

Wesley Methodist Papatoetoe Celebrating 100 years 1912-2012



1912



1961



1962-2012

FOREWORD

Recently, Papatoetoe celebrated its 150th Anniversary as one of the oldest towns in the country's largest city. Likewise, our church Papatoetoe Wesley Methodist Church - in Kolmar Road will proudly celebrate its 100th Anniversary on 21 October 2012 a century year old church. The 100th Anniversary of any event or organisation is indeed a memorable and milestone celebration loaded with past history, a long journey of successes, achievements, fondly remembered; as well as a time to pause, to reflect and to strategise for the challenges of the future.

I am privy to the details of our church's life journey over the past 100 years - its humble beginnings with the first historic church building completed within a day on 14 December, 1912. The hard work, dedication and the vision of the past pioneers blessed by the leadership, grace and love of God which has led our church through a period of great success, achievements and growth.

However, we should not now rest on our laurels but press ahead with a greater commitment to face the challenges that lie ahead. Our church's guiding principles are best reflected through our **Mission Statement** and our **Vision**.

Our Mission: "To know Christ and make him known"

Our Vision: "To be a growing church where all people find meaningful faith and are empowered to serve God"

Our world now faces rapid technological advancements, materialistic abundance, global transformation from industrial to information age, etc. On the other hand the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. In the midst of these where does our spiritual and value-added nurturing fit in? Are we to continue to live a selfish lifestyle or develop a humble approach to serve all? We all have the opportunity to inculcate in people's lives the love of Jesus not only by "talking the talk" but by "walking the talk". Our Christian faith and teachings from the Bible should always reflect this. Let us at this time of celebration and reflection be inspired to take bolder steps with firmer commitment to continue to serve the Lord in the way we are called to do.

God Bless!

Augusten Subhan

Minister of Papatoetoe Wesley Methodist Church.

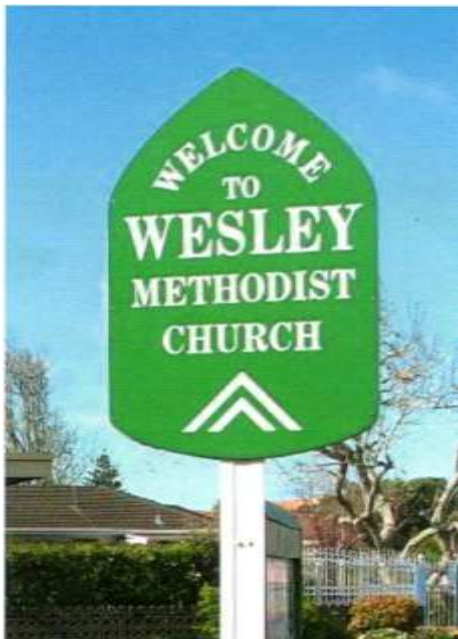


Rev. Augusten Subhan

THE EARLY DAYS

Who were the first Methodists in Papatoetoe? It seems most likely that they were the Rev. George Buttle and family. He had worked in the Maori Mission from 1840 to 1857, mainly at Raglan and Waipa. After his wife's death, he returned to England in 1857 where ill-health caused his retirement at age of 50. In 1861 he returned to New Zealand to purchase Allotment 36 at Papatoetoe for £205 and farmed its 189 acres as "Spring Farm". It was bounded by Station and Portage Roads and ran back toward the Great South Road. He was a prominent member and trustee at the Otahuhu Church until his death in 1874 after which farming was continued by two of his sons, Robert Norman and George Alfred who were both listed as trustees of the Otahuhu Church in 1880 (along with another Papatoetoe farmer, George Martin).

On 25th February 1868, Rev. George Buttle was present at the meeting which set up the first local body, the Papatoetoe Highway Board. Both his sons later served as secretary of this Board, Alfred 1872-77 and Robert 1877-79; in fact Robert was secretary, treasurer and rate-collector at a salary of £10 per year. Rates were levied at 3 pence an acre. Pieces of the farm were sold off from time to time, some to the Crown in 1873 presumably for the railway which went through the middle of it. During the fifty years 1861-1911 the district slowly developed with the number of Methodists increasing until they reached the stage where they felt strong enough to have their own church instead of having to go to Otahuhu, Flat Bush or Woodside. And so our story begins.



A NEW METHODIST CAUSE - PART OF MANUKAU CIRCUIT

Modern residents of Papatoetoe find it hard to visualise the rural setting of 100 years ago. Family farms are now remembered in the names of residential roads. Records tell us that about 1910 there were three houses and one shop in St George Street, eight houses in Kolmar Road and three houses in Wallace Road. Papatoetoe was a district of open spaces and very different from 2012. The pace of life was more relaxed, and horses and cycles were more common than cars and sealed roads. The railway station could be seen from the Methodist Church site. It was in this setting that the Methodist settlers joined together for worship and fellowship in the Farnsworth House. The Anglican Church also helped in providing facilities for meetings.

In 1912 the Methodists decided that the time had arrived to build a church of their own, and so action was taken. The following trustees were appointed, and on 2nd October 1912 permission to buy land and build a hall was granted.

Trustees:

Mr. H. Farnsworth, Mr. J.C. Bryant, Mr F.H. Bryant, Mr S. Atkinson, Mr S. Hodge, Mr E. Pegler and Mr Moyle .

The cost of the section was £400 and the church £1,170. Materials and time were gladly given. When we consider that the property was debt free by the end of the decade, it was a magnificent achievement and cause for thanksgiving.

The first quarterly meeting was held at Papatoetoe on 2nd April 1913.

1912-19. The story of the building of the first Methodist Church on the present site in one day is well known and recorded in the Papatoetoe Council's Centennial History (1962). At this time there were 19 church members. For so small a company a truly mammoth task was undertaken. The foundation blocks had been previously laid but the actual construction of the church was completed with acetylene lighting installed by 11pm on the 14 December 1912. Ninety-five workers took part, many travelling in horse drawn vehicles from the wider Auckland area - tribute must be paid here to the ladies who kept the 'inner man' (men) well nourished. Three services were held next day.

Much activity was evident in the early years. Membership was soon up to fifty-four. Sunday School opened, a Christian Endeavour formed and a Senior Choir formed by 1914.

In 1916, Papatoetoe became part of the newly formed Otahuhu Circuit. Family picnics were popular. Youth Clubs raised funds to send parcels to servicemen overseas. There was a shortage of ministers during the war and Home Missionaries and Lay Preachers were asked to give service. In this way Mr F. Souster (Mrs L.Silvester's father) in 1918-19 served the Otahuhu Papatoetoe and Flat Bush Churches.

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Interested spectators watch the progress in the late afternoon while carpenters push on with the finishing work.



First Methodist Church next to the Farnsworth home finished at 11pm.



The Church in use.

1920's In the early years of the 1920's Methodist work and witness in the district was a vital part of the community. The 1922 Methodist Conference expressed concern for the outreach of the church in the growing Auckland suburbs.

Papatoetoe was given special consideration but finance was scarce so the challenge was met again by the local people.

Sunday School was growing so fast that extensions at the rear of the church were made to fill this need - classes (7 Sunday School and 2 Bible) had been separated by folding curtains. In 1927 a children's choir was commenced by Miss Louise Reed and became a much appreciated part in morning worship services. In 1928 the Rev.A.W.Silvester was appointed as the first Methodist Minister in Papatoetoe, so a sense of maturity was being reached. The Church was recognised as a centre in the community. The local "Literary and Debating Society" met regularly on the premises.

1930-40's Many of the older generation will recall the hard times of the depression years, then when all seemed to be well there followed the war years 1939-45 with all their upheaval and sad consequences. On the positive side Sunday School had 150 plus, scholars and staff. A pushbike was purchased for the minister, the road over the railway track was built. Not so good was the reduction in the minister's salary. In 1937 Sunday School was not able to commence until March because of an outbreak of 'polio'. From the mid-30's to 1947 church ministry power was cut, but work and witness continued. During the war years American servicemen appreciated the generous friendship and fellowship extended to them by Papatoetoe Methodists and other churches. In 1947 Rev. N.Olds was appointed and such was the confidence of the people that the Ladies Guild raised finance to purchase a section for building a parsonage.

1950-59 This was perhaps the period of most concentrated growth. It was at this time that Papatoetoe became a circuit in its own right having been under the wing of Otahuhu since 1916. The new circuit started with a credit balance of £275.

A parsonage was built at no. 83 Kolmar Rd to house a married ordained minister.

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This is the original parsonage which has since been upgraded to Conference requirements, by adding two extra bedrooms and other improvements made.



An aerial view of the first Church and Sunday School building just prior to the building of the new Wesley in 1962. The house and tennis court, top left, were part of the McKerras family property.

The church at no.37 Kolmar Rd was proving to be inadequate to cater for more than full morning and evening worship services. The Sunday School Hall was built in 1954, but by 1956 five extra classrooms had been added.

Girls' and Boys' Brigades were initiated and were soon thriving. We were 'bursting at the seams', it was soon apparent that thought would have to be given to building a

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larger church for worship. Our church growth was a reflection of the growth of the Papatoetoe Borough - we were on the way to becoming a city.

1960-onwards. By this time the church had accepted the challenge of stewardship and pledged giving. It was time to develop plans for the new Wesley Church. Many people loaned money for varying periods, some interest free. The church property needed more area for building works, car parking and driveways. The McKerras family lived "next door" (the previous Farnsworth home) on the Kolmar/Wentworth corner and owned "tennis court" land at the rear of the church property with access from Wentworth Avenue. We pay tribute to the McKerras family for land made available for Wesley's new church expansion.



Wesley Methodist Church 1962-2012

This worthy place of worship was opened in May 1962. Under the foundation stone was laid a cylinder containing - the 'NZ Herald' of the day, the Order of Service for the dedication, a set of current coins and a 1962 Income Tax Return form. It will be an interesting discovery someday.

A part of the old church was retained, (that is the floor of the Worship Centre- Church Lounge) so the old blends with the new. The pipe organ was a gift to the Church from the Women's Fellowship, and has proved to be a great asset in weekly worship services. Other pieces of the Church furniture were direct gifts or given by families in memory of others. At the time of all this expansion the Papatoetoe Church had committed itself to opening a church hall, St Paul's, at Otara which was part of the circuit. This was duly opened with a minister ready for action, so we were really involved in missionary outreach. A further church at Ferguson Road was opened in 1964. At Wesley a more formal style of worship service was followed with minister and choir being gowned. This was the pattern until the early 1970's by which time television had made its impact. Numbers at evening worship declined and the senior

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choir went into recess. The young people were coming to the fore in worship participation.

The overhead projector was being used for introducing new style modern hymns, songs, and illustrating children's talks.

In February 1979 Rev. Mary Astley became Papatoetoe's first lady minister - a surprise to some people but good for us, because we were able to see the church in a different way using its varied gifts of people and giving us an opportunity to share a different type of ministry.

The church became debt free in the late 1980s.

In 1981 the church organ was overhauled and extended forward. At the same time the console was re-sited from behind the pulpit to its present position. Within two years we began using the new Ecumenical Hymn Book *With One Voice*.

1982 saw the formation of the "Manukau North" Parish of which Papatoetoe was to be a part and so we had returned to our beginnings of 1912 in the Manukau Circuit.

In 1982, Methodist work between the Manukau Harbour and the Tamaki River in the North and the Waikato River in the South was re-organised into a new synodal district called Manukau District. Mangere and Howick-Pakuranga churches which had formerly belonged to circuits North were transferred to the new District. The result was that these churches together with Otahuhu, Mangere East, Otago and Papatoetoe were combined into a new circuit (or parish) named Manukau North. So in one sense, Papatoetoe which had originally belonged to a circuit known as Manukau has been re-orientated under the old name.

Later for practical purposes, the size of the Manukau North Parish became too unwieldy, so it was decided in 1997 to again revert to three parishes. Wesley Papatoetoe recombined with Otago - its old mission field of the 1960s - to become the Papatoetoe Otago Parish.

CHOIRS - MUSIC

Singing-music-praise has always been a solid ingredient in the life of the Papatoetoe Methodist Church. From limited records we gather the following picture.

A choir seems to have been formed as early as 1914 when members levied themselves one penny weekly for purchasing suitable music. The church and social activities of early choir members seemed to be joined. There were references to happy days in the country, travelling by horse and buggy, and hospitality of many local people.

As the years passed the senior choir, while under J.Sanderson, entered music festivals and competitions in the Auckland area and acquitted themselves very highly, winning many prizes.

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In later years a different type of choir emerged both in style of music and visual appearance. Gowns were worn. This seemed to parallel a more formal type of worship service.

With the passing of time, and maybe the advent of TV, the senior choir which only attended the evening service, in the 1970s went into recess as also did the evening service later on. The temporary loss of the evening service was replaced for a few years by an Evening Worship group lead by the Rev. Stan Andrews (retired) in the adjoining Worship centre. In the 1990s a morning service choir recommenced to contribute to the English Speaking service.

This continued until the arrival in 2003, of Rev. Andre Le Roux who preferred a morning Worship Group and band to lead the youth time hymn singing. This led to the tiered choir seating being replaced by a level stage area to accommodate the worship group, piano, electric keyboard and musical instruments. The pipe organ is still played for standard hymns during a service.



Wesley Worship Group

CHOIRS - CHILDREN AND YOUTH

These have had a prominent role in the musical contribution to worship at Wesley. A children's choir was formed in the 1920s and continued for almost fifty years. In this period Sunday School Anniversaries were popular. Many of these were held in the town hall because our church premises were not adequate.

It was in this field that the children's choirs were at their best. In more recent years there has been a very active youth choir which has displayed many fine talents, both individually in playing varied instruments and in working as a team.

For a number of years they have presented Christian musicals with telling effect, both in singing and acting. This has been much appreciated by all at Wesley and in other

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churches. We are thankful for these gifted young people who form part of our Methodist heritage in "singing to the Lord"

SUNDAY SCHOOL - BIBLE CLASS - YOUTH



The records of this important part of the life of Papatoetoe Wesley Church indicate much activity but few details. In the early years the Sunday School had a library service which was used when books were not so freely available from other sources. Christian Endeavour young people's clubs were very much a feature of that era as was participation in many district activities. In the late 1940s and 1950s the Sunday School had large numbers which had to meet before morning worship because of accommodation shortage. Sunday School Anniversary services were held for many years in the Papatoetoe Town Hall, and became a highlight of each year. At this time eighty children and young people were taking part in the Sunday School Union annual scripture examinations as well as in choral events and handwork projects.

In the early 1990's bible classes of around 70 in number were our high point in Christian Education and served the church well with Christian musicals, community outreach projects and witness. They had a very full and imaginative social programme and small study and prayer groups. Quite a few of our young people gave leadership in Y.F.C (Youth for Christ) in the South Auckland area.

The youth numbers fluctuated over the later 1990s. Regrettably a controversy that divided the Methodist Church, caused a great loss of youth and young adults from our

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English speaking congregation. Countering this loss has been the influx of many new nationalities with their children, generating a rebuilding of the youth work.

By 2001 under the leadership of Mrs Marilyn Panapasa, the Sunday school (now known as Kids Time) grew greatly, and as the youth grew, they carried on to recommence a Bible class section under the leadership of Mr Francis Leilua.

In 2006 a club known as "Diverse" was started by Rev. Andre Le Roux and now runs weekly with great enthusiasm under the guidance of Michael-Walter Lemanu.

MENS FELLOWSHIP

Between the 1950s and 1970s there was a strong Men's Fellowship which served a real need, from which grew friendships, shared interests, meeting men from other churches and districts. The group supported local projects and the outreach of the wider church and overseas mission.

Regrettably the Men's Fellowship Group lapsed during the latter years.

An endeavour to resurrect the men's group in 2008 by the late Mervyn McNickle struggled. The leadership was then taken up by Peter Lemanu. It was launched under the name *Methodist Blokes Fellowship*, stimulated interest and even produced a 12 man choir in 2009 which sang selected hymns in a Sunday service. Unfortunately attendance struggled with the weekly meeting format. The group is still operating, but meeting only once a month.

PROPERTY

The members of this committee were formerly known as trustees.

Wesley has been fortunate over the years in having loyal men and women who have given their time and abilities in maintaining a worthy place of worship. This has been demonstrated in administrative skills and also the practical work of carpenters, painters, electricians etc. We record also an appreciation of the help and advice of the ladies in furnishing and decorating matters, along with floral arrangements and garden maintenance.

Wesley is indebted to Mr Brad Shaw who was the architect and to Mr Alan McKerras whose construction company built the new church at cost in 1961-62. Much work continues to be done that is not officially recognised. Property management is ever ongoing.

Additions and alterations have been made to the building complex since the early 1960s to meet the needs of congregations and users of the facilities. Works include new offices and Hall entry ramp in 1987. The original speaker system in the church was improved in 1989 to give volume and recording controls. Toilet areas were altered and extended in 1996. Security and Fire detection alarm systems were installed throughout the building. The Hall floor area and Stage were extended in 1997. A

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glazed entry lobby was built under part of the canopy in 1998 to improve the church foyer. The pipe organ was upgraded thanks to Robert Hunt (the organist), the church re carpeted and pew squab cushions renewed in 2001 prior to the 90th Anniversary. At that time a memorial table to the late Alan McKerras was constructed and donated by his family for the foyer.

At Wesley, roofing was replaced over the worship centre room and upper class rooms in 2002. The original hall roofing was replaced in 2011 and dormer windows replaced along the eastern 'upstairs' rooms in 2011. It can also be noted here that theft of much of the building's original copper spoutings required alternative replacement!

In 2006-7 a larger projector and screen were installed (ex Arthur Gilbert bequest) and the original fluorescent lighting fittings were all replaced. Some new spotlights were added. The sound system and projection systems have had more recent upgrades.

Similarly, thanks to a bequest from the late Dave Roberts, the pipe organ and console were overhauled in 2011.

A double glazed viewing window has been built in the partition between the 'worship' centre room and 'choir' area, and a screen and sound system allows use of the meeting room for overflow seating, or parents and children, during a church service.

The church surrounds and car parking area have been resurfaced with hot mix bitumen and given parking markings. The Hall and Classrooms have been recently repainted. Part of the hall timber flooring has been replaced.

The parsonage too has had its share of maintenance, redecoration and upgrades. Aluminium windows were installed in 2004 with double glazing insulation against traffic noise. Thermal insulation has been placed this year.

The use of our building and amenities by our own congregations and groups as well as by the community and other organisations, day and evening, is seeing up to 1000 people a week benefitting. This can cause some timetable organising headaches.

Our property serves.

WITNESS IN THE COMMUNITY

Methodists have always been encouraged to express their faith in word and action. In Papatoetoe, they continue to work with and for the people in many areas of community service. These include visiting sick and lonely folk, the Red Cross, Library service at Middlemore Hospital, meals on wheels, driving cancer patients to and from hospital or Hospice, and assistance with collection for community appeals.

Gifts of food are blessed every Sunday morning for the South Auckland Christian Food bank—operated by Mr Ian Foster.

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Our church has been involved with Oxfam New Zealand's Trailwalk fundraising for the past 5 years. 13 teams from Wesley have walked the walk at Taupo and raised over \$32,000 for Oxfam.

Indeed much more is done in these ways of neighbourly assistance than is ever known by other people. We try to be a serving people - saved to serve.

Our buildings also serve many groups such as Communicare, Probus Groups, Caring Community Trust, Floral Art Clubs, I.D.E.A services socials (I.H.C)

In 1994 through to 2002 the Papatoetoe Adolescent Christian Trust (P.A.C.T) under the direction of Robert McCoskrie was established and carried out their youth guidance programme at Wesley Church premises until they obtained their own premises at the past St John cadet hall.

Our church has also supported Habitat for Humanity since its 'Home build' work started in Auckland at the time Rev. S Emery-Wright was our minister. Church members are still actively involved in supporting Habitat.

PAPATOETOE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



The first Methodists who came to Papatoetoe included of course, Methodist women - wives, mothers, or single.

In true Methodist tradition these women formed what was known as the Ladies Guild, the aims of which were friendship, concern for others and the raising of money for the work of the church.

Following the tradition of Dorcas they did many good deeds and sewed many garments, the latter for sale at the Fairs they organised. When missionary minded Methodist women started a missionary auxiliary to raise funds for extra support for overseas and Maori missionaries, Papatoetoe women soon formed a branch, and over the years raised very creditable sums of money. Two quite lucrative ways of raising money were sales of used stamps and tea coupons. Then came the amalgamation of the Guild and Mission Auxiliary. The Women's Fellowship as we have it now was formed, and a mostly new generation of women continue with good works in the true Methodist style. There are yearly Fairs, catering contracts and morning teas, bringing in money which is allocated to church work and a wide variety of deserving causes.

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Fellowship is a very apt name for this group of dedicated women, as they share each other's joys and sorrows, and also reach out into the community by visiting, driving patients to their appointments, delivering meals on wheels, and helping with charity collections and other good deeds. The church would indeed be the poorer without the support of the Women's Fellowship.

Our faith by our works we do show
To earn money we bake and sew
We are serving, The deserving,
That others our Christ may know.

BOYS BRIGADE



The Boys' Brigade, founded in the UK in 1883 survived into the late 201 Century as an island of Victorian strictness and value setting in a sea of easy standards. It was originally set up for much the same reason as the contemporary Otara Legionnaires.

Glue sniffing and methamphetamines 'P' was not a problem 100 years ago, but plenty of other sorts of anti-social behaviour were, and William Smith, an officer in the Territorials, felt the obligation to do something about it. His idea was to use military-style training to promote discipline and self-respect, with Christian evangelism as the ultimate of the organisation. Brigade companies nowadays are somewhat different from the primitive model, being largely made up of children of established church families, but they can still play an important part in the life of the church. The company at our church (the 5th Auckland Company) was formed by Jim Watson in April 1950, the minister being the Rev. Norman Olds.

The standard Boys Brigade recipe of parade, devotions, half-an-hours drill, badge work, games and gymnastics. To overcome any monotony with indoor activities, more outdoor ventures were introduced. These over the years included camps, tramping, sailing, midnight commando stunts, cross country signalling and near fatal raft trips.

Joining with other companies for summer camps and drill competitions, raised the standard of smartness considerably and our company has often been one of the best in the Auckland area. The badge work, based on outdoor survival techniques and skills like first aid, answers rather than create problems.

Like most dreams and endeavours to train boys as our future leaders in the church and disciples of Christ, our ideals may have been imperfectly realised, but feed-back

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(often years later from boys and their parents) encourage us to think that the time and effort were not quite wasted. Officers were encouraged to think long term and not to be discouraged by lack of immediate results, from the approximate 450 boys through the company.

In 1987 our Company section (older boys) linked with the Coy Sections of St Phillips and St Martins Presbyterian churches, meeting at Wesley under our own Captain. The amalgamation has been re-designated, The 1st PAPATOETOE Company.

In 2000 with the upset in the Methodist church - see youth section - Mr Benzie and the Brigade officers withdrew their allegiance to the Methodist Church. The company now meet under the guidance of St Johns Presbyterian Church, Hunters Corner, although the junior section of the company come back each Monday to use our hall for their weekly programme.

Captains:

J.R Watson 1950-1977

R.M Dick 1978-1979

P.J Benzie 1980-2000

5TH PAPATOETOE GIRLS' BRIGADE



In 1954 Mrs Lillian Silvester (the then Minister's wife) instigated the beginning of the Girls' Life Brigade in our church by starting a Cadet Section of young girls' aged 6-10 years.

She then set her sights on a senior section and after much discussion and much arm twisting Val Watson was coerced into being Captain with Dawn Thomas as Lieutenant. We were both a little younger than regulations but somehow we soon found ourselves in business and so the 96th Auckland Company of the Girls' Life Brigade began.

Of great assistance to the whole Company was our Governing Committee, a wonderful group of mothers who managed our finances and helped in so many ways with any special occasions we celebrated. Final nights, parent's nights or camps were no trouble to them to provide food or any help they could. I don't know what happened to Governing Committees but every Company should have one!

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As neither Dawn nor I had any training we were thrown in at the deep end, but Major Lucy Moore, who was the local Commandant connected to the Anglican Company visited us regularly for a while and soon guided us into the ways of Girls' Life Brigade. Every one, from section leaders to the girls' themselves was so willing and loyal and soon settled in and we almost looked like a regular company!

When I left the company in 1957 we were very fortunate to have Mrs Doreen Johnson, an ex Brigadier who had recently arrived from England and who willingly took over the reins and we were grateful to her.

Val Watson

FIRST GB COMPANY CAPTAIN.

Our GB Company presently has 21 girls' and has a multicultural representation. In March this year Christine Knock MNZM received her 30 year leaders award and Akshara Singh was commissioned as an officer in the Company. Christine received at the GBNZ National Conference in June this year a National Commissioners Award (the highest award a leader can receive for services to Girls' Brigade New Zealand). We have had young leaders in the company participating in the National Leadership Training Programme and this year we have five attending from our Company. We have one young leader in the final stages of completing her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Our Company is part of the South Auckland Area and we participate within the Area, Church and the Community at every opportunity we have to promote Girls' Brigade, in particular at ANZAC Parades, Commonwealth Day Services, Race Relations Day and performing at International Conferences.

Our Girls' Brigade gives and serves our Community well, and endeavours to reach out to those girls' and young women and give them the support and opportunity to "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ". I very much enjoy giving to an organisation who has given to me.

"On the Youth of today, is the future of our Country".

Christine Knock MNZM

GB COMPANY CAPTAIN



5th Papatoetoe Girls Brigade Company

OTHER CHURCH GROUPS

In the 1980s numerous 'Over 40s' groups of about 8-10 in numbers met once a month in private homes for a meal and fellowship. Established by Mrs Joy Bell, the groups were popular for many years. Mostly held in the evenings, but a couple met during the day time to accommodate differing outing wishes. Group members were reallocated on a regular basis, 'to get to know better' more of our congregation.

In recent times a number of other activities have been formed and are self-supporting without formal agendas.

Prayer Group

Meets regularly every Tuesday 6pm. It is a sincere group and everyone contributes. There are some Tongans who attend and speak in their own Tongan language which is good for them and others. We find that prayer is very powerful as many of our requests are answered. We thank our Minister for his help and guidance. If you are interested just turn up.

Drop In

We have a group usually 8-10 people who play bowls and another 6-8 who do knitting for the Fair or slippers for the school children in Christchurch. We start with tea or coffee and usually recognise someone's birthday and talk until 10am and then go our separate ways. One group of bowlers play until 11.30am and enjoy it very much. The money we make goes to the property committee to help with expenses. If you would like to come just turn up on a Thursday at 9.30am.

Ladies Coffee Group

Meet once a month at McDonalds Cafe for socializing and getting to know one another better in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

Bible Study

Meets each Thursday 11am-12noon except during School Holidays. This is led by our minister. He prepares a lesson and we all participate in the discussions. It is a good group and regular in attendances. Usually 10-12 people present. We thank Augusten for his preparation. At the moment an evening group is being started to suit those working during the day.



ETHNIC CHANGES OF THE WESLEY CONGREGATION

In 1987 a whole congregation of Samoans changed their allegiance from Manurewa to the Papatoetoe Church under the leadership of self-supporting minister Nemani Noa. Shortly afterwards they asked for an own language service, rather than amalgamate with English speaking services. They were allocated an afternoon time for their own service and have accompanying week-day activities. They are now celebrating 25 years as part of Wesley.

Around about the 1990s Papatoetoe began to become the Indian centre for new immigrants. This increased the Indian attendances at Wesley along with numerous other ethnic newcomers who have joined the English language services. We have a diverse congregation of many nationalities who attend and worship.

Rev. Subhan, our first Indian minister, has started an extra service once a month in the Hindi language, to put at ease any who may be more comfortable in hearing the gospel in their own language.



Wesley Methodist Youth Group cultural item 2011

MINISTERS

A division of the vast Manukau Circuit in 1909 established the Otahuhu Circuit which included Papatoetoe.

1909	E.COX	
1911	W.ROWE	
1913	W.BECKETT	
1914	J.PARSONS	
1916	W.SLADE	
1918	F.SOUSTER (H.M)	
1919	F.GREENWOOD	
1920	H.RICHARDS	
1922	J.HOSKING	
1925	F.GREENWOOD	Responsible for Papatoetoe
1928	F.GREENWOOD	A.W SILVESTER
1930	W.GATMAN	A.W SILVESTER
1931	W.GATMAN	A.CARR
1933	T.WOOLLOXALL	J.DAGLISH
1934	T.WOOLLOXALL	One wanted
1936	P.COOKE	
1945	A.WAITE	
1946	A.WAITE	N.OLDS
1948	T.SKUSE	N.OLDS
1951	T.SKUSE	N.OLDS

(A further circuit division)

PAPATOETOE CIRCUIT

1951	One wanted
1952	R.ELSON
1953	P.COOKE (Sup)
1954	J.SILVESTER
1959	A. JOLLY
1969	H.KITCHINGMAN
1979	M.ASTLEY

(New District necessitates new circuit-including Papatoetoe)

MANUKAU NORTH CIRCUIT

1982	G.BENNETT
1987	Arrival of Samoan Congregation
1987	N.NOA
1992	P.RUSHTON(Sup)
1992	S.EMERY-WRIGHT
1997	A.OLIVER

(Division at Manukau Nth Parish)

PAPATOETOE OTARA PARISH

2000	N.GOREHAM (Sup)
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Papatoetoe Methodist Church 100th - 2012

2001 F.FALEATUA
2003 A.LE ROUX
2009 P.IELI
2010 A.SUBHAN

CIRCUIT STEWARDS - PAPATOETOE

MR G.SIMON 1951-54
MR W. ELDER 1951-59 continuation of 11 years with Otahuhu
MR A.McKERRAS 1954-62
MR J.WATSON 1959-66
MRS.HADDOCK 1962-67
MR J.McCOSKRIE 1966-69
MR B.SHAW 1967-70
MR C.WILLS 1969-73
MR G.JOHNSON 1970-76
MR R.MASON 1973-78
MR F.TOELEIU 1976-80
MR I.CLARKE 1978-82
MR R.JOHANSSON 1980-82
MR C.WILLS 1983-86
MR F.LONG 1987-93
MR S.H.TOOLEY 1994-97
MR S.O.DEWES 1998-99
MR C.ZEIGLER 1999
MRS J.SMITH 2000-03
MRS L.GUNANAYAGAM 2004-05
MR M.McNICKLE 2006-07
MRS B.SHEPHARD 2007-12
MR P.LEMANU 2008-11
MRD.LOLOA 2011-
MRS.KAY 2012-

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

MR WES. FIRTH
MR RAY FIRTH
MR H.CHRISTOPHER
MR FOXCROFT
MR HUGHSON
MR C.LITTLER
MR N.HADDOCK (25 years)
MR R.ADAMSON
MR D.HARDING
MR D.PATTERSON
MR G.JOHNSON
MR M.CRAVEN
MISS M.MOONEY
MRS J.PATTERSON
MRS M.FOSTER
MISS P.WEBB

Papatoetoe Methodist Church 100th - 2012

MR C.ZEIGLER
MISS J.ROBERTSON
MRS J.SYMRINGTON
MR & MRS J.J. BENNETT
MISS S.REED
MISS W.FISHER
MRS M.PANAPASA
MRS E.COLE
MRS L.LEMANU
MRS R.PERMAL

CHURCH ORGANISTS

MISS E.MATUSCHKA
MISSA. ATKINSON
MR S. ATKINSON
MISS L.COSSEY
MISS K.BRYANT
MR H.LAW
MISS M.LAW
MRS J.FIRTH (nee McInnes)
MISS E.LONG
MISS E.BROWN
MRS C.WOODS
MR A.DRAPER(21years)
MRS LESLEY HADDOCK (nee Richards)
MR J.ORAMS
MR P.SHANKS
MR J.McCOSKRIE(Jnr)
MR R.HUNT
MR N.DUNN

SENIOR CHOIR LEADERS

MR WILFRED FIRTH
MR H.SALTER
MR J.SANDERSON
MR R.SHEPHARD
MR P.SUCKLING
MR R.WENTWORTH
MR J.ORAMS
MR P.SHANKS
MRS B.SHAW

SOME YOUTH CHOIR LEADERS

MISS LOUISE REED
MRS MAUREEN CLARKE
MISS ROSANNE CLARKE
THE MISSES MARTIN
MRS MERRIN STEWART
MR PETER McCOSKRIE, and MR MICHAEL-WALTER LEMANU



1962



2012



Acknowledgements

We acknowledge with thanks the work of the Centenary Committee Christine Knock MNZM, Jim Watson, Val Watson Brad Shaw, Betty Shaw, Telesia Tonga, and all who have put together glimpses of our past and present. We are indebted also to the records of past anniversaries and celebration booklets. This booklet has been produced in the church office.

"This is naturally a time when many of us look back and perhaps would like to 'go back' but that cannot be. We cannot sit back, for God calls us to work and witness TODAY.

Many will have happy memories in recalling the march of time; but now we are called to serve our community, so different from 1912. Each generation has calls to meet new and expanding challenges. May God help us to witness for him now and in the future."