

Fact sheet: *researching Lay Preachers*

Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives National Archive of the Methodist Church of New Zealand

Contact: Archivist, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
54 Langdons Road, Christchurch 8053, New Zealand
PO Box 931, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

Telephone: (03) 366 6049

Email: archives@methodist.org.nz

Web: <http://www.methodist.org.nz/archives>

Hours: By appointment only. Closed weekends, public holidays, Christmas-New Year and Easter Tuesday

Sources of biographical information about lay preachers held in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

Lay preachers were previously called “local preachers” until 1962. A lay preacher was a person approved at the parish Quarterly Meeting to take services. They usually sat exams to be a lay preacher, and acted in this role on a part-time basis.

The New Zealand Methodist Lay Preachers’ Association National Executive records are held in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives. Branch records are included with Parish Archives Collection.

The Methodist Archives does not hold a full list of people who were lay preachers as this activity was not well documented in the nineteenth century.

Today the Methodist Lay Preachers’ Association has joined with other similar denominations.

Printed resources and indexes at the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

- People information files
- *A history of Methodism in New Zealand* by William Morley
- Wesley Historical Society publications index
- Church histories collection
- Minutes of the New Zealand Methodist Conference (published)

Resources for in depth research using original documents in the Methodist Archives

- Photographs Collection
- Baptism registers, marriage registers, membership rolls

- Parish Archives Collection (for local branch records of the Lay Preachers' Association)
- Personal Papers and Historical Records Collection
- New Zealand Methodist Lay Preachers' Association National Executive archives



Internet sources

See our fact sheet *internet sites for researching New Zealand Methodist history*

Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives Collection

While few documents have been yet been digitised, our descriptive catalogue lists of the Archives Collection are available:

http://www.methodist.org.nz/archives/archives_collection

New Zealand Methodist newspapers 1870-1948

Digital copies of these can be word-searched. They can include information about births, marriages, deaths and obituaries:

<http://kinderlibrary.recollect.co.nz/>

New Zealand newspapers

All newspapers can also include information about the New Zealand Methodist Church and its people. These can be searched on the National Library's PapersPast site:

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

New Zealand Methodist publications

Many books have been digitised by international libraries or internet companies such as Google, which have information about the New Zealand Methodist Church. Of particular interest is William Morley's *A history of Methodism in New Zealand*:

<http://www.archive.org/details/historymethodis00morlqooq>

The Wesley Historical Society of New Zealand, has also digitised publications about the history of the Methodist Church, mostly published by the Wesley Historical Society:

http://www.methodist.org.nz/organisations/wesley_historical_society/history/history_index