

Church's fate to be discussed at meeting

JEFF STONE

It stands on a small patch of land on State Highway 3, a quiet place even with the roar of cars going past every few minutes.

The air feels solemn, as though the small church is waiting for something.

Though unused for more

than two years, St Stephen's Anglican Church at Motunui remains tidy and dignified inside and out. This is due to the love and care of the locals, prominent among them Alma Honeyfield and her husband. A meeting will soon be held to decide the fate of the little church, and Alma hopes it will find a new life. "It's sad to see the place not being used,"

Alma says. "Hopefully, the meeting in April will see some decision on what is to be done with the site."

Dedicated on August 19, 1927, St Stephen's was once the heart of a thriving community in the area. The church was the realised dream of the local postmistress and music teacher, the celebrated Miss Emily Stock-

man. Stockman would walk the roads of the region, from Urenui to Tikorangi, collecting used stamps to sell and raise funds to create the tiny church. Now, almost 90 years later, Stockman's legacy lies inactive. A public meeting to discuss the fate of St Stephen's will be held at 7pm on Thursday April 7 at the Motunui Hall on SH 3.