

1872 — 1972
A RECORD OF 100 YEARS OF

**WAKEFIELD
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Combined
METHODIST - PRESBYTERIAN
Services
WEEKLY

ALTERNATELY 11¹⁵ AM. AND 7 PM.

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL
AT: 10¹⁵ AM.

MINISTER
Rev. D. G. STUBBS.
28 OXFORDST. RICHMOND

**METHODIST WITNESS IN THE
TOWNSHIP AND DISTRICT
OF WAKEFIELD**

The Beginning

The Methodist Church had commenced its activities officially in the Wakefield area by the Winter of 1872.

During the early years of the Nelson Settlement the Revs. Ironside, Aldred and Warren spent one Sunday in Nelson City and the other in what was then called "the Country Villages of the Waimeas." They were ably supported by a band of local preachers who cheerfully undertook long journeys to proclaim to their fellow settlers the Word of Life. In 1857 the growing importance of the district led to the appointment of the Rev. W. J. Watkin as second minister, his residence being at Richmond. For twenty four years after, he and his successors Revs. Moorhouse, Wall is, Bunn, Vickers, Taylor, Cannell, Keall, Marten, Reeve and Rowse had pastoral charge of that side of the Circuit. In 1881 eight of these places, Richmond, Spring Grove, Upper Wakefield, Stoke, Hope, Foxhill, Brightwater and Dovedale, with a membership of 86 were constituted a new Circuit, known as Richmond.

The Upper Wakefield Church owes its origin to the warm hearted piety and great energy of "Father Mears" who gave the Church site in 1866. This site stands some one hundred yards back from the present Nelson-West Coast Highway on the bank close to the house at present owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Wilke. The ruins of the original Church stands behind the late Mr. Reuben Eves homestead where it was removed to act as a storage barn.



J. Mears – Upper Wakefield

"Father" Mears was one of the early local preachers, full of fire, and having such a perfect knowledge of the words of Scripture that he was known as "the walking concordance". The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Richmond on March 26 1860 lists his name as the Wakefield Steward and in 1862 he is listed as Society and

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Poor Steward for Wakefield and Foxhill. In addition to his ordinary appointments he was always on the look-out for opportunities of proclaiming the Gospel, and travelled long distances for the purpose. Even in his ninety-first year he forded rivers and traversed rough tracks to preach to the outlying settlers at Gordon's Knob. The Quarterly Meeting held at Spring Grove on September 26 1889 forwarded the following congratulatory message to Mr. Mears. This meeting congratulates the esteemed Brother J. Mears, whose entrance on his 91st year is marked by undiminished labour in the vineyard of the Lord, and prays that the Lord who has graciously continued his health of body and vigour of mind so long may make his last days bright with His smile and still more useful in His work". Then at the Quarterly Meeting of June 25 1890 is recorded

"The death of Mr. John Mears, local preacher during the quarter was reported. The meeting desired to record its deep sense of the value of the service rendered to the Church by him and of the loss sustained by his removal by death".

Neither the Colonist nor the Nelson Mail record any mention of the opening of the Wesleyan Chapel at Upper Wakefield (now Wai-iti). The N. Z. Wesleyan which commenced publication in 1871 has no reference to the event and indeed reports from Nelson in the early issues are singularly lacking. Dr. Morley in his "*History of Methodism in New Zealand*" records that the Church was dedicated by the Rev. R. L. Vickers in June 1872. Vickers was a man of dash and energy, a splendid horseman, and stories are told by old residents of his somewhat reckless riding. But he was earnest and energetic as a preacher and had followed R. S. Bunn as resident minister at Richmond during the years 1867 to 1869. He appears to have entered the ministry in 1859 and worked in Wellington with the Rev. James Buller and Rev. John Warren. He was transferred to Christchurch in 1861, thence to Oamaru and Nelson and preached his first two Sermons in Blenheim on 11th April 1869 to a large and appreciative congregation. He resigned from the ministry on November 20 1869 to enter the flax milling business in the Havelock district. The *Marlborough Express* of 16th April 1870 states "We learn that the Rev. R. L. Vickers, of Havelock, formerly minister of the Wesleyan Church Blenheim has determined to abandon flax milling and go to the Fijis with a view of sheep farming in one of the islands".

It would appear that Morley was mistaken in recording that Vickers dedicated the Church. At the Nelson Quarterly Meeting held on January 7 1868 it was proposed "that steps be taken to provide the means for building a chapel at Wakefield." No further mention is made in the minutes of a Chapel being erected and the event must remain unrecorded as must the actual date. Morley could be correct in naming June 1872 as the opening date but it is almost certain then that Vickers did not perform the dedication. Records are lacking concerning the opening of the new Church but it is recorded that Bishop Suter conducted a Service at Upper Wakefield at 6. 30p.m. in September 1872 during one of his visits to the West Coast portion of his Diocese, the Wesleyan Chapel being lent for the purpose. The resident minister in the Circuit in 1872 was the Rev. William Cannall, then in the second year of his term at Richmond.

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William Cannell was born in Manchester in 1836 and brought up in the Isle of Man. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1860, entered the ministry in 1861, and spent fruitful ministries in Wanganui, Canterbury, Nelson and Auckland. After thirty seven years of uninterrupted labour he paid a visit to Great Britain in 1897 and at the turn of the century was able to preach with unabated vigour. He was sympathetic in his disposition and as a preacher impassioned and emotional. A musician and singer, naturally generous and ready to help in any case of distress he always made warm friends. He is recorded as having baptised Ernest Rutherford (Lord Rutherford of Nelson) at Spring Grove on August 5 1873. He died on September 8 1921 and is buried at New Plymouth.



Rev. William Cannell 1871-74

The Wesleyan Chapel at Upper Wakefield was the third Church to be built in the Wakefield area and the fourth denomination to be represented. The Rev. C. L. Reay rode out from Nelson on Sunday October 11 1846 to hold divine service in St. John's Anglican Church for the first time. The building was uncompleted for that occasion but stands to this day. Edward Lewis settled at Spring Grove in 1866 and established a Church on the Order of the New Testament (Church of Christ) and the first sanctuary was erected in 1878. St. Joseph's Catholic Church was opened on May 7 1870 when Father Chareyre said High Mass and Father Garin gave an instruction. Thus in 1872 Methodism completed the quartet and services have continued throughout the century, two of the original Churches the Anglican and Catholic still being in full use. These have been joined by the Brethren Assembly in their own buildings and by the Presbyterian Church which met for a short time for worship in the Wakefield Church of Christ Hall but is now combined with the Methodist Church, members belonging to this denomination on a reciprocal basis.

Baptisms and marriages were conducted mostly in private homes in this early period. The earliest recorded baptism found in available records is that of Mary Ann Needham

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daughter of Arthur Frederick and Amelia Needham who was baptised by Rev. R.L. Vickers at their residence- Tadmor on 17th May 1868. The first recorded Methodist baptism in the Wakefield area was of Charlotte Whyte Taylor daughter of John Taylor, bricklayer, and Mary at their residence Wakefield on May 22 1869 by Rev. James Alfred Taylor,

The Rev. J. A. Taylor an ex president of the Conference came to Victoria, Australia, in the days of the gold rush from England. A teacher by profession he entered the ministry in 1863 and spent twenty four years in New Zealand returning to Australia in 1891. He had considerable ability, was a diligent worker and his records are left recorded in fine copperplate writing.



Rev. James Alfred Taylor 1869-71

The first recorded Wesleyan wedding in the Wakefield area was conducted by Rev. Vickers on 11th June 1868 at the residence of Thomas Ransom Bullard, Farmer of Wakefield between Edward Newth, farmer, and Mary Ann Bullard, spinster, the witnesses being John & Lily Rutherford of Waimea East.

The baptism register records such names as Jacob Watson, farmer, Henry Tunnicliff, sawyer, Richard Savage, labourer, Joseph Tunnicliff, labourer and Alexander Robertson, black-smith, in the Wakefield area in 1870-71. Emily Ann daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Ann Savage also William Richardson son of Joseph and Sarah

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Tunnicliff were baptised together on October 6 1872 and no place being mentioned these could have taken place in the new Chapel. It was not until 1886 that the first wedding is recorded as being solemnised in the Wesleyan Church, Wakefield. This was on November 10 between Alexander Drummond and Harriet Elizabeth Parkes.

In 1872 appear the names of William Wadsworth, John Curran and Andrew Gardiner all farmers. In 1877 John Lines, Wakefield and on December 12 1877 six children of Charles Eden of Upper Wakefield were all baptised together. In 1878 we read of John Schmidt of Foxhill, Arthur Fitchett, telegraphist, and John Thompson while 1880 records the names James Wells, farmer, William Boddington, Innkeeper, Thomas Gibson, railway conductor, James Thomas, shoemaker and Charles Lines, farmer. Three girls, daughters of James and Martha Rutherford and sisters of Ernest were baptised on April 1 1879 the residence being given as Foxhill.

The 1870's were served by clergymen who were regarded highly and who in time gave considerable service to the Church in the Colony. They resided in Richmond being members of the Nelson Circuit and conducted services throughout the Waimeas and were responsible for the work in the Wakefield area. William Cannell was followed by William Keall.

William Keall was a native of John Wesley's Country and a splendid product of Lincolnshire Methodism. He spent his early Home Mission days in and around Central Otago. A strict disciplinarian and a faithful preacher he was tender hearted, sympathetic and most brotherly. He became President of the Conference in 1893.



Rev. W. Keall 1874-76

W. B. Marten, a native of Sussex, was brought up in the Unitarian Church. He was accepted for the ministry in 1871 and was described as a thoughtful student,

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conscientious in preparation for the pulpit and exceedingly in earnest. He was held in high esteem through a long ministry throughout New Zealand.



Rev. W. B. Marten 1976-77

T. F. Reeve spent only one year in the area and to him goes much of the credit for the erection of the eight room new parsonage in Richmond in 1877.

William Rowse came from Cornwall and emigrated to New Zealand reaching Auckland in 1858. In 1860 he entered the Maori Mission and although he was unacquainted with the language both he and his young wife learned to speak it fluently. This young missionary laboured for fifteen years, devoted in his work, with the Maori race. When the needs of his family necessitated him moving from the Maori Mission, his flock presented him with an address signed by the principal Chiefs showing that the missionary's aims were understood and his work appreciated.



Rev. W. Rowse 1878-81

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The Rev. Joseph Berry returned from England in 1881 after three years sick leave and took charge of the newly created Richmond Circuit. He stayed but a year and spent the next eleven years in the four chief cities of the Colony. In 1885 he became President of the Conference and later moved to Australia, taking appointments in several principal pulpits of that Continent. He died in 1907.



Rev. J. Berry 1881-82

The earliest mention of finance from the Wakefield area is the balance sheet produced for the quarter ending October 1 1860 when we read

Wakefield.	Class and Ticket monies	£1 - 11 - 0
	Subscription from members of congregation	5 - 0
	Quarterly Collection	14 - 0
	Circuit Collection	£2 - 10 - 0

In 1865 the March Quarter brought £3 - 1 - 0 as a total of collections and this figure remained fairly constant in the years before a Chapel was established.

The year 1881 saw the creation of the New Richmond Circuit. The last Quarterly Meeting of the large Nelson Circuit was held at Nelson on March 28. The Chairman, Rev. Rainsford Bavin reported that Conference had approved of the division of the Nelson Circuit in accordance with recommendations from Quarterly and District Meetings. The new Circuit Steward for Wakefield was Mr. Parkes, Foxhill J. Tunnicliff, Dovedale Mr. Smith. Poor Stewards were also appointed. Pleasure was expressed at the arrival of Rev. J. Berry at Auckland and a committee was set up to make arrangements for his reception. Rev. Bavin and Rowse were thanked for their

services and the Church gave its blessing on their departure for new spheres. The first meeting for the new Richmond Quarterly Meeting was set for June 29 at Richmond at 2p.m.

Richmond Circuit

The next 20 years to the new Century were hard ones financially, Meetings were preoccupied with the Church debt and finances were mostly in arrears. Many and varied were the means for raising money including reduction of the stipend, bazaars and direct approach to members. The Circuit commenced work with a deficiency of £18 - 18 - 6 and 20 years later this was reduced to £3 - 13 - 10. The Roll in 1881 is given as 104 and this had risen to 149 by 1902. Growing Sunday School Rolls appear through these years, a new Chapel is planned for Upper Wakefield and the Wakefield Township Services commence. Foxhill reported good services and Dovedale becomes attached to Motueka Circuit. The period saw eight ministers, all resident at Richmond but giving their services to the scattered circuit.

The first quarterly meeting of the new Circuit was held as planned at Richmond on June 29 1881, Rev. J. Berry and 16 others being present. Routine business was completed and the only mention of Wakefield in the meeting was that the minister intended including this centre in his lecture tour during the quarter.

At the following quarterly meeting on September 28 1881 it was resolved that Rev. J. Berry and Mr. J. G. Harkness be requested to make arrangements for procuring a suitable room for preaching at Lower Wakefield. Brother J. Thomas was appointed Society Steward for Lower Wakefield. This was the first mention of duplicating the Services in the area, the Upper Wakefield or Wai-iti Church being well established and the need arising for a service in the then developing village of Lower Wakefield - the present township. A further step was taken at the December quarterly meeting of 1881 when Rev. J. Berry, Geo Parkes and J. Thomas were constituted a committee to select a site and secure same for the Wakefield Township.

The roll of members in December 1881 totalled 131 of which 10 are recorded as belonging to Wakefield, 6 at Foxhill and 19 at Dovedale. The debit balance for the quarter of nearly £10 (which was made up before the meeting closed on 28. 12. 81) stirred the meeting to ask the Society Stewards at Wakefield Township at the first convenient opportunity to meet the congregation and ask in what way they were willing to contribute to the Circuit income. It was also at this meeting that consideration was first given to placing Dovedale under the supervision of the Motueka Circuit, and on June 28 1882 it was carried unanimously "that Dovedale be left off the plan and be appended to Motueka".

The Wakefield Township services commenced at the Wakefield School and from mid 1882 were held weekly at 6.30p.m. but a suggestion was made that they be held in the Temperance Hall when this was available. In the Summer months they were held at 7p.m.

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The Church debt continued to be a grave concern to members and the drastic step was taken in 1884 to reduce the ministers stipend from £250 per annum to £200. The following year a bazaar was suggested and Rev. Thomas was invited to deliver a number of lectures throughout the area in aid of the Circuit debt.

In 1885 Messrs Parkes, Tunnicliffe and J. Thomas were appointed to secure a Church building site at the Wakefield Township and the following year reported on a favourable site being available. Following this it was also resolved to discontinue the Wakefield Township services for a time and hold all services at the Wakefield Chapel. (Upper Wakefield).

A visitor to Sunday School was appointed in 1886 in the person of Mr. Lindsay, a custom which continued for many years. In 1889 an attempt was made to reunite the Nelson and Richmond Circuits again but although approved was not finalised.

In 1890 with a Circuit membership of 120 the Sunday School roll at Wakefield contained 36 names with 3 teachers, while Foxhill boasted 101 children and 8 teachers - a very healthy roll indeed Five years later the Foxhill roll was down to 49 and Wakefield had risen to 45 each centre having 5 teachers.

1896 saw the death recorded of Mr. William Wadsworth, Society Steward at Wakefield and also Sunday School Superintendent.

In 1898 we first see mention of replacing the existing Chapel with a new building the trustees being granted permission to erect a Church - no debt to be incurred! The following year it was resolved to build the Church on a neighbouring site offered by Mr. Wadsworth, the plan of the Hope Church to be used. It was later resolved to borrow £45 from the Church Loan Fund for the Wakefield Church. At this stage also Motupiko and surrounding district were constituted a Home Mission District with Mr. Hawkes as the agent.

The new Century opened with Rev. T. G. Carr as minister, a roll of 119 members of which Wakefield claimed 8 and Foxhill 19 and for the first time for many years a credit balance of £3 -14 - 5½ was recorded. Extension of services to Gordon and 88 Valley were planned with monthly services at each place, but the latter were discontinued after eighteen months trial.

The New Century

The period from 1900 to 1928, when Wakefield became a separate Home Mission Station, saw further general preoccupation as a Circuit with the Church debt. At every quarterly meeting the question "what more can be done to further the work of God in the Circuit" was considered and long discussions often led to adjourned meetings to provide further consideration. This period saw the general extension of the work beyond Spooners Range with the appointment of Home Missioners who each stayed about one year in the Circuit mostly moving then to College as candidates for the ministry. These years saw the building of the present Wakefield Church in 1919 and

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moves to include Dovedale in the Circuit again. Reference must also be made to two great epidemics, the post war influenza epidemic of 1918 and the poliomyelitis epidemic of 1925.

By 1902 the roll had increased to 44 for the Wakefield end of the Circuit with 100 children on the Sunday School Roll. In 1904 is recorded the death of Mr. F. J. Hingston of Foxhill, Society Steward for many years and an old and valued member. In 1907 the minister was requested to visit the Tadmor area where monthly services were held, to investigate the provision of a service at Kiwi and by July of that year the service had commenced.



Wakefield Methodist Church (an early photo)- opened 1919.

By 1908 Services were being held regularly in Wakefield Foxhill, Gordon, Tapawera, Motupiko, Kiwi and Sherry and a significant step was taken to strengthen the work in these outlying areas. The following resolution is recorded in the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of October 7 1908.

"Whereas the Richmond Circuit has for some years past with great difficulty provided religious services for a large outlying district having no resident minister extending from Motupiko, 25 miles from Richmond, to Sherry, 40 miles distant, and owing to the extension of the Midland Railway and the leasing of Government lands, new settlements are springing up and population is increasing, this meeting strongly recommends to the District Synod and Home Mission Committee that a Home Missionary with a suitable grant should be

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appointed to work in the district, which includes the townships of Motupiko, Upper Motupiko, Tapawera, Stanley Brook, Tadmor, Kiwi, Sherry and Wangapeka."

A Mr. Blackmore was engaged for three months under the supervision of the Circuit Minister to work the Tadmor and Sherry areas. However this did not eventuate; but at a commencing salary of £110 per annum Mr. Lawrence commenced this work in the Winter of 1909 as the first Home Missioner in the Circuit.

Later, in the latter half of 1910, he left for Murchison and was replaced by Mr. Ford, the work concentrating more on the Motupiko area.

In 1910 a committee was appointed to enquire into the purchase of land at Wakefield and by 1911 this had been secured at £60, the Loan Fund offering £40 on loan if the Circuit found £20. This latter was donated by friends in the area. A committee was empowered to rent a Hall and start evening Services at Wakefield, the evening Service at Wai-iti Chapel to cease in favour of this. The Services commenced in a room at the rear of the Oddfellows Hall. By April this Service was functioning well with an attendance of 45 to 50 and hopes were expressed that they would continue. There were high hopes that a Church would soon be erected on the site purchased (an event to wait a further eight years for completion) and a committee was set up to canvas for subscriptions consisting of the Circuit minister Rev. C. Eaton, Messrs G. Johnson, Kelling, J. Cropp and Gibberd with Mrs. Cropp and Wilkens. Mr Percy Battey well known as a local preacher in the Circuit had replaced Mr. Ford as Home Missioner and on a trial for 3 months he resided in Wakefield, later to become a permanent arrangement. A week's mission was held in Wakefield by Rev. Eaton and Mr. Battey, was well attended with 5 decisions for Christ being recorded. A fund was commenced to purchase an organ for Wakefield. This was acquired the following year for £18.

By 1912 the members on the roll included 11 each at Wakefield and Wai-iti, Foxhill 10, Gordon 2 and Upper district 27 equalling one third of the total for the Circuit extending from Stoke to Wangapeka.

The early war years saw the minister doing chaplaincy work and the Home Missioner appointment lapsed in 1915 Messrs Nuttall and Lightband offering to supply for the outlying area for two Sundays each per month. The Foxhill and Gordon services were poorly attended but Wakefield had a debt free Church section and £60 collected towards a Church. Difficulties in staffing the Tapawera area for Services caused a brief lapse of Services in 1916.

Further progress in the Wakefield Church building occurred in 1916 with the decision to build a new Church to cost not more than £300. In 1918 the Trustees borrowed £150 from the Loan fund for this purpose and at the quarterly meeting of April 17 1919 a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Trustees for their help in getting the Church built. At the same meeting it was reported that a Sunday School had

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commenced with 3 teachers and 18 children. By now the roll had increased to 28 at Wakefield, 25 at Wai-iti, with Foxhill 8 and Tapawera area 31.

Dovedale was attached to Motueka Circuit in 1882 but in 1920 it was first suggested that this area be added to Wakefield as a manned Home Mission Station. There was resistance from Dovedale however and the matter was dropped meanwhile. Further meetings were held and finally in October 1922. Dovedale was amalgamated with the Richmond Circuit, this to be for a trial of six months. This added a further 51 members (Dovedale 47, Woodstock 4). In 1924 it was resolved that from Stoke to Spring Grove become the Richmond Circuit while Wakefield, Wai-iti, Foxhill, Dovedale and Woodstock be a separate Home Mission Station with headquarters at Wakefield and Tapawera area be attached thereto. Conference referred this matter back to the District Synod.

A later meeting settled for the Richmond Circuit extending to Foxhill, and Tapawera and Dovedale forming a Home Mission Station. However the first quarterly meeting of the Old Richmond Circuit extending from Stoke to Dovedale was held on April 4 1928 at Brightwater. The Wakefield - Dovedale Home Mission Station which finally included Spring Grove, Wakefield, Wai-iti, Foxhill, Tapawera and Dovedale areas was formed, held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Rev. P. N. Knight, appointed Messrs W. Lewis and C. Jordan as Circuit Stewards and accepted their share of the current debt at £30.

Home Mission Station

The Wakefield - Dovedale Home Mission area was in existence for precisely twenty years. The first quarterly meeting held in Wakefield was on July 4 1928 with Rev. P. N. Knight presiding and the Home Missioner, J. A. Daglish, newly arrived from Westport being present with 14 other members these being Misses Wells, Taylor, Jenkins, Rose and Wilkens and Messrs Lewis, Wilkens, N. Win, A. Win, T. Cropp, E. Lammas, J. Davis, C. Jordan and N. McLachlan. Routine business was conducted and a monthly Service to Gordon was approved.

The roll of the new district was stated first in July 1929 as 83 adult members. Missioner Daglish was nominated for the ministry and attended his last meeting in January 1930, where he was farewelled, his successor being Mr. J. C. R. Ashworth, who quickly organised week night fellowship meetings in the village.

A splendid group of local preachers are recorded at this time consisting of Messrs J. F. Cowin, H. Cowin, W. Lewis, F. Tunnicliff, T. Cropp, H. Bateup, N. McLachlan and G. Nuttall.

In 1932 the missioner was allowed to use the car for circuit work in Dovedale and Gordon but the bike was to be used for all closer work. The roll was recorded this year at 105 members. The services at Wakefield were increased to two per Sunday and it is recorded in July 1932 "that a letter be sent to Archdeacon Smith congratulating him

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upon his appointment as Archdeacon of Waimea and offering him the use of the Dovedale Church for his Services in that area."

The difficulty in supplying all Services was highlighted in 1933 when a request was made from the Home Mission Station that the whole district including Nelson and Richmond Circuits unite into one Circuit. At a combined meeting of representatives this was declined but the Nelson Circuit offered to supply petrol for local preachers to supply outlying areas when needed. This decision was ably carried out and reference was made in 1936 of appreciation of the Services of the local preachers from Nelson Circuit. By the end of 1936 Services were morning and evening at Wakefield, fortnightly at Wai-iti and Foxhill, these alternating.

By 1937 the work at Spring Grove was declining further in favour of Wakefield. This also applied at Wai-iti. Thus the evening Services at Spring Grove were discontinued and the Sunday School was reduced to four scholars and was to be closed at the end of the year. Appreciation was expressed of the splendid services of the Superintendent, Mr.P. Roughton, in his years of work in the Sunday School at Spring Grove. The Wai-iti Services were limited to the fourth Sunday of every month, but youth work in Wakefield and Dovedale was increasing.

The continued deficit in the income and expenditure reports led the Home Missioner Mr. Beckingsale in 1938 being granted permission to be released from pastoral work during the apple picking season, his stipend not being paid during this time. The deficit was £23 - 17 - 3 at the beginning of 1938. The scheme continued until the end of April.

A petition from 19 residents of Wai-iti district was received at the quarterly meeting of July 11 1938 for Services to be held there fortnightly. However in view of the dearth of local preachers the Methodist folk in Wai-iti were urged to link with Wakefield and failing this to have a week night meeting for worship. In a further effort to spread the preaching effectively a combined meeting of all Circuits was urged to readjust Circuit boundaries. This meeting later recommended that no changes be made but that a Home Mission Grant of £50 be sought to aid the Wakefield Home Mission Station.

During the early war years the work centred around Wakefield and Dovedale particularly. A suggestion was made that the minister reside six monthly in each area. By mid 1940, with a severe decrease in local preachers the pattern of Services emerged as follows. The minister would visit the Dovedale School on Friday, he would lead a Bible Class (average attendance 19) in the area on Saturday evening, conduct Worship at Dovedale at 11 a.m. on Sunday, and then return to Spring Grove for Service at 2.30p.m. and Wakefield at 6.30p.m. This meant dropping the morning Service at Wakefield. Gordon was to have a monthly Service. Due to the disrepair of the Wai-iti and Foxhill Church properties it was recommended to the respective trustees that the properties to be disposed of. The roll at this time had dropped to 41 members.

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In 1941 consideration was given to building a Sunday School room at Wakefield. The proposal was the removal of the Wai-iti Church building and erecting this adjoining the Wakefield Church. The legal and financial side of this was investigated and a committee consisting of Rev. Shapcott, and Messrs Wilkens, Eyles and Bastin was appointed to consider this. The work was left in the hands of Mr. W. Bastin as Foreman and this is the first mention of his name in connection with a project which was finally completed some twenty or more years later with considerable financial assistance from him, donated anonymously always.

In 1942 a vote was taken on a proposal for union with the Presbyterian Church. With eight members present the vote resulted in 5 being in favour, 2 against and 1 neutral. It is interesting to record that exactly 30 years later a further vote for union was taken.

1943 saw membership at 42. Motueka Circuit was assisting in supply of preachers for Dovedale Services and fifteen shillings per Service was offered to Motueka for this help. Richmond Circuit was also offered £8 for Services per quarter. The Circuit was showing a good credit balance at this time Later in the year thirteen pounds per quarter was offered to each Circuit for preachers supplied. It must be noted that there was no minister in the area during these war years and supply appointments came from Motueka and Richmond.

The days of the Wakefield - Dovedale Home Mission Station started to be numbered during the war years with no Home Missioner appointment since Mr. Shapcott left the Circuit in 1943 (apart from a period of Service much appreciated by all when he served the area during College Vacation in 1944) a static membership of 41 and the minister at Richmond being called upon more and more for pastoral work within the area, quarterly meetings became fewer and less well attended Thus only one meeting was held in 1945 and again in 1946. Rev. C. Blair chaired these meetings with a small attendance of members. Finances were healthy with credit balances recorded. However the area itself did not want a change and it was only on the casting vote of the chairman at the meeting on October 30 1946 that a recommendation was made to Synod that Dovedale be attached to the Motueka Circuit (again) and that Richmond be asked to "absorb" Spring Grove and Wakefield. Synod reacted by calling a meeting of representatives of all Circuits involved the following delegates being appointed from Wakefield Messrs. Eyles, Wilkens, Jordan, Win, McLachlan and Mrs. Palmer. In the interim Rev. C. Blair recently having become a Supernumerary Minister, offered to act as Home Missioner at the standard Stipend for a single man of £185 per annum. This necessitated a change in the times for Service and these were rearranged to Dovedale 11a.m., Wakefield 2p.m., Spring Grove 3p.m.

At Spring Grove on October 22 1947 the quarterly meeting received the recommendation of the Special Meeting called by Synod that "the Wakefield - Dovedale Home Mission as at present constituted be amalgamated with Richmond Circuit as from April 1 1948." Conference duly approved the move and the final quarterly meeting of the Home Mission Station was held at Wakefield on March 23

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1948 with an attendance of 4 (Rev. C. Blair, Chairman, Messrs Wilkens and Eyles and Mrs. Palmer), an apology from Mr. Jordan was received, the membership was given as 42 and the balance sheet showed a credit balance of £26 -3-6½.

Thus concluded a chapter in the life of the Wakefield Church where the minister lived locally and the area existed as a separate entity from the wider Richmond Circuit although still under its general oversight. Eight missionaries most of whom went on to ministerial training lived in Wakefield during this time and Rev. Blair as a retired minister completed the twenty years. These were difficult times including the depression years of the 30s and the war years of the 40s but through all the Church kept active and in good heart.

To the Present Day

The newly constituted circuit Quarterly Meeting met appropriately first at Wakefield on April 14 1948 with Rev. R. E. Patchett in the chair and 25 members including Rev. Blair who continued to act as Home Missioner supply in the Wakefield-Dovedale area. It was a happy meeting and marked a new era for the Church in the district. The meeting agreed to request a Probationer to be stationed at Wakefield, Rev. Blair was thanked for his work and the retiring Circuit Stewards of the Wakefield - Dovedale area Mr. Eyles and Mrs. R. Palmer were thanked for their Services. The Wakefield ladies provided an excellent supper.

The following year a permit was obtained for building the vestry on to the Church and by 1952 this had been completed. Strenuous efforts were made to secure a single Probationer to be resident again in Wakefield but to no avail. The Rev. Blair continued his work and loyally served the Wakefield-Dovedale areas until 1953.

The rapid population development in the Stoke end of the Circuit led the officials to recommend that the second Minister be resident there and when an appointment was granted by Conference the first Probationer took up his work there in 1954.

The Circuit extended from Stoke to Tapawera and included Dovedale. Services had lapsed over Spooners Range. In 1957 discussions commenced with Nelson Circuit to include Stoke in that Circuit so that in 1959 the Waimea Circuit emerged extending now from Richmond Southwards. The Wakefield Church has remained to this day in the Waimea Circuit.

In 1958 the afternoon Service at Wakefield was changed to an alternating morning-evening pattern. Services commenced also at Golden Downs Forestry Village generally on a monthly basis as a film service in the Woodsman School Hostel. These Services were variously received but continued in a varying pattern for some ten years.

1958 saw the first Stewardship Canvas in the Circuit arranged and conducted on this occasion by the Wells organisation. There was some opposition to this scheme but the finances of the Circuit were lifted to a high level of giving in spite of the cost of the

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canvas. Subsequently the Church Finance and Stewardship Department have conducted three canvases in the Circuit and there has been one Review Canvas within the Circuit and in all large and inspiring Services have been held in Wakefield including one which filled the old Odd fellows Hall to capacity.

Discussions commenced in 1964 with the Presbyterian Church in an endeavour to form a Union Parish based on Wakefield and including Dovedale. With the constitution of the new Presbyterian Parish in Richmond, Services were commenced in the Wakefield Church of Christ Hall in 1958. Later the Presbyterian Church requested the use of the Methodist Church in Wakefield for an afternoon Service or a morning Service alternating with the Methodist evening Service. Such a request was obviously answered by an invitation to the two Congregations to Worship together. Thus evolved a common Service conducted by either Methodist or Presbyterian minister or by respective lay preachers. The hymn book corresponding to the denomination taking the Service was used and the offertory was divided using an envelope system. At Communion Services it was the practice to invite a member of the opposite denomination to assist. A happy relationship thus existed while committees planned towards an ultimate Union Parish. A section of land was secured for a Parsonage site but the Union plans were abandoned largely on the size of the Church and its property and too few members and adherents. The congregations remained Worshipping together however and following a further period of negotiation and discussion finally resolved in 1966 to remain together on a reciprocal membership basis. Thus Presbyterians Worship in and support the Methodist Church and a happy relationship exists.

The Presbyterian Church having commenced Services at Tadmor, after reciprocal membership was established the Methodist Church again commenced Services "over the hill" firstly at Tadmor in 1966 and then moving to Tapawera in 1969 using the Anglican Churches in either place.

During the closing years of the Rev. Loyal Gibson's ministry reciprocal membership was firmly established. A house to house survey sponsored by the Methodist Church was conducted in the Wakefield and Dovedale areas by all the five established denominations on a joint basis to establish and record the religious persuasion of every household. A Leaders Meeting was commenced at Wakefield which included Presbyterian membership and a suggestion was put forward by the minister that he reside for a term within the Wakefield area. A real attempt was made to secure a second ministerial appointment for the circuit but ultimately finance and shortage of ministers has prevented this.

The Sunday School room with kitchen and entrance porch was added in 1962 and has proved a valuable addition. The building was erected using voluntary labour and with considerable donation of materials by the Bastin family. Stackaway chairs and carpet were installed. Later alterations were made to the Church itself. Originally a decision to reverse the interior arrangement was abandoned. Instead the old central pulpit and

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railing was removed, a new side pulpit constructed with a central communion table and Worship Centre backed by blue velvet drapes. A simple cross stood on the table and for a while was flanked by candle sticks made from the old railings of the Church pulpit area. Again this work was carried out on a voluntary basis with donations of materials. New lights were installed as an anonymous donation, and a pulpit light donated by Mr. D. Baigent was provided. To complete the transformation overhead infra red heaters were installed permanently.

The 50th Anniversary of the Church building was held in 1969 on Sunday afternoon June 15, by a congregation which overflowed the building. A small choir led the singing and Rev. Loyal Gibson of Palmerston North was the guest preacher. After the Service Dr. E. Bassett as Trust Secretary gave anecdotes of early Church history, brought greetings from former members and ministers and invited representatives of the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Church of Christ Churches to speak. Afternoon tea served by the Women's Fellowship was enjoyed, spoilt rather by a shower of rain forcing the large number of people to come indoors. The 50th Anniversary project to add a toilet to the building has since been achieved.

The early 1970s saw some rearrangement within the Circuit. Firstly Tapawera and Golden Downs were added to the Murchison Circuit early in 1971 and then later that year Dovedale returned (again) to the care of the Motueka Circuit.

The Waimea Circuit thus now is served by one minister residing in Richmond and extends to Spooners Range including three Churches, Richmond, Brightwater and Wakefield. The Circuit currently has 177 members of which Wakefield numbers 43.

The Church Today.

The Church building stands on an imposing corner site almost opposite the Hotel, in view of the Public School and the business area of the Village, on the corner of Arrow and Edward Streets. It is a solid, silent witness to the many who pass by. It stands boldly without surrounding fence or hedge and its doors are unlocked. Its notice board announces itself as the Wakefield Methodist Church with combined Methodist - Presbyterian Services alternating each Sunday at 11.15a.m. and 7p.m. The Sunday School meets weekly at 10.15a.m.

Within its doors a carpeted porch and a table which for many years was the Communion table in St. Johns Methodist Church, Nelson, given to the Wakefield Church when St. Johns was renovated. Inset in this table is a piece of wood taken from an olive tree growing in the garden of Gethsemane. The hymn books are all covered and half were a gift from the former Nelson South Methodist Church donated when this Church became part of St. Lukes Union Parish.

Within the Church the attractive Worship centre with blue drapes behind and simple Communion table shaped like a chalice on which stands a wooden cross, takes the eye. Alt are lit by soft lighting and surrounded by a simple rail and kneeling cushions.

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To the right a pulpit and to the left a Reed organ. On the left also a baptismal front inscribed "In loving memory of the late Winifred Cheesman. Presented by her family June 1959". On the wall a single brass plaque "To the memory of John George Wilkens for many years organist and Sunday School Superintendent of this Church". Pews, some with cushions, a centre carpet strip, hymn board and offertory plates, the latter donated, completes the setting.

The room behind comprises a well equipped Sunday School room with separate kitchen and toilet and porch. A splendid piano and stack away seating, adult and child, completes the furnishings.

But within these walls worship Sunday by Sunday a congregation often small, sometimes filling the Church, who sing and pray and listen. From these walls emerge people of every walk of life who carry into their homes and work the inspirations and the help gained from an hour's worship here,

"We Love the place O God
Wherein Thine honour dwells,
The joy of Thine abode,
All earthly joy excels."

FOXHILL

Services were commenced here in 1861 but the population was small. The extension of the railway to the area gave it increased importance so that in May 1876 a small Church seating sixty persons was erected by the Messrs. Gardiner at a cost of £100 on a section of land given by Mr. Charles Andrews. This Methodist farmer was accustomed to drive a team of fourteen goats to the market in Nelson, the vehicle being of his own construction. In 1882 the Church was enlarged at an expenditure of £30 more.

The Church stood on the corner of the road leading to the terrace opposite the old Foxhill Hotel - sometimes known as Gardiners Road. It gradually fell into disuse and disrepair and was surrounded by gorse (a few gorse plants are to be found on the site to this day). It was finally sold and used as hop pickers baches in the late 1940s.

The Foxhill Church was an important worship centre for many years and had a large membership often equal to that at Upper Wakefield. In 1902 there were 28 members and a Sunday School of 44 children. In 1913 the Church received a donation from benefactor Thomas Cawthron who also made a donation at this time to the Richmond Church. There was discussion the following year on building a new Church, no doubt using the Cawthron grant. However in 1926 the grounds were said to be overgrown but ten years later services were still being held and organist was Mrs. Granger. Other important names were that of J. F. and I. Tunnicliff, W. Wadsworth, F. J. Hingston and J. Nesbitt. Mr. J. Nesbitt was for many years caretaker of this Church. The Trust was finally dissolved and all property disposed of and nothing remains today to mark the site.

TAPAWERA

There is early record of a Wesleyan Chapel being built at the old Motueka Valley settlement some half a mile north along the road from the library and Institute. With the advent of the railway at the turn of the Century the settlement and its buildings gave way to the neighbouring Villages and the area settled to the name of Mararewa. The Home Missioners, commencing with Mr. Lawrence in 1909, were responsible for Services over Spooners Range. Services were held at Motupiko, Tapawera, - Tadmor, Kiwi, Sherry, Wangapeka and Stanley Brook. There are records of Society Stewards at all places. In 1906 a monthly Service was held at Tadmor, in 1907 this commenced similarly at Kiwi but ceased in 1910 to recommence four year later in the afternoon. In 1911 Wangapeka had a Sunday School of 22 members with 3 teachers but this closed in 1914 although £20 was promised towards a Church. Enquiries commenced in 1910 for the purchase of land at Motupiko and a site was purchased in 1914 for £2.

Services were continued variously in all preaching places but gradually ceased during the 1940s, chiefly through lack of preachers and difficulty of travelling. Services were recommenced by the Presbyterian Church at Tadmor and later in 1966 when this Church entered into reciprocal membership in the area the Methodist Church became responsible for the Service "over the hill". This continued at Tadmor, using the Anglican Church, until 1969 when the Service moved to the more central Tapawera Anglican Church. Again this was a monthly afternoon Service. In 1971 the area was included in the Murchison Circuit and the monthly Service continues.

DOVEDALE

The first Services were held in the home of John Win near the present residence of Mr. F. A. Wadsworth. The first Church was erected on a site given by Mr. James Smith and opened in February 1878 by Mr. J. G. Harkness. The Trustees met first on August 13 1878 under the Chairmanship of J.W.Win others present being Messrs. E. Humphreys, M. Davies, D. Cozens and H. L. N. Win. Early trust meetings were concerned with the debt owing on the new building, frosting of the windows, path construction and seat letting. In 1882 it was resolved to number the seats and let these at one shilling per quarter for a single sitting or four shillings per quarter for a whole seat.

On June 28 1882 Dovedale was included in the Motueka Circuit where it remained for 40 years. Meantime a new Church (the present building) had been erected in 1911, the tender of E. Burnett for £133 being accepted. Services continued each Sunday and preachers often cycled from Wakefield or were collected by other transport from the top of the Dovedale Hill. Services were also held at Woodstock and Church Hill.

In later years while still in the Waimea Circuit Dovedale Services have been held fortnightly in the afternoon. A district camp site existed for a time using the old school

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buildings alongside the Church. These were in a bad state of repair, were inhabited by bees and colloquially known as "the Rottage".

Sunday Schools have continued through the years and a happy relationship existed for several years from 1960 when the Spring Grove Church of Christ staffed the Sunday School and Bible Class and from a small beginning of three scholars the roll grew to forty. When local staffing became available the Church of Christ withdrew leaving an excellent project begun and completed.

The Church returned to the Motueka Circuit in June 1971 and it is pleasing to record that the Anglican Church is now using the building occasionally, this Service becoming the regular fortnightly Service when held.

Many names have been associated with the Dovedale Church but two men still living and worshipping in the Church have completed 60 years as Trustees - Messrs N. A. Win (grandson of John Win) and J. A. Davies.

GORDON

Services were held at the School monthly and the first record is in 1900. In 1902 there were 6 members and a Sunday School of 17. Services continued until 1930s.

88 VALLEY.

Ten families contributed to a monthly afternoon Service which commenced in 1911 but ceased the following year.

GOLDEN DOWNS

Services commenced monthly in the Hostel of the Woodsman School during Rev. Moore's ministry in 1958. These continued with varying acceptance for ten years mostly using films. Golden Downs was included in the Murchison Circuit in 1971.

SPRING GROVE

Originally Spring Grove boasted larger congregations than Richmond. The first Services were held in a public School-room and were well attended. The Church was opened by the Rev. J. Warren on May 19 1857. This building of cob Construction lasted for 100 years although Services ceased at the end of the Wakefield Home Mission Station period. A Centennial function was held in the Brightwater Hall in 1957 but the old Church although still standing was unsafe for occupation. A pilgrimage was made to it during the afternoon by old members. The Historic Places Trust showed some interest in the building especially as it was the baptismal Church of Lord Rutherford but its renovation was beyond their resources. The building was demolished, some crockery was donated to the camp site, and the property is now administered by the Brightwater Church Trust.

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Early names associated with Spring Grove are Wratt, Bottrell, Garner, Roughton, Andrews and Tunnicliff.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

A Sunday School existed when the new Church was opened in Wakefield in 1919. Its numbers have varied but it has continued throughout the years.

Early names associated with the Sunday School are Tunnicliff, Catchpole, Wilkens, Jameson, Nuttall and Burnett. In the late 1950s and until 1962 Mrs. Hine Moore conducted a Sunday School largely by her own efforts and using some senior pupils as helpers. Undoubtedly her efforts kept the school functioning during a period when few teachers were available. Her Anniversary Services and Christmas Concerts will long be remembered. In 1962 a Local Education Council was formed and the Sunday School and Bible Classes established on a firm basis. This has continued to this day with weekly morning Sunday School. Many helpers have assisted as teachers through these years and Superintendents since 1963 have been Mesdames V. Brown, J. Aitken, V. Papps and J. Satherley. In 1972 a combined Bible Class was established with the Anglican Church.

TRUST

The Trustees in 1929 were Messrs. Wilkens, Kelling, Eyies, Burnett, Murray and Nuttall. Their activities centred around raising money to lower the Church debt, and in subsequent years, in building and grounds maintenance. This involved lighting and heating, removing a surrounding hedge and painting and repairing.

In 1940 the Wai-iti Church Trustees requested the Wakefield Trust to move the Wai-iti Chapel to Wakefield for use as a Sunday School. After protracted negotiations including telegrams between the two Trusts involved and the Church Building and Loan Fund in Christchurch it was finally resolved in 1943 that the old Wai-iti Church be offered for sale and removal by tender and the money received be set aside as a nucleus for a new Sunday School. The highest tender of £80 was duly accepted. This money was duly banked and earned interest until it was used in 1952 for the erection of a new vestry costing £110-0-3d.

In 1962 a large Sunday School room was added to the rear of the Church including the previous vestry. This included a kitchen. The total cost of labour and materials was £350 and there were many anonymous donations and considerable assistance from the firm of W. Bastin & Son.

In 1966 the old platform and central pulpit was removed, a new pulpit and a central worship centre constructed. A piano was bought in 1968 largely from money raised by the younger Church members.

A toilet was added in 1971 following a drainage agreement with the neighbouring Lodge.

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Two large bequests have been received by the Trust. In 1967 the Methodist Church received a quarter share in the estate of Mrs. Matilda Thomas and in 1972 an eighth share in the estate of Reuben Joseph Eves.

A loyal band of men have over the years attended to the care of the Church property and many congratulatory remarks have been made on its appearance.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

A large group of women have met regularly for many years for fellowship and inspiration. In many ways this group has contributed much to the life of the Church and over the years donations of money and materials has been made. Street stalls have been conducted in Wakefield for raising finance and money has been freely donated towards building projects. In addition Sunday School chairs, Church carpet and Sanctuary curtains have been given. In the wider Church donations of goods and money have been made to the Home and Overseas Missions and flowers have been regularly provided for Church members in Hospital. Members also supply voluntary drivers for the Meals on Wheels Scheme commenced in 1972.

Mention must also be made of the various social gatherings organised by the Fellowship and of inspirational meetings enjoyed by a wide circle of women, beyond active Church members.

THE CHURCH BUILDINGS

Church buildings have existed at Motueka Valley, Foxhill, Spring Grove and Upper Wakefield (Wai-iti). The Dovedale Church is still in use.

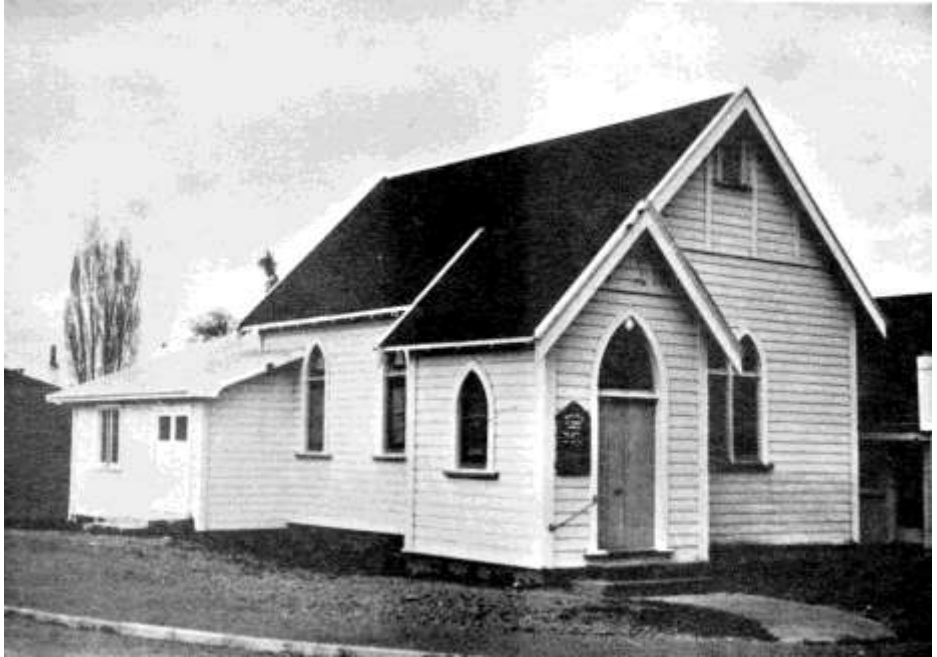
The first Chapel in Upper Wakefield lasted for about 30 years and finally was used as a storage barn. The second Chapel was erected as the new Century began on a front section of the property lately owned by the late Reuben Eves, whose father supplied the timber from his Trass Valley Sawmill. The same Sawmill provided the timber for the old Wai-iti bridge, Hoopers store (now Holcroft Industries) and the Oddfellows Hall (later destroyed by fire). The Church contained a tablet to the memory of John Mears. It was finally sold by tender and removed to Mapua for a seaside cottage and all that remains is a small pile of rubble and a couple of trees. The section is retained and is under the care of the Wakefield Church Trustees.



The Sanctuary – Wakefield Methodist Church.

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The present Church was erected by J. McPherson & Son at a cost of £533 - 11 - 9½ and opened in 1919. It was built to seat 100. It is in good repair and will serve for many years yet.



Wakefield Methodist Church – Present Day (1972)

THE FUTURE

The Church enters its second Century as a vote is taken on a Plan for Union with the Anglican, Presbyterian, Congregational and Associated Churches of Christ. If the negotiations and final vote is in favour of Union the present Church will be part of the Church of Christ in New Zealand. As such it will enter a new role when folk now of differing denominations can unite as one in Worship, prayer and praise. A resident minister in Wakefield in the United Church would have pastoral oversight of the Congregation sharing with other Christians in the area. In time a new role could be found for the building but its witness will remain.

If the vote is in the negative the present Methodist, Presbyterian Union will no doubt continue and the Church will continue its influence in the township. Greater co-operation between Churches will continue and more services and activities of a combined nature will occur.

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The main event in the Centenary Celebrations is the United Service of Thanksgiving. For this the Methodist Church has invited the other congregations in Wakefield to combine for a service of thanksgiving for the past and of hope for the future.

Just what the year 2072 will find in Wakefield no one dare guess but one thing seems certain - the Church must and will remain.

"Ye fearful Saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.
His purposes will ripen fast
Unfolding every hour
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain,
God is his own interpreter,
And He will make it plain."
William Cowper.

ANECDOTES

At the quarterly meeting of September 28 1881 it was resolved "that a letter be written to the members of quarterly meeting at Dovedale pointing out to them their duty to attend the quarterly meeting."

In 1882 it was resolved on the motion of Bro Parkes "that in addition to the envelope system collections be taken up at the Wakefield Chapel" Further on the motion of Bro Newth "that collections be taken up regularly at Brightwater and Wakefield Township."

An interesting decision was made at the quarterly meeting of June 27 1883 when it is recorded "that in consequence of the difficulty of filling the places the Society Stewards keep a Book of Sermons, and that in case of a preacher failing to keep an appointment they should read a sermon rather than have our congregation broken up".

At the first quarterly meeting of 1889 it was successfully moved and carried "that the ministers stipend be reduced to £150 per annum until the Circuit debt is removed." In 1892 with the debt removed the stipend was raised to £175 and a grant was requested from the Home Mission Fund to bring this to £200.

Extract from Quarterly Meeting minutes of June 27 1894. "It was resolved that the meeting desires to record its devout thankfulness to God for the preservation of the Life of the Pastor, the Rev. J. S. Rishworth, he having fallen into the sea on a dark night at Picton Wharf at a recent date. " Resolved "That the attention of the Stewards

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at Stoke and Upper Wakefield be called to the rule on the plan that collections are to be taken up at all Services". Quarterly Meeting held at the residence of Mr. T. Bright, Wai-iti, January 6 1904.

1911. Bro Tunnicliff reported he had collected £1 - 7 - 0 towards the purchase of a horse for the Circuit, The thanks of the meeting were to be conveyed by Bro. Tunnicliff to the Wakefield friends for the gesture (Later) The purchase of the new Circuit horse was reported at a cost of £13 with a credit balance on the amount collected of £5 - 6 - 6.

As a means of assisting the Church debt a Market Day was held in Nelson in 1926 each area being responsible for a stall. To this end Wakefield raised £10-10-0, Dovedale £16-0-0 and Wai-iti £6 - 8 - 6 out of a total of £121 - 10 - 0.

On 12. 4. 38 it was moved "that we express to Archdeacon Smith our appreciation of his co-operation and brotherliness during his ministry in Wakefield." Later in the same meeting it is recorded - "next meeting to be by the big fire at Dovedale on July 11 at 7.30 p.m.

In 1940 it was recommended that the Fire Insurance premium for the Wakefield Church be handed to the Ladies Guild for payment.

In 1943 an appeal was made to members to subscribe three shillings each towards the cost of a bicycle for the Circuit. The collectors were Wakefield, Mrs. Wilkens, Spring Grove Miss Borlase, Foxhill Mrs. Mills, and Dovedale Miss Jordan.

Quarterly meeting at Dovedale July 30 1947. Thanks were conveyed to the Dovedale ladies for providing supper and to the men for the fire.

Rev. Chas. H. Kendon at age of 83 years writes from New Plymouth

"My years (1913) in Wakefield left me with very happy memories, especially of the many stalwart Christian families dotted around a large isolated area. I stayed at Wai-iti with Mr. & Mrs. Ivo Tunnicliff: my duties were mainly to care for the people over Spooners Range and to assist in the more established societies of the plains. Over Spooners Range my preaching places consisted of Motupiko, Tapawera, Tadmor -including visits to Tui and Kiwi - thence from Tadmor over the hill to Sherry, Wangapeka and Matariki, also Stanley Brook. A typical visit would be to leave Wai-iti Saturday, sometimes Friday, go by train with my bike to Kohatu thence by cycle visiting on my way to Tapawera, thence Stanley Brook or Tadmor and Sherry. I would stay at Stanley Brook with either Mr. & Mrs. Ewing or Mr. & Mrs. Jordan. Sometimes a service Friday or Saturday night. Sunday Services varied sometimes starting at Stanley Brook 11 a.m. thence to Tadmor 2 p.m. and Motupiko 7 p.m. A cup of tea with Mr. & Mrs. Smithers of Kohatu after Service, thence leaving approx. 9.30 p.m. to bike over Spooners Range. No tar seal on roads then. I was young, strong and romantic and I can still

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recall those glorious rides in the midnight moonlight with the glorious vista of the Waimea plains in the sheen of the full moon."

Mrs T. F. Hodgson who was organist at both Wai-iti Church and in the Oddfellows Hall remembers the organ in the Hall which was capable of playing only hymns written in four flats.

I have appreciated the task given me of compiling this record of the Methodist Church in Wakefield. I am fully aware of the deficiencies and omissions. I wish to thank all who have helped in any way to make this booklet possible. I have relied considerably on Morley's "*History of Methodism in New Zealand*" and on such Circuit records that were available, regrettably deficient in some years. I complete my task with considerable satisfaction and am grateful for the opportunity of delving into the past in an era of Church life that is long forgotten.

E.B.

Ministers associated with the Wakefield Methodist Church.

Nelson Circuit

1866	Rev. R.S. Bunn
1867-68	Rev. R.L. Vickers
1869-71	Rev. J. A. Taylor
1871-74	Rev. W. Cannell
1874-76	Rev. W. Keall
1876-77	Rev. W. B. Marten
1877	Rev. T.F. Reeve
1878-81	Rev. W. Rowse

Richmond Circuit

1881-82	Rev. J. Berry
1882-85	Rev. W. Kirk
1885-88	Rev. J. Thomas
1888-92	Rev. J. Crump
1892-95	Rev. J. S. Rishworth
1894(Supply)	Rev. W. Dawson
1895-99	Rev. G.T. Marshall
1899-1903	Rev. T. G. Carr
1903-1906	Rev. J. D. Jory
1906-1910	Rev. S. H. D. Peryman
1910-15	Rev. C. Eaton
1915-18	Rev. A. Ashcroft
1918-21	Rev. W. Wills
1921-25	Rev. J. R. Nelson
1925-29	Rev. H.L. Richards
1929-30	Rev J.H. Haslam
1930-33	Rev P. Richards
1933-38	Rev. B. Dudley
1938-41	Rev. M. Ayrton
1941-45	Rev. J. D. Grocott
1945-50	Rev. R. E. Patchett
1950-55	Rev. C.H. Bell

Waimea Circuit from 1953

1955-60	Rev. H. Moore
1960-67	Rev. L.J. Gibson
1967-68	Rev. M. L. Bruce
1969-	Rev. D. G. Stubbs

Home Missioners associated with the Wakefield Church.

1909-10	Lawrence
1911	F. Ford
1911-12	P. Battey
1913	C.H. Kendon
1914	R.M. Strongman
1916	Webster
1916-19	L.A. Brooks
1920	Wearn, Tyson
1922	Attwood
1923-24	Hoskin
1924-25	F.D. Hoten
1926-28	Thomas

Wakefield - Dovedale Home Mission Station

1928 - 30	J.A. DGLISH
1930-31	J.C.R. Ashworth
1931 - 32	C.L. Duder
1932 - 34	L. C. Elmsley
1934 - 36	S. Hindmarsh
1936-39	G. E. Beckingsale
1939-41	N.R. Hooper
1941 - 43	L. Shapcott
1943-46	No appointment
1947-48	Rev. C. Blair (Supernumary)

Presbyterian Ministers (Richmond Parish) associated with the Wakefield Methodist Church,

1958-64	Rev. S. Burley
1965-70	Rev. E. Uden
1971-	Rev. D.J. Barker B. A.

Society Stewards

Upper Wakefield

1860	John Mears		
1874	G. Parkes		
1875	J. Mears		
1879	G. Parkes		
1885	G. Parkes	Township	J. Thomas
1888	W. Wadsworth		
1896	S. Wadsworth		

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1901 A. Baigent
1906 C. Jenkins
1912 G. Wilkens
1913 C. Jenkins and Lines
1918 Ives and Lines
1926 T. Cropp and C. Jenkins
1936 P. Burn

Wakefield

1913 G. Wilkens and Miss Thomas
1915 G. Wilkens and I. Tunnicliff
1917 G. Wilkens and T. Beilby
1926 G. Wilkens, Win, Kelling
1936 Eyles and Jessop

Foxhill

1860 John Means
1880 Fitchett
1881 J. Tunnicliff
1886 Neilson
1888J. Tunnicliff
1891 W. Wadsworth
1892 F.J. Hingston
1902 J. Tunnicliff
1906 Mrs. I. Tunnicliff
1909 Mr. I. Tunnicliff
1915 W. Watson
1926- 44 J. Nesbitt

Spring Grove

1906 Miss Tunnicliff
1907 Mrs. P. Roughton
1910 Mr. P. Roughton
1926 W. Lewis
N. McLachlan

Dovedale

1878 E. Humphries
1879 J. Smith

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1926 C. Jordan
1936 P. Jordan P. Cowin

Gordon

1906 Mrs. G. Field
1911 Mrs. Ellis
1936 Prouse

Motupiko

1908-17 Mrs. J.J. Allen

Kiwi

1908 Campbell
1915-17 Harford

Sherry

1908-17 W. Lines

Stanley Brook

1910-17 W. Jordan

Tadmor

1912-17 W.J. Fawcett

Wangapeka

1912-17 A. McPherson

Circuit Stewards

Richmond Circuit

1900	D.W. Gunn	and	A. Sheat
1906	H. Buttle	and	A. Sheat
1908	H. Buttle	and	E. S. Fairy
1910	F. Smith	and	E. S. Fairy
1912	H. Buttle	and	N. Pill
1915	T. Bell	and	W. Burrough
1917	T. Bell	and	Snadden
1919	Rose	and	G. Wilkens
1920	F. Bateup	and	G. Wilkens
1921	F. Bateup	and	W. Lewis
1923	P. Brooks	and	Nuttall
1926	P. Brooks	and	J. Galbreath

Home Mission Station

1928	W. Lewis	and	C. Jordan
1932	O. C. Eyles	and	Burnett
1934	O. C. Eyles	and	C. E. Jordan
1939	O. C. Eyles	and	J. A. Davies
1940	O. C. Eyles	and	M. Robinson
1944	O. C. Eyles	and	Mrs. R. Palmer

Richmond and Waimea Circuits

1948	R.C.A. Marshall and	A. Winn
1959	S. V. Everett and	C. E. Jordan
1961	A. R. Brumby and	S. V. Everett
1963	A. R. Brumby and	Dr. E. Bassett
1968	S. V. Everett and	Dr. E. Bassett
1970	S. V. Everett and	L. J. Palmer

Wakefield Methodist Church.

Trustees: E. Bassett (Secretary), C. H. Bastin, D. F. Baigent, E. J. Appleton and C. G. Dockery.

Leaders Meeting: Mesdames D. F. Baigent (Secretary), E. Bassett, J.A. Brown, C. H. Bastin, J. W. Satherley, J.M. Anicich, G. R. Springer, Messrs C. G. Dockery, C. H. Bastin and Dr. E. Bassett.

Society Stewards: Messrs E. J. Appleton, C. H. Bastin, J.A. Brown, C.G. Dockery, L. F. Rainbow, G. R. Springer and Dr. E. Bassett.

Sunday School: Mrs. J.W. Satherley (Superintendent), Miss W. J. Bassett, and Junior helpers Misses P.M. and S. Satherley.

Local Education Council: Mesdames E. Bassett (Secretary), J.W. Satherley and Miss W. J. Bassett (Teaching Staff), Mesdames C. H. Bastin (Congregational Rep.) and N. E. Green (Cradle Roll).

Womens Fellowship: Mesdames J. M. Anicich (President), L. F. Rainbow and D.F. Baigent (Vice Presidents), C. C. Wills (Secretary) and N. E. Green (Treasurer).

Sacramental Stewards: Mesdames J.M. Anicich and D.F. Baigent.

Organist: Mrs. A. E. Cotton.

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The Methodist Church of New Zealand

President	Rev. R. Frederick Clement M. A.
Chairman (Nelson District)	Rev. Robert H. Allen B. A.
Minister	Rev. David G. Stubbs
Circuit Stewards	S.V. Everett, L.J. Palmer

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A Short History of the Methodist Church in the
Wakefield area written for the Centenary
Celebrations by Edward Bassett. 1972.

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Centennial Committee: Rev. D. G. Stubbs (Chairman), Mesdames D. F. Baigent,
(Secretary), J. M. Anicich, J. A. Brown and Dr. E. Bassett.
Additional members Mrs. G. R. Springer (Music) and Mr. C. H. Bastin
(Arrangements).

*"We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come".*

Photographs taken at the Celebrations.

Thanks to Nelson Photo News No.144: October 1972



The present minister, Rev. D. G. Stubbs, Mrs Stubbs and Mrs E. Bassett



Mr and Mrs K. Scott, of Picton, were among the guests



Mesdames J. Win, D. Eden and H. Milroy

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Mr and Mrs A. McPherson



Among those who attended were three sisters of the Wilkens family, Mesdames Jean Thomas, Ena Hoskin and Ayleen Smart. Their father was organist at Wakefield for many years



Mrs J. Gapes and Mrs P. Rodley

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Alison and Bill Mansbridge



Rev. Sam Burley, a former Wakefield Presbyterian Minister, Rev. D. J. Barker, a Presbyterian Minister at Richmond, and Mrs. Barker



The McLean family, of Stoke, played hand bells at the concert. The bells are heirlooms originally owned by Mrs. McLean's great-grandfather, Edward Edridge, an early resident in the Wakefield area. From left, Wendy, Bruce, Deborah, Valerie and Graeme

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Mrs and Rev. R. H. Allen (district chairman from Blenheim) chat with Rev. John Grocott, of Christchurch, minister at Wakefield 30 years ago



Mr and Mrs Roy Palmer