

## JOTTINGS: HISTORY - DATES - EVENTS

Although records from minute books are sometimes noteworthy for what they do not tell the researcher, nevertheless, a great deal of information can be gleaned from that source.

- 1872 - At a private home, Rev. J. Crump held the first service by a Methodist minister in Waitara.
- 1875 - Church moved to Waitara, from Belt Road New Plymouth. Site cost 12 pounds - church and enlargements cost 150 pounds.  
First harmonium bought - price not to exceed 20 pounds.
- 1873 - A Second Minister or Home Missionary employed by New Plymouth circuit to work in Waitara, Huirangi, Lepperton and Midhurst.
- 1877 - Single seats to be charged at one shilling and sixpence per sitting - whole pews one shg. Cost of varnishing church interior - fifteen pounds.
- 1878 - Church built at Lepperton.
- 1879 - Church built at Midhurst.
- 1882 - Church built at Huirangi.  
Waitara Circuit was constituted and Rev. Harper was appointed.
- 1883 - Transept {cross section} added at a cost of 275 pounds.  
Rev. T. Fee was married. Parsonage required. Eight roomed house built for 430 pounds. It is still occupied, but now privately owned {Maurice Shaw} cnr. Princess St. and by-pass. 2nd parsonage cnr. Mouatt and Gold Sts. 3rd parsonage cnr. Mouatt and High Sts {present one}.
- 1904 - Present church built. The architect and builder was Mr Wickham. The cost was 447 pounds and it was built of kauri. {Surprising - we thought there was plenty of rimu}.
- 1912 - 13 December 1st meeting at the Urenui Hall with 11 people. A section was bought from Mr McKenzie for 25 pounds and a church built for 150 pounds.
- 1928 - A Sunday School started at Urenui by Mrs Bill Topless.
- 1935 - Church at Urenui nearly tipped over by a cyclone! Walter Doman {county bridge builder} jacked it back and put oregon bracing in at both ends.
- 1936 - Urenui Ladies Guild asked for a Sunday School to be built. Fund raising started. Rev. Tom Carr, present Minister {carpenter} got a good deal on timber and Charlie Henwood, carrier, carted it free of charge.
- 1937 - Urenui Sunday School opened with a tea. Mrs Henwood making jelly, fruit and cream for each child. Teas became an annual event.
- 1951 - Church roof repaired and a new stage built.
- 1952 - Church redecorated and pews re-varnished {they're overdue for a repeat!}. Charges for the use of the church left to the minister's discretion.

- 1952 - The exterior of the church was painted. The quoted cost was 180 to 190 pounds.  
The church was re-piled - quite a large undertaking {no pun intended}. During this work a bottle was found inserted in a pile. It was wrapped in a 1903 Evening News newspaper, with a hand-written memo inside.  
Church Hall at Urenui was opened.
- 1953 - May 12th minutes - A 12ft by 13ft 6 inch prefab to be erected and placed in Waitara church grounds instead of the tent, currently used by the Bible Class. The young people raised money by putting on various items of entertainment, e.g. Lew Pryme and his skiffle band.
- 1954 - Feb. Proposal to build a Sunday School in Waitara West. Mrs Irene Sharrock offered the use of her sitting room as no suitable building was available.  
May - Proposal to extend 10 feet, by way of a lean-to the full length of the hall and classrooms
- 1955 - This building extension was carried out by Hills Bros.
- 1957 - In March a new roof was put on the church - iron, nails and ridging costing 121 pounds. Honours board erected in the church.
- 1958 - August - The matter of a new parsonage was raised {The minister was Rev. J. Osborne}.
- 1959 - March - It was moved that 700 pounds be used for the purchase of property {leasehold} and building on the site of the present parsonage. The building was demolished.  
October - Mrs Yardley offered gift of organ, later used at Lepperton.
- 1961 - Parsonage building erected, mainly by volunteers under the supervision of Mr H. Decke.
- 1961 - November - Official opening of new parsonage - Rev. Ken Russell the minister.



*Members of the Church Trust at the time of the Centenary  
{left to right} Daphne Billinghamurst, Paddy Whittaker, Dale Whittaker,  
Noel Billinghamurst, Frank Sharrock, Alan Randell*

- 1963 - Urenui Church Hall renovated with rimu ply and hardboard on the walls and ceiling. The Church was named "Church of the Good Shepherd" {appropriate for a country area}.
- 1964 - Urenui Church 50th Anniversary celebrated.
- 1975 - Waitara Church Centenary celebrated.
- 1976 - Guild disbanded at Urenui, Members invited to be Trust Members.
- 1977 - Womens Fellowship recovered pews. Combined services held at Urenui. Roster system {denominations} in place at Uruti. Connexional Budget increased 20% to \$1920.
- 1981 - Vote taken on church union. A NO vote.
- 1981 - Winding up of Lepperton Trust.
- 1982 - Mr Allan Surrey appointed vice-president elect of the Methodist Church.
- 1985 - Urenui church extensions. New room dedicated and the foyer added.
- 1986 - New speaker system {sound} installed in the Waitara church.
- 1987 - Dedication of the foyer extensions, and celebratory meal .
- 1988 - Hutchens St. property purchased {old house and 1000 sq. metre section} with a view to building pensioner units. In 1993 as implementation was not feasible it was sold for \$30,000.
- 1991 - Letter to general secretary stating parish's unanimous rejection of the appointment of homosexuals to ministry. It was agreed to donate \$500 to Radio Rhema for establishment costs. The parish received advice from headquarters that the Methodist church has no objections to members of the Masonic Lodge being lay preachers.
- 1992 - Members working at The Daily News inserting leaflets to raise funds {over \$2000}.
- 1993 - Methodist services at Uruti discontinued, but Anglicans carrying on.
- 1999 - Application to headquarters for a grant of \$8000 was approved and received.



*Allan Surrey  
Vice-President of the  
Methodist Church  
1982-1983 and a lay  
preacher for over 56 years.*

*The time capsule buried  
beneath the church 1986.  
To be opened in 2086 -  
not in our lifetime!*

