

How New Church At Welbourn Derived Its Name

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As long ago as September, 1951, the dedication of a new church in the parish of New Plymouth took place, but the printed leaflet about the event reached the associate editor with the December issue of St. Mary's News.

Interesting historical data are contained in this leaflet. It appears that the name of Welbourn derives from Welbourn in the County of Lincolnshire, England. The Rev. Henry Handley Brown was born at Welbourn Manor House in 1813. He died on September 7, 1893, and was buried in the churchyard around St. Mary's Church near the east end. He landed at New Plymouth on March 4, 1859, and ministered to pakeha and Maori around Omata and other districts of Taranaki near New Plymouth. He was much loved and known to all as "Parson Brown." His example and help during the time of the Maori wars were a great help.

It was the intention to call the Welbourn Church here by the name of the church (St. Chad's) at Welbourn, England. This was not possible, as there is a church of that name at Westown, New Plymouth.

The name of St. Michael and All Angels has been decided upon to make a link with the church of that name at Plymouth in Devonshire, England.