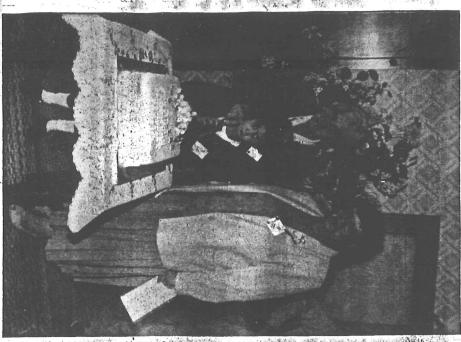
## Methodists celebrate 100 years



The cutting of the centennial cake to celebrate 100 years of Methodist worship in Central Taranaki. With the knife is Agnes Lash, the longest serving parishioner, assisted by seven year old Deanne Minhinnick. With them is the Reverend Doris Elphick, Stratford's first woman

tral Taranaki and Taranaki East had a marvellous reunion last weekend to give thanks for their first hundred The Methodists of Cen-

160 people had for the event and

Deanne Minhinnick. Mrs Lash was baptised by Rev. Reader in 1912 and has been active in the parish ever since. She was secretary/ treasurer of the parish for manyyears. She is currently t of those urday after years. She is currently urer of the Fellowship

nups.

Irs Margaret Drake, airman of the North airman of the North ranaki District of Synod, s to have launched the out more about estors. Photos the function can be anxious to about their otos taken at can now be

Circuit Stewaru ......inlay, welcomed the gathering and conveyed greetings from former ministers. Rev. Ken and Mrs Irene Cheater sent a video message from England and a tape was Inguard from Rev. Graham England and a tape was played from Rev. Graham and Margaret Hawkey. Greetings were read from Rev. Keith and Mrs Kath uded in the book. ne dinner in the Midhirs

xchange year in Engla lev. Arch and Mrs Le Mackay, Rev. Charlie Bell, Mrs Elsie

ily, and Rev. Ashley and Mrs June Corlett.

s to have prop er on the centennial nittee had died the week the celebrations. He to have proposed the sad hat Birdie

The evening's ent ment was an excelle eant master-minded It presented a pot-pourri of life during the last hundred years, and began with an old time country church service formulate with the service formulate with service, complete v time co entertain-

by four generations of one Methodist family were paraded. Vocal items were given by the Haywards and Faith Pauling.

Rev. Brian Turner, formerly of Douglas speaking at the Sunday service, said "Jesus can be 'the same The congregation sang old Sankey hymns and put real pennies and half pennies in the collection plate. There was a sketch about the parson coming to dinner, followed by a parade of fashions in children's wear, bridal gowns and swim wear

Sanders gave the children's talk. Holy Communion was served by Rev. Doris Elphick, assisted by Rev. Bill Abbott and Rev. Jeff Sanders. Mrs Megan Muter was organist. The present congregation catered for a light luncheon before visitors left yesterday, today and forever and yet be relevant in every new situation." Rev. Jeff

Church history

velled

was built in Midhirst to com-memorate the first local Alex Earle, As a before coming to New Zealand. He preached in Wanganui for 27 years before coming to Taranaki.

The Reverend James Clover rode down from New Plyin war.

ver rode down from New Plymouth in 1889 to preach in Central Taranaki and started the Stratford/Eltham Primitive Method-Mission at an era which now the Farmers carparl

now the Farmers carpark.

I great many Cornish ople were early Methods and a small church was lift in 1891 on that site other small church was nother small church was

In 1894 the Wesleyans
built a church in Regans
Street, which is now the

Farmers Co-op site built a large church, which was later shifted down Regan Streetbybullocksandisnow

s now
y Centre:
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hull t

1913 the Methodist ion was formed between primitives and the

There were then two Ministers in Stratford, and one in Midhirst who covered the Eastern Taranki area on horseback or bicycle.

The present St Stephen's Churchin Regan Street was built in 1962.

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