

New look for church

The parishioners of St Chad's Church celebrated the completion of their building addition programme on February 17, with Bishop Roger Herft carrying out the dedication.

The original wooden church, built in 1935 to serve west New Plymouth, had been extended twice, but at the time of its 50th anniversary it was still unable to meet parish requirements.

A decision was therefore made in 1985 to extend the building in a major way by providing an office and community room at the eastern end and doubling the seating capacity at the western (Omata Road) end.

The design was developed by architect Mr S Cowie and a small building committee with idea input from parishioners. The majority of the work was carried out with voluntary labour under the direction of Mr T Johns.

Tributes were paid at the dedication to all who had helped, from those who drew the plans, handled the finance and wielded the hammers down to the helpers who planted gardens, swept the floors and made the tea.

It was recalled that the ceremonial turning of the first sod at the start of the alteration project had



St Chad's Church, New Plymouth, as it looks now.

been carried out in pouring rain on a March day in 1989; it seemed fitting somehow that the celebration of the completion of the job should have attracted another day of similar weather conditions.

In his dedication service Bishop Herft took a verse from the Prophet Isaiah — "Widen your tent,

stretch out your ropes and tighten your pegs" — to emphasise that the new building must be used to provide a welcome for all members of the community, and that members of the church must be sure that their faith, like the tent pegs, is firm.