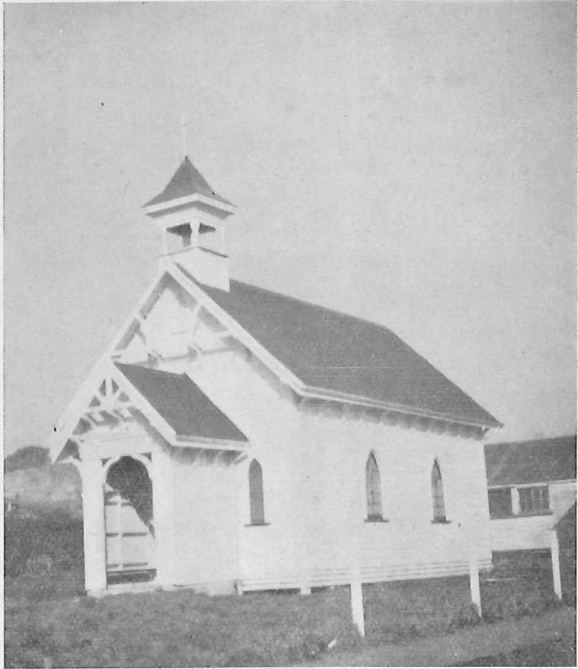


Dedication of
S. Michael & All Angels
WELBOURN
Parish of New Plymouth



by
The Rt. Revd. J. T. Holland, M.A.
(Bishop of Waikato)
September 27th, 1951

WELBOURN

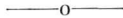
The name of Welbourn as a suburb of the City of New Plymouth comes from Welbourn in the County of Lincolnshire, England. The Reverend Henry Handley Brown was born at Welbourn Manor House in 1813. He died on September 7, 1893, and was buried in the churchyard around S. Mary's Church near the east end. He landed at New Plymouth on March 4, 1859, and ministered to Pakeha and Maori around Omata and other districts of Taranaki near New Plymouth. He was much loved and known to all as "Parson Brown." His example and help during the time of the Maori wars were a great help.

It was the intention to call the Welbourn Church here by the name of the church (S. Chad's) at Welbourn, England. This was not possible as there is a church of that name at Westown, New Plymouth.

The name of "S. Michael and All Angels" has been decided upon to make a link with the church of that name at Plymouth in Devonshire, England.

Michaelmas Day is September 29. It was thus fitting that the church was dedicated on the 27th and the first service of the Holy Communion was held on the 30th, Archdeacon G. H. Gavin being the celebrant.

Around the altar in S. Mary's Church are six beautiful panels of marble, the names of three of the six Saints commemorated by the panels are chosen for the district churches; namely S. Chad's Westown, S. Aidan's Moturoa, and S. Michael's Welbourn. A link between the Mother and the Daughter Churches has been cemented in this way for all time.



EARLY DAYS

Sunday School Classes were held about fifty-five years ago at the residence of the late Mrs. G. Cliff, Avenue Road, and continued for about sixteen years. After Mrs. Cliff died the Sunday School was continued by the late Mrs. B. Furze and Church Services were also held. From there a move was made to Mr. Collingwood's workshop and later to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Washer. These places are all near the junction of Avenue Road and Upjohn Street.

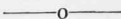
On April 7, 1927, a meeting was held and presided over by the Vicar, Rev. F. G. Harvie, to discuss a proposal to buy a section of land for the erection of a suitable building. The following were elected members of a committee to further this object: Mesdames A. E. Washer, A. H. Palmer, T. C. List, A. Gore, A. Jefferies, Messrs. G. Cliff, A. E. Washer (chairman), P. C. Wallace, K. R. Bethwaite (secretary). Mr. Wyeth was appointed Superintendent of the Sunday School.

At a meeting held on July 4, 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Washer donated the present section. Amongst those attending this meeting were Archdeacon F. G. Evans, Canon E. H. Strong, Messrs. W. H. Skinner, T. G. Hirst and E. W. M. Lysons. Messrs. A. E. Washer, H. H. Olson, and T. M. Avery were appointed trustees of the property. About this time the property was added

to by the purchase of the section behind it upon which was a stable. The price was £250 towards which Mr. Washer donated £25. A loan of £400 was obtained and the building enlarged. The loft was removed and a floor built.

The building was also used for raising funds by means of Sales of Work, Concerts and Social Evenings. During the slump period Mr. Washer took over the mortgage and by degrees the loan was reduced to £100 and then Mr. Washer generously cancelled the mortgage.

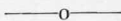
While Archdeacon Gavin was vicar a sum of £300 was added to the building fund.



RECENT YEARS

During the short time that Bishop Holland was Vicar the Chapel, used for funerals in the Te Henui Cemetery, was bought from the City Council for £250. After its re-erection on the site it was painted inside and out by voluntary labour and beautifully furnished by the generosity of the parishioners of the Welbourn District and other parts of S. Mary's Parish. The Altar and Communion Rails came from S. Mary's Church.

In the last few years Welbourn has really developed a vital church life within the community. This is largely due to the enthusiasm of the Reverend C. Mortimer-Jones, who, though actually retired from active service, has made Welbourn his special interest. He has gathered round him a band of workers who have accomplished a great deal in a short time. The Church stands fresh and inviting in the centre of the district and inside there is a definite atmosphere of work and worship. The Sunday School is a model of efficient organisation and sound teaching. More and more people are finding in S. Michael's the help and strength, so necessary to daily life, which come only from the worship and service of God.



FUTURE PLANS

Much remains to be done to the grounds around the Church. In order to meet the requirements of this growing district the Hall needs enlarging by adding a kitchen and cloak rooms.

The Church is also too small and must be extended by adding a Sanctuary and a Vestry.

The Church people of the district deserve to be congratulated on the progress made and to continue, with courage and faith, a progressive plan worthy of God and to His glory; so that this part of the Parish of New Plymouth may provide for the people with services for the Worship of God, a Sunday School for the instruction of the children and social meetings for young and old in the fellowship of the Church.

S. Michael's Committee takes this opportunity to sincerely thank those generous friends for their gifts of furnishings and cash donations; particularly the young people, who, by concerts provided the means with which a Lectern was installed. It may interest them to know that a permanent record of their goodwill is attached to the Lectern in the form of an inscribed plate. The work of the Committee is not finished and it would hearten the members to know that their efforts have the sympathetic and practical support of their many friends.



THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE 28th SEPTEMBER, 1951.