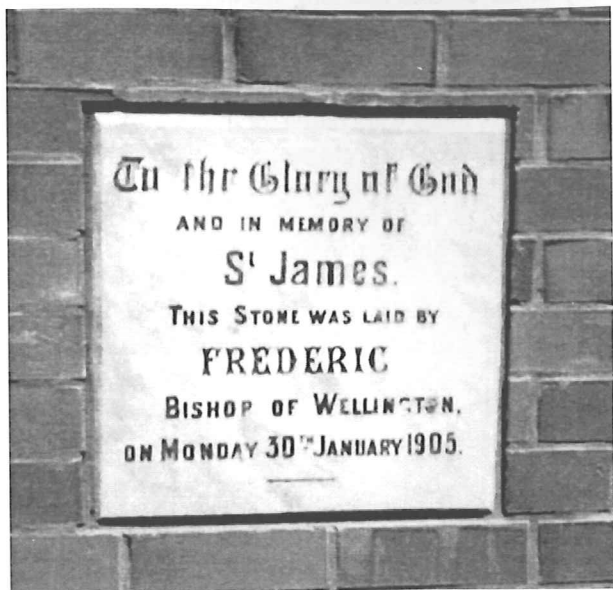


ST JAMES



Church foundation stone

The beautiful little Anglican church building of St James was in great part a gift from Mrs Frances Lysaght, the widow of James Lysaght. Like so much of their legacy to Mokoia, it was very special. From the drawing board of architect, Clere, who had earlier designed old St Pauls cathedral in Wellington, Mokoia's church was built in red brick from Patea.

The Lysaghts donated the land and the bibles; and the carved alter table was the work of Miss Caroline Lysaght, crafted in England and shipped out especially for the church.

Civil Engineer, Captain Arthur J Wigley MC oversaw the construction, and the foundation stone was laid by Frederic Bishop on the thirtieth of January 1905.

Regular services were conducted by ministers Jacob, Cassel, Franklin, Young, Malcolm and Stoke Blandy and others.

It was fitting that the first baptism in the church was that of Avril Lysaght. Daughters in the Hawken family have been married there; and several of the great great grandchildren of Mr and Mrs Neil Hawken were christened there.

The first entry in the Sunday school register, in July 1905 lists the following youngsters:

William Marsh, Elsie Hunt, Olive Anderson, Inez Tarrant, George Hunt, Claude Tarrant, Cecil Higgs, Nelly Goldsbury, Lily Marsh, Sidney Tidswell, Oliver Tidswell, Archie Tidswell, Laurence Hunt, Mark Trott, Ida Hunt, Robert Hunt, May Higgs, Harry Hunt, Agnes Tidswell, Fred Goldsbury, Harold Higgs, Doris Goldsbury, Flora Bowman, Gladys Hunt.

The last entry in the register is in December 1946, with these present:

Sylvia Hunt, Nola Prowse, Gary Edgecombe, Graeme West, June Herbert, Elaine Smith, Bruce Potter, Glen

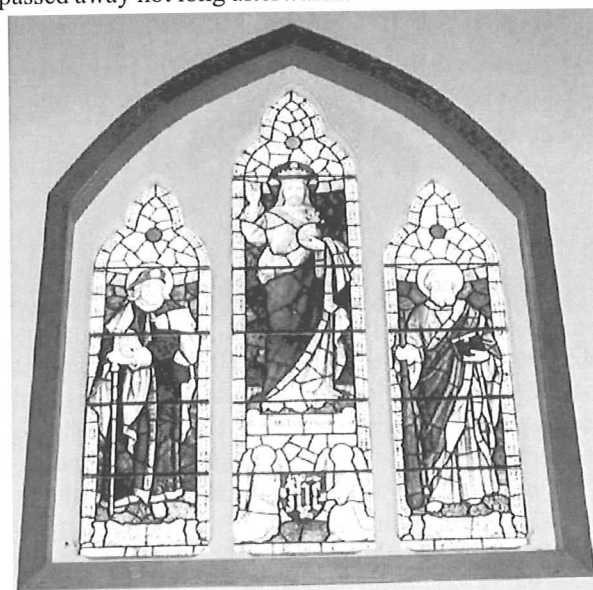
Edgecombe, Joan Smith, Christine Milne, Harold Herbert, Clive Buckland, Phyllis Hunt, Jill Smith, Eric Rawson, Stanley Buckland, Rosalyn Hawken, Colleen West, Neville Prowse, Len Buckland, Jean Milne, Margaret Buckland, Robert West, Phyllis West

There are images remembered by some of the community, of Sunday school teacher, Miss Sylvia Lysaght, riding her horse to church each Sunday, accompanied by a guard of honour of children of all denominations, on foot.

The vigour of the church family in a community is often dependant on a handful of dedicated volunteers. In the case of St James, names like Tom Bickford, Billy Marsh, the Thwaites family and the Barkla brothers, Newton and Brian are remembered; and Clarry and Trish Wilson whose son, John played the organ, and of course members of the Lysaght family. The music of Miss Caroline Lysaght, Phyllis Taplin, Jean Milne, Enid Marsh and Flo Holdem will echo, too, around the stained glass windows where they now grace the foyer of St Mary's in Hawera.

The last general service held was a carol service in 1989; and the church was deconsecrated by the Right Reverend Bishop Brian Carrell at an evening service on Sunday 16th of July 1992. Thereafter it was lovingly dismantled under the watchful care of Neville Prowse and his team, to be renewed in the entrance foyer and office at St Mary's, in Hawera

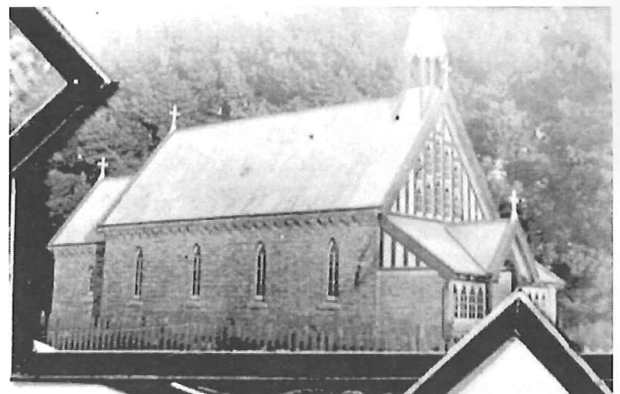
The Mokoia School's Board of Trustees approached the management of St Mary's to seek an easement over the land on which St James church had stood, in order to develop the new entrance and driveway for the school. The final arrangement included a ninety-nine year lease. A low brick wall with seating was built between the two old churchyard entrance pillars, with a plaque placed in the brickwork commemorating the church site, and the contribution of the Lysaght family. Sylvia Lysaght was able to make choices in design, and view it before she passed away not long afterwards.



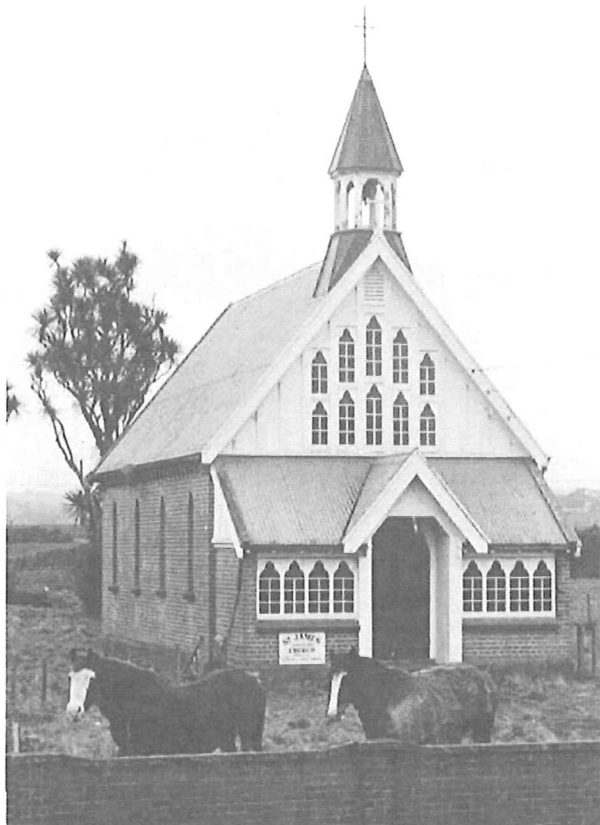
The main stained glass window that now graces the foyer of St Mary's



Lysaght family portrait showing Averil Lysaght (back row) who was the first child baptised in Mokoia's St James Church.



St James as it appeared on a Mokoia Postcard



CHURCH TO GO: A pair of horses keeps the grass down in the grounds of St. James' Anglican Church in Mokoia. The last service in the church will be held on Sunday night.

End of an era for church

THE END of an era will be marked for the Anglican mission to rural South Taranaki churches on Sunday night.

After more than 80 years as a focal point of the local community, St James' Church in Mokoia (between Hawera and Patea) is to be deconsecrated. The church was the last satellite church of Hawera's St Mary's Parish

The church was built by Francis Caroline Lysaght in memory of her husband, James Richard Lysaght in 1905. It was last used for a carol service about 3 years ago.

St James' Church will be deconsecrated at a special service at 7pm on

Sunday, conducted by the Assistant Bishop of Wellington, the Right Reverend Brian Carrell.

Given the short notice of the service, all the stops have been pulled out to find former members of the St James' congregation before the night.

Although the church was to be dismantled, it was hoped its usefulness to the ministry would not be ended, the Vicar of St Mary's Parish, the Reverend Ross Downes said. Despite possible technical hitches, it was planned to salvage as much as possible for the \$200,000 foyer complex for St Mary's Church.