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Nelson Methodist Centenary

SOUVENIR 1842-1942



ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH.

Centennial Celebrations

were observed on
SUNDAY, MARCH 1st, 1942

Preachers:
11 a.m., REV. P. J. GOLDIE,
Pioneer Missionary of the Solomon Is.
7 p.m., REV. WM. ROWE, Superintendent.
REV. HOWARD E. HARKNESS, M.A.



Foreword

This illustrated brochure is issued in connection with the Centennial of Nelson Methodism, and is dedicated to those brave Methodist pioneers, who arrived in the first immigrant ships, and played no small part in the founding of the settlement, and in helping to shape the moral and religious life of the City 100 years ago.

Unfortunately, the serious aspect of the present war, involving restriction in travel, and other unavoidable disabilities, has compelled the cancellation of a worthy Centennial programme.

Celebrations have had to be confined to special Sunday Services fixed for March 1st, 1942, which marks the 100th Anniversary of the first Service to be conducted in Nelson, by Edward Green, a Methodist Local Preacher.

The story of the witness and contribution of the Methodist Church down the Century reveals the strength and devotion of early settlers who laid the foundations, and their successors who build thereon.

To the Methodist pioneers, of sacred memory, we dedicate this brochure, and express our gratitude to the Rev. M. A. Rugby Pratt, F.R.Hist.S., for such a valuable and historic record.

*"Great deeds cannot die,
They with the sun and moon,
Renew their light for ever,
Blessing those who look on them."*

To Mr. Samuel Gorman, we express grateful appreciation for financing this publication.

W.M. ROWE. Methodist Parsonage, Nelson, 1/8/1942.



The Author - Rev. M.A. Rugby Pratt

The Story of the Methodist Church

BY THE REV. M. A. RUGBY PRATT, F.R.Hist.S.

The history of Methodism in Nelson dates from the earliest days of the settlement. What was probably the first sermon ever preached in the Nelson Provincial District was delivered by Edward Green, a Methodist local preacher who arrived in the ship "*Lord Auckland*" on 26th February, 1842, within a few weeks of the founding of the settlement. Mr. Green spent part of his first week in Nelson in distributing tracts. The first Sunday in March, 1842, he took his stand in the open air in the Brook Street Valley, then known as "Little Scotland," and preached a stirring sermon. As later immigrant vessels brought reinforcements of Methodists, including several local preachers, services were conducted in the barracks of the New Zealand Company at the Port, as well as in a tent and in the open air at Nelson. These services were attended by people of all denominations.

The first Wesleyan Methodist minister to visit Nelson was the Rev. Samuel Ironside, who in June, 1842, travelled from Queen Charlotte Sound in his open whale-boat manned by a Maori crew.



Rev Samuel Ironside.

Pioneer Methodist Missionary to Nelson and Marlborough. Hero of the Wairau.

On 26th June he preached three times at Nelson, once to the Maoris and twice, in the open air, to the European settlers, most of whom were then living in the immigrants' cottages erected by the New Zealand Company as a temporary sojourn for the people. The cottages formed three sides of a square and were opposite to the present Methodist Church in Hardy Street. Mr. Ironside took his stand within the square with Edward Green by his side. On the date mentioned Mr. Ironside baptized two infant European children. One—Christiana aged one month, a daughter of Benjamin and

Nelson Methodist Centenary 1842-1942 by M.A.Rugby Pratt

Esther Lovell—was the first British child born in the Province of Nelson. The other, Mercy Ellen Williams, aged three weeks, was the daughter of James and Jane Williams of Nelson. On a later visit Mr. Ironside held service on the banks of the Maitai River. By reason of his heroic action, after the Wairau Massacre on June 17th, 1843, when he visited the scene, rebuked the Maori chiefs responsible for the deed, and gave Christian burial to the dead. Samuel Ironside is recognised in Methodist circles as "The Hero of the Wairau."

A Methodist Sunday School was established in the raupo whare of Mr. Butler in August or September of the year 1842. Mr. Butler was assisted in teaching work by Mr. William Andrews and Mr. Jonathan Mears. When Mr. G. W. Lightband reached Nelson on 24th October, 1842, he was at once appointed superintendent and served in that capacity for several years. In Mr. Lightband's house, which stood on the west bank of the Maitai River and was known as the "Old Bethel," was held the first Methodist class meeting, of which Mr. Thomas Fry was the appointed leader. The arrival of Mr. William Hough in October, 1842, gave added strength to the Methodist cause.

The first Methodist minister to take up his residence in Nelson was the Rev. John Aldred, who arrived in March, 1843, to minister to the European congregation and to give oversight to the Methodist Maoris scattered in various native settlements, which were regularly visited by him in his mission boat.



Rev. John Aldred, First Resident Methodist Minister to Nelson

Three months after his arrival in Nelson the settlement was plunged into sorrow by the Wairau massacre, when so many of the Nelson citizens lost their lives. To the families

of the victims of this tragedy Mr. Aldred proved a true son of consolation. Mr. Aldred, in common with representatives of other churches, held services in a place of worship erected by public subscription. The building was situated in Tasman Street, and was called the "Ebenezer." He soon transferred his services to a large brick structure erected by Mr. Matthew Campbell, but bent on having a church of his own denomination Mr. Aldred, soon after his arrival, applied to the New Zealand Company for a church site. After some delay an acre was set apart for that purpose. The Company also made a grant of £125. The Methodist Mission Fund contributed £60 towards the purchase of materials, and the church members volunteered to provide the labour. The building, which fronted Haven Road, was 47 feet by 27 feet, with walls 12 feet high. It was constructed of brick, roofed with shingles, and afforded accommodation for 200 worshippers. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. Frederick Tuckett, the Chief Surveyor, and the building was opened for public worship in 1845. A parsonage site was secured in Washington Valley and a dwelling, partly in weather-board and part having mud walls, was erected thereon. Mr. Aldred ministered to congregations at Nelson, Stoke, Richmond, Spring Grove, Waimea Village and Wakapuaka. He also exercised supervision over Motueka, where Mr. William Jenkins occupied the mission house and had shared in the spiritual care of the Maoris who remained in the district after the Wairau tragedy had shattered the mission which had been so successfully directed by the Rev. Samuel Ironside since his arrival at Cloudy Bay on 20th December, 1840.

Mr. Ironside was well supported in his work by such officials as Adam Jackson, David Wagg, Robert Burn, John Riley, W. Andrews, J. Sigley, E. Humphreys, J. Mears, Sewell, Hammond and others. He inaugurated preaching centres at Milton, Newark Green, Hope, and in the regions beyond, and urged the appointment of settled ministers for Wairau and Motueka. Mr. Ironside was a strict disciplinarian, and in 1852 a local preacher was suspended "until he complies with the rules of the Society not to speak evil of ministers." Two other local preachers were suspended for not attending to their appointments, and others were reminded of the rule that they must meet in class. The ladies of his Nelson congregation presented Mr. Ironside with a new pulpit gown, the use of which garment he had been proposing to discontinue. One young man, James Richard Hooper, who desired to join the church and had not been baptized in infancy, was baptized by Mr. Ironside by immersion in the then beautiful Brook Street stream, which ran at the foot of the hills where the minister's cottage stood.

During 1854 Mr. Ironside took steps to acquire land for a preachers' house which it was estimated would, with necessary furniture, cost £700 in all. In January, 1855, the Spring Grove church was removed to a new site, Mr. Humphreys agreeing to superintend the removal and Mr. W. Andrews promising to assist him with his bullock team. When Mr. Ironside left Nelson for New Plymouth on 27th April, 1855, there

were 170 Europeans and 200 Maoris in various parts of the district enfolded in the membership of the church. All united to do him honour, and the citizens, led by the Hon. Donald Sinclair, the Speaker of the Provincial Executive, and by leading public men, presented him with a purse containing £75 to be converted into a gift of plate, which later arrived from England in the ship "*Inehinnan*."

The next minister was the Rev. John Warren, who had long laboured amongst the Maoris. He had been present at Waitangi in February, 1840, when Samuel Ironside instigated the speech by Tamati Waaka Nene, which led the Maori chiefs to sign the Treaty.



Rev. John Warren

The brick church opened in 1845 had been severely damaged by earthquake. Moreover, it was too small for the growing congregation. So the building and the land on which it stood were sold for £1500. In August, 1857, Mr. W. Beatson was requested to prepare plans for a new church to seat 400 persons. On 13th November of the same year, £400 was paid for an acre in Hardy Street. The tender of Messrs. Robertson and Black at £1580 was accepted. The foundation stone was Laid by the Hon. D. Sinclair on 17th November, 1857, and the building opened by Mr. Warren on 18th June, 1858. The total cost was reported as being £2281, and at the opening a debt of only £145 was owing. The chapel was lighted with candles fixed in wire sconces attached to the walls, and great was the delight of the boys if the snuffing officer snuffed them out.

Mr. Warren was assisted in his country work by the Rev. W. J. Watkin. He instituted services at Ranzau, and was well supported by his officials, including Messrs. Ben

Crisp, B. Gapper, J. Hewitt, G. Dodson, W. Robinson and Robert Lucas, who was secretary to the quarterly meeting.

The Rev. Jonathan Innes took up the work after Mr. Warren in 1860, and was assisted by the Rev. James Moorhouse for two years, and Rev. W. Cannell for a year. In 1860 consideration was given to the matter of the Washington Valley site on which stood the dwelling house of the minister. The land had been originally held for school purposes. Power was obtained from the General Assembly to vary the Trust. The object was to dispose of the property, and with the proceeds to erect a parsonage on the ground adjoining the new church. In September, 1861, the Valley property and the house thereon were advertised for sale, and were bought in 1864 by Mr. Robert Lucas for £420. On 4th May, 1862, the Rev. S. Ironside revisited Nelson to conduct the church anniversary services, the celebrations resulting in the clearing off of the church debt.

Early in 1864 tenders were called for the erection of a Sunday school and parsonage, that of Messrs. Middlemiss and Hargreaves being accepted for the school, and that of Mr. Jacobson for the parsonage. During the ministry of Mr. Innes services were instituted at Foxhill and Pangatotara. An interesting sidelight on the liquor question is given by the fact that on 25th June, 1860, two local preachers, Messrs. R. Burn and C. Sewell, were deprived of their office on the ground that they refused to partake of the Lord's Supper because teetotal wine was not used in the Holy Communion.

The Rev. William Kirk became the Nelson minister in 1863, and continued until 1866.



Rev. William Kirk

He was assisted at various periods by the Revs. W. Cannell, J. W. Wallis and R. S. Burn.



Rev. J. W. Wallis

Approval was given on 3rd October, 1865, for the erection of a church at Richmond, and the District Meeting was asked for a grant of £150 to assist in erecting and furnishing a house for the minister at that place. About the same time a committee was set up to seek a suitable site for the erection of a chapel at the Port. On 3rd April, 1866, Mr. J. Mears offered to give a site for a church at Wakefield, and a movement was started to promote its erection. Efforts were then operating to secure the appointment of a minister to Blenheim and a lay missionary to work the district between Riwaka and Massacre Bay.

During Mr. Kirk's ministry there was an almost continuous revival. Church expansion was fostered. The Nelson church was filled to overflowing, and on 13th April, 1866, a tender of £168 was accepted for adding a gallery at the north end of the building. It was unfortunate at this juncture the choir threatened to resign if it was not allowed to occupy the new gallery. The trustees refused, and resolved to lower the singers' gallery then in use. There is still in existence an interesting inventory of the furniture in Nelson parsonage in 1865. The total value was assessed at £92 16s. Od., and it included coconut fibre pillows and bolster!

The Rev. John Crump served as superintendent minister from 1867 to 1869, and had as his colleagues, first the Rev. R. L. Vickers, and then Rev. J. A. Taylor.



Rev. John Crump



Rev. J. H. Simmonds

Laymen who gave loyal support included such men as Messrs. W. Brent, G. V. Shannon, J. W. Gower, S. Husband and O. A. Harvey. A young man who afterwards became the Rev. J. H. Simmonds was admitted as a fully accredited local preacher on 8th October, 1867. Mr. Crump added Dovedale, Waimea West, Wangapeka and Tadmor to the list of preaching places and sought also to establish a preaching centre as far away as Westport. He took steps also to raise funds for erecting a church at Wakefield, and sought permission to sell two acres of land at Spring Grove and to apply the proceeds to the purchase of more land near the church. He also fostered the cause at Motueka, and encouraged the resident lay preacher, Mr. W. Andrews, to hold services at Motueka Valley. In March, 1868, it was resolved that water be laid on at the minister's house to replace the pump at the well. In April, 1869, it was decided that kerosene lamps should supersede candles in the church. Three months later it was resolved to borrow £100 at 10 per cent, interest to pay the balance of stipend owing to the minister, the officers of the church becoming guarantors.

The Rev. W. J. Watkin took charge of the circuit in 1870 and exercised his ministry for three years. They were on the whole years of depression, but during the period a Wesleyan day school was established. At one period there were three such schools in the circuit. In 1872 a young man was received on trial as a local preacher who later won distinction as the Rev. T. G. Hammond. The iron fence in front of the church property was erected under the guidance of Mr. Watkin, and the acquirement of a new organ was decided upon. Mr. Watkin was well supported by officers such as Messrs.

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Avery, J. Boundy, J. H. Cock, J. Smith, Thomas Usher and others. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Buddle, who served from 1873 to 1875, and was assisted by the Revs. W. Cannell and W. Keall. His circuit stewards were Messrs. R. Lucas and J. G. Harkness. In March, 1874, it was resolved that the church, school and parsonage, which had first been illuminated by tallow moulds and later by kerosene lamps, should now be lit by gas, and the necessary fittings were ordered from Melbourne. In 1873 a new church was erected at Motueka and Mr. S. Stone was appointed Home missionary.

During 1876 and the following year the pastorate was held by the Rev. G. S. Harper, who was assisted first by the Rev. W. B. Marten, and later by the Rev. T. F. Reeve.



Rev. G. S. Harper

Weekly services were started in the Bethel, which was hired for eighteen pence a week. The local preachers recommended that steps be taken to secure a site at the Port and to erect a church-school there, and also advised that a branch Sunday school be started at Hampden Street or in its vicinity. A circuit total abstinence society was formed. So many horsemen attended the Nelson church that in July, 1876, it was resolved to erect four posts with rings and to put up a fence in the church grounds for their convenience. In the same year the death occurred of Mr. Robert Lucas, who had been for years a tower of strength to the church.

In the period from 1878 to 1880 the Rev. Rainsford Bavin guided the Nelson church on a prosperous way. At his arrival he was confronted with a circuit debt of £150. This was wiped out within a few weeks. In May, 1878, Mr. Ironside revisited Nelson, and lectured on "Travels on the Continent of Europe" in aid of the Sunday School

enlargement fund. On 25th July of the same year the Wesleyan Temperance Society was constituted. Its initial membership was 63 abstaining and 7 non-abstaining members over 15 years of age. A month later a Band of Hope was formed with 60 members. The Ladies' Guild at this time undertook the whole responsibility for keeping the Hardy Street parsonage properly furnished and equipped.

On Sunday, 27th February, 1879, the circuit held its very first harvest thanksgiving services, and on the following Wednesday, at the grounds of Mr. Charles Saywell at Richmond, a festival was held. The grounds were gay with bunting. A large tent was erected on the lawn. Services were held afternoon and evening, and between the two sessions 400 persons sat down to tea under the shelter of the trees. The net proceeds of the function was handed over to the Kaitangata Relief Fund. The following year the festival was held at Brightwater under the direction of the Spring Grove people, and two special trains were chartered for the outing. A circuit Sunday School Union was formed, and held its first meeting on 13th October, 1879. In July of the same year the parsonage was enlarged at a cost of £120, and the Sunday school building was altered and improved, mainly with funds raised by an exhibition held on 22nd July and attended by 1250 visitors. The school at this period enrolled 218 scholars. It also possessed a library of 300 volumes with an issue for the year of 3528 books. Sunday congregations were so large that applications for sittings were in excess of the church's capacity, and many would-be seatholders were on the waiting list. It was during this period that the circuit was divided, and Richmond circuit was constituted, with the Rev. Joseph Berry as its first minister.

The Conference of 1881 was held in Nelson, and it appointed the Rev. William Lee as the Nelson minister. He served for three years. On 26th June, 1882, approval was given to a proposal to plan for the erection of a new church in Hardy Street, and a fund was started for that purpose. Messrs. W. Haddow and J. H. Cock were appointed treasurers. In 1883 Mr. Lee inaugurated a Mutual Improvement Society, which enrolled 50 members and did effective work. The Rev W. H. Beck followed Mr. Lee in 1884, and did faithful work for three years, when he was succeeded by the Rev. W. C. Oliver, who served from 1887 to 1889. In 1889 Mr. W. A. Dugleby of Napier was asked to prepare plans for a new church to occupy the site of the then existing building. He designed a structure 70 feet by 41 feet with walls 27 feet high, and affording accommodation for 600 worshippers. Mr. Andrew Brown secured the tender at a contract price of £1682. Becoming financially involved, the completion of the structure was undertaken by Messrs. Fitzwilliam, Doidge and Stringer. The price worked out at £1839, of which £1169 was reported as being in hand in June, 1889. At that date it was estimated that the Methodists of Nelson had raised and spent on their work over £30,000 since the foundation of the settlement.

The foundation stone of the new church was laid by Lord Onslow on 24th September, 1889. In a cavity in the stone was placed a bottle containing all coins of the realm up

to the value of half-a-sovereign, a copy of the Conference "*Minutes*," the *New Zealand Gazette* of 19th September, 1889, the Nelson and Richmond circuit plans, copies of the "*Evening Mail*" and "*The Colonist*," a parchment statement regarding the foundation stone and, from the old bottle secured from the demolished church, a number of coins and some papers, including "*The Colonist*" of 32 years previously. The new church was dedicated on Friday, 21st March, 1890, and the opening services were held on the following Sunday.

Many gifted musicians had served the congregation as choirmasters and as organists from the commencement in 1843. In 1889 the choir numbered 35 members. Mr Robert Snodgrass was organist, and Mr. Arthur P. Lucas was conductor. Into the work of the choir Mr. Lucas put supreme enthusiasm. He and Mrs. Lucas undertook to raise the funds for an organ for the new church costing £563. Under his baton a choir of 120 voices, including 70 children, rendered on 17th June, 1888 the cantata "Under the Palms," to raise money to form the nucleus of the organ fund. So successful was the performance that it was repeated a week later, and then a third time in aid of the funds of the Nelson Aid Society. On 9th November, 1888, the choir held a garden party at the residence of Mr. E. Green. Special trains ran, the Garrison Band was in attendance and 700 people partook of tea on the lawn. Later the choir gave Stainer's "Crucifixion" to 600 people in the Provincial Hall. It also chartered the ship "*Lady Barkly*" for a tour organised by Mr. Arthur P. Lucas. They set out from the wharf at 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday, and four hours later reached Totaranui. After a brief stay they proceeded to Waitapu, where lunch was served. Leaving Waitapu by train they proceeded to the caves at East Takaka, where an enjoyable afternoon was spent, and a concert was given in the evening. Next morning the "*Lady Barkly*" left the Waitapu wharf for Collingwood, where the party lunched and later visited the farm of Mr. T. E. Exton. A concert was given at night in the Collingwood hall. On the Friday they set out on the return journey to Nelson. It is pleasing to report that by April, 1893, the organ was free of debt, the choir having raised in all £700 for this and the church building fund.

From 1890 to 1892 the Nelson congregation was admirably served by the Rev. Frank W. Isitt, whose eloquent preaching made his church a source and a centre of wide-spread influence. Mr. Isitt was followed in 1893 by the Rev. George Bond. In 1894 Mr. R. Snodgrass originated a scheme by which it was hoped to liquidate the debt of £900 remaining on the church building. At this period a vigorous Christian Endeavour Society had 130 young people in its membership, and other church organisations were flourishing.

In January, 1895, Mr. A. A. Lucas became circuit steward, in which office he continued for 44 years.



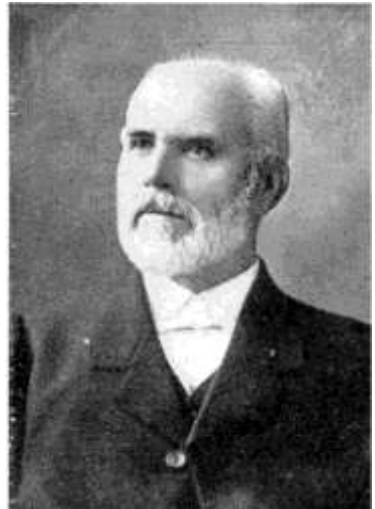
Rev. Samuel F. Prior



Mr A.A.Lucas
Trust Secretary and Treasurer 46 years.
Circuit Steward, 44 years.

The Rev. Samuel F. Prior became the minister in 1896, and did solid work. He was followed by the Rev. Joseph S. Smalley, who with Mrs. Smalley exercised a fine spiritual influence for the triennium from 1899 to 1901.

On the 10th July, 1899, it was decided to replace the parsonage, which had done duty for 40 years, with a new twelve-roomed dwelling. The Christian Endeavour Society started the fund with a gift of £35. A contract was let to Messrs. Leaper Brothers, and there were no extras. Encased in the foundations was a bottle giving an account of the circumstances of the erection of the parsonage and the names of those who had laid foundation bricks. These were white bricks with the initials of the persons laying them. Similar bricks represented the various church organizations. In the year 1900 a sum of £1144 was raised by the congregation, and in eleven months Mr. and Mrs. Smalley had paid 700 visits and had received 800 visits in return.



Rev. W. J. Williams

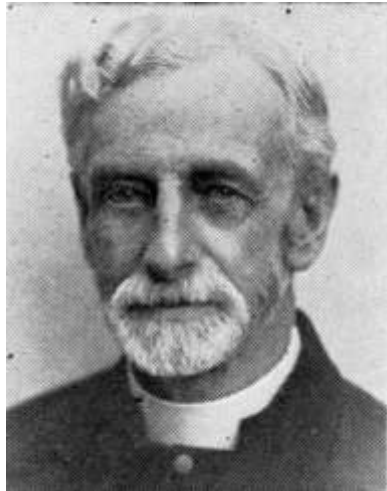
The Rev. W. J. Williams was the minister in

charge from 1902 to 1905. On New Year Sunday of 1905 gifts amounting to £190 were presented at the services for the extinction of the circuit debt, and as a result the circuit fund for the first time in seventeen years showed no deficiency.

The Rev. C. H. Garland followed Mr. Williams in April, 1905.



Rev. C. H. Garland



Rev. William Baumber

Three months later preparations were made to establish a new Sunday school building fund, and by July, 1908, the fund stood at £533. The Rev. J. J. Lewis became minister in 1909, and continued until 1911. Early in 1911 a tender of £1059 was accepted from Messrs. Leaper Brothers for the erection of the main hall and 14 class rooms. To convert the old school into a gymnasium would cost £50, to erect an infant school £200 and to furnish the premises £100 would be required. A sum of £1241 was in sight, and £168 more was needed to carry out the full scheme. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs. S. German on 6th September, 1911. The main school was opened on 17th January, 1912, and the infant school on 17th March of the same year.

In April, 1912, the Rev. William Baumber became the minister, and continued until 1917. He faced a trust debt of £650, and in 1914 formulated a scheme for its liquidation. The debt was extinguished by September, 1915. In 1915 Mrs. R. Lucas bequeathed £500 to the trustees, who resolved that this legacy be a permanent endowment, the interest only to be used for trust purposes. From 1918 to 1920 the Rev. E. D. Patchett became the minister, and during this period the church organ was remodelled at a cost of £600. The Wesley Guild, Scout Brigade, Tennis Club and other organizations were functioning vigorously. An additional room for the infant

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school had become necessary, and this was added by voluntary labour in July, 1920. The Sunday School now numbered 254 scholars.

The Rev. H. L. Blamires was minister from 1921 to 1925.



Rev. H. L. Blamires



Rev. E. W. Hames

During his term large numbers of young men and women were received into church membership. In 1923 Mr. Blamires visited England, and the Rev. E. W. Hames, M.A., supplied the pulpit until his return. On 22nd February, 1924, there were dedicated additional Sunday school rooms to accommodate the Bible Classes, Gymnasium and Social Clubs. The additions comprised two assembly rooms, two class rooms and a kitchen at the rear of the main hall. During 1925 the congregation raised £1750 for all purposes. On 9th July, 1924, Miss Sarah Usher died, and bequeathed £4794 to the South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home at Papanui.



Rev. P. N. Knight



Miss Sarah Usher. Sunday School Benefactress.

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The Rev. Percy N. Knight, B.A., was the circuit minister from 1926 to 1930. During his term the church lost by death some of its outstanding members, such as Mrs. A. A. Lucas, Messrs. C. Kidson, M. S. Smith and A. C. Nightingale. June, 1929, marked the reopening of the church organ, considerably enlarged and improved after a long period of reconstruction. The same year saw in full activity such organizations as the Young Worshippers' League, the King's Brigade, Wesley Guild, Women's Missionary Auxiliary, and the Men's Fellowship.

The Rev. W. A. Burley, M.A., served the congregation from 1931 to 1936. During his term there was erected on a section in Nelson South acquired through a gift by Miss Nina Jones, a Sunday school building, which was opened on 9th May, 1934. The balance of the cost was contributed by several generous lovers of the children. All the furnishings were donated. Good work was done amongst the young people, and preaching services were instituted with encouraging results.



Rev. W. A. Burley



Rev. William Rowe

The Rev. William Rowe, the present minister, in 1936 commenced his ministry, in which his preaching and other gifts have sustained in notable measure the standards set by his predecessors. During his term of six years, all trust debts on the properties were liquidated, and a Capital Trust Investment Fund was built up to over £4000, largely through the continued generosity of Mr. S. German, and the late Mr. A. A. Lucas. Alterations to the interior of St. John's were carried out, free of debt, to ensure greater effectiveness of the ministry of pulpit and choir.

A new church site for Nelson South costing £490 has been donated by Mr. S. German, who has also made himself responsible for the purchase and installation of an electric organ blower at a cost of £125.

To enable the circuit to finance the appointment of a Probationer at Nelson South, Mr. S. German donated £500 to St. John's Trust, the interest to be used towards the Probationer's salary.

The church has been served for almost a century by a succession of many of the ablest ministers of New Zealand Methodism. But Nelson Methodism has also enriched the ministry by the men it has trained for that holy vocation, and repaid some of its debt by the workers, both men and women, whom it has sent to the mission field and to work amongst the Maoris. To chronicle the names of men and women not previously mentioned who have faithfully served the church would occupy more space than we have at command, and the list would be a shining scroll. It is almost invidious to name any, but the mere mention of some will recall their not less worthy associates. Any church could be proud of the women who have laboured in the congregation. Besides those whose husbands have found mention there are such women as Mesdames Leaper, Kemp, Gibson, Trask, Boon, Tiller and German. The Misses Bethwaite, D. Snodgrass, Jackson, Melhuish, Crump, Oldham, Stephens, Fathers, M. Gardener, E. Ninnis, G. Neale, K. Lucas and a host of others have poured into the church a wealth of service. Then of the men mention must be made of James Boon, a devoted official; W. G. Tiller, F. Mitchell and James Newman, faithful Sunday school workers; and stalwarts like Messrs. A. W. Bain, W. Bennett, W. Bethwaite, J. Black, G. Blick, W. T. Bond, W. Bottrell, B. W. Buttle, S. Clothier, S. S. Collier, F. Constable, P. J. Dickson, M. Fearnley, T. Fathers, W. E. Fleming, E. Grove, F. W. Greenslade, E. Humphries, J. Heath, J. Heyhoe, A. E. Hounsell, H. O. Holdaway, J. H. Harkness, I. Johns, R. A. Leaper, J. Lawry, J. Lomas, C. E. Luxford, K. G. Lucas, W. S. Mears, J. F. Moore, G. Muncaster, H. P. Mourant, F. McConchie, H. Ninnis, M. A. Nightingale, C. G. Peart, S. I. Russell, T. Rowling, F. W. Smith, H. G. Savage, W. W. Snodgrass, B. Trathen, T. Walker, R. Warren, J. Win, W. Wratt, J. Wigzell, L. G. White, L. A. White and scores of others. These men and women have poured out through the years a stream of religious influence that has enriched the



Mr. S. S. Collier
Sunday School Secretary 26 years.

any, but the mere mention of some will recall their not less worthy associates. Any church could be proud of the women who have laboured in the congregation. Besides those whose husbands have found mention there are such women as Mesdames Leaper, Kemp, Gibson, Trask, Boon, Tiller and German. The Misses Bethwaite, D. Snodgrass, Jackson, Melhuish, Crump, Oldham, Stephens, Fathers, M. Gardener, E. Ninnis, G. Neale, K. Lucas and a host of others have poured into the church a wealth of service. Then of the men mention must be made of James Boon, a devoted official; W. G. Tiller, F. Mitchell and James Newman, faithful Sunday school workers; and stalwarts like Messrs. A. W. Bain, W. Bennett, W. Bethwaite, J. Black, G. Blick, W. T. Bond, W. Bottrell, B. W. Buttle, S. Clothier, S. S. Collier, F. Constable, P. J. Dickson, M. Fearnley, T. Fathers, W. E. Fleming, E. Grove, F. W. Greenslade, E. Humphries, J. Heath, J. Heyhoe, A. E. Hounsell, H. O. Holdaway, J. H. Harkness, I. Johns, R. A. Leaper, J. Lawry, J. Lomas, C. E. Luxford, K. G. Lucas, W. S. Mears, J. F. Moore, G. Muncaster, H. P. Mourant, F. McConchie, H. Ninnis, M. A. Nightingale, C. G. Peart, S. I. Russell, T. Rowling, F. W. Smith, H. G. Savage, W. W. Snodgrass, B. Trathen, T. Walker, R. Warren, J. Win, W. Wratt, J. Wigzell, L. G. White, L. A. White and scores of others. These men and women have poured out through the years a stream of religious influence that has enriched the

Nelson Methodist Centenary 1842-1942 by M.A.Rugby Pratt

community, fashioned high standards of citizenship and transfigured thousands of lives. The fruits of their service are beyond the telling in the terms of our poor arithmetic, but no fate of forgetfulness can befall the benefits they have won and the principles they have exalted.



**Nelson Methodism together with our Home and Overseas Missions,
are greatly indebted to these notable Benefactors.
Mr. Samuel Gorman and the late Mrs. Gorman.**

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Organist: Miss D. G. CARTY, L.R.S.M., F.T.C.L.

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