



CHURCH CELEBRATION: All Saints Eltham vicar, the Reverend Stephen Turfrey (left), and the Archbishop of New Zealand and Bishop of Wellington, the Most Reverend Brian Davis, extend a welcome at the church's centennial service yesterday morning.

In his sermon, Archbishop Davis said the church — which was the sum of its people — had a vital role today in promoting the Gospel, which offered hope to those in distressed circumstances.

"The God who was pronounced dead in the 60s is alive and well today," he said.

As an example, he cited the collapse of the world's greatest atheist nation, Russia, which was followed by the re-emergence of the Russian Orthodox and other churches which had been

forced underground for most of the century.

The church there was now flourishing. "Here as there, hope is in short supply. I don't believe there has ever been a more opportune time to proclaim the Gospel, which offers real hope."

The readings were given by former vicars Cecil Marshall and Doug Pullar.

Another former vicar, the Venerable Archdeacon Robin Smith, of Christchurch, was guest speaker at Saturday night's centennial dinner.

Among those celebrating the centennial was the Reverend Tom Pearson, who was church's vicar in the 1940s-early 50s era. Archbishop Davis recalled Mr Pearson was vicar at the time he himself was attending Stratford High School.

Photo: GARY PARKES