



The present (third) church – Opened 1913

PAPANUI METHODIST CHURCH 1854 to 1954

THE STORY OF PAPANUI

In 1847 the Canterbury Association in England drew up a plan for "Founding the Settlement of Canterbury in New Zealand." On September 7 - 8, 1850, four ships weighed anchor at Plymouth, and in the month of December all four arrived at Lyttelton (Port Cooper as it was then called). Until December 22nd, 1852, Mr J. R. Godley was, in all but the name, the governor of the settlement of Christchurch. A drawing of the view from the Port Hills at that time, shows the "Papanui Bush " about three miles or so north-west of the town itself.

The site of Christchurch was a low flat plain, about 20 feet above sea level, lying at the base of the volcanic Port Hills. Much of the plain was a peat swamp: with some sand hills marking successive positions of the retreating shoreline, and some shingle fans spread by the Waimakariri River running from the Southern Alps to the sea north of the town. What large hearted men they were who set out to build a city on so unpromising a site!

Papanui was built in part on a large shingle fan and in part amid the swamps three miles north-west of Cathedral Square. The name "Papanui" is said to mean "a platform used in a tree by fowlers." Its early rise was due to the presence of the bush, which afforded an easily (?) accessible source of timber for the houses being built in Christchurch. In the first two years of settlement, the land sold at from £3 to £5 per acre. In 1856 Papanui was said to be "a highly favoured district. Cheerful looking cottages abound." It stretched out along the track or road leading north from Christchurch, and it boasted a hotel (where the Phoenix Hotel now stands), a store, blacksmith's shop, clothing-store, a chemist's and a butcher's shop. Its greatest drawback was the road itself, which, especially in winter, was appalling, so that it was easier to float logs down the ditches than to haul them along the road. It cost £2/10/- a ton to bring goods to Papanui from the Ferry Road Wharf, which was the receiving depot for goods shipped round from Lyttelton.

Crosbie Ward, in 1856, wrote a poem called "The Struggle of Papanui," in which he described the early bullock teams trying to pull a load of wheat through the "slimy swamps and spongy track." Commenting on his verses, Miss C. L. Innes, in 1879, wrote: "The description is quite true, as one day when I was riding up to Papanui Bush, I came, as I thought, to a load of firewood lying on the road: my mare naturally shied, but after a little gentle persuasion, was induced to let me inspect it, and I found the dray was there as well, buried in a deep hole, with the tops of the wheels just visible."

Originally there was just a winding Maori track from Christchurch to Kaiapoi; but by the end of 1851, when there were 200 people living in Papanui, a start had to be made on a proper road to link the two centres. It took nearly six years to complete the road. By then little of the bush was left. The seventy acres of white and red pine and totara

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had been worked out, but there were about 700 people in Papanui and about 950 in Christchurch. However, the cutting out of the bush led to a decline of the bustle and activity of earlier days, and it required the establishment of farms and market-gardens to restore the district's prosperity.

Only in comparatively recent times has Papanui become a part of the city itself: and to-day houses are being built beyond Papanui, while the end of this amazing development is not yet in sight.

The railway reached Papanui in 1872: but even later than that the road continued to be most unsatisfactory, the mud having to be scraped from its surface in winter months and heaped up on the sides. A toll gate was once built not far from Papanui to help meet the high cost of upkeep: but it was burned down by some young larrikins.

To-day some parts of Papanui have been classed as a light industrial area: and factories are transforming the neighbourhood once again.

METHODISM IN PAPANUI THE FIRST DECADE - 1854-1863

A number of Methodist families came to Canterbury in the First Four Ships, among them the Quaife family. In a whare, quite close to where, in later days, the gate led to the Midland Cricket Grounds in Hagley Park, Mrs Quaife opened the first Sunday School in Canterbury. In 1852 the Quaifes moved to Papanui, where they again opened a Sunday School. A year later they moved to St. Albans.

The first Methodist service in Papanui was held in 1851 in a whare belonging to Mr Isaac W. Philpott. The preacher was the Rev. James Watkin, who had been the pioneer of Christianity in the South Island. Early services were also held in the homes of Mr Medings and Mr Gibb.

Regular Methodist services, however, began in 1854, when Mr E. Connal preached in a barn, "a little distance along the Harewood Road," where the present Church now stands. The barn was owned by Mr James Reese, a pioneer who did more than any other man to establish Methodism in the district. In the diary of the Rev. John Aldred, under date November 9th, 1854, we find it stated that on Tuesday, November 7th, he opened cottage meetings at Papanui. On Sundays, he says, he preached at Lyttelton morning and afternoon, and at Christchurch in the evening. On Mondays, in the evening, he preached at Riccarton; on Tuesdays at Papanui.

In 1858 Mr James Reese sold to the Church for £150, the acre of land on which the present buildings stand, and for over 38 years he was a pillar of the local cause. He never married.

His brother John, then a man of 40 years of age, came to Papanui in 1855, and cottage prayer meetings were held in his house. He, with the Rev. John Aldred, solicited subscriptions for a Church, and this was built in 1859, a little further back than the site of the present Church, the cost being £90. Mr Reese, who also taught in the Sunday School, kept a volume of sermons by the Rev. Dr Talmage in the pulpit, in case no preacher arrived to conduct the service. One morning he had to read one of the sermons, and that same evening a young man preached the same sermon, only from memory.

A tablet in the present Church commemorates the Reese brothers thus: " In Loving Memory of John Reese and his wife, Eliza Ann Reese; also of James Reese, Pioneer Methodists of Papanui Church."

Papanui was a preaching place on the Canterbury, and later on the Christchurch Plan. The early ministers were the Revs. Wm. Kirk (1853), J. Aldred (1854-59), Wm. Rowse (1859), James Buller (1860-65), R. L. Vickers (1861), J. T. Shaw (1862-63), John Crump (1864), Wm. Cannell (1864). An old plan shows that in July-November

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1859 there were alternating Sunday preaching services and prayer meetings in the afternoons at Papanui, local preachers taking nearly all of them; while Mr Aldred took the fortnightly Tuesday evening services. In his "History of Methodism in (New Zealand)" the Rev. Dr. Morley gives the following list of local preachers at this time: Messrs Salter, Sharplin, Broughton, Connal, Dickinson, King and Silvester.

This old Church was also used as a Day School, one of the first in Canterbury. This School was conducted for a time by a Miss Miller, and passed under the control of the Provincial Government in 1872.

The late Miss R. S. Bishop, in some written recollections of the early days in Papanui, tells how her family settled in what is now Bishops Road in 1858. Within a week of their arrival, they were visited by Mr John Reese, a neighbour, and invited to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. They became regular worshippers there as long as they lived in the district. The teaching was "mostly fairly grim, and consisted largely in urging the congregation to flee from the wrath to come," but the preachers, mostly laymen, were earnest and sincere.

THE SECOND DECADE – 1864-1873

Ministers of the Durham Street Circuit.

1864-5 Rev. J. Buller (Durham St.)

1865-6 Rev. W. Lee (St. Albans)

1866-9 Rev. T. Buddle.

1867-9 Rev. A. Reid

1870 Rev. Wm. Kirk.

1870 Rev. A. R. Fitchett.

In 1869, while Papanui was still part of the Durham Street Circuit, a new Church was built, not facing, but parallel with Chapel Street, and just north of the present Kindergarten Room. The foundation stone was laid on November 18th, 1869, by Mr F. J. Garrick, who gave £100 towards the cost of the building. Nearly the whole cost (£500) was given at the ceremony, which was attended (so the papers of the day reported) by a "large and respectable gathering."

The Church, which Dr. Morley described as "a model country Church, with exceedingly chaste appointments," was opened Feb. 27th., 1870, the preachers being the Revs. T. Buddle and A. Reid, and Mr Garrick. The collections totalled £12. The old Church was added to the back of the new Church to form a schoolroom. Dry rot was thus communicated to the whole building, and it was with great difficulty that it was made to last 43 years. It was built to hold 300 people.



The second Church – 1870-1903

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At this time there were three day schools in Papanui. There was a private school on the North Road, next to a shop owned by a Mr A. Postles. There was the Church school, the largest of the three, con-ducted by Mr Mayo and Mrs Jennings; and there was the Chapel school, conducted by Miss Miller. She received 12/- a week, and pupils paid 1/- a week.

A lady living in Langdon's Road who wished to attend the Wesleyan Chapel was helped do so by the gentleman living in a large homestead where the Sanitarium Buildings now stand. He opened a lone, five yards wide, from Langdon's Road to Harewood Road. This is now known as Chapel Street.

(For the information in the last two paragraphs we are indebted to Mr J. W. F. Jones who came with his parents to live in Green's Rd. [now Grasmere Crescent] in 1870. The Jones family have played an influential part in the Church down to quite recent times.)

In 1871 the St. Albans Circuit was separated from the Durham Street Circuit, and until 1901 Papanui formed part. of this new Circuit.

The St. Albans Superintendent Ministers were:—

1871-2 Rev. W. Kirk.

1873 Rev. A. R. Fitchett.

In 1870 the Frieston (Harewood) Church was opened, Dec. 4th.

At the anniversary of the opening of the Papanui Church on March 10th., 1871, Mr Garrick and the Rev. Paul W. Fairclough preached. A tea meeting during the week was attended by 150 people, and realised £16. A Trust Debt of £80 remained. But £50 of this was paid off by the following September, largely through weekly sums collected by a Mr Joblin. At a function held on July 23rd., Mr Joblin reported that he had already received £17. Messrs Reese, Jones, James Lowe (Choirmaster), Allot, McGill and Joblin addressed the meeting.

It is not possible now to present any detailed account of the his-tory of the Methodist Day School in Papanui. But we do know that in 1864 there were seven Methodist Day Schools in North Canterbury, and that the Education Commission paid to these schools £156 per quarter, of which £15 was allocated to Papanui. The School Com-mittee at that time consisted of the Rev. James Buller (Chairman) and Messrs W. Reese, J. Reese, I. Reese, and I. W. Philpott. Nine years later there were only 8 Church Day Schools altogether in the Province. It seems highly improbable that Papanui Methodist was one of these.

From 1870—1880 (approx.), Mr John Low, a neighbour at Styx of Mr James Lowe, was the Superintendent of the Sunday School. His elder daughter married Mr David Patchell, the father of the Rev. E. D. Patchett. She died in 1950, aged 95 years.

THE THIRD DECADE – 1874-1883

Ministers:—

1874-5 Rev. A. R. Fitchett.

1876-8 Rev. J. Crump.

1879-81 Rev. J. B. Richardson.

1882-3 Revs. W. Morley and C. H. Garland, Papanui.

In 1877 £20 was spent in lining the Sunday School, which now consisted of rooms built on to the back of the Church. To help raise this money the Rev. J. S. Smalley (Sydenham) lectured on "Ottoman and the Muscovite" and Mr C. S. Howard of the Normal School lectured on "King Alfred the Great." (It is of interest to note that Major-General Howard Kippenbergei is a grandson of Mr Howard.)

In the following year, at the Sunday School Anniversary, we learn that Mr Low was the Superintendent, Mr Beecham Patrick the Secretary, Mr Vague the Choirmaster. Messrs E. Connal and J. Rapley addressed the gathering on the week-night. It is recorded that in the following year Mr Rapley was appointed "Circuit Home Missionary" and many conversions resulted from his preaching. The Circuit Quarterly Meeting tried to persuade him to be a Candidate for the ministry; but being a married man, Mr Rapley declined. However, he exercised a most fruitful ministry as a Home Missionary at Amberley and later at Methven. His daughter, Mrs H. Tillman, is a valued worker with us today.

No reference to this decade could be complete without bringing forward the name of Patrick. Mr and Mrs Joseph Patrick played a prominent part in the Methodism of those days, and we have in our possession the roll book of the Sunday morning class conducted by their son Beecham, already referred to. This book carried the date 1881 and contains these names:—E. A. Lock, A. S. Ford, W. Horsley, W. Newnham, D. Patchett, J. Drury, J. J. Adams, W. J. Cresswell, Wm., X., T., and F. Jones. Mr Beecham Patrick was a most zealous member, and his "early decease was a great loss," says Dr. Morley in his "History."

In April, 1881, the S.S. *Tararua* was lost off the coast of Otago. On board were two ministers and two laymen who were proceeding to the General Conference in Australia: the Revs. J. B. Richardson (President of the Conference and the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit) and J. Armitage, with Messrs E. Connal, the preacher at the service which inaugurated regular Methodist witness in the Papanui District, and E. Mitchell, an honoured local preacher in the Circuit. Mr Connal had exercised a widespread and gracious influence for many years, and the loss of these four honoured servants was very keenly felt.

In 1883 the Rev. Wm. Morley was set aside for Connexional work and was granted an assistant. The Rev. C. H. Garland was appointed to this position and he resided in

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Papanui, the first minister to do so. He occupied a house in Hoani Street (then Union Street), the residence of Mr and Mrs Beecham Pattrick, while they, on account of Mr Pat-trick's health, were visiting England. Mr Garland, writes Dr. Morley, "so commended himself to the goodwill of the congregations in the Circuit that the following year they requested that he might be retained as a second minister and provided a residence in Papanui."

THE FOURTH DECADE - 1884-1893

Ministers.

The Superintendent resided in St. Albans, while a second minister resided in Papanui.

St. Albans.	Papanui.
1884 Rev. Wm. Morley	1884-5 Rev. C. H. Garland.
1885-7 Rev. Joseph Berry.	1886-7 Rev. A. C. Lawry.
1888-90 Rev. J. J. Lewis.	1888-90 Rev. C. H. Standage
1891-93 Rev. W. Bamber.	1891-2 Rev. D. J. Murray.
	1893 Rev. John Smith (B).

Of the Papanui ministers, A. C. Lawry and John Smith (B) were single probationers. The Rev. C. H. Garland, during the above two years, occupied some rooms in the home of Mr and Mrs Beecham Patrick. In 1888, a Parsonage was bought at what is now 47 Harewood Road. It cost £265 and £35 was spent in improvements. A Sale of Work was held at which St. Albans Church, Crescent Road (Trafalgar Street now, the forerunner of the present Edgeware Road Church), Papanui, and Riccarton each provided a stall. £125 was raised. It would appear that the consent of Conference was not obtained for this purchase, and after four years the house had to be sold for financial reasons. During that time the Revs. C. H. Standage and D. J. Murray, both favourably remembered, occupied it. These married men were followed by younger unmarried men for the next ten years or so.

In 1886 a Mrs Scott conducted revival meetings at Papanui. Great blessing resulted, and the thankful prayer of the Quarterly Meeting was "God Bless Mrs Scott."

During this decade some families who were to leave their mark upon the Church arrived and joined up. In 1886, for example, the Cooper family arrived. The next year Mr Laurie Cooper remembers Mr David Patchett as the Superintendent of the Sunday School. In later years Mr Cooper married Miss L. Patrick, herself a grand-daughter of John and Eliza Reese on her mother's side, and of Joseph and Alice Patrick on her father's side.

In 1893 the McArthur family came to the Circuit, and one of the sons, John D., later entered our ministry. Another son, James, died in World War I and is remembered by a tablet in the Church. Other members of the family played their prominent part in the Circuit for many years.

Earlier still the Fords began to figure in the work of the Church, and in the present Church is a tablet, the inscription on which reads as follows:—" In loving memory of A. S. Ford, a life-long member of this Church and Sunday School Superintendent for many years."

Representatives of these last two families still take their place among us.

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Another feature of this decade was the highly organised life of the congregation. Of this we mention several instances.

There was a small pipe organ in the Church at this time. The cost of this instrument was raised principally by the choir. The choirmaster, Mr E. A. Lock, formed a singing group, "The Papanui Fisk Jubilee Singers," who toured the district and raised £100. For two nights they packed the Theatre Royal in Christchurch. In that choir were four daughters and three sons of the John Reese family.

There was a Mutual Improvement Society which apparently began somewhere about 1880. Mr T. R. Cresswell, M.A., was the first editor of its magazine, "The Rouseabout." The records show that some present day issues were live issues then, for example:—" Why are the Churches only "half filled?" or "Why is it that women form three-quarters of our congregations ? " Or yet again, "The prevalence of gambling." Other issues are not so prominent to-day, as, for example, " Is it right to patronise the trams on Sunday?", "Vegetarianism," and " Over-eating."

The Church also possessed a Debating Group, a Band of Hope, a Tennis Club, and more than one Christian Endeavour Society. There was a wealth of young life, and the services rendered to the community by these activities needs no emphasis.

In 1885 the Temperance Society of the Church was a live body, and there is preserved a record of one meeting when the programme was arranged by Mr Xavier Jones and the address was given by Mr E. C. Brown, later the manager of the D.I.C.

THE FIFTH DECADE - 1894-1903

Ministers.

St. Albans	Papanui
1894-6 Rev. J. A. Luxford.	1894-5 Rev. Colin C. Harrison
1897-1900 Rev. W. Lee.	1896-7 Rev. Harold W. Williams
	1898-9 Rev. A. B. Chappell
	1900 Rev. J. A. Hosking
	1901-3 Rev. W. Dawson

In 1901 Papanui was made a separate Circuit, with four Churches, Papanui, Harewood or Frieston, Upper Riccarton and Riccarton Village. In preparation for this division of the St. Albans Circuit an effort was made to pay off a long standing Circuit Debt of £300. By means of special subscriptions this was done, and we read that the Quarterly Meeting rose and sang the Doxology.

The Revs. Harrison, Williams, Chappell and Hosking were probationers and lodged with Mrs Beecham J. Patrick. Now that Papanui was to be a Circuit on its own, it was necessary to secure a Parsonage. So, to begin with, a house was rented on the North Road, near Sawyers Arms Road. The furniture was bought from the house vacated by the Rev. C. H. Garland who had been the Organiser of the Century Commemoration Fund but who was now returning to Circuit work in Auckland. The Rev. W. Dawson, the first minister appointed to the new Circuit of Papanui, with his mother, were the only occupants of this rented house; because two years after Mr Dawson took up residence, Mr J. Campbell gave to the Church a section directly opposite his own home in Matsons Avenue, the value being £30. A Parsonage was built in 1903 at a cost of £501, the debt at the opening being £100, and Mr Dawson and his mother moved there. Mr Campbell also gave the Trustees an option over the adjoining section, and this was bought in 1905 for £35. (The section was sold recently to Mr T. Winfield who now lives there).



The Parsonage,
Matsons Avenue,
1903 - 1954

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The first Quarterly Meeting of the Papanui Circuit was held on July 4th, 1901, the Rev. W. Dawson in the chair, and nine members present. The credit balance for the Quarter was 5/10. The stipend was fixed at £150. One name was removed from the Members' Roll, the reason given being "dishonest dealings and profane language."

In 1895 the Papanui Sunday School reported 19 teachers and 173 scholars on the roll. The following year there were 183 scholars. The school that year suffered a great loss through the death of its Superintendent, Mr W. Lake. His successor was Mr A. S. Ford.

In 1896 the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (this was before the division took place) received a report of a cricket set which had been lost at a Circuit gathering two years before. The owner wrote enquiring for it. The meeting, after discussion, decided to pay the owner 30/- as the set could not be found anywhere!

In October 1898 Mr John Broughton died. Mr Broughton was brought to Christ in the earliest days of Christchurch, and for many years had been an outstanding speaker and a most generous supporter of Methodist work in every part of the city. His passing was a great loss, to Papanui as well as to the other Circuits.

Somewhere in this decade the Papanui Temperance Brass Band was formed, the leading spirit being Mr W. Lake, a boot and shoe manufacturer. It was for years a flourishing institution.

A word should be said about the Rev. Harold W. Williams, the minister in 1896-97. Mr Williams was a son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, one of our leading ministers. He resigned from our ministry when quite a young man and later became the foreign correspondent in St. Petersburg for the "London Times." He has been claimed as the most brilliant linguist whom New Zealand has produced.

THE SIXTH DECADE: 1904-1913

Ministers

1904-06 Rev. T. N. Griffin

1907-10 Rev. S. Lawry

1911-13 Rev. A. Peters

The outstanding event of this decade was the opening of the present fine Church.

In 1908 (though it should have been 1904) Jubilee Services were held amid much rejoicing. The special preachers for the day were the Rev. H. R. Dewsbury (of Durham Street Church), the Rev. W. A. Sinclair (of St. Albans), and the resident minister, the Rev. S. Lawry. An augmented choir of 40 voices led the singing, Miss L. Patrick, L.A.B., presiding at the organ. Mr R. L. Cooper was the conductor. At the tea meeting on the Thursday 400 sat down to tea. Speakers at the Public Meeting, where Mr R. M. Cresswell presided, included Mr T. E. Taylor, and the Rev. H. Bull, the Connexional Secretary. Greetings were received from the Rev. W. Kirk, one of the earliest ministers, then living in retirement in Wellington.

At this function the scheme for a new Church was launched, and three years later permission to build was received from the Church Building and Loan Committee.

The foundation stones of the new Church were laid by Miss F. Ford, a daughter of Mr A. S. Ford, and now Mrs W. F. McArthur; and the Rev. A. Peters. The Church was opened in 1913. Conference was told that, the building cost £1600 and there was £500 debt, which was paid off in five years. The celebrations extended over three weeks. It may be said with truth that this new Church was a magnificent achievement, and great credit must be given to the officials of those days for their vision and courage. Special mention should be made of the wise and strong lead given throughout by the minister, the Rev. A. Peters. To Mr W. Keith, who had played a foremost part in the Circuit ever since it was formed, was given the honour of open-ing the door. The building was in every way a worthy one, and its spire has been a conspicuous landmark, directing the thoughts of men upwards to God. All sittings have been free, and this fact marked the confidence of the then trustees in the future of district and church alike.

There were, of course, some complaints—the Church lacked proper heating; clothes were spoilt by oil off the seats; and so on.

The first persons married in the Church were Mr and Mrs W. J Salkeld.

It is interesting to read the reports of the Quarterly Meetings of those days.

“The time has fully arrived when the N.Z. Conference should be independent,” was carried by 23 to 2, with one neutral. (This was achieved in 1913.)

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"We are in favour of uniting the Wesleyan Methodist and the Primitive Methodist Churches," was carried by nine in favour, one neutral. (This union also took place in 1913.)

Protests were passed against pictures of prize fights being displayed; against licensing the totalisator; in favour of suppressing bookmakers; and against the Ne Temere decree; against the proposed Bill for more days for racing; in favour of a Bill authorising a referendum on the Bible in Schools question.

It should not pass unnoticed that the Rev. T. N. Griffin settled in Papanui upon his retirement from the ministry in 1918 and took an active part in securing the present St. James' Park for a reserve. A stone at the entrance of the Park records the appreciation of the residents for his services. The Church of England owned this land for long years, its spacious, level area serving as an ideal playground for the children and young people.

THE SEVENTH DECADE - 1914-1923

Ministers

1914-16 Rev. A. Peters
1917-18 Rev. C. Abernethy
1919-22 Rev. T. A. Joughin
1922-23 Rev. H. Ryan

It was during this decade that World War I made its inroads upon the young life of the Churches, and Papanui was no exception. The Roll of Honour contains the names of 28 young men, seven of whom were killed in action. Tablets on the walls of the Church are in memory of Lieutenant Frank Daly and of James McArthur, who was killed at the Dardanelles. It is not too much to claim that the Church even of to-day has been adversely affected by this War.

In 1915-16 the Choirmaster and Organist (Messrs Reg. Smith and W. Melville Lawry) resigned to go overseas, and a period of many changes began. Messrs Harold Ford, W. Petty, H. Twose and O. Murray Jones were choirmasters for varying periods. Miss V. Maindonald, Miss Bessie Taylor, and later Miss I. B. Benny were organists.

In the early years of this decade the boundaries of the Circuit came under repeated review. It was felt that Lower and Upper Riccarton, with Masham, should be made into a separate Circuit, and in 1920 Conference agreed, Papanui accepting a grant from the Home Mission Fund to compensate it for the loss of revenue incurred. Since this rearrangement, Papanui Circuit has consisted of Papanui, Frieston (Harewood), and Belfast.

In 1917 we read of Messrs C. E. T. Hill and J. J. Rowberry mending the old Church. In 1920 Mr Keith resigned as Secretary and Treasurer of the Trust Board, after serving the Papanui Church since it first became the head of a Circuit. Mr Livingstone succeeded Mr Keith, but in a few months' time he was followed by Mr R. Donald.

Various property resolutions of this time may prove of interest. A motor pump installed at the Parsonage, electric light put in the Church (£38/5/-), wire netting to be affixed to the louvres in the Church steeple to keep the birds out, gas heaters placed in the Church, extensive additions to the back of the Parsonage, painting the Parsonage (£38/15/-), installing the electric light there (£24/2/-) .

The last years of this decade were noteworthy for numerous efforts which were made to create the vision and enthusiasm needed to decide upon a new Sunday School. Long before tills. Miss Moncrieff (Superintendent), Mr Rowberry (Secretary) and Mr Donald (Treasurer) had each put £1 in the Post Office Savings Bank towards the cost of a new School. That was the start. In 1923 a Baby Carnival and a three days' Bazaar

lifted the money in hand to about £1,000. Reference must, be made to the splendid leadership of the Rev. H. Ryan in all these efforts.

It was in 1914 that the South Island Children's Home and Orphanage, situated across Chapel Street from the Church, was opened. It was an important event in the history of Christchurch Methodism, and especially of Papanui Methodism. During the forty years which have elapsed since it was opened, the Home has been closely connected with both Church and Sunday School. The Staff have often made a large contribution to the working forces of the Church, and the children (at one time there were 80 of them) have been scholars in the Sunday School, worshippers in the Church, and the older ones have taken part in many Youth activities. Sister Mabel Morley was the first Sister-in-Charge, and it is pleasing to record that she is still playing her part in Christchurch Methodism. The present relationships between Home and Church are the happiest possible.

THE EIGHTH DECADE - 1924-1933

Ministers

1924-26 Rev. H. Ryan
1926-28 Rev. H. L. Blamires
1928-33 Rev. A. Hopper

During this period the present fine Sunday School was built. By the end of 1924 £1,104 was in hand, and details of the plans were being considered. The architects employed were Messrs R. Lovell-Smith and W. Melville Lawry. In 1925 the old Church was dismantled, and a contract for a new School was let to Mr Bull for £1,905. In January 1927, the new building was opened.



The Sunday School – Opened 1927

The Rev. E. D. Patchett presided, Mrs H. L. Blamires opened the door, and the building was dedicated to the service of Christ and the young people of the Church. The cost was £2,250, the debt at the opening £570. With a brick Church and a brick School the Papanui Methodists found themselves well placed for the future development of the district, and great credit is due to the ministers and the congregation for this advance.

In 1924 Mr Murray Jones resigned as Choirmaster as he was leaving the district, and Mr H. Ford took his place. But within a month he too left Papanui, and Mr F. Butler, from the Children's Home, was appointed. Later in the year Mr Butler found that he had not sufficient time to devote to the work, and as Mr Murray Jones had returned, he took up his old duties once more. In 1932 Mr H. Queree became Choirmaster, a position he held for nine years.

During this decade the Dominion passed through a serious financial depression, and Papanui, like all Churches, found the strain of Church work unusually severe. Every

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year a special fair, a garden party, or a sale of some kind had to be organised. An overdraft at the Bank (up to £300 on one occasion) was a serious embarrassment, yet there never failed the zeal and confidence of the congregation, and finally prosperous times returning, the pressure lessened. All honour to the men and women of those hard times who kept the flag flying!

But the work actually advanced during those lean years. The ministry of the Rev. A. Hopper was marked by great faithfulness and much spiritual power, and during his term in Papanui his own son Ian entered our ministry; Peter Johansen from the Home also entered Trinity College for Theological Training (though he did not continue in the work), and Nurse Kathleen Thompson found her way to Christ and is today a missionary in India. Moreover, in his first year in the Circuit, on September 20th, 1928, Mr Hopper formed the first Women's Missionary Auxiliary in the Papanui Church. The first officers were: President, Mrs M. Hopper; Secretary, Mrs M. Cooper; and Treasurer, Mrs Elliott.

THE NINTH DECADE - 1934-1943

Ministers

1934-35 Rev. A. Hopper
1935-38 Rev. F. B. Lawrence
1938-43 Rev. J. Richards
1943 Rev. C. R. Taylor

A few months before the Rev. A. Hopper concluded his seven years' ministry, the new Children's Home in Harewood Road was opened. The chief foundation stone was laid on November 10th, 1933 by the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, while the opening function on November 9th 1934 was presided over by the President of the Conference, the Rev. Clarence Eaton. The Conference of 1935 paid tribute to the "unique and consecrated service" given to the Home by the Treasurer, Mr George Bowron, and also to the "love, sympathy, and insight" of the Rev. A. Hopper, the Secretary for six years. The following Conference mourned the passing of Mr Bowron, and noted the removal from Papanui of Mr Hopper.

At the time of the change over from the old Home to the new, the Manager and Matron, Mr and Mrs A. E. Haynes, were playing a prominent part in the life of the Church, and this is one example of how closely linked the Church and the Home have been.

It was in December 1934 that the Trustees accepted the offer of the Sunday School officials to purchase from the Children's Home a wooden building, 31 feet by 15 feet, and to remove it to a site along-side the Sunday School, where it could serve as a Kindergarten Class-room. The cost was to be approximately £125.

In February 1940 the Trustees decided to purchase a "Hammond" Organ, the old pipe organ having been sold six years before because it needed extensive repairs. The new organ cost £550, and was paid for by a deposit of £150 and four annual payments thereafter. The final payment of £80 was made in December 1943.

In 1941 the Trustees voted to sell one section from the property in Chapel Street. It would seem that the Church Building and Loan Fund refused to sanction the sale, for which today we are thankful.

In 1942 Mr H. Queree resigned as Choirmaster as he was leaving for duty in a military camp, and Mr H. E. Keys took his place. Another World, War had broken out, and again the young men of the congregation were summoned to the colours. The large number who left for the War weakened once more the life of the Church. There was not however the same loss of life, and some of the stalwarts of to-day are men who during the years of War sensed keenly how necessary Christ and His Church are to the life of the nation.

THE TENTH DECADE - 1944-1954

Ministers

- 1944-47 Rev. C. R. Taylor
- 1947-50 Rev. R. W. Mayson, B.A.
- 1950-51 Rev. A. E. Waite
- 1951-54 Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D.

During the past ten years the development of the Papanui District has been phenomenal, with the result that the Church finds itself in the midst of a huge residential area. This has resulted in steadily growing congregations, and a stronger financial position. The hopes of the members that the Parsonage could be replaced began to revive. The first official step was taken by the Ladies' Guild on July 22nd 1946, when they sent a deputation to the Trustees to urge that steps be taken to build a new Parsonage.

A few months later the Trustees obtained consent to sell the section adjoining the Parsonage for £300. In 1950 an agreement was reached to spend £70 of this amount on Parsonage improvements as a preliminary step to the sale of the property and the erection of a new house. At the same time extensive alterations were made to the front of the interior of the Church, and improvements were made to the interior of the Sunday School. Finally, after widespread enquiry, the Trustees, at a meeting held on June 17th 1952, decided to proceed with the new Parsonage and to open it, if possible, at the Centennial celebrations in 1954. Mr H. F. K. Hayman offered to supervise the building itself, making the necessary arrangements with sub-contractors; Messrs W. L. Archbold and V. Batchelor were appointed to represent the Trust in assisting Mr Hayman. It was further agreed that a large amount of voluntary labour be contributed at different stages and this was generously, even sacrificially done. The cost of the new Parsonage, Garage, Fencing and Paths is expected (as we write) to be approximately £3,700, the furnishings being over and above this amount. The Ladies' Guild has, through donations and Flower Shows, raised £500 towards these furnishings, and it is hoped that the Parsonage will be opened and furnished with comparatively little debt.

In 1945 Mr H. Queree returned from military duties and took charge of the Choir again. A year later, on his removal from the district, Mr D. J. Diack was elected to the position. When in 1951 he removed to Timaru, Mr Malcolm Anderson was appointed.

In 1949 Mr Thomas Walker entered the ranks of "Home Missionary Supplies."

In 1953 Mr John Hodder, M.A., was received as a Candidate for the ministry, and Miss June Peters was received for training as a Deaconess. Both had given valuable service in Church and Circuit.

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There is much in the present Church which is worthy of comment as we bring this record to a close. There are many memorials, including the silver trowel used by the Rev. A. Peters when the foundation stone of the Church was laid 42 years ago.

In the front of the Church the Communion Table is in memory of three men who in World War II "died that others might live" Melville C. Baynes, Raymond J. Cammock, and Perry Morgan. The Lectern is in memory of Miss Jean Anderson, who died in 1948. The Communion Rail is in memory of Mrs Florence Cecily Baynes and of her parents, Mr and Mrs F. J. Carr, who all made outstanding contributions to the Church in years past.

The Church is fortunate too in the excellent provision made for the large collection of Choir anthems; in the splendid Notice Board which contains room for a "Wayside Pulpit"; in the aids for the Hard of Hearing; and in its Kodaslide for use in both Church and School Services.

The Church grounds are well laid out and cared for, and are favourably commented on by those who daily pass them in the Sight-Seeing Bus. °

With a Church, School and Parsonage all in permanent material and on one site, with room still available for any needed extension of the Sunday School, and with a densely populated area all around there seems no reason why Papanui Methodist Church should not count heavily on the side of good citizenship and of righteousness in the second century of its history. It has a grand inheritance, a numerous and loyal membership, and a fine property.

EPILOGUE

We have come to the end of this short History. It would be impossible to list completely the names of all who have helped put together the information contained herein. It is more than likely that one who has been in the Circuit for only three years has missed out some important developments of the work. It has also been his aim not to name all those who at one time or another have given a lead in the work. He will, however, be pleased to hear from anyone who can add to or correct, his narrative, for it is his aim to place these facts at the disposal of the Methodist Church so that the full and correct history of the Papanui Circuit may be available to anyone who might be appointed in the future to continue the official history of Methodism in New Zealand.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY,
GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE.

CHURCH OFFICIALS - 1954

MINISTER : The Rev. W. T. BLIGHT, B.A., B.D.

Circuit Stewards: Mr L. C. Moore Mr H. F. K. Hayman

Trust Officials : Mr H. W. Benseman (Secretary), Mr H. E. Keys (Treasurer)

Trustees:

M. Anderson, W. L. Archbold, V. Batchelor, J. F. J. Burborough, G. H. Coley
T. J. Hampton, H. F. K. Hayman, W. D. M. Jamieson, J. H. E. Leek,
G. K. M. McDonald C. M. R. Manhire, D. F. Mehrstens, A. S. Mitchell
A. W. Moore, L. C. Moore, A. W. Palmer, C. L. Palmer, L. Read, L. H. Read,
L. Riley, J. J. Rowberry, L. W. J. West.

Local Preachers:

Mr H. J. Malcolm (retired Home Missionary), Sister Rona Collins,
Messrs G. H. Coley and H. F. K. Hayman.

Society Stewards:

Messrs L. West, J. Hampton, L. C. Moore, Leonard Read, J. Burborough,
A.W. Palmer, C. M. R. Manhire, D. Pratt.

Assistants:

Messrs G. Burborough, P. Hardy, N. Paris, A. Fox, L. Riley, V. Batchelor, H. W.
Benseman, K. Coatsworth.

Sacramental Stewards:

Mrs W. L. Archbold, Miss D. Mitchell.

Representatives to the Quarterly Meeting:

Ladies' Guild—Mrs H. Tillman.

Congregation—

Mesdames C.. Taylor and A. R. Fricker, Misses I. Robinson and E. Cran.

Missionary Auxiliary—Miss Down.

Sunday School—Mesdames B. Hodder and C. V. Barton.

Secretary of the Local Youth Council: Mrs D. Mehrstens.

S.S. Superintendents: Miss Trusttum, Mrs W. T. Blight.

Bible Class Leader; Mesdames G. H. Coley and T. P. Monaghan;

Messrs D. Mehrstens and M. Anderson.

Secretary Centennial Arrangements Committee: Mrs H. F. K. Hayman.



The Papanui Leaders Meeting 1954