



St. Stephen's Methodist Church has seen its last service at Lepperton, but not its last in Taranaki.

Yesterday the newly-formed Ngaere Gardens Pioneer Village Society said it was considering shifting the building and preserving it at the village.

A final commemorative service was held yesterday in the 95-year-old church by the Rev. H. D. Besant of Waitara.

Expensive repairs and the small congregation forced its closure. Instead services will be held in nearby St. Mark's Anglican Church.

The pioneer village society's secretary, Mr D. J. Kelly, Stratford, said yesterday that if the building was moved to the pioneer village there was a possibility that weddings would be held in it.

Also centenary celebrations would be held in five years' time.

At yesterday's service several people related aspects concerning the history of the church. The speakers included Mr R. Oliver, Mr A. Roberts, Mrs G. Wright and Mr R. Wells, all of Lepperton.

Mr Oliver said the building was built by Mr George Hall, and he was assisted by Mr Benjamin Hall.

Among the 100 people at the service were Mr Benjamin Hall's daughter, Mrs Wright, and some of his grandchildren, great and great-great-grandchildren.

People came from as far away as Otorohanga. The first combined service at St. Mark's Church will be held on Easter Sunday.

● Above: The church surrounded by some of the people who attended the final service yesterday.

Drugs Stolen From Patient

PA Dunedin. A Dunedin renal dialysis patient feels that thieves who burgled his home during the weekend were primarily interested in the drugs he used for his personal treatment.

The man had drugs and personal belongings stolen from his home on Saturday night.

Thieves entered his St. Kilda home some time before 1 a.m. yesterday and stole pethadine tablets, sleeping pills, antibiotics and vitamin pills.

They also stole syringes, a television set and a .22 rifle.

The man, who did not wish to be named, said he felt the drugs were probably the primary target and the other items were taken on the spur of the moment because they happened to be in the room.

The activities of the thieves have interrupted the man's use of his artificial kidney machine and forced him to use a smaller, slower piece of apparatus.

SPILLED

During the burglary, a jar of formalin solution, which he used for disinfecting the machine, was spilled and this prevented anyone from entering the room until midday yesterday.

The statement said he did not think they would have

done it on purpose, but had probably picked up the jar and smelt it to see what it was.

"They probably got a decent lungful and dropped it," he said. The solution had a powerful, rather unpleasant smell.

The spilled formalin solution, besides being a big job to clean up, meant that the man could not get into the room to assemble his dialysis unit.

The head technician from Dunedin hospital was at the man's home yesterday morning helping him to mop out the room.

Four Crushed

(NZPA-Reuters-Copyright) New York.

At least four people were crushed to death yesterday when a one-storey row of 10 storefronts collapsed onto a street in the New York borough of Queens.

Police said at least two of the dead were women and that the death toll could go higher.

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