

# Methodist church hall for Westown

TO provide for the growing needs of the Methodist Church in the Westown area, a contract has been let by the trustees of the West End Methodist churches in the New Plymouth circuit for the construction of a modern church hall on the corner of Tukapo and David Streets, where an old Sunday school building was recently demolished.

The minister, the Rev. M. Jackson-Campbell, making the announcement today, said the foundation stone would be laid in May, and it was hoped to open the building in August.

Fronting Tukapo Street, the building will be 67 feet long, about 22 feet high and almost 31 feet wide. It will be constructed in timber, to blend with surrounding homes, and will have concrete foundations. The frontage will be in ship-lapped weatherboard with a large square cross, in a circle of Early Christian design, surmounting the entrance.

The sanctuary, at the rear of the hall, will be completely shut off from the hall when the building is not being used for church services. The contract has been let to Mr. R. W. Wood, a New Plymouth builder.

The church has owned the rear portion of the site for many years, and purchased the corner section in 1924 with a view to building.

The present church, which is too small for the needs of the district, is probably the oldest Methodist Church in New Plymouth. It was used for many years in Upper Carrington Road before being moved to the present site about 30 years ago. Still a sound building, it is between

80 and 90 years old.

The church will continue to be used for Sunday School and youth work in the district. The Sunday School at present has a roll of over 100 children.

## CHURCH CO-OPERATION

Mr. Jackson-Campbell said today the building had been made possible by the generosity of Methodist churchmen and women in the Westown and St. Aubyn districts.

"The plan itself and the fulfilment of it, is a glowing example of the growing spirit of co-operation and unity between churches," he said. The drawings for the building were done by the Rev. F. Middlebrook of the Anglican Church, and adapted from a plan readily made available by the Anglican Church authorities.

During the period of building, the Presbyterian Church had offered the Methodist congregation use of their Sanders Avenue Church for morning services, he said.

While the new building is being erected, the Sunday School will continue to meet in David Street, and some classes are already enjoying the novelty of having Sunday School in the private homes of church members.