

*This brochure tells the story of the activities of a group of "people called Methodists", who made their pioneer homes in the Tua Marina district, and of their descendants who have succeeded them.*

*It is the story of their Church, the evidence of the Spiritual life of people in whose hearts was the genius of Methodism for Worship, Witness and Christian Fellowship.*

*I count it a privilege to have been associated with the members and adherents of the Tua Marina Church in this their 75th year of Witness for Christ.*

**C. T. J. LUXTON.**

## **Jubilee Committee**

Chairman: Rev. C. T. J. Luxton.

Hon. Secretary: Mr D. Knight.

Mesdames D. Knight, F. W. Smith; Messrs F. W. Smith, E. Smith.

## **PRESENT OFFICE BEARERS**

Trustees.—Rev. C. T. J. Luxton (Chairman); Mr D. Knight (Secretary); Mr E. Smith (Treasurer); Messrs W. S. Harris, J. S. White, F. W. Smith, A. Wood, G. K. Millard.

Society Stewards.—Messrs W. S. Harris, E. Smith, D. Knight, F. W. Smith.

Sacramental Stewards.—Misses A. E. and F. E. Botham, Mrs F. W. Smith.

S.S. Representative.—Miss L. Millard.

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Members' Representative.—Mrs W. S. Harris.

Sunday School Superintendent.—Mr W. S. Harris.

Local Preacher.—Mr J. S. White.

**TRUSTEES SINCE 1875**

John C. Botham.	Henry B. Botham.
Joseph Powick.	Jesse Powick.
William Dick.	Frederick Smith.
Francis Terrill.	Frederick Smith, Jnr.
Charles Botham.	George Botham.
James E. Cresswell.	William Smith.
W. Roy Cresswell.	Donald W. Knight.
W. Stevens Harris.	Edgar Smith.
Charles Goulton.	J. Spencer White.
Albert J. Smith.	Frank W. Smith.
Adam Wood.	George K. Millard.

## Foreword

I count it a privilege to have been a minister in the Tua Marina end of the Blenheim Circuit from 1906 to the beginning of 1909. I learnt to appreciate the solid worth of the folk in my charge. If I were to begin to mention names, I should not know where to stop, for in Tua Marina I met some of the finest Christians it has been my good fortune to know; it was my first charge after ordination and I learnt much about solid and practical religion. Here were people with deep heart-felt spiritual experience that co-existed not with noisy demonstration but with quiet demeanour and speech; men and women who knew long hours of work at their secular callings

but found good time for the culture of their souls; who loved Christ and His Church with a passionate and self-sacrificing zeal, and because they loved their Lord they cared for their fellows as well. Methodism owes much to people like these.

It is evident that their spirit did not die with the passing of most of them to higher service. The following pages tell a worthwhile story of persistent Christian effort right up to to-day. They speak for themselves.

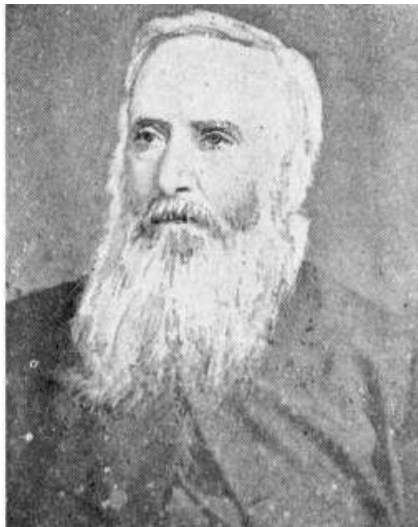
*REV. H. RANSTON, M.A.. Litt. D.*

## A NOTABLE PIONEER

Our district of Tua Marina can claim to be one of the first places in the South Island to have contact with Methodism. During the period that the Rev. Samuel Ironside was stationed in Port Underwood from December 20th 1840 till June 1843 he ministered to the Maoris and the few white residents of the Sounds and as far afield as Motueka and Collingwood, but he has left no record of visiting or conducting services on the Wairau Plain during that time. An inkling of the reason for this can be gained from reading the diary written by Mr J. W. Barnicoat, one of the surveyors who had the contract for surveying the Tua Marina district early in 1843. It would appear that there were very few Maoris living permanently on the Plain at that time, most of them having been driven off during Te Rauparaha's conquest of the district some years earlier. With the outer reaches of the Sounds carrying a large Maori population Mr Ironside had been fully occupied nearer home and the first mention that we have been able to find of him visiting Tua Marina occurred on May 9th 1843 when Mr. Barnicoat records:—

"This afternoon we saw a whaleboat coming up the river and in her we found Mr. Ironside and a crew of Maoris. Mr. Ironside said that he had come over to see how the Maoris were treating us, and to see if he could be of any assistance in case they were troublesome."

History has recorded what happened on the Hill at Tua Marina on June 17th 1843, so there is no need to repeat it here.



Rev. Samuel Ironside

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Following the events of that time the whole of the Wairau was No Man's Land for some years, and even when Sir George Grey bought the district legally in 1848 and surveyors got to work again, our district of Tua Marina was neglected. No one wanted to live in the place; it had too many tragic memories.

However, during the years 1849-55 Mr. Ironside was stationed in Nelson and during that time he made two visits a year to the Wairau, riding via Tophouse and down the Wairau Valley. During these visits he held services among the natives and the newly arrived settlers. It is recorded that during one of these visits in October 1850 he "conducted services at Tua Marina." Where and to whom those services were held is not known today, no land had been opened up for settlement in Tua Marina in 1850 and consequently there were no settlers. Probably the services took the form of a simple prayer on the Hill and a service to some of the Maoris "along the banks of the Wairau."

Mr. Ironside took an interest in Tua Marina to the end of his life. When his active ministry was over he retired to live in Hobart, and in 1890 he wrote a long series of articles for the "New Zealand Methodist." The article in which he describes the events on the Hill in 1843 is ended with these words:—"I am glad that a Methodist Church is erected near the spot and a good congregation is gathered there."



**Mr and Mrs Frederick Smith**



**Mr. and Mrs. James Powick**

## FIRST METHODIST SETTLERS

It was not until 1859 that a move was made to open up the land in Tua Marina for settlement. During the autumn and winter of that year a surveyor was busy laying out a township site and also the farm lands in the vicinity. On completing his work, particulars of the sections were advertised, and an auction was held in the Land Office in Nelson on Saturday, August 13th 1859.

At that sale 150 acres of farm land was bought by one Frederick Smith who had arrived in Nelson two years earlier. He immediately got to work and erected a little mud house of two rooms, to which he brought his bride early in 1860. That little mud house has the distinction of being the first Methodist home in Tua Marina.

Later in 1860 another and larger mud house was built on an adjoining block to house another Methodist family. This was occupied by Mr and Mrs James Powick and their large family. Mr Powick was an elderly man with a youngish family and he has the distinction of conducting a Sunday School for his own and neighbours' children. His hymn book with the date January 1st 1821 is still a valued possession in a home in Tua Marina One pupil who attended that early Sunday School has recorded that he remembered singing the hymn "Shall we Gather at the River," the music being played on a concertina.



**"WILLOW BANK'-The home of Mr and Mrs J. C. Botham,  
First services were held in the shingle roofed portion on right.**

## **Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

During 1864 Mr. and Mrs John C. Botham came to Tua Marina and in their home, "Willow Bank," the first Methodist Church service to European settlers of which we have any record, was held This took place in 1865 and was conducted by the Rev J W Wallis shortly after his appointment as the first Methodist minister in the Blenheim circuit. Subsequent ministers to hold services at "Willow Bank" were Revs. W. Lee 1867-68 and J B Richardson 1870-72. The congregation at these early services besides Mr. and Mrs Botham, consisted of Mr. and Mrs Smith, Mr. and Mrs Powick and their families, who came from their distant farms in drays.

By May 1868 a small building for use as a school and general meeting place for the district had been erected on the point of the hill overlooking the village, and during Mr. Richardson's time a change was made, and the services were held in this building. One reason for the change was that the congregation had increased, Mr. and Mrs John Harris, Mr. and Mrs Alfred Mildenhall and Mr. and Mrs Thomas Boundy had come to the district and attended the services regularly and thus the small room used at "Willow Bank" had become too small for the purpose.

When the change was made to the school on the hill, another matter entered into it, as both the Anglicans and Presbyterians were holding services there, but the people of those days were adaptable and broad-minded and it was arranged to hold the services in turns, the adherents of each denomination attending all services.

The difficulties of holding regular services in those times were very great. There was no traffic bridge over the Wairau River until 1884 and the weak link in the communication between Blenheim and Tua Marina was the punt over the river where the Ferry Bridge now stands. With just a medium fresh in the river it was unsafe to use the punt and this, combined with the bad state of the roads, there were many times when the preachers were unable to keep their appointments. The usual method of travel in those days was on horseback, and in summer with the river low, the minister, in common with most travellers, forded the river at Vickerman's Ford.

After 1875 communications improved, as the railway was opened in that year and when the punt was unworkable, the preacher rode along the railway line from Spring Creek, tied up his horse to a post and walked over the two railway bridges and along the line to Tua Marina.

Mention must be made also of the two veteran local preachers Messrs. Wm. Avery and Francis Terrill who came and conducted services in the school on the hill.

## **ERECTION OF CHURCH**

In the absence of the first Minute Book and definite records, details governing the decision to build a church are not fully known today, but the district was going ahead, the railway was being built and the population of the place was increasing.



**Mr G S Harper**



**Mr William Dick**

The Rev. G. S. Harper was the minister stationed in Blenheim, and in charge of the Circuit at that time, and the Board of Trustees that he set up consisted of himself as Chairman and Messrs. John C. Botham, Henry B. Botham, Joseph Powick, Jesse Powick and William Dick.



**Mr. HENRY B. BOTHAM.**



**Mr. JESSE POWICK.**

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Towards the end of 1874 the decision to build was made, for in the issue of the "*Marlborough Express*" of January 9th, 1875, this advertisement appears:—

**TO BUILDERS.**

"Tenders are invited for the erection of a Wesleyan Church at Tua Marina. Plans and specifications will be seen at Mr. D. Kitchens, Blenheim, till Friday the 15th at noon, and at Mr Tozer's Store, Tua Marina, from Friday afternoon till Monday evening the 18th inst. The lowest nor any tender necessarily accepted."

It is unfortunate that the early records are not available, and that in spite of diligent enquiries, the number of tenderers and the actual amount the church cost is not known to-day, but it is known that the contract was let to Mr. David Boyes, a builder residing in Tua Marina. He got to work and on May 29th 1875 the following advertisement appeared in the "*Express*":—

**THE WESLEYAN CHURCH**

Tua Marina.

"The above church will be opened on Sabbath the 30th instant when the Rev. G. S. Harper will preach at 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Collections in aid of Building Fund.

N.B. The Opening Tea and Public Meeting are postponed till November 1st."



**THE FIRST CHURCH.  
OPENED MAY 30th, 1875.**



**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

On the following Wednesday, June 2nd, the opening was reported as follows:—

"The new Wesleyan Church at Tua Marina was opened for public worship on Sabbath last when the Rev. G. S. Harper preached at 2.30 and 6.30 p.m. Notwithstanding the threatening aspect of the weather there was a good gathering of the inhabitants and friends from a distance. The collections amounted to £5/1/1. The church is erected on a half-acre section given by Mr. F. Smith and has been built by Mr. Boyes of Tua Marina and we are informed that the work has given great satisfaction to the Trustees."

Speaking now after the lapse of 75 years it can be said that the unknown writer of the above report spoke truer than he was to know when he said that Mr. Boyes' work had "given great satisfaction to the Trustees." Thanks to good work in the first place and careful maintenance over the years, the old building is still in good order, and all being well, will give "great satisfaction" for many more years to come.

On October 27th the following advertisement appeared:—

**WESLEYAN CHURCH.**

Tua Marina.

The Rev. W. Morley of Wellington will preach on Sabbath next October 31st at 2.30 p.m. Next day a Public Tea will be provided. Tickets 2/- each, children half-price. After the tea a public meeting will take place. Chair to be taken by Mr. George Dodson of Spring Creek. Addresses will be given by Revs W. Morley; W. Sherriffs; G. S. Harper and others. Collections after each service in aid of the building fund.

On November 3rd the following report of the proceedings:—

**TUA MARINA.**

"The continuation of the opening services of the Wesleyan Church at Tua Marina was held on Monday last by a Public Tea and Meeting. The opening services were preached in May last. The Rev. W. Morley, of Wellington, was to have preached again on Sabbath afternoon last, on behalf of the Building Fund, but the inclement weather prevented. On Monday morning the Tua Marina and Picton Road Sunday Schools with their friends assembled for a picnic in Laws' paddock at the foot of Massacre Hill where games of different kinds were kept up till the tea hour. The unsettled state of the weather marred the prospects of the day; nevertheless a goodly number assembled and partook of an excellent tea; the tables being presided over by Mesdames Powick, Lucas, Smith, Wrigley, Crisp, Burroughs and Morrin. At the public meeting Mr. G. Dodson of Spring Creek took the chair. The financial statement showed the expenditure to have been £164/12/6 and the receipts £127/2/4. The refreshment stall and tea realised £11/6/-, bringing the debt to £26/4/2.

## **Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

The Revs. W. Sherriffs, W. Morley and G. S. Harper and Mr. T. Boundy then addressed the meeting, the two last-named gentlemen thanking the ladies who had given and presided at the trays. The collection realised £5/5/3 which with a few more promises to come in reduced the debt to £18.

The singing of the Doxology and the Benediction brought a crowded and enthusiastic meeting to a close."

The earliest record book in the possession of the Trustees today is a Treasurer's Account Book with the first entry dated December 1st 1875. It records a loan of £20 at 7% interest, from the Rev. G. S. Harper.

Whether that loan was for the purpose of paying off the remaining debt of £18 is a matter for conjecture today, but interest was paid on the loan for some years.

It is thought possible that the amount of expenditure, £164/12/6, may have been the actual cost of the church.

The church as originally built, was not lined inside, and being a tall building in an exposed position, it was found to sway considerably in windy weather. When funds became available, four buttresses were built along each side. These had the desired effect and made the building much steadier in the wind, and as a further improvement the church was lined inside. An entry on April 2nd 1880 records the payment to Mr. Boyes of £34/6/8 for this work.

When the church was built, the buying of an organ had to wait owing to financial difficulties. The minister was expected to lead the singing, and it is remembered that one minister raised the tune by means of a tuning fork.

An entry in the Account Book on June 30th 1883 is:—

Organ, including freight, £29/14/-.

It says something for a scattered community in those early days that among the congregation were five young ladies able to play. Three of them took on the duty of playing for the church services and two for the Sunday School. The three that played for the church services were Miss Ada Jackson, Miss Jessie Smith (Mrs F. Mohring), and Miss Martha Botham (Mrs F. Smith junr.), and even after this length of time the latter two are still with us to-day.

The earliest Minute Book in the possession of the Trustees today, commences with a meeting held on September 16th 1892. Most of the business at that meeting seems to have been considering ways and means of finding the necessary money, £57, to pay Mr. John Fawcett for building the vestry at the back of the church. As had happened before, and has happened since in similar circumstances, a member of the Trustees advanced the necessary money free of interest.

## **Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

As originally built by Mr. Boyes the church was roofed with shingles, and it is interesting to read that at a meeting held after the evening service on May 29th 1895 it was: "Moved by Mr. H. B. Botham and seconded by Mr F. Terrill, that the church be roofed with iron." Carried. "The labour necessary to put the iron on was kindly offered by the Trustees and members."

In the Account Book the price of the iron is stated as being £11/15/6.

It is now fifty-five years since the above event and it can be truthfully said that the "Trustees and members" made an excellent job of putting on the iron. This is not surprising perhaps, as four of the Trustees had had experience of the building trade. The iron also was of good quality and it was not until 1949 that it showed signs of rust and had to be painted.

It is regretted that enquiries over a wide field have failed to locate a photograph of the church roofed with shingles for reproduction in this booklet.

At a meeting held on December 29th 1897 and presided over by the Rev. Wm. Keall it was: "Moved by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. G. Botham, that a cordial vote of thanks be sent to Mr. F. Smith, the retiring Treasurer, for his long service in that office." Carried.

Remarking on the long service mentioned above it can be said that the Treasurer's Account Book, still in existence, is dated 1875. From then until May 19th 1897 all the entries, with a few exceptions, are in the bold handwriting of Mr. Smith. In 1897 he retired to live in Blenheim.

The Trustee appointed to fill the position of Treasurer was Mr. Charles Botham who held office until the end of 1931 when he also retired, and was replaced by Mr. Edgar Smith who has held office up to the present.

It is not known who was Secretary to the Trustees prior to September 16th 1892, but from that date till June 16th 1914 Mr. Charles Botham held the position. It was then held by Mr. W. R. Cresswell until he left Tua Marina in April 1916. Mr. Wm. Smith was then appointed and continued until leaving the district in March 1925, when Mr. D. Knight, the present Secretary, was appointed.

The date is not known exactly but about the year 1895 the congregation had increased and it was decided to hold services on a Sunday evening. These services were conducted in turn by three of the Trustees, Messrs. John C. and Henry B. Botham and Francis Terrill, all three of whom have honoured names in Methodism in the Blenheim Circuit.

Messrs. H. B. Botham and F. Terrill came to Blenheim from England in 1863 and their names appear on the first Circuit plan printed after the appointment of the Rev.

## **Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

W. J. Wallis to Blenheim in 1865. Mr. F. Terrill (local preacher) and Mr H. B. Botham (exhorter).

Mr. H. B. Botham came to live in Tua Marina in 1875 and Mr. Terrill in 1885 and they at once took an active part in the affairs of the local church. These three gentlemen continued to conduct the evening service for some years.

### **A MINISTER IS APPOINTED**

During 1902 a new development entered into the Church life of the district. The Circuit was going ahead and the minister in Blenheim was finding he was unable to cope with the work and needed assistance. A Home Missionary was appointed to the Circuit and Tua Marina as the largest of the smaller centres was urged by the Quarterly Meeting to make provision for him. Mr. Leonard A. White was the Home Missionary appointed and he arrived in July 1902. Though he was only with us until March 1903 his stay, and his Christian Endeavour Class are still remembered with pleasure by old residents.

He was followed by the Rev. B. J. James, then a young minister in his first year. Church affairs in Tua Marina progressed during Mr James' time, a horse and gig were bought for his use and within a month of his arrival the erection of a stable and trapshed had been authorised. His horse and gig were fully employed as during his time services were held at Seddon and Blind River and many a weary drive did Mr. James and his successor Mr. Ranston have, out through the Redwood Pass to conduct services in those parts.

The following is in the Minute Book on April 15th 1904:—

"It was decided to put the outside of the Church in thorough repair. Mr. Paine to see the work done in a workmanlike manner at day wages."

The carrying out of the above work was quite a large under-taking for those times. The Church was raised and reblocked by Mr. C. Wm. Botham, and painted inside and out by Mr. F. Paine and they made a very good job of it, the cost being £65/17/6.

During the time the work was being done, the services were held once again in the little school on the Hill.

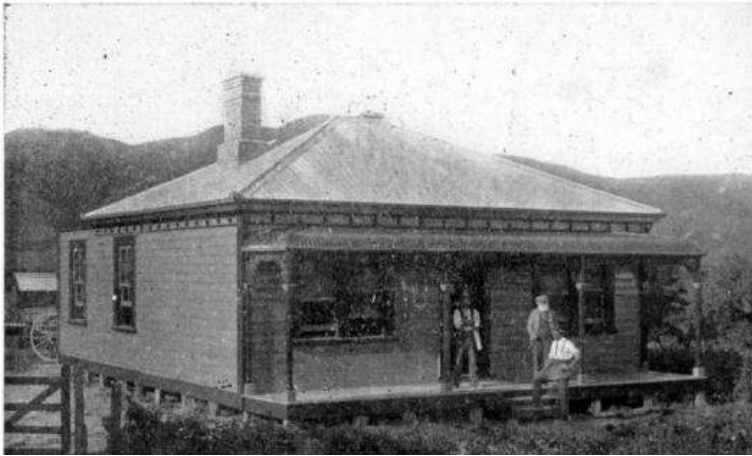
### **THE PARSONAGE**

Our next minister was the Rev. H. Ranston who came in the autumn of 1906 and with his appointment a new problem arose.

The previous two ministers had been single and had boarded with Mr. and Mrs J. C. Botham. Mr. Ranston, however, was married and so a parsonage had to be provided.

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Fortunately it was found possible to rent a suitable house a little distance away from the Church.



**PARSONAGE, erected 1909.**

The Trustees were not content to have the minister living in a rented house any longer than was necessary, and thus we read that at a meeting held on May 27th 1909, when there were present Rev. E. P. Blamires (chairman) and Messrs. J. C. Botham, C. Botham, G. Botham and F. Smith junr. "It was decided to ask the Quarterly Meeting for permission to erect a Parsonage. £150 was promised in the room toward a Parsonage Building.

Permission was evidently granted by the Quarterly Meeting and once that was obtained, the Trustees lost no time in getting to work. Mr. John Harris made available a suitable section near the Church which was bought by Mr. F. Smith junr. and presented to the Trustees, as recorded in a Minute on August 5th 1909. At that meeting it was also moved and carried "That the tender of Mr. C. Wm. Botham for £300 be accepted."

Mr. C. Wm. Botham got to work on the job to such good effect that the Parsonage was erected and Mr. Blamires was able to take up his residence on December 7th 1909, thus bringing to fruition a project which was a big undertaking for a small community. After erecting and furnishing the Parsonage a debt of £100 remained. This sum was loaned free of interest by one of the Trustees and was repaid in instalments, until by November 11th 1913 it was finally paid off.

The cause being now firmly established the work went forward under the various ministers, the local officials giving faithful service.

## **THE NEW CHURCH**

This chapter in the history of Methodism in Tua Marina goes back to the 10th of June 1919 when the late Mr. Frederick Smith senr. laid the foundation of the new building fund, when he handed to the Trustees a donation of £ 200. This was followed in 1921 by a similar donation by the late Mr. Frederick Smith junr. Up to 1926 interest accumulated to £ 116 and in November of that year an appeal yielded £164. On March 31st 1930 the fund stood at £790, and three years later was £925 through the accumulation of interest.

In October 1933 the Trustees commissioned Mr. Roger Bacon A.R.L.B.A., of Picton, to prepare plans and specifications and in the same month they called alternate tenders for a new Church in wood and concrete. In March 1934 a tender was let to Messrs. Neal & Bothwell of Blenheim for the erection of a new reinforced concrete Church at a cost of £840/17/-.

## **LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE.**

On Saturday, June 9th 1934 the laying of the foundation stone was a memorable occasion. The proceedings opened with a service in the old Church, every seat being occupied. The Rev. W. Wills gave an inspiring address, touching on man's desire down through the ages for a place to worship, finding expression in primitive times to the sacred tree, later to the rough altar, and the temple or church of to-day.

This was followed by the chairman, the resident minister, Rev. H. V. Utting, who dealt with the hallowed associations centred round the old church over half a century. Mr. J. S. White read the lesson.

The Rev. H. S. Kings, a former minister of the church, telegraphed from Christchurch his congratulations.

The Chairman then invited the gathering to the site of the new church, where the late Mrs J. Burroughs senr., the oldest resident in Tua Marina; who was present at the opening of the old church; had the honour of laying the foundation stone, which bore the inscription "To the Glory of God, this stone was laid June 9th 1934." Cameras were busy as the architect, Mr. Roger Bacon, presented Mrs Burroughs with the trowel as a memento of the occasion.

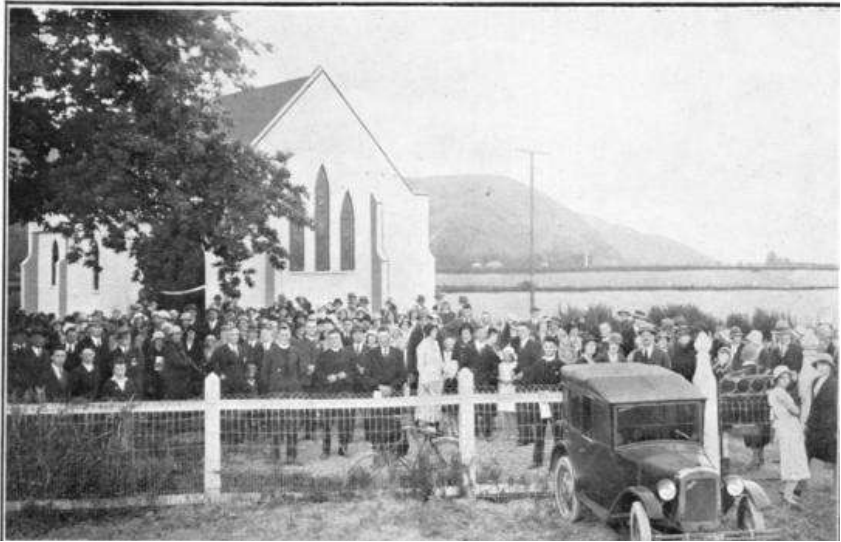
The contractors, Messrs. Neal and Bothwell and staff were also present.

## **OPENING OF NEW CHURCH**

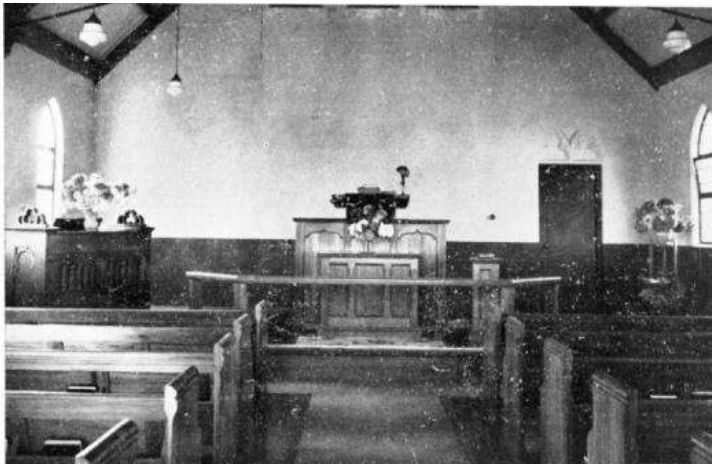
On Wednesday, November 7th 1934 the new church, which at the time, was regarded as perhaps the most beautiful small church in the Province, was formally opened and dedicated in the presence of a large and representative gathering, and has stood since

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

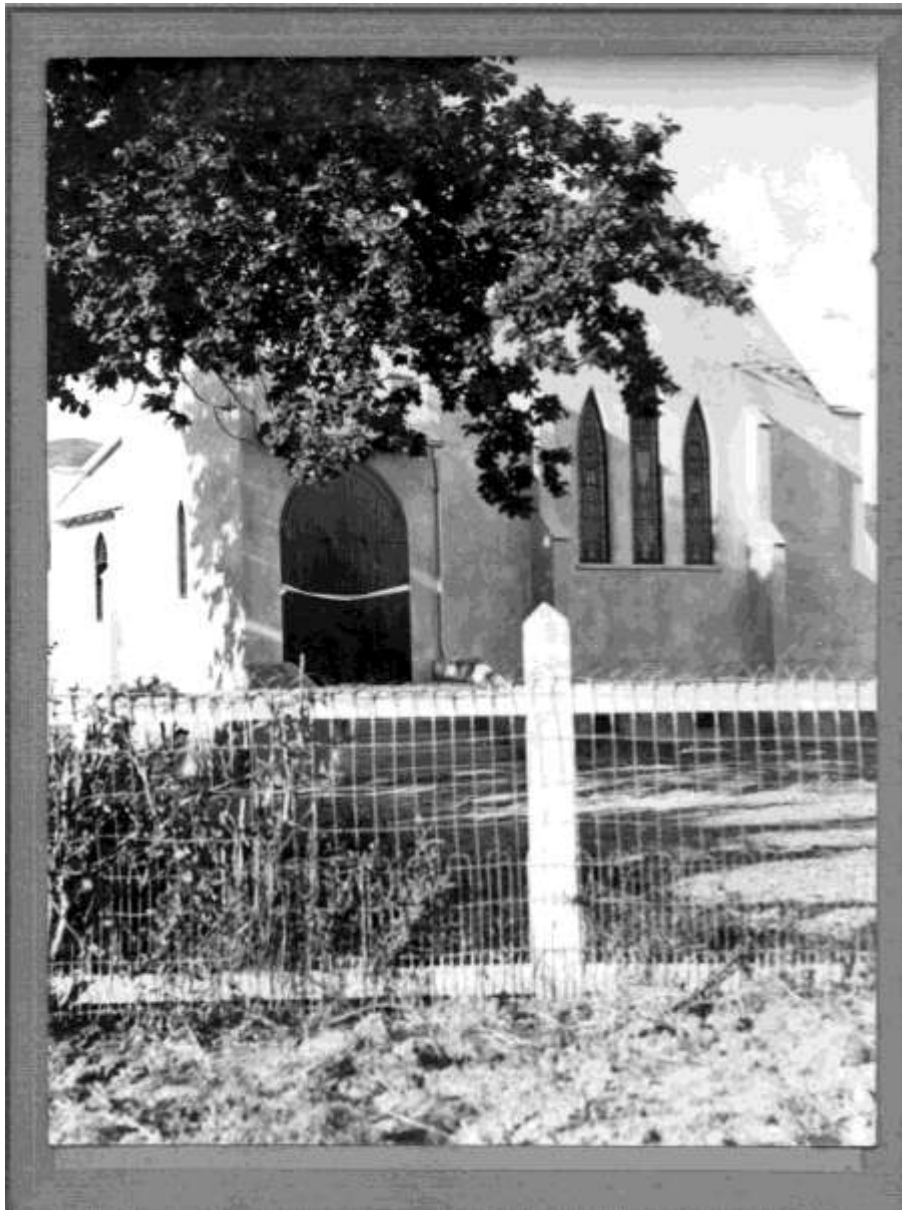
as a monument to the memory of the early pioneers and to the creative and progressive enterprise of this generation.



Planned as it was in the early English style of architecture, with graceful arched doors and windows it seemed very fitting that a large oak tree should stand sentinel near by, creating light and shade on and around the building as the congregation gathered about the church doors.



**INTERIOR OF CHURCH.**



Tua Marina Methodist Church on Opening Day.



## **Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

After a short prayer by the Rev. W. A. Burley M.A. and an address of welcome by the resident minister, Rev. H. V. Utting, a white ribbon barring the doors was cut by Mrs A. Tarrant, one of the older church members, and daughter of one of the original Trustees. Mrs Tarrant was later presented with a framed photograph of the church.

The service of dedication was held inside the church and as the worshippers took their seats, many voiced appreciation of the simple beauty that surrounded them.

The act of dedication was performed by the District Chairman, Rev. W. A. Burley, who, in acknowledging the welcome that had been extended to him, said: "I trust that all who worship here will be just as beautiful in spirit as the church is beautiful." Mr. Burley went on to preach a telling sermon on what the Christian Church stood for, saying it was the movement of spiritual forces that led the Tua Marina people to build a beautiful church wherein to worship God. It was thus a witness against the materialism of the times. Well might the text be blazoned across its walls, "Man shall not live by bread alone."

Rev. H. S. Kings expressed his pleasure at being present to see the consummation of the work put in hand during his ministry, and congratulated the people, the architect and the builders. "I am sure it has been a labour of love," he said, "because only love for high ideals could have produced this building."

The Rev. Mr. Fordyce, another former minister, congratulated the congregation upon being able to open such a beautiful church free of debt. He recalled how during his ministry it had been suggested that the building should be started with the aid of loan money, but the Trustees had set their face against that course. He agreed as to their wisdom and remarked that it was a characteristic of the people of the district, who were self-reliant, upright and staunch to a degree.

Subsequent speakers were Revs. C. F. Saunders (Anglican Vicar of Spring Creek); J. Lowden (Presbyterian Minister of Picton); F. Sanderson (Methodist Minister at Havelock); W. Wills (Blenheim); and Mr. F. H. Southgate (Circuit Steward^ Blenheim).

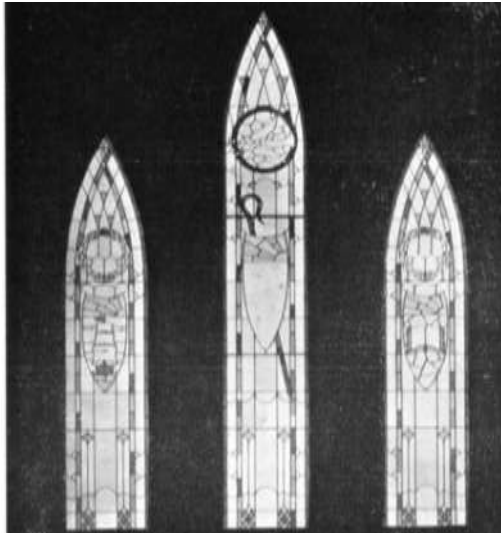
In the course of the evening items were rendered by an excellent choir, under the leadership of Miss Flora Campbell, while Miss W. Woolley and Mr. H. Hoar contributed solos and Mrs D. Knight a recitation.

A sheaf of messages of congratulation and good wishes was read by the Secretary of the Trust (Mr. D. Knight), who also stated that the total cost of the church and contents was £950 and it was being opened free of debt.

After the service a closer inspection was possible of the pews, pulpit and other furniture made of richly grained heart rimu. The Communion Table (the gift of the Ladies' Bible Class), and the Baptismal Font (given by Mr. and Mrs W. S. Harris as a

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

memorial to their son Sidney) were beautifully fashioned to match the pulpit. The appropriate white electric light globes, which diffuse a soft white light were also donated by the Ladies' Bible Class.



**PIONEER MEMORIAL WINDOWS.**

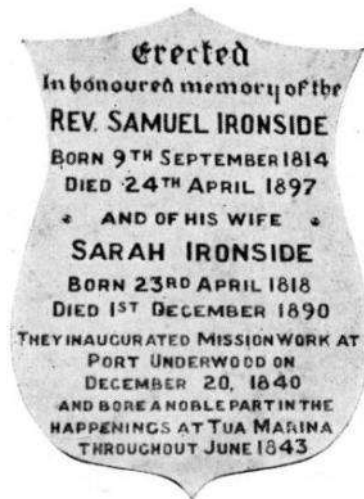
Three stained glass windows, constituting a memorial to the early pioneers of the district, tell a story in pictorial form of the arrival of the first settlers, their gift of peace and industry to the land of the Southern Cross and their abiding faith in God and the Bible.

On November 12th 1934 the Trustees decided to place within the church the Tablet here pictured to the honoured memory of Rev. Samuel Ironside and his wife, Sarah Ironside. On May 30th 1935 the tablet was unveiled by the Rev. M. A. Rugby Pratt.

Since 1938 the church has been known as the Trinity Methodist Church.

Following closely upon the opening of the new church the possibility of moving the old building further back was discussed and the work including re-flooring and re-piling was carried out satisfactorily at a cost of £92/19/9. The old building has since served as a Sunday School and Social Hall.

Mr. G. Botham and the Misses C. and A. Botham asked the Trustees to accept a piano for use in the Sunday School. This was a much-appreciated gift.



THE IRONSIDE TABLET

## 75TH. ANNIVERSARY

The 75th. Anniversary of the Church and Sunday School was celebrated on Sunday, May 28th 1950 in the presence of large congregations. A former minister of the church the Rev. H. S. Kings of Levin occupied the pulpit at both services, and gave thoughtful and inspiring addresses. The lessons were read from the original Bible, on the fly leaf of which appears the following: "Wesleyan Church, Tua Marina, opened May 30th 1875 by Rev. G. S. Harper at 2.30 and 6.30 p.m."

Rev. C. T. J. Luxton welcomed Mr. Kings and also read a message of goodwill from a former minister, Rev. E. P. Blamires, now in Adelaide.

The congregation joined heartily in the singing of well-chosen hymns suited to the occasion and special items by the choir under the leadership of Mr Ian Johnston, were much appreciated.

After the evening service a social hour was spent in the old church, and was a time of happy reunion, visitors from Blenheim, Rapaura, Springlands and surrounding districts being present.

Mr. F. W. Smith on behalf of the congregation welcomed the Rev. H. S. Kings and expressed the pleasure felt by all that he had been able to take part in the Anniversary. After conducting the evening service in Picton the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton and Mrs Luxton came through to Tua Marina and joined in the welcome to the visitors. Mr.

Kings happily replied and conveyed best wishes from Mrs Kings who was unable to be present.

## **OUR MINISTERS**

The present writer can call to mind all our ministers since 1902.

Mr. L. A. White he remembers seeing on the day he was being driven round the district to meet the people.

Rev. B. J. James, a young Australian, who loved a good fast horse and knew how to manage it.

Rev. H. Ranston, one in particular, of whose sermons is still remembered and appreciated.

Rev. E. P. Blamires, under whose kindly guidance some of us made a vital decision and joined the church.

Rev. W. J. Oxbrow, who delighted in a day's fishing in the Sounds.

Rev. T. R. B. Woolloxall, who will long be remembered for the practical help he so willingly gave, to a farming community during the dark days of World War 1.

Rev. H. Ryan and his series of thoughtful discourses on Elijah.

Rev. D. J. Murray, a fine old supernumerary minister who came and ably held the fort for the year when the Rev. T. Dent was unable to keep his appointment.

Rev. F. B. Lawrence, who during the two years he was with us, gave of his best.

Rev. J. Featherston, who was our first minister to do his travelling by motor car and a very careful motorist he was.

Rev. R. E. Fordyce, to whom this writer is very grateful for the kindly way he visited the sick.

Rev. H. S. Kings, during whose ministry the Trustees made preparations for building the new church.

Rev. H. V. Utting, who was a very busy and conscientious person, while supervising the erection of the new church.

Rev. T. H. Carr, a man's man, for whose help some of us are very grateful and who, shortly after leaving us went overseas as a Chaplain.

Rev. E. C. Leadley, who came to us from the Mission Field.

Rev. W. C. Jenkin, who proved himself a true friend.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

As before mentioned Mr. James Powick had conducted a Sunday School in his home, "Mt. Cook," commencing in 1860. How long that school continued is not known, but probably for only a short time, as Mr. Powick was an old man and died in 1871.

Our present School, of which the cause in Tua Marina can be justly proud, commenced shortly after the arrival of Mr. John C. Botham in 1865 and down through the years it has been attended by the majority of the children of the district. What can probably be classed as a record is that during the 85 years of its existence it has had only three superintendents.

### MR. JOHN BOTHAM.

Mr. John Botham appears among the first Trustees.

The first superintendent was born at Stockport, Cheshire, in 1830 and as a young man taught in the Stockport Sunday School. Coming out to Nelson in March 1858, he at once joined up with the Nelson School Society and taught in their Sunday School in Bridge Street under Mr. Matthew Campbell. This is not the place to give an account of that Society and the large part it played in laying the foundations of the educational system of New Zealand, but in the following year, 1859, Mr. Botham was elected to the Committee of the Society, with, among others, Mr. Alfred Domett the poet and later Premier of New Zealand, and Mr. J. P. Robinson, Superintendent of the Province of Nelson. On leaving for Blenheim in January, 1864, he was presented with a suitably inscribed Bible in recognition of his services to the Society. That Bible is still a valued possession in a home in Tua Marina.



Mr John C. Botham

## **Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

On arriving in Blenheim in 1864 with his love for his work, he was soon busy commencing a Sunday School there. The late Mr. E. H. Penny, in his excellent booklet published for the Jubilee Celebrations of Wesley Church, Blenheim in 1915, has placed on record that Mr. Botham was the first Superintendent of the Blenheim Sunday School.

On coming to Tua Marina in 1865 it was not long before he started a class in his own home, and when the little school on the Hill was built in 1868, the class was transferred there and conducted regularly on Sunday mornings. There are still old pupils living who attended those Sunday morning classes on the Hill. When the church was built in 1875 the Sunday School naturally shifted there and has continued ever since. Mr. Botham continued in charge until 1912 when on account of failing health he had to give it up. He thus taught in Tua Marina for 47 years.



**Mr GEORGE BOTHAM.**  
**Sunday School Superintendent.**  
**1912-1936.**



**Mr W. S. HARRIS**  
**Sunday School Superintendent.**  
**1936-1950.**

### **MR. GEORGE BOTHAM**

The second Superintendent was one of the early pupils of the School, having been born in Tua Marina in 1866. He commenced teaching in 1882 and succeeded his father as Superintendent in 1912 and from then on, with the able assistance of Mr. J. E. Cresswell, Mr. W. S. Harris and others he continued in charge until his death in 1936. He taught in the School for 54 years.

The third and present superintendent is also an old pupil of the School. He commenced teaching on April 27th 1913 and succeeded to the superintendency on the death of Mr. G. Botham in 1936.

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Besides Mr. Harris, the present staff consists of Mr. J. McRae and the Misses A. Neal and N. White.

+ + +

The following is as complete a list as it has been possible to get, of the teachers who have assisted from the early days:—

Messrs. John Harris, Henry Botham, Alfred Mildenhall, Francis Terrill, Charles Botham, McVickers, Misses Carrie Botham, Alice Botham, Adelaide Burroughs, Lucy Burroughs; Messrs. James Cresswell, Gordon Cresswell; Mrs Wm. Smith; Misses Beatrice Tarrant, Myrtle Goulton, Jessie Smith, Elsie Tarrant, Alice White, Eva Curnow, Elsie Hight, Vivian Botham, Almira Botham, May Tapp, Hazel Goulton, Doris Goulton, Linda Millard; Mr. George Millard; Misses Nita Hastilow, Jean Wood, Avis Hastilow, Dorothy White.

It has been found impossible to compile a list of Sunday School organists, but the two girls who took it in turn to play when the organ was purchased on June 30th 1883 were Miss Rebecca Thomas (Mrs James Law); and Miss Minnie Smith (Mrs Louis A. Browne).

One useful service to the community, rendered by the Sunday School, in the early days, was the supply of books to the scholars per medium of the Sunday School Library.

An item in the "*Maryborough Press*" on May 20th 1874 says: "Mr. Harper gave a lecture in the school house at Tua Marina on behalf of a Sabbath School Library lately established there."

It does not say what the subject of the lecture was, or where the Library was housed in 1874. According to the Account Book during the 15 years from 1885 to 1900 the sum of £54/19/6 was spent on books.

Following a Resolution of Conference in 1940 that all Sunday School teachers with 25 years' service or over, were eligible for a Long Service Diploma, three Diplomas came to Tua Marina and were presented to Misses Carrie and Alice Botham and Mr. W. S. Harris.

The model canoe now in the possession of the Sunday School is a replica of a Solomon Island tomoko, or war canoe. It was made by small boys in the school at Roviana, where a former minister of this church, the Rev. E. C. Leadley was headmaster. It was given to Sister Effie Harkness who presented it to the Missionary paper "*The Lotu*" for competition. It was won out-right by our Sunday School in 1943 after being won for two years in succession.

## **Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Since the days of Mr. L. A. White we have had organisations under various names, in addition to the Sunday School, catering for the young people of the district. Since 1902 when the Christian Endeavour Class was formed, there has been the Wesley Guild, the Young Women's Bible Class and Young Worshippers' League. For some years now a Bible Class for young people has been meeting on Thursday evenings with our minister in charge. In addition to the foregoing activities there have been times when Tua Marina has had branches of the Band of Hope and Y's. and their meetings have been held in the Sunday School.

Since 1875 down to World War II, the Anniversary Tea Meeting in the Spring was a regular feature of our Church life. It was usually held on the Wednesday after the special Sunday Services and was always well attended, the ladies of the church catering generously for all comers. Following the Tea the Annual Concert was held, the programme consisting of items by the Sunday School scholars and friends. Owing to the rationing restrictions, teas have not been held since 1941, but the concert, followed by supper, has continued each year. It is hoped to hold a Tea again this Jubilee year.

Sunday School picnics, too, have been held fairly consistently since the first one in Mr. Law's paddock in 1875, usually on the Saturday following the Tea Meeting. For many years they were held at the foot of the hill at the back of Mr. J. C. Botham's home. Then for a period in Mr. Wm. Smith's grounds and for some years now at Mr. W. S. Harris' home.

## **BRIEF MENTION**

The Rev. J. W. Wallis, who conducted the first service at "Willow Bank" in 1865, was the son of a pioneer missionary to New Zealand, and as far as is known, was the first New Zealand-born minister of the Methodist Church.

Mr. James Powick did not live to see the opening of the church in 1875, but his descendants through the years have attended the church and to-day he is represented there by his great-great-grandchildren, while Messrs. John C. and Henry B. Botham; John Harris and Frederick Smith have their great-grandchildren at church on Sunday mornings.

Mr. and Mrs Jesse Powick, who removed from Tua Marina to the Hokianga in the early 1890's, have their descendants still connected with our church up there.

Mr. Thomas Boundy, very prominent in church life in Tua Marina in 1875, went to the Klondyke gold rush and ended his days in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Alfred Mildenhall, after removing from Tua Marina, settled in Johnsonville, where he taught in the Sunday School for over fifty years.



**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Mr. and Mrs James Mudford, who left us during the 1880's and settled near Foxton, have their descendants among the office-bearers of the church there.

Mr. John Lomas, who, as a young man in Tua Marina in 1880, commenced as a local preacher, continued as such until the end of his life in Christchurch.

Mrs. Robert Hillock attended our church for a number of years. Her grandson was later the Rev. E. T. Cox, Mayor of Dunedin.

Mr. Joseph Powick, one of the first Trustees, was a handy man, always to the fore when repairs in the carpentering line were needed.



**Mr Joseph Powick**

Mrs John Harris and Mrs Frederick Smith senr. were the two ladies who swept and cleaned the church ready for the opening on May 30th 1875.

Mrs John Harris, living next door, always had the welfare of the church at heart and is still remembered for her generous hospitality to ministers and their families in earlier years. It was Mrs Harris who first provided a vase of flowers for the church on Sundays.

Dating back to the days of services in the school on the Hill, the Methodists and Presbyterians have worked amicably together in Tua Marina. From those early days until quite recently we have been happy to have the Revs. Sherriffs, Allsworth, Robb, Marshall and Whitelaw come to take part in our Anniversary Services. We also remember the times when two of their lay preachers, Messrs. Whiteford and Ryburn, came and conducted services for us.

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

When the Salvation Army made its debut in this district in 1884 they were granted the use of the church for their week-night meetings for some time.

We honour the unknown person who presented the church with its pulpit Bible. He brought it along wrapped up in a large red harvest handkerchief.

In December 1906 the Misses Lucy Burroughs, Emma and Alice Botham were appointed a committee to procure crockery. Some of that crockery is still in use for social functions.

The mode of travel has changed since the coming of Mr. L. A. White. He travelled on horseback to do his visiting. Then for a period a horse and gig was used, while the Revs. Woolloxall Ryan and Lawrence went about on motor-cycles, and since then the minister has been provided with a car.

We remember the two members who put a new set of harness in the stable for the use of the new minister, and who later bought a new motor-cycle when the old one was beginning to give trouble. Also the ladies must not be forgotten who renovated the parsonage furniture and linen, between the going and coming of each minister.

We also think of the person whom the Minute Book calls the "unknown donor," who completely furnished the spare bedroom at the parsonage.

A minute in the earliest Minute Book now in the possession of the Trustees, records a resolution of thanks to Mr H. Oldham for having trained the choir. We feel it is worthy of recording that through the years Mr. Oldham has continued to associate himself with our anniversary choirs as leader.

In July 1939 Mr. C. Goulton, a Trustee over a long period, moved to Nelson. Rev. T. H. Carr presented Mr, Goulton with a hymn book autographed by himself and fellow trustees. Mr. Goulton expressed a wish to remain a Trustee, and did so until his death in July 1947.

During the ministry of the Rev. W. C. Jenkin, Miss Una Smith was thanked for her long service as organist. Mr. Jenkin's words of appreciation were accompanied by a gift from the congregation.

We make mention of three members of our congregation who in past years have rendered valuable service to our church, but who for some time have been unable to take an active part: Mrs J. P. Smith, Mrs R. G. Gardiner and Mrs C. Wm. Botham; the latter two being daughters of Mr. and Mrs Thomas Gledhill, early residents of Tua Marina.

Besides those already mentioned, others who took an active interest in our church in the earlier years were Mr. and Mrs Joseph Wratt, Mr. and Mrs John Morrin, Mr. and

## **Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Mrs John Barber, Mr. and Mrs Thomas Stokes, Mr. and Mrs John Williams and the Frederickson family.

Our members for many years have taken a practical interest in the Mission work of the church and for a time one of our local young ladies, Miss Hazel Goulton, was attached to the Mission School at Nukualofa, Tonga.

After having a resident minister for 37 years, and a welcome for all at the Parsonage, it will be appreciated that adherents and church members alike felt a loss in the community, when the Quarterly Meeting decided to station the second minister in Picton. The change was made during the ministry of Rev. T. H. Carr in 1940.

### **MINISTERS**

Mr L. A. White, Home Missionary, July 1902 to March 1903.

Rev. B. J. James (1903-1905)	3 years
Rev. H. Ranston (1906-1908)	3 years
Rev. E. P. Blamires (1909-1910)	2 years
Rev. W. J. Oxbrow (1911-1913)	3 years
Rev. T. R. B. Woolloxall (1914-1917)	4 years
Rev. H. Ryan (1918-1920)	3 years
Rev. D. J. Murray (1921)	1 year
Rev. F. B. Lawrence (1922-1923)	2 years
Rev. J. Featherston (1924-1926)	3 years
Rev. R. E. Fordyce (1927-1929)	3 years
Rev. H. S. Kings (1930-1933)	4 years
Rev. H. V. Utting (1934-1937)	4 years
Rev. T. H. Carr (1938-1939)	2 years

### **STATIONED AT PICTON**

Rev. T. H. Carr (1940-1941)	2 years
Rev. E. C. Leadley (1942-1945)	4 years
Rev. W. C. Jenkin (1946-1949)	4 years
Rev. C. T. Luxton (1950)	

### **ORGANISTS**

The following list is as complete as it has been possible to get of the Church organists.

Miss Ada Jackson (Mrs H. Mussen).  
Miss Jessie Smith (Mrs F. Mohring).  
Miss Martha Botham (Mrs F. Smith Jnr.).  
Miss Carrie Botham.

**Trinity Methodist Church, Tua Marina 1875-1950 by F.W. Smith**

Mr Alfred Lucas.  
Mr J. C. Charlton.  
Miss Alice E. Botham.  
Miss Ada M. Botham (Mrs W. Barratt).  
Miss Mary Powick (Mrs C. Hastilow).  
Miss Ella Smith (Mrs W. B. Lucas).  
Miss Grace Harris (Mrs D. Knight).  
Miss Gertrude Boyes (Mrs B. Yardley).  
Miss Myrtle Goulton (Mrs H. Grattan).  
Miss Elsie Tarrant.  
Miss Beryl Rose (Mrs Herbert Knight).  
Miss Amy Tarrant (Mrs E. Smith).  
Miss Clarice Goulton (Mrs F. B. Lawrence).  
Miss Gladys Tarrant (Mrs H. Boyes).  
Miss Vivian Botham (Mrs L. Sharp).  
Miss Una Smith.  
Mr L. J. Morrison.  
Mrs W. S. Harris.

The present organists are Miss Una Smith who has held office since 1922, and Mrs W. S. Harris.



**PRESENT TRUSTEES**

**STANDING:** G. Willard, F. W. Smith, J. S. White, A. Wood, W. S. Harris  
**SITTING:** D. Knight J.P. (Hon. Secretary), Rev. C. T. J. Luxton (Chairman),  
E. Smith (Treasurer)

