

ST LUKES METHODIST CHURCH 25TH ANNIVERSARY 1961 - 1986.

In 1959, under the ministry of Rev. Michael Jackson-Campbell, the West End Trust decided to plan for a new church in Westtown to replace the original church building which had stood on the site since 1924. This building was then being used by a large Sunday School and Church services were held in the David Street Hall which was becoming too small for this purpose.

Plans were drawn up, fund raising activities began, and tenders were called so that on 27th May, 1961, the foundation stone was laid in a ceremony attended by 200 people, and conducted by Rev. B. Chrystall, President of Methodist Conference of New Zealand. The Church was built by Mr R. Wood for a contract price of £6250. The electrical work was done by Mr Les Slyfield and the men of the Church rallied round with working bees to lay concrete paths and get the grounds ready.

The St Lukes Church was opened by Dr. J.J. Lewis on Saturday, 30th September, 1961, with a big congregation being present when the keys were handed over to Mrs J.D. Wright by the contractor.

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At this time ~~the~~ Sunday School moved into the David Street Hall and an army hut situated at the back of the Church. This hut was replaced with a new three-roomed building in 1973.

Meetings of the Ladies Guild and Westtown Women's Fellowship under the leadership of Mrs J. Baldwin were held monthly and the combined Westtown and St Aubyns Methodist Women's Missionary Union held meetings at Westtown on alternative months. In 1964, all these women's groups combined and became the St Lukes Methodist Women's Fellowship and continues today. St Aubyns also had their own women's groups.

The 4th New Plymouth Life Boy's team under the leadership of Mrs Shirley Neumann was centred at St Lukes for many years, training the young boys of the area, until Mrs Neumann remarried and moved from New Plymouth.

Mr Campbell moved on at the end of 1961, his place being taken by Rev Ralph Benny (1962-1964), then Rev. Arnold Hight took up residency at the Tukapa Street Parsonage with his wife Shirley and their four sons. (1965-1970). During Mr Hight's ministry, a Morning Fellowship began under the leadership of Mrs Cotter with a membership of about thirty young women and this group continued for about 15 years. This group, mostly mothers of the Sunday School children, helped with several holiday programmes for the local school children. Jean Dunstan, Dorothy Parker and Janet Goodin are some of the names associated with these busy events.

In 1974, fifty years of Methodism in Westown were celebrated with special services and a commemorative dinner.

After Mr Hight moved on, Rev Noel Billinghamurst, Daphne and their four children came to Westown in 1971 to 1975. During his ministry, negotiations were entered into with St Chads and St James to see if a Co-operating Parish could be established in the West End area. However, after several years of discussions and meetings, these plans fell through.

Sister Beverly Taylor gave us a year's service in 1976, during which time the Tukapa Street Parsonage was sold, and a house was bought in Crownhill Street. Rev Les Bycroft then came in 1977 until A team ministry in the New Plymouth Circuit was now set up and continued with Rev Geoff Gilbert and Rev Stan West.

On Sunday, 29th June, 1980, the St Aubyn Methodist Church held its last service. The following Sunday, a special service was held at St Lukes to welcome the St Aubyn folk who had decided to transfer to St Lukes, and also to received various items (Communion plate and a cross) which had served St Aubyn Church for many years. This gave a boost to the numbers at St Lukes and the congregations have grown into one fellowship as we have got to know each other over the years.

The 1st New Plymouth Girls' Brigade also transferred to St Lukes at this time from St Aubyns, and continues under the leadership of Mrs Lee McCracken and helpers.

Rev Russell Rigby, Pauline and their two sons joined the Team Ministry with Mr West in 1981 and settled into the new Parsonage in Carver Place after the Crownhill property was sold. In July, 1985, Rev John Hainsworth and Angela came for a year while Russell and his family went to Blackpool, England, on an exchange ministry.

AND NOW TODAY - St Lukes congregation is growing in numbers - will we feel the need to extend the Church buildings? The Methodist Women's Fellowship continues in good heart, and a small prayer group meet regularly to uphold the Church by prayer. There are also two house ~~groups~~ meetings lead by Marion and Brian Peterson and Brenda and John Fawkner which have brought several new folk to our Church.

Girls' Brigade involved a large number of girls but is always seeking new leaders to help out. St Lukes singers and members of the Parish Music group bring music to our services, and the after-service cup of tea is well patronised. We are also pleased to have several residents coming from Tainui Home.

The Care and Craft Association involving several of our congregation as helpers, use our Hall weekly to cater for elderly people in the area, C.W.I. and the Weaver's group also meet on a monthly basis.

It has been a good twenty-five years. We have had our ups and downs but we are in good heart and look forward to the future with confidence in the knowledge that we are in God's hands. Many of our faithful members have passed on now, and others are getting older and cannot join with us so often, as they would wish. We remember them all as we give thanks for the past twentyfive years.

For information about the first 50 years of Methodism in Westown, see the booklet written by Rev. H. Wright.

Application for loan from T.S.B. 1/8/61 - £1500

Contract price (R.W. Wood) - £6250.

Foundation stone laid 27th May 1961 - Rev Bernard Chrystall, President of Conference. Afternoon tea in Garcia Hall

- see report of first page of Guild minute book

14th July, 1960 - Building scheme:

Present building fund	£850
From St Aubyn Trust	£1072
Mortgage (Featherston property)	£1000
Mortgage (Westown property)	£1500

Resolution of St Aubyns congregational meeting: That we support Westown Church in their plans to erect a dual purpose building.

Debenture certificates printed - but I don't think these were ever used.

Men did concreting work in September getting ready for opening - Guild members supplied afternoon tea.

Report of Opening of the new Church

1st wedding in new Church - 14th October, 1961

Robert Skipper - Beverley Margaret Edwards

6th wedding: 20th January 1962 - Gordon Robert Moorcock - Evelyn Joyce Thomas.

1st Baptism - 15th October, 1961

Sharon Judith Wright - born 20.9.61 - daughter of Norma and Robert Arthur Wright, Cowling Road.

19th November 1961 - Terry Ian Siffleet - son of Ian and Judith Siffleet, 231 Omata Road.

21st Birthday celebrated on 26th September 1982 - Girls Brigade Parade and commissioning of Lee Murtagh as Captain - Birthday cake cut.

WEST END TRUST:

Paying off loan from Methodist Church Building and Loan Fund  
£650 on West End Parsonage - £17.1.3 (23rd instalment).

Mr L. Slyfield did electrical work on the new building.

150 Sturdee Stacking chairs - Underwood Engineering, Inglewood £266.5.0  
6 Foldaway tables £30.

Supplying and erecting Roskill stone seat and walls £43.10.0

Taranaki Advert for Official opening £3.0.9.

400 dedication booklets £15.0.0.

Stainless steel bowl (for Christenings?) Blennerhassetts - £2.9.6

Fringes (Altar cloths 14 yards - 16/4  
14 " 17/6

Clock (Sunbury) £5.19.9

Red carpet (Pursers) £129.16

Ladies cloak room and vestry £63.14.6

Door strips felted £2.10.0

1 500w Necco floodlight £13.15.2 (Where was this?)

2 doz communion glasses £1.0.0

Repayment on T.S.B. Mortgage £1500 - £31.8.5 in March, 1962  
43.8.9 May.

Amplifier and microphone etc £38.8.0

50 communion booklets £1.2.4.

R.W. Wood - contract price £6260,0.0  
extras 5.3.6

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Total price £6265.3.6

WESTOWN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP -

Film evening - March, 1960 £18.1.6.

April, 1960 - suggestions for raising money for Church building:

Mar, June - £18, Film evening, August £12.

May, 1961 - concert by Salvation Army songsters.

March to September, 1961 - meetings held in Presbyterian Hall, Sanders Avenue "because our hall was in the process of being demolished"

July, 1961 - each member to donate money for one cup and saucer -  
3 doz. cups and saucers at 2/4d (23cents) per cup & saucer.

Sept, 1961. Printed cards for sale (sketch of new Church Hall).  
Garage sales.

Piano appeal started - donation of £50 plus sales table.

1st meeting in New Church - October, 1961 - visitors from St Aubyn's,  
Whiteley and Fitzroy. Piano fund £66

- Change of name to St. Lukes ~~Methodist~~ Women's Fellowship.

Film evening and garage sale for piano fund - by Feb 1962 - £100 - Purchased  
Feb, 1962 for £180 (£80 borrowed - to be repaid within a year  
Fellowship to arrange for tuning and paying for same). Repaid  
September 1962.

Mrs Baldwin resigned as President at the end of 1961 after 19 years in  
that position.

1962 - Mrs H. Scott took over as President.

Fellowship to take over responsibility for Church cleaning.

OFFICERS OF FELLOWSHIP - 1961:

President: Mrs Baldwin

Vice Presidents: Mrs Scott, Mrs D. Bennett

Secretary: Mrs Hammonds

Committee: Mesdames Edward, Hallett, Campbell and Shoemark

Room convenor: Mrs Scott

Pianists: Mesdames Edwards and Bennett

Floral offerings: Mesdame H. & J. Shoemark

1964 - Mrs Corfield - donation of £50 for venetian blinds.

WESTOWN LADIES GUILD -

Election of Officers - June 1961

President - Mrs H. Wright (Mrs Baldwin being asked to carry on for the  
(as from Feb.1962) remainder of the year) (Guild President from  
(from Mrs J.D. Wright) 1950 - 1961 - 11 years)

Secretary: Mrs Hallett

Treasurer: Miss D. Parker

Vice-Presidents: Mesdames Dymond, Clarke and Wilkinson

Communion Stewards: Mesdames Fordyce, Exley and Miss Parker

Pianists: Mesdames Bailey and Wilkinson

Convenor of Church cleaning and flowers: Mrs Meuli

Sales Table: Mrs Corfield

Reps to Guild Fellowship - President and one vice-president.

Leaders and Quarterly meeting: Mrs J.D. Wright

National Council of Women: Mrs Baldwin

CORSO: Mrs Baldwin

Parsonage ~~xxx~~ Committee and Trust: Miss D.Parker

Placed on record that Mrs Wright had given ~~£150~~ £170 from sale of stools  
for the building fund.

July: Ladies offered to make afternoon tea for buildings from Mrs Meuli's  
home in David Street.

3 doz cups and saucers bought by Guild .

Other items purchased for new Church:	Teapot (Farmers	£1.18.9
	8 plates "	10.0
	6 cloths (Millers	15.0
	2 dish mops and	
	milk pourer	1.3
	2 vases	<u>1.15.0</u>
		£5.0.0

Gala day in Garcia Hall raised £125.

October 3rd, 1961 - first Guild meeting in new hall - take over  
responsibility for Church flowers

WEST END LEADERS MEETING:

April: 1959 Resolution to Quarterly Meeting:

- (1) That the Westown congregation be permitted to hire a suitable hall to accommodate the Church family, as the present Church (David Street hall) is too small.
- (2) That we instruct the Trustees to prepare plans immediately for a new Church in Westown.
- (3) That in view of the known urgent need for a new Church at Westown, we are grieved that certain West End Methodists have been canvassed for the Whiteley rebuilding Fund without the prior consent of Quarterly meeting. (Whiteley burned down in Feb/Mar ? 1959)

(Talk at that time of West End becoming a separate Circuit.)

July 1960: Rev Campbell outlined plans for building a Church hall at Westown. Photos displayed. £2000 cash needed.  
See minutes:

October, 1960: Plans almost completed.

Feb. 1961: Tenders soon to be called - Debenture issues commented on.

1st meeting of West End Methodist Leaders Meeting held at St. Lukes, October, 10th, 1961.

Membership: Westown - 52 members  
55 (7/1960)  
60 (1961)  
61 (October, 1961)