

M. A. Moffie

Past and Present Ministers	Memorials erected in Tabernacle to the memory of—
Mr. Hal Gresham 1893-1912	Mr. Arthur Hamilton Ambury 1918
Mr. N. J. Maunder 1912-1917	Mr. Ray Ambury 1918
Mr. Johnson 1917	Mr. Wm. Drew 1921
Mr. G. H. Maunder 1918-1924	Mr. Drew 1922
Mr. A. W. Diprose 1924-1940	Mr. G. H. Maunder 1924
Mr. Massam 1940	Rev. A. H. Collins 1930
Mr. Kilford (5 months) 1940	Mrs. J. A. Valentine 1937
Mr. Veysay 1940-1941	Mrs. A. Ambury 1941
Mr. Vic Barker 1942-1943	Mr. A. Ambury 1943
Mr. Des Fountain 1943-1947	Mr. J. A. Valentine 1948
Mrs. F. Clark 1947-1951	
Mr. Ray Hogarth 1951-1952	
Mr. H. D. Mullen 1953	
Mr. J. R. Barker 1953-	
Miss Drew for various periods.	<i>They Being Dead Yet Speaketh.</i>

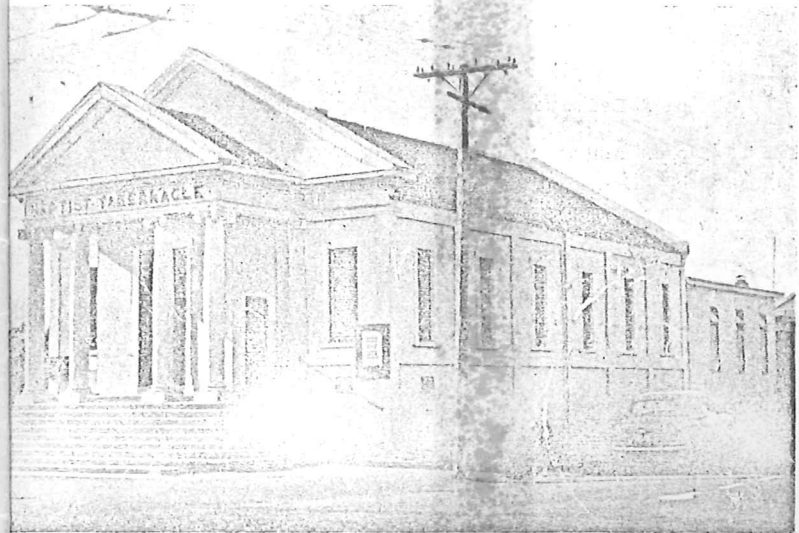
MILESTONES

Foundation of Baptist Fellowship	1865
First Church Built	1865
Church Opened for Worship	1865
Coming of the Drew Family—October	1893
First Baptist Minister—23rd October	1893
Membership Reconstituted—23rd October	1893
First Church Secretary—23rd October	1893
Sunday School Started—25th October	1893
Admitted to Membership N.Z.B.W.—29th November	1893
Choir Formed	1894
Purchase of Organ—May	1894
First Out-station—Fitzroy	1895
First Manse Erected—4th September	1904
New Church Section Given—21st June	1912
Foundation Stone Laid—27th March	1913
Building Opened for Worship—5th October	1913
Women Elected to Deacon's Court—22nd October	1919
Pipe Organ Installed—17th November	1926
Services Broadcast—5th August	1929
All Property Debt Free—4th February	1935
Silver Jubilee of Tabernacle—6th-9th November	1938
Monthly Church Newsletter Established—January	1940
First Easter Camp for Young People	1945
Piano Bought for Church—14th September	1949
Visit of Rt. Hon. and Mrs. E. Brown	1950
Fire in the Tabernacle	1954
Sunday School Halls Built in Town and Vogeltown	1954

NEW PLYMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH
CORNER LIARDET & LEMON STREETS
NEW PLYMOUTH N.Z.

90th Anniversary Celebrations 1865 - - 1955

"I will make the place of My feet Glorious"



THE TABERNACLE.

SATURDAY, 18th JUNE
SUNDAY, 19th JUNE
MONDAY, 20th JUNE
1955



Memorial Programme

PRICE 2/6

MINISTER AND OFFICERS, 1955

Minister: Rev. D. W. Rushbrook.
Secretary: Mr. Herbert Stott.
Treasurer: Mr. J. R. Barker.
Life Deacon: Mr. W. J. Richardson.
Deacons: Messrs. E. Dewar, Wm. Wilson, Staf. Ogle, W. Knapp, E. A. Donovan, Ron Hutton.
Deaconesses: Mesdames F. Clark, A. Stott, A. C. R. Anderson.
Sunday School Supt.: Mr. R. Hutton.
Sunday School Supt.: Mr. Ernest Dewar (Vogelton).
Choirmaster: Mrs. A. W. Diprose.
Organiste: Miss N. Moncrieff.

ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 18th JUNE

4.30 p.m. Dedication Service of Tabernacle Sunday School Hall, by Mr. William Carey, President Baptist Union.
5.45 p.m. Anniversary Tea, Reminiscences, etc. Tickets 2/-.
7.45 p.m. Public Meeting in the School Hall.
Chairman: Rev. D. W. Rushbrook.
Progress of Baptist work illustrated by lantern slides by Mr. William Carey.

SUNDAY, 19th JUNE

Family Thanksgiving Service. Guest preacher: Mr. William Carey.
3.00 p.m. Dedication Service of Vogelton Sunday School Hall, at Vogelton. Speakers: Mr. Wm. Carey and Mr. Ernest Dewar (Supt.).
5.00 p.m. Bible Classes and Young Peoples' Tea.
7.00 p.m. Thanksgiving Service (continued). Preacher: Rev. D. W. Rushbrook (Minister). Communion of the Lord's Supper.
Thanksgiving Offering at both services.

MONDAY, 20th JUNE

8.00 p.m. Grand Concert in School Hall.

FOREWORD

A Short Sketch of Baptist history in New Plymouth, 1865—1955.

We are celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Baptist witness and the 42nd of the opening of the present church building. The church officers thought it would be helpful if an historical account was compiled so that the work done for Christ and His Church could become known to the people who worship in the Tabernacle today and in the future. It is a history to be justly proud of, God through His people building up a Church to His Honour and Glory. There are gaps in the record it has been impossible to bridge.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This 90th year of our Baptist life and witness in New Plymouth brings to my mind the vivid words of our Lord. Looking out upon the task of bringing men and women into His Kingdom, He says to His disciples (John 4:38): "Other men have laboured and ye have entered into their labours."

Today we thank God for the faithful and valiant band of men and women, some of whose exploits you will read in this brochure, who have laboured for God's Glory here in the Tabernacle. Men who have spent and been spent in the Master's service, "counting not their lives dear unto themselves."

"We have entered into their labours." There is yet much land to be possessed. Let us therefore press on together, "our eyes fixed on Jesus the source and goal of our faith."

Your friend and pastor,

D. W. RUSHBROOK.

"I will build My Church"

A chronological record of service and witness through the years.

INTRODUCTION

Any survey of the Church's history going back over a period of 90 years must of necessity be lacking in many respects and we can only hope to catch something of the spirit motivating our predecessors in the setting up and establishing of the Church of God in this place. There have been times of great forward movement and enthusiastic effort, and times of depression and difficulty. In all there is much we should give thanks for and perhaps some lessons that we can learn. This is not an attempt at a comprehensive review covering all phases of the Church's life and work but rather an outline obtained by a series of dippings into its minutes of the past.

Part I. In Retrospect 1865—1895

In 1865 a building was erected at the corner of Liardet and Devon Streets for the Baptist denomination by the Baptist Union. Services were held for some time. The next news obtainable is in 1887 when the Church of Christ conducted services and it became a fusion of that body of Christians and the Baptists. Six years later, namely in 1893, Rev. William Drew with his family from England called at New Plymouth, intending to go to the South Island. The officials of the little church, hearing of the arrival of a Baptist minister from England, sent a deputation to him to talk things over about becoming the minister of the Church. After much prayer and thought it was agreed that he should take the oversight for 12 months. Upon application to the Baptist Union then in session at Nelson, they were admitted into the Union and a grant of £30 was made towards the minister's stipend. The Church decided to raise £60 which brought the amount to £90 for the first year.



Rev. William Drew

House in corner

On the 23rd October, 1893, a Church meeting was held at which were present 19 baptised believers. Business was transacted and rules formulated.

The following became foundation members—

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Rev. Wm. Drew | Mr. Wm. Coad |
| Mr. Hal Goodacre | Mr. C. A. Knight |
| Mr. F. Goodacre | H. T. Knight |
| Mr. Alf. R. Goodacre | Mr. A. Kennedy |
| Mrs. Annie Goodacre | Mr. M. Travers |
| Mrs. Mary Goodacre | Mrs. Marion Travers |
| Miss Ada Goodacre | Mrs. Anne Drew |
| Mr. Thos Druett | Miss B. Drew |
| Mrs. Em Remnant | Miss G. Drew |
| Mr. A. Ambury | Mr. H. Drew |
| Mrs. Emily Ambury | Mr. E. Drew |
| Miss Sarah Ambury | Mr. Alf Ladd |
| Mr. W. Runciman | Mr. P. R. Carthew |
| Mrs. May Runciman | Mrs. H. Carthew |

Mr. Runciman became Secretary and Mr. Hal Goodacre Treasurer. Feeling the need of an instrument, an organ fund was started. In 1894 class rooms were added to the church building, a choir formed, an American organ bought and a pulpit Bible presented to the Church, which we still have.



1900. "HARVEST THANKSGIVING," GILL STREET, 1900.

It was a welcome to Rev John Ings.

Part 2.

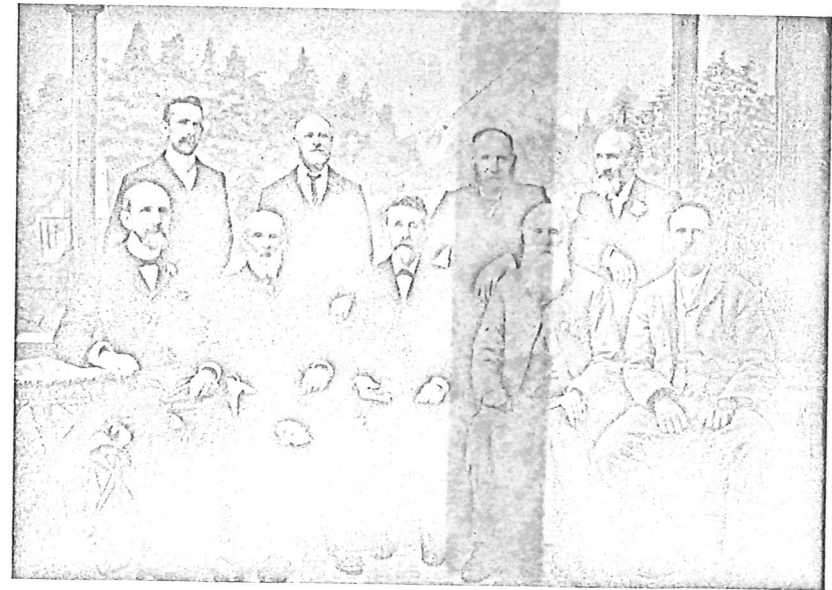
1895-1913

In 1895, Mr. William Coad replaced Mr. Runciman in the Secretaryship and a preaching station established at Fitzroy, New Plymouth. The membership in 1897 was 50, 38 active and 12 non-residential. In the following year gas gave place to kerosene lamps in the Church. After



Rev. W. R. Woolley

seven years of faithful witness in and out of the pulpit, Rev. William Drew resigned owing to advancing years. Then came Rev. J. Hinton, who took the oversight for three months. The next minister was the Rev. James Ings. He gave promise of great usefulness, but was forced to give up owing to a breakdown in health after six months of work. Rev. W. R. Woolley served the Church as supply for six weeks. A few months later he accepted a call to the pastorate and for five years rendered faithful and efficient service. At this time as a mark of gratitude for services rendered Rev. Wm. Drew was made Pastor Emeritus. In 1903 Mr. G. H. Maunder, a lay preacher, and Mr. Edwin Parry, brother of Rex. Fred Parry, joined up in membership. In 1904 a manse was built in Lemon Street at a cost of £600; 1906 saw church services started in Westown Hall (a suburb). Towards the end of the year Rev. W. R. Woolley resigned the pastorate owing to family reasons after five years' ministry. During the next few months while without a minister the following brethren served the Church: Mr. Green, Mr. Murphy, Mr. A. Dewdney, Rev. E. A. Kirkwood, Rev. Spotteswood and



CHURCH COMMITTEE, GILL STREET, 1906
 (Back Row): Mr. W. Coad, Mr. F. Goodacre, Mr. Hal Goodacre,
 Mr. C. H. Maunder.
 (Front Row): Mr. A. Ambury, Rev. Wm. Drew, Rev. W. R. Woolley,
 Mr. Alf. R. Goodacre, Mr. E. Hunt.

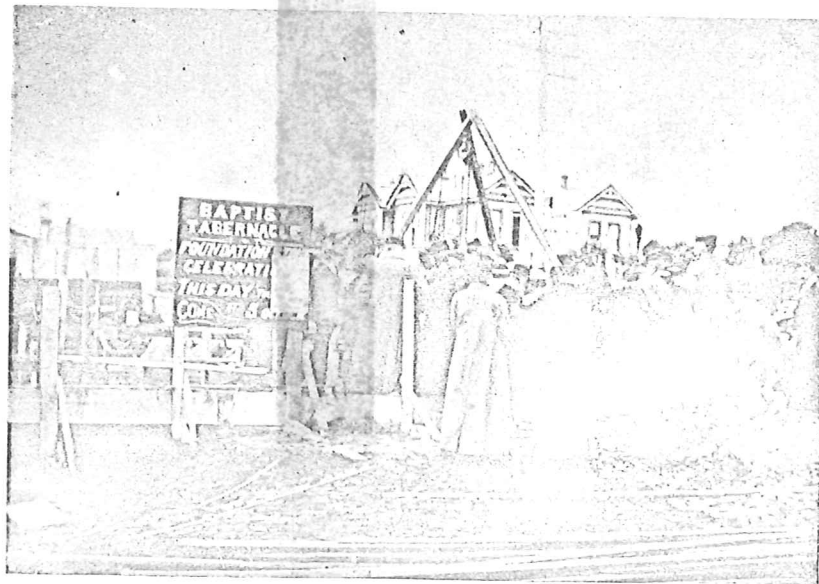
Rev. H. J. Lewis (Presbyterian), all giving acceptable service. A change in the secretaryship took place. Mr. G. H. Maunder accepted the position. The next minister was the Rev. John Laird, from Ireland, who gave his best thought and energy for three and a-half years, resigning in May, 1911. He later became President of the Baptist Union. It was while minister that he found the lady who eventually became his wife, Miss Lily Goodacre. About this time the first Deaconate was elected by the Church, consisting of Mr. Coad, Mr. Ambury, Mr. Hal Goodacre, Mr. Fred Goodacre, Mr. Ed. Hunt, Mr. G. H. Maunder and Mr. N. T. Maunder. 1908 witnessed many important events. A Sunday School was commenced in Westown by Mr. G. H. Maunder, the individual Communion cup was used, the church became self-supporting and the church officially became a Baptist Church.



Rev. J. Laird

In 1910 a fund was started for a new building. Mr. Wm. Coleman was re-appointed Choir Master, Mr. Hal Goodacre relinquished the treasurership and Mr. N. T. Maunder was appointed to the position. Electric light took the place of gas in the church. The Rev. John Laird having resigned, a call was given to Rev. Frank Hales and in April, 1912, he started his ministry at a stipend of £150. Ways and means of erecting a new building were discussed frequently and Mr. G. H. Maunder offered a valuable section in the centre of the town which was gratefully accepted.

1913 was a red letter year for the Baptists. In March the contract was signed for a new building and on the 27th the foundation stone was laid by the minister, Rev. F. Hales, amid much rejoicing.



STONE-LAYING CEREMONY, 27th MARCH, 1913.

A NEW CHURCH

Part 3.

1913-1925

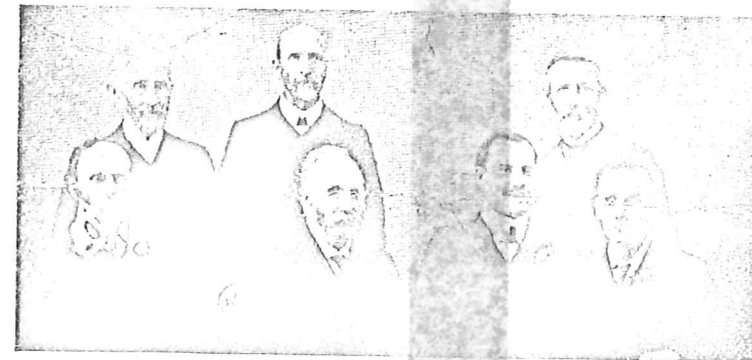
On October 5th, 1913, the new ferro concrete building was opened for worship. The minister preached to large congregations at the three services. The morning text was "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Evening subject: "We are God's fellow workers." The Choir rendered three Anthems, "I will love Thee, O Lord," "The Lord is my Shepherd" and "The Lord's Prayer." Mr. W. Coleman was the conductor and Mr. W. Hoskin the organist.



Rev. F. Hales

The ladies were instrumental in raising, under the enthusiastic leadership of Mrs. Honnor, over £270 for the building fund, and three members got subscriptions of £500 for the fund. During this year money was subscribed to endow a bed in Chandpur Hospital to the memory of Mr. Percy Ambury. A piano was bought for the use of the Sunday School, the telephone was installed in the Manse and a branch of the Red Cross Society was formed. In 1916 Rev. Frank Hales terminated his ministry, and the Rev. A. C. Seivewright, from Scotland, was called to the vacancy. He started the mid-week service as the School for Bible Study. This year presentations were made to Mr. Ambury of a barometer in recognition of 22 years' service as Sunday School Superintendent, and to Mr. G. H. Maunder a gold mounted walking stick suitably inscribed, and to him and Mrs. Maunder a deck chair each in recognition of 10 years' faithful service as Church Secretary.

The year 1918 was a very sad one for the Church. Mr. Hal Goodacre passed away; Mr. Arthur Hamilton Ambury lost his life on Mount Egmont



DEACONS, 1913: (Back row), G. H. Maunder, A. Ambury, N. T. Maunder, (Front row) Edward Hunt, Hal Goodacre, W. J. Richardson, W. Coleman.



Rev. A. H. Collins

trying to save another; Rev. Ray Ambury and Mr. Roger Maunder made the supreme sacrifice fighting for King and country. Women were elected for the first time on the Deacons' Court. After serving the Church for three years the Rev. A. C. Seivewright resigned. At a Church meeting it was decided to raise minister's stipend to £260.

In 1920 Rev. A. H. Collins came to New Zealand from Australia for health reasons. He was given an unanimous call to become the minister, which he accepted. In the same year, 1920, Miss E. Coad, who was a scholar in the Sunday School, was later accepted for the Indian mission field. Mr. J. A. Valentine was elected to a seat on the Deaconate. At the Annual Church meeting Mr. P. Grundy was elected Sunday School Superintendent, holding office for one year, when Mr. Archie Diprose, M.A., took over. In 1924 the beloved friend of all, Mr. G. H. Maunder, received his home call.

Part 4.

1925-1955

In 1925 Rev. A. H. Collins, owing to frailty and advancing age, retired from the active ministry. His closing message was from the words "I have finished the work Thou didst give me to do." The day marked the completion of 50 years in the ministry. At his farewell a full church gathered to show their love and esteem for him. On the platform were the editor and proprietor of the Daily News, Mayor of New Plymouth, Member of Parliament for New Plymouth, clergy and ministers of all denominations and leaders of thought. Over 5000 of his sermons had been printed in the local paper and elsewhere. He took a keen interest in things of beauty, he cultivated flowers round the church and frequently asked for reverence in God's House and he was keenly interested in the Labour movement.

The Rev. Fred Parry followed him, commencing his ministry in February, 1926. In contrast to the ex-minister, who was tall and thin, Mr. Parry was short and stout. His opening messages were "The Gospel as the dynamic of God" and "The night of the betrayal." Congregations improved and more interest was taken in church life and work. A one manual pipe organ was bought and erected in the church. The congregations were much impressed by the thoughtfulness and earnestness of his sermons. 1927 saw another increase in the pastor's stipend. In 1928 the church honoured Mr. and Mrs. Ambury by making them life members of the Deacons's Court. At this time the church finances were at a low ebb, so the tennis club voted £20 to its funds. The gift was much appreciated, especially by the treasurer. A church motor-car was bought in 1929 for the use of the minister. Preaching stations were



Rev. F. Parry

established at Westown and Mangorei. Church services were broadcast from the local station. In 1932 a tent mission was held under the auspices of the Central Auxiliary of the Baptist Union. The missionary was Rev. Joseph Carlisle. Much prayer, much advertising brought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, much blessing to all the churches in town. A Company of the Boys' Brigade was started by Mr. Easthope.

After seven and a-half years fruitful ministry Rev. F. A. Parry moved on. His closing sermon was "Arise, let us go hence." During his pastorate the membership rose from 70 to 150. He was Uncle Jonathan at the Children's Session of 2YB Station.



Rev. S. Jenkin

Towards the end of 1933 Rev. Stanley Jenkin was appointed minister. Mr. Don McKee, a church member, was accepted for training for the Home Ministry. In 1935 the debt on all church property was cleared off. The minister became Chaplain to the Boys' Brigade. A lecture was given by Rev. E. Nichols on "My life as a London policeman." It was greatly enjoyed.

In 1936 Mr. Hector Hogarth, a church member, went to the B.T.I. for training preparatory to his work with the C.I.M. and New Zealand ministry. On account of the serious illness of the Rev. Stanley Jenkin the pulpit was occupied by North Island ministers and local supplies for a season. In 1938 the minister was appointed a New Zealand delegate to the World's Christian Endeavour Convention held in Melbourne.

The silver jubilee of the opening of the Tabernacle was commemorated in November, 1938. It was a happy and successful function. This year the self denial effort reached over £100. A monthly church newsletter was started and edited by the Rev. S. Jenkin. It was and still is appreciated month by month. The pastor was again laid aside; the pulpit was occupied by Student Ridland Jamieson for a month very acceptably and by various laymen. After 10 years of faithful and effective service the minister retired from active work but continued a member of the Church. His work bore much fruit. He has occupied the Presidential chair of the Baptist Union.

Between the coming of a new minister Student Brian Jones filled the vacancy for three months successfully. It was while here that he found his wife, Miss Lillian Roberts. Our next occupant of the pulpit was the Rev. J. P. Miller, opening his ministry on March 16th, 1944. At Easter, 1945, a youth camp for young people was started by the pastor. It was very successful. It has been held every year since. For some considerable time money had been given for a Sunday School hall. To expedite its realisation the minister suggested a faith venture to raise £2500 within two years. It was enthusiastically taken up and accomplished.



Rev. J. P. Miller

In 1948 the friends of the church, Mr. and Mrs. Simons, gave a section of land at Vogelton on which has been erected a building for Sunday School work. Previously they very kindly opened their home for the work under the leadership of Mr. Ernest Dewar. The church tennis court, no longer used, was sold to the Y.M.C.A. A piano was purchased for use in the Tabernacle. At Easter, 1949, the message was illustrated by lantern slides.

Done Aug 15th 1962

In 1950 the Right Hon. and Mrs. Ernest Brown paid a visit to New Plymouth and preached from the pulpit. They brought great blessings. The next year Rev. and Mrs. J. Sidlow Baxter, of London, conducted services and the faith and facts mission brought much blessing to the town. In 1952 the Mildmay Missioners, Messrs. Morris and Levett, conducted services. The Rev. F. W. Dixon, of Bournemouth, brought great spiritual truths and the new principal of the Baptist College, Rev. Roberts-Thomson, M.A., occupied the pulpit. A fire in the Tabernacle in 1954 caused excitement but not much damage.

In June, 1954, Rev. Miller's ministry came to a close. For 10 years he served the church and his Lord faithfully. He was a popular church visitor. Mainly owing to his enthusiasm and hard work buildings have been erected on the church section and at Vogeltown.

During the consideration and calling of a new minister Mr. Knapp, Commissioner of Crown Lands, was appointed chairman of Deacon's Court and Assembly. Gratitude was expressed later in the presentation of a small gift. In November, 1954, Rev. Townley Lord, President of the Baptist World Alliance, visited the city and conducted services. Mr. Les Arnold, Baptist College Student, served the church with great acceptance during college vacation, 1954-55. Our gratitude was expressed in a small gift. The present minister, Rev. D. W. Rushbrook, was publicly welcomed on Saturday, February 5th, 1955, and started his ministry the following day. Good congregations gathered. We prepare for and expect great blessings from this union.



Rev. D. W. Rushbrook

Mr. E. A. Donovan, church secretary, owing to removal, resigned the office. During the short period he has carried out his duties with much acceptance. We farewell him with much regret. Mr. Herbert Stott has filled the vacancy. He is one of the younger men and we are sure will serve with distinction.

Much has been omitted from this survey. The youth work including Sunday Schools, Brigades, Clubs and also the women's work could well have had histories of their own, but in any case their work is woven into the pattern of service and witness of what has been called throughout this survey—The Church.

Prepared by Wilfred J. Richardson at the request of the Church in connection with the 90th Anniversary Celebrations, June, 1955.

In the compass of such a small brochure it will be appreciated that brevity has been a controlling factor and it is with feelings of regret that the compiler of this short historical record has been unable to make adequate and suitable personal reference to the large number of brethren and sisters who down the years have given devoted service to our Heavenly Father in New Plymouth.

The foundations of the Baptist witness in this city were laid not only by faithful pastors but by steadfast and enthusiastic laymen and though today the names of the early stalwarts are little known we pay honour to the memory of those into whose labours we have entered and we rejoice in all that has been achieved as a result of their fidelity and zeal.

And now as we enter upon a new period of our history and as we face these momentous days let us respond to the Lord's call to whole-hearted effort and let us go forward in dedication to carry out His commission to His Church on earth.

We come unto our Father's God
Their Rock is our Salvation
The Eternal arms, their dear abode
We make our habitation
We bring Thee Lord, the praise they brought
We seek Thee as Thy saints have sought
In every generation.

—T. H. Gill.

Past and Present Ministers

Rev. Wm. Drew	1893-1899
Rev. W. Hinton	1899-1900
Rev. James Ings (6 months)	1901
Rev. W. R. Woolley	1902-1906
Rev. John Laird	1908-1911
Rev. Frank Hales	1912-1916
Rev. A. Seivewright	1916-1919
Rev. A. H. Collins	1920-1926
Rev. Fred Parry	1926-1933
Rev. Stanley Jenkin	1934-1944
Rev. John P. Miller	1944-1954
Rev. D. W. Rushbrook	1955

Others who have supplied for brief periods:—

Rev. W. R. Woolley	1901
Mr. Lambert	1901
Mr. Green	1907
Rev. E. A. Kirkwood	1907
Mr. Murphy	1907
Rev. H. J. Lewis	1907
Mr. Israel	1920
Student Pastor Ridland Jamieson	1937
Student Pastor Brain Jones	1943
Student Pastor Les Arnold	1954-1955

Called to Service

*Rev. R. Ambury— Baptist Ministry
*Rev. Don McKee— Baptist Ministry
Pastor H. Hogarth— C.I.M. and Baptist Ministry
*Miss E. Coad— Baptist Mission Field
Miss J. Burtonshaw— Baptist Mission Field
Miss P. Trim— W.E.C.
*Entered into rest.
†Retired from service.

Past and Present Church Secretaries

Mr. Runciman	1893-1895
Mr. Coad	1895-1907
Mr. G. H. Maunder	1907-1916
Mr. W. J. Richardson	1916-1952
Mr. Hartnell	1929 (acting)
Mr. Ferguson	1935 (acting)
Mr. Ken Diprose	1950 (acting)
Mr. W. Wilson	1950 (acting)
Mr. Ray Hogarth	1952-1954
Mr. Donovan	1954-1955
Mr. H. Stott	1955

Past and Present Sunday School Superintendents

Mr. Ambury	1893-1914
Mr. W. J. Richardson	1914-1918
Miss Drew, Acting Secretary	1918
Mr. Grundy	1919
Mr. A. W. Diprose	1920-1947
Mr. H. Cole	1948-1952
Mr. Max Gray— Acting Secretary	1953-1954
Mr. Ron Hutton	1954-
Mr. E. Dewar— (Vogeltown)	1948-

B.W.M.U.

The first reference to the formation of the B.W.M.U. in New Plymouth occurs in 1907, 1908 and 1911. No meetings were held but subscriptions were collected by Mrs. Wm. Drew for the union.

In 1909 and 1910 meetings were held. Mrs. Drew was president and Mrs. Lewis secretary; from then up to 1916 the membership lapsed. In 1917 it was re-established and meetings held every month.