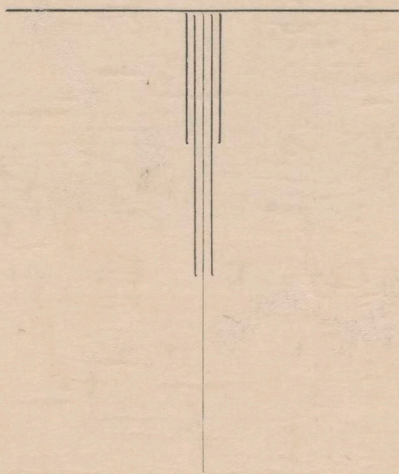


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Waverley



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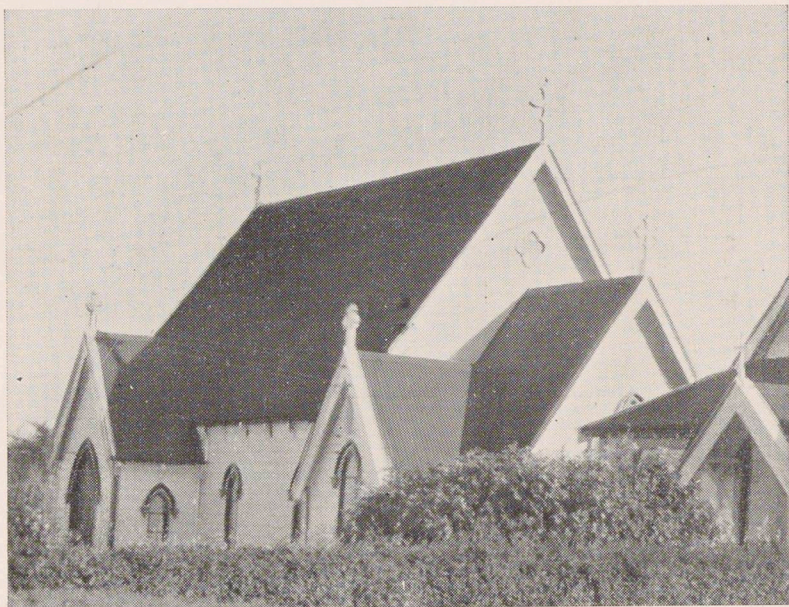
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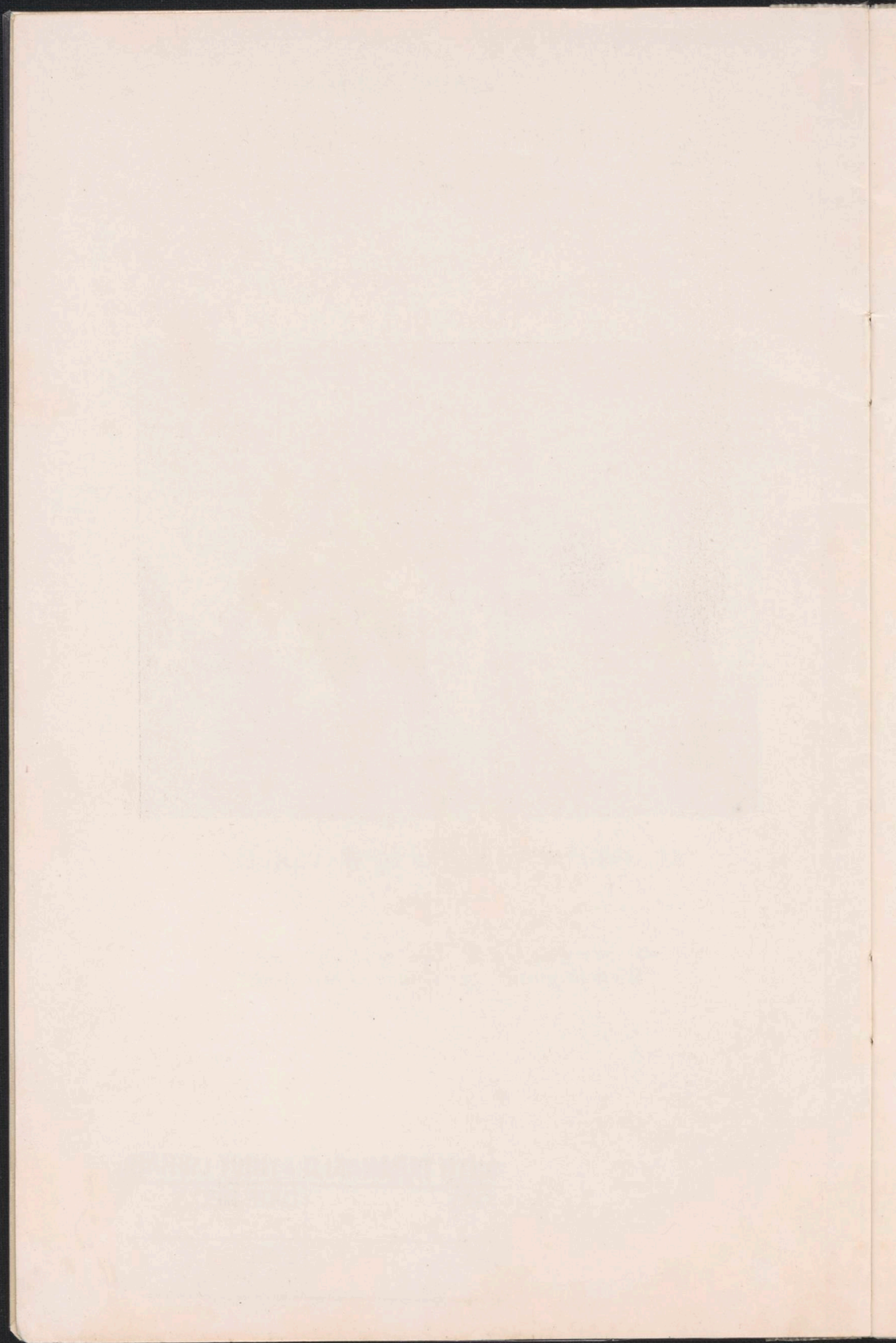


ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, WAVERLEY

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
We will go into the House of the Lord."*

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THE PRESENT CHURCH OFFICERS:



Vicar:

THE REV. L. W. PORTEOUS.

Churchwardens:

Mr. K. M. STACE (People's).
Mr. H. R. WILSON (Vicar's).

Vestry:

Mrs. F. WILSON, Mrs. W. DAVIS, Messrs. J. C. BARROW, L. M. FAIRBROTHER, T. E. LEIGH, W. J. TAYLOR, A. H. DICKIE, J. A. WITHER, N. BROMILEY, and E. WARD.

Lay Reader:

Mr. L. M. FAIRBROTHER.

Organist:

Miss F. FAIRBROTHER.

President Ladies' Guild:

Mrs. C. J. DICKIE.

Secretary:

Mrs. L. M. FAIRBROTHER.

Sunday School Superintendent:

Miss F. FAIRBROTHER.



CLERGY OF THE PARISH:

The Reverend A. Dasent	....	....	....	....	1880
The Reverend J. Lloyd Keating	....	....	....	....	1882
The Reverend E. Whitehouse	....	....	....	....	1884
The Reverend E. P. Clarke	....	....	....	....	1887
The Reverend C. Coleridge Harper	....	....	....	....	1894
The Reverend R. Hermon	....	....	....	....	1900
The Reverend R. Franklin	....	....	....	....	1910
The Reverend W. J. Hands	....	....	....	....	1915
The Reverend H. F. Wilson	....	....	....	....	1920
The Reverend W. Kelly	....	....	....	....	1925
The Reverend E. W. Coles	....	....	....	....	1928
The Reverend S. R. Gardiner	....	....	....	....	1932
The Reverend P. A. Stanley	....	....	....	....	1936
The Reverend D. V. de Candole	....	....	....	....	1946
The Reverend R. G. L. Keith	....	....	....	....	1950
The Reverend L. W. Porteous	....	....	....	....	1953

ST. STEPHEN'S IN THE DAYS BEFORE YESTERDAY.

Some of the heaviest fighting in Taranaki during the Maori Wars occurred in the Waverley district and it was not until after the Titokowaru War, which ended in November, 1868, that the settlement of Waverley, or Wairoa, as it was originally called, began in earnest. In a report to Parliament on June 18th, 1870, Major Noake, who had been appointed magistrate at Patea, stated:

“Wairoa has a population of about 140 and contains 29 dwellings. There are 1,100 acres in English grasses. Sawyers are in the bush cutting timber as fast as possible. A road has been opened and a coach service twice weekly has been established.”

It was in 1870 that a meeting was called to consider building a hall to be used for divine worship and also as a school and meeting place. Mr. A. C. Fookes was in the chair and the following committee was appointed: Messrs. A. C. Fookes, Wm. Wilson, J. Kenah, Wm. Dickie, senr., and A. Howie. By the end of the year the committee reported that it had obtained a site from the Government but that the subscriptions were not coming in as expected. Finally they decided to collect from the tradespeople in Wanganui and 83 subscribers donated £70 and the hall was built.

The first mention of this district in the Wellington Diocesan Year Books is in 1871 when the Bishop said in his synod Address that he had undertaken to act as Commissary for the Bishop of Auckland from the Patea River, which was then the northern boundary of the Diocese, to about 40 miles north, and that he hoped before long to have a clergyman to take charge of the Church population between Wanganui and Patea. In 1874 the Rev. H. M. Kennedy commenced his ministry in the district, being stationed at Patea.

In July, 1876, Mr. Kennedy was succeeded by the Rev. Alex. Dasent. The “Church Chronicle” in December 1876 (its first number), says that Mr. Dasent ministered at Patea and periodically at several other places in the district, e.g., Wairoa (Waverley), Waitotara and Hawera. When the township was laid out, sites were allotted for the Church of England and the Wesleyans and in October, 1878, a

Church of England building fund was opened. Mr. G. Nicholls was the treasurer with a committee composed of the Rev. Dasent, Messrs. T. Hone, F. P. Fookes and W. A. G. Winchcombe. Within a year £104 was in hand and with the fund steadily increasing, the building of the church was proceeded with. Costing £320, it was ready for opening on 15th August, 1880.

THE OPENING OF THE CHURCH.

The following paragraphs from the September, 1880, issue of the "Church Chronicle" record the opening of St. Stephen's:

CHURCH CHRONICLE—September, 1880.

"At Waverley a new church was opened for Divine service on August 15th. Waverley is a scattered country district about 30 miles north of Whanganui, and hitherto the Church of England service has had to be held at intervals in an inconvenient schoolroom. (See full report of opening services in another column). The church is small, but one of the most Church-like buildings we have seen in the country. There is still needed a chancel and a vestry to make it complete. We think though, that the clergyman and the committee are to be commended for preferring to let them wait till more accomodation is called for, rather than incur debt, which too often hangs over our churches like a mill stone. It is a satisfaction to learn that only a sum of £20 is required to meet all liabilities. The offertories amounted to over £9. We understand that with the help of layreaders arrangements will be made for a regular Sunday service. And some of the Churchwardens in the district are already interesting themselves in obtaining an instrument for the choir. On the present occasion we were indebted to some friends of the Scotch Church in the township for the use of an harmonium."

"Waverley.—The new Church of St. Stephen.—The opening services of the new church for the Church of England body in the district of Waverley were held on Sunday morning and evening. The neat structure, which will seat 118, and is already free from debt, was crowded at the morning service, friends having flocked in from all parts of the coast within a dozen miles. A large contingent came from Patea. About fifty additional seats would have been appreciated, and there was an oversight in not providing chairs. The choir

from Patea church was present, and rendered the choral music with a fulness and finish that must have been a pleasant surprise to many in the district. The Rev. A. Dasent read the prayers at the morning service, and the sermon was preached by Archdeacon Thorpe, his text being the 4th verse of the 8th chapter of St. Mark. The evening service was conducted by the Rev. A. Dasent, his text being the 2nd verse of the 3rd chapter of Matthew. The members of the Patea choir were entertained at dinner at the house of Mr. D. Hunter, Waverley, and his free hospitality did him much credit.—PATEA MAIL.

Within two months of the opening of the church the liabilities had been reduced to £8 and on the 6th January they were cleared and the account showed 8d. credit. A harmonium fund was opened a week after the first services in the new church. The instrument was bought on the 27th May the following year at a cost of £33.

Mr. Dasent remained in the parish until January, 1881, being followed by the Rev. J. Lloyd Keating as acting-Vicar. Mr. Keating officiated at the first wedding in St. Stephen's, George H. Norman to Mary Elizabeth Symes, in August, 1882. Mr. Keating's services were so much appreciated that at a general meeting of Church folk held in Patea, a special appeal was made to him to stay, and an appeal was made to Bishop Hadfield to appoint him, but he had decided to go to Auckland.

For eighteen months the Parish was without a Vicar, services being maintained by lay-readers, with an occasional visit from a clergyman. The Rev. E. Whitehouse was appointed Vicar in 1884, remaining until 1887, when he was succeeded by the Rev. C. P. Clarke. After a successful ministry in this parish, Mr. Clarke was appointed to the District of Taradale, near Napier, in 1893.

In 1894, the Rev. C. C. Harper, one of the best known clergy in New Zealand, came to the parish. He is still remembered well by a number of our parishioners, who recall his ministrations, his personality and his journeys on horseback.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH.

St. Stephen's was consecrated on April 19th, 1896, by Bishop Wallis, third Bishop of Wellington. The record of the consecration in the 1896 Diocesan Year Book has in brackets the words, "after enlargement," the chancel and

vestry having by this time been added to the original church. The service was Holy Communion, there being 22 communicants. The Bishop preached from the words of St. Stephen, Acts 7, v. 47 and 48. At 2.30 in the afternoon the Bishop administered Confirmation. There were three male candidates and seven female.

In Mr. Harper's time there was one service each Sunday at St. Stephen's, except that once a month there was a children's service prior to the adults' service. The summary for 1896-97 records that there were 264 acts of Communion during the year. We have a complete record of the Church services since the consecration service and many of the entries are interesting. The entry, for instance, for the 11 a.m. service on October 31st, 1897, states that the day was very stormy and wet and "too noisy for a sermon." On another occasion there was such a storm that Mr. Harper had to record "no congregation."

On April 29th, 1900, Mr. Harper preached his farewell service at Waverley. He later became Vicar of All Saint's, Palmerston North, Archdeacon of Rangitikei, then Vicar of St. Peter's, Wellington, leaving for England about 40 years ago. He paid a visit to New Zealand in the 1930's.

Mr. Harper was succeeded by the Rev. R. Hermon, who came to Waverley for his first service at St. Stephen's on May 20th, 1900. Mr. Hermon gave ten year's faithful service to this district, in the course of which he did a great deal of visiting to all parts of the parish on horseback. He is well remembered by many of our present parishioners who also recall how the people used to arrive at church in well-filled waggons in his day.

During the early part of Mr. Hermon's ministry here, the services were sometimes taken by Dr. Harvey. This well-known Waverley medical practitioner will always be remembered in this district. He would respond to calls at all hours, making long journeys through mud to bring relief to sufferers.

Mr. Hermon's last service at St. Stephen's was on January 2nd, 1910. That his work was well done is shown by the steadily-increasing attendances at the services recorded in the service book during his ministry here. After a long and faithful service to the diocese, Mr. Hermon retired to live in Palmerston North, where he passed away about 25 years ago. Until this time, St. Stephen's was in the Parochial District of Patea, the clergy being resident at Patea. We now come to an important milestone in the history of our church.



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, WAVERLEY

Interior

NEW PAROCHIAL DISTRICT CONSTITUTED.

The Waitotara and Maxwell districts were separated from the old Aramoho Parochial District and grouped with Waverley to form the Waverley-Waitotara Parochial District. For some months the services were maintained by lay readers and visiting clergy until the arrival of the first Vicar of the new parish, the Rev. R. Franklin, whose first service at St. Stephen's was on October 9th, 1910.

To begin with, the Vicarage was at Waitotara, but soon a new house was erected in Waverley in Mangatangi Road. Records show that Church life was vigorous and in the following year at the Confirmation service there were 21 candidates. Mr. Franklin and his gig became a familiar sight in the district. Motor-cars were still few in number and the Vicar's journeys still took up much time.

At the close of Mr. Franklin's ministry here the First World War had begun and the first men of the parish had left for the front. He was farewelled in the Town Hall, his last service at St. Stephen's being on Trinity Sunday, May 30th, 1915.

The Rev. W. J. Hands came the following month. He was the first Vicar to have mechanical transport, starting with a motor-cycle and side-car. Later the first parish car was bought, a Ford, which, some of our older parishioners say, Mr. Hands could handle expertly and in those days he certainly needed to. The Vicarage in Mangatangi Road was sold, Mr. Hands living in a house behind Mr. Bromiley's Store before the present Vicarage was bought.

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY SCHOOL.

A meeting was held on September 24th, 1917, to consider opening a church school in Waverley. After discussion it was unanimously decided to open a school at the beginning of the following year. By this time the parish hall had been completed, the foundation stone of which had been laid by Bishop Sprott on November 28th, 1916. The Vestry appointed the following committee to manage the new school:—Messrs. J. G. Rutherford, C. J. Dickie, S. Barrow, M. Bradley, A. Newberry, and A. J. Adlam, with the Vicar as chairman. Miss McCarter was the first head teacher and the school report for February, 1918, said that 18 children were attending with three others paying fees with the object of attending later. That portion of the hall

which now forms the kitchen was at one time a separate building which stood outside the west wall of the church. The school committee proposed that it be moved to its present position and, under Mr. J. G. Rutherford's direction, it was dragged into place by his team of bullocks. Within a year the school roll had risen to 37, and for a number of years the school flourished.

Mr. Hands recorded in the service book in November, 1918, that evening services after 5 p.m. had been prohibited by the Government because of the influenza epidemic. In December there were 35 patients in the temporary hospital at the Town Hall.

Mr. Hands' last service at St. Stephen's was a Holy Communion Service on July 4th, 1920. He is now Vicar-General of the Diocese of Polynesia and Archdeacon of Fiji. His daughter, Dr. Cecily Hands, is doing medical work in the mission field in India.

The Rev. H. F. Wilson came two week's later. He is said to be the only Vicar who has ever visited the very outposts of the parish, which stretches back to the Wanganui River. And he did so on foot, staying the night with settlers en route. He was a prodigious walker, most of his trips to Ngamatapouri for the services being on foot and he often walked to Kohi across country.

Mr. Wilson was Vicar until February, 1925, going on to the parish of Paraparaumu. Now aged 85, Mr. Wilson is living in retirement at Palmerston North, where he recently underwent a foot operation.

The Rev. W. Kelly was the next Vicar, being instituted by Bishop Sprott on April 5th. We have little information of events during his ministry here, but the service book shows that Church life at St. Stephen's was vigorous. Mr. Kelly left to return to Ireland on April 29th, 1928.

There are records of several important occasions in the life of St. Stephen's which occurred during the ministry here of the Rev. E. W. Coles, who followed Mr. Kelly. He was instituted by Archdeacon Creed Meredith, then Vicar of Christ Church, Wanganui.

DEDICATION OF WAR MEMORIAL PULPIT

The war memorial pulpit was dedicated by Mr. Coles on November 11th (Armistice Day), 1929, before a large congregation which included many returned servicemen

and also officers and men of the Territorials. The pulpit and brass tablet were unveiled by the people's warden, Mr. A. J. Adlam, before being dedicated by the Vicar. An inspiring sermon was preached by the Rev. (now Archdeacon) J. R. Young, then Vicar of Hawera.

Our finely carved altar, given by Mr. J. G. Dickie and family in memory of Mary Dickie, was dedicated by Mr. Coles at a special Holy Communion service on December 22nd, 1929.

We are most fortunate to have the fine pipe organ bequeathed to St. Stephen's by Miss Mary Ion. For a month before the dedication service on July 19th, 1931, all services were held in the hall while the organ was being built. There was a very large congregation at the impressive service. Bishop Sprott, in his dedicatory address, spoke of the wonderful value of music in church services. He stated how John Wesley was so inspired by an anthem in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, that he straightway went out to teach the word of Christ, and ultimately became a great evangelist. At the conclusion of his address, the Bishop dedicated the organ in memory of Mary Stewardson Ion and her daughter Mary Ion, the donor. Mr. Wentworth Slater, organist at Christ Church, Wanganui, played the hymn of dedication, and after the service gave a short recital.

Mr. Coles' last service at St. Stephen's was on May 22nd, 1932. The Rev. S. R. Gardiner, the new Vicar, came from Napier and was instituted by Archdeacon J. R. Young on July 5th. Mr. Gardiner's sister kept house for him until his marriage early the following year, Miss Gardiner being farewelled at a garden party at "Awatea" on January 12th, 1933.

The following year a successful mission was conducted in August by Captain Roe and Sister Jutson, of the Church Army. In the afternoons there were children's services and each evening a mission service, all being well attended. At the Confirmation Service in November of the same year there were 33 candidates. This was the last occasion on which Confirmation was administered at St. Stephen's by Bishop Sprott, fourth Bishop of Wellington.

Mr. Gardiner returned to the Waiapu Diocese at the end of 1935 to become Vicar of St. Augustine's, Napier. He is now Vicar of Dannevirke and is a Canon of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist, Napier.

THE REV. P. A. STANLEY

The Rev. P. A. Stanley came to St. Stephen's in January, 1936, beginning the longest service as Vicar here in the history of our church. His first service was a memorial for the late King George V. on January 26th. The institution service later in the week was conducted by Archdeacon Young.

In October of that year Bishop H. St. B. Holland made his first visit to St. Stephen's, dedicating the Processional Cross given in memory of Mr. A. J. Adlam, who was People's Warden at St. Stephen's for 24 years, and Mrs. Adlam. At his first Confirmation Service here the following year the Bishop confirmed 27 candidates.

In September, 1939, the Empire became engaged in the Second World War, and again many of Waverley's sons began to go overseas to the theatres of war. Mr. Stanley helped his people through the years of war, sharing their anxiety and sorrow, encouraging them and maintaining Church activities of a high standard. On several of the national Days of Prayer he combined with the Presbyterian minister to conduct services in the Town Hall, when there were attendances of 500 to 600.

Archdeacon Young came to St. Stephen's on September 17th, 1944, for the dedication of the Lectern in memory of Gunner W. H. Booker, who was killed on active service. The lectern, given by Gunner Booker's parents, is a fine piece of craftsmanship.

Military camps in Waverley during the war gave the Vicar and parishioners extra work, but what was done was greatly appreciated by the troops. The ladies provided supper after Church services in the evening for the soldiers and an interest was taken in their general welfare.

The opening sentences of Mr. Stanley's report for the year ending March 31st, 1945, read as follows:—"As I write these words we are living in expectation of the news of the cessation of hostilities between ourselves and the German people. We are all looking forward to having peace once again. We are looking forward to having our dear ones back from the war and from prison camps. We feel deeply for those who have lost near and dear ones and express our sympathy with them." These words reflect the tribulations of war which are all too easily forgotten.

Mr. Stanley left for Eastbourne on May 5th, 1946. Later he became the first Vicar of the Parochial District of Wanganui East, where he passed away suddenly in October, 1951. Mrs. Stanley lives in Wanganui.

We have now come to recent times and as the purpose of this outline history is to give a brief summary of activities in the life of St. Stephen's in earlier years we shall not go on to record the events well within the memory of parishioners. The Rev. D. V. de Candole was Vicar from May, 1946, to February, 1950. The Rev. W. H. Walton relieved until the end of May and Mr. Fairbrother took the services from then until the arrival of the Rev. R. G. L. Keith in August of that year. Mr. Keith went to Featherston in August, 1953. During September, services were taken by Mr. Fairbrother and visiting clergy and the Rev. A. Stackhouse from then until my institution on November 3rd.

St. Stephen's has been served faithfully and well by her churchwardens, whose names should be recorded in a publication such as this. Since 1895 the wardens have been as follows:—

People's Wardens: W. A. Fieldes (1895-97), G. Death (1897-98), G. Platt (1898-1900), H. P. Butts (1900-11), A. G. Adlam (1911-35), F. Sheppard (1936-37), H. S. Barrow (1938-45), N. Bromiley (1946-50), K. M. Stace (1951-).

Vicar's Wardens: W. R. Davis (1895-1910), H. G. Dickie (1911-16), C. Dickie (1916-17, vice H. G. Dickie on active service), H. G. Dickie (1917-20), A. Wallace (1920), C. F. M. Ross (1920-28), P. Tennent (1928-1937), C. J. Dickie (1938-46), H. F. Wilson (1950), H. R. Wilson (1951-).

Very long service as Synodsmen was given by Messrs. E. Parsons and A. G. Wallace. Mr. Parsons, of Waitotara, was Synodsmen for the parish from 1910 until his death in 1933, and Mr. Wallace from then until 1952. Mr. J. H. Campbell, of Lower Hutt, is our present Synodsmen.

The writer has realised fully the difficulties of adequately dealing with the history of our Church, even in outline form, but hopes that what has been written will prove of interest and stimulate an even greater appreciation of our goodly heritage. There has been no mention of the many vestrymen, the layreaders, the organists, the Sunday School teachers and the great many who have given loyal and devoted service. Their names are written in the great Book of Life.

Let us thank God for the Churchmen and Churchwomen of the past, known and unknown, who by their self-sacrifice and loving service enable us today to enjoy the heritage of our Church. Let us take inspiration from their faith and effort, their trial and victory, their sowing and reaping and their sorrow and joy. May we carry on that our heritage be richly blessed to future generations.

L. W. PORTEOUS,

Vicar.

JUBILEE PROGRAMME.

Saturday, 19th February:

2.00 p.m.—Organ Recital.
Mrs. L. F. Allison.

Garden Party and Children's
Fête
in Church and adjoining grounds.

Sunday, 20th February:

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m.—Children's Service.

11.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

Preacher: Canon S. R. Gardiner
(Vicar 1932 to 1936).

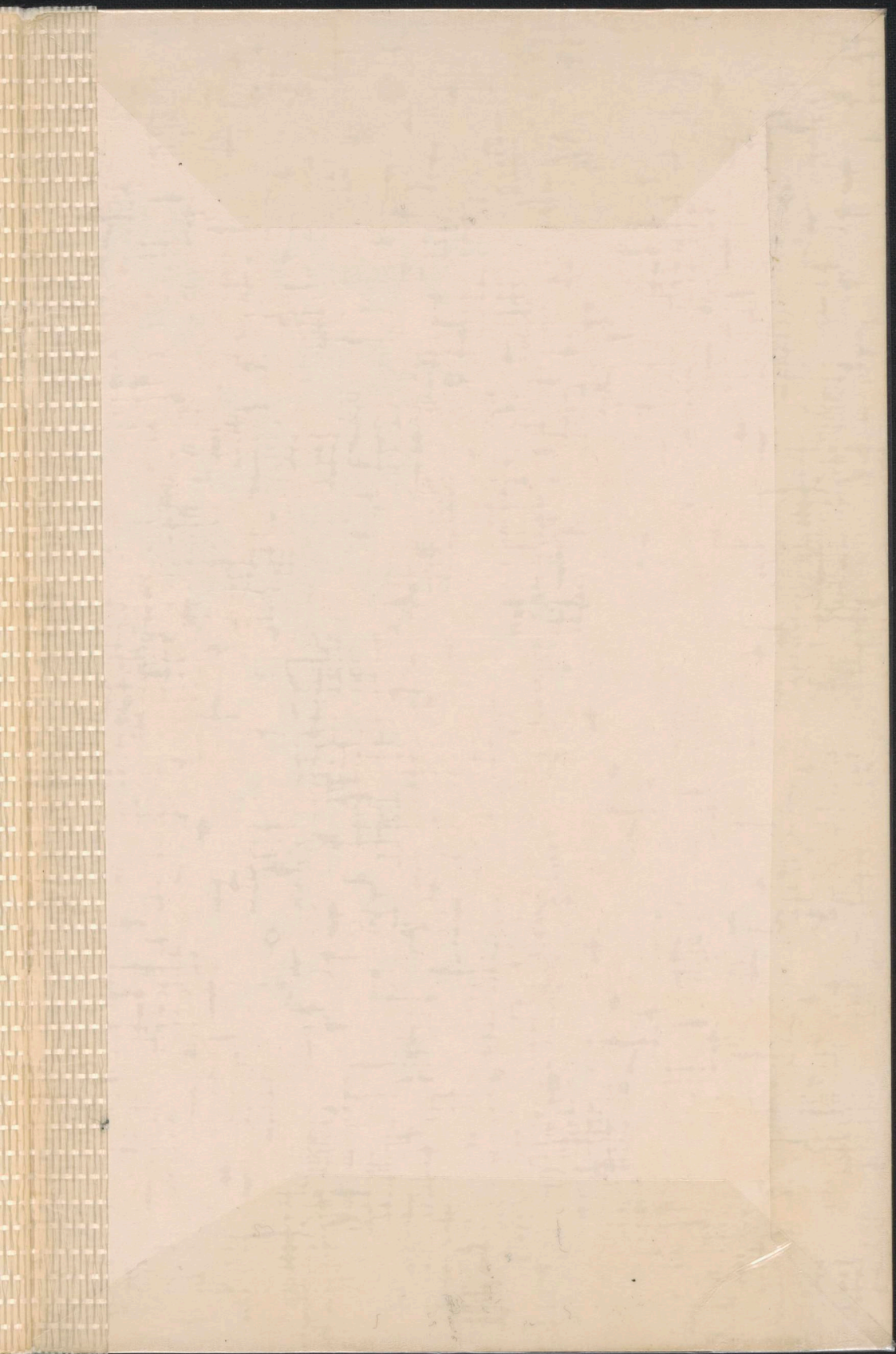
7.00 p.m.—Evensong.

Preacher: Right Reverend E. J.
Rich, Assistant Bishop to the
Primate.

8.30 p.m.—Concluding Supper in Parish
Hall.

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH.

- Altar Candlesticks—Mrs. Medley.
- Communion Vessels and Wine Flagon—Mr. & Mrs. F. Wilson.
- Font—The Rev. & Mrs. C. Coleridge Harper.
- Pulpit (War Memorial)—Mary Rugg and parishioners.
- Altar (in Memory of Mary Dickie)—Mr. J. G. Dickie and family.
- Organ (in Memory of Mary Stewardson Ion and her daughter, Mara Ion)—Mara Ion (legacy).
- Altar Vases (in Memory of Thomas Wicks)—Mr. & Mrs. Wicks, Snr.
- Alms Dish—Mr. H. Boyer.
- Altar Service Book—Mr. C. J. Dickie.
- Lectern (in Memory of Gunner W. H. Booker)—Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Booker, Snr.
- Processional Cross (in Memory of S. E. and A. J. Adlam)—Members of their family.
- Pews (War Memorial)—Individual pews were given by Mr. H. G. Dickie, Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Dickie Mrs. E. M. Graham, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Wallace, Messrs. A. E. & M. Dickie, Mr. & Mrs. H. S. Barrow, Mr. J. F. Wilson and family, Mr. C. D. Dickie, Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Newland, Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Newland, Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Symes, and Mrs. W. Wybourne, and the remainder were subscribed for by parishioners.
- Legacies—Mr. Oscar Symes, Mrs. W. Wybourne, and Mr. H. G. Dickie.





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