

Parish Copy
ST. CHAD'S CHURCH
1000 Lakeside Dr. West New Plymouth

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF
WEST NEW PLYMOUTH

ST CHAD

and

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



75th JUBILEE
1933 - 2008



OUR HISTORY : AN UPDATE OF THE LAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS

GOD OF THE PAST ...



we give you thanks for all who have gone before us, serving faithfully in this parish, more than can be mentioned by name. God knows who each one is, the gifts and talents which have been used to spread the gospel in West New Plymouth.

ST AUGUSTINE'S

After much soul searching the decision was made, and on the 25 March 1984 a service of Thanksgiving and Closure was conducted by the Right Reverend Brian Davis, Bishop of Waikato. The service concluded with Bishop Brian locking the church doors for the final time. The following Sunday at St Chad's a special service was held as part of the new beginning of the amalgamation of the two congregations. The tremendous effort of both the Rev Ron Sinclair and his wife Mary, must be acknowledged, for had they not made a real commitment to see this accomplished there could have been much heartache for St Augustine parishioners.

Integration of furnishings from St Augustine's has complemented the existing altar at St Chad's. The prayer desk and lectern in memory of Archie Leopold Alomes and the font have come from St Augustine's and are all well used.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, OMATA

After several years of occasional use, following the closure of St Augustine's, the decision was made to recommence regular services twice a month at St John's Omata. Several former members of St Augustine's accepted the opportunity and

became regular attenders. Doreen Proud was the organist until her death in 2003, after which her electronic piano was donated to St John's.

In 1998, St John's fell victim to a 'steal to order' ring who were targeting church gates around Taranaki. Thanks to Stephen Jennings who later funded the replacement of the gates and oversaw their installation, they are now very secure. Unfortunately, in 1999 St John's suffered a forced entry. Only minor damage was done and no major theft resulted. It was fortunate that the break-in was discovered on a Saturday, when the ladies went to do the flowers, rather than on their arrival for church on the Sunday.



Regular maintenance had been done, but by 2002 it was obvious that more serious work was required, as the floor under the altar and also at the main entrance was becoming quite dangerous. A public meeting was held at the Omata school hall and several parishioners

and locals undertook the responsibility to organise the repiling, replacing of the floor, repainting and tidying of the grounds. This involved temporary closure of St John's until 12 October 2003 when the Right Reverend Philip Richardson, Bishop in Taranaki, conducted a 'Blessing of the Renovations' service which was attended by 47 people. Our thanks must go to New Plymouth District Council Heritage Fund for the generous grant towards this work. A generous donation by one of the parishioners has enabled the carpet to be replaced.

As a result of research done by Dr Elaine Bolitho in 2003, St John the Evangelist Omata was recognised as a Category A listing by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 2004. We have a copy of Dr Elaine Bolitho's report. When the opportunity arose as part of the New Plymouth District Council's, Water Reticulation Upgrade, we had water connected to the boundary of St John's.

I'D RATHER HAVE A MEMORY THAN A DREAM

The story behind the latest building programme.

The original tiny church of St Chad was built in 1933 but soon proved to be too small for the area. During Reg Nicholson's time as vicar a wing was added on the south side, that is the Tukapa Street side, and a north wing and western 'lean-to' were added while John Hall was vicar. Again the revised building proved to be too small and many were the occasions when chairs from the hall were placed down the aisle and even in front of the front pews to ensure adequate seating.

The sale of St Augustine's during the term of Ron Sinclair provided approximately \$32,000 for a church building fund, so on 29th October, 1985 a special meeting of parishioners was called to discuss proposed modifications to the sanctuary, which had long proved inadequate. Discussion showed that there was no unanimity among the parishioners as to what was the solution. A group of renegades stressed that it was useless looking at piecemeal alterations, which would fritter money away. It was better to consider the church as a whole with better lighting, better ventilation, better seating capacity and a better sanctuary. After much discussion it was agreed to look at a complete church re-design rather than piecemeal alterations. The renegades had won the day.

In December 1985 a Building Development Committee was formed and it met fortnightly to consider requests and ideas of parishioners, information from other churches and regulations from 'the powers that be'.

By 16th July 1986 sketch plans had been drawn and these were sent out to some nine building firms for approximate costs. Some firms submitted alternative plans, some wished to modify the plans, some quoted on the plans as they stood. It was an interesting exercise. The Building Development Committee considered the replies then submitted them to

vestry at a tea meeting in the first week of November 1986. There was interest but there were some gasps when the figure of \$365,000 was mentioned. However, it was agreed to call a special meeting of parishioners for the 30 November at which the plans and alternative plans would be shown, costs indicated, and questions answered.



No decision was expected at that meeting except to hold a further meeting on the 21st December when the work of the committee would be endorsed or rejected. There was considerable discussion along with "oohs" and "aahs" and even some "O-Ohs" but in the end a motion

"That the people of St Chad's make a forward commitment by supporting the development proposal" was narrowly carried. To allay fears that the whole question of design was cut and dried the committee stressed other plans would be considered and further ideas sought. Thus ended round one!

At the AGM in April 1987 the building question was again discussed. A group of volunteers agreed to form a Building Development Fund Raising Committee in order **"To raise money for building development as an addition to, not in place of, normal church giving"**. Starting with the \$32,000 from the sale of St Augustine's plus its accumulated interest of \$11,938 the committee organised appeals, pledges, money boxes, car boot sales, catering, concerts and the like to build a feasible fund.

Meanwhile ideas as to the church plans were modified and sent to an architect for consideration. At the same time, 2nd March 1988, the Building Development Committee asked parishioners to alter the original brief of "a new



church design" to a **"modification of the existing building"**. The parishioners approved. With its work ended, the Building Development Committee went out of existence, to be replaced by a Building Committee which would have the task of seeing a completed project. In the final analysis, the year of 1988 was a period of fund raising and designing.

By the AGM of 1989 the building fund had reached \$87,027.06 so it was decided to start work and go as far as funds would allow.



On Saturday, 11th March, 1989, in the rain, Archdeacon David King turned the first sod at the northern end. By the 3rd August the community room and office were complete and were in use. The 19th May saw footings and steelwork begun for the body of the church. With careful juggling the money held out until completion on 12th December, 1990.

*Correction
Stephen Brocker
not
David King*

How does one thank those who gave so freely of their money, time, and talents?

How does one thank those who would never be members of the congregation but who supported the project?

How does one thank those who began with the project but who did not see it finished?

Let me put it this way:

- "Drawing plans, handling finance, getting quotes and checking regs.
- Climbing ladders, pouring concrete, shifting soil and finding pegs.
- Wheeling barrows, pulling nails out, sawing wood and shifting humps

Digging trenches, laying cables, placing batts
and digging sumps.
Making tea and scones and biscuits, pouring coffee,
washing cups.
Planting gardens, laying pathways, trimming trees
and tidying up.
Painting, puttying, sanding, papering, laying carpet,
and much more.
Lighting, plumbing, sweeping, dusting,
Mighty effort that's for sure.

All in all a great experience, all in all a deal of fun.

Thanks to those who helped in their way
grabbed the vision, saw it done."

- Alec Hutchinson
Dedication 17.2.1991

Building Development Committee

Alec Hutchinson (convenor), Geoff Clareburt, Owen Williams,
Neville Gardiner, David Leask, Frank Cooper, Fred Gifford,
Jack King.

Building Fund Committee

Dawn Garnett(convenor), Jan McDell, Ian Tulloch, Owen
Williams, Jim Pipe, Alec Hutchinson.



Building Committee

Owen Williams (convenor), Lloyd McDell,
Ken Hutchinson, Stephen Brooker, Fred
Gifford, Margaret Hutchinson, John
Honeyfield.

Builder and Supervisor

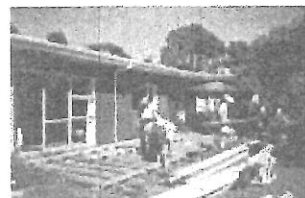
Trevor Johns

Wednesdays "B Team"

Leader Lloyd McDell

A Reconsecration Service was held Sunday 27 September,
1992 when the church additions became debt free.

FOR I'M BUILDING A PEOPLE OF POWER ...



one addition to the vicarage has
been a deck on the back of the
vicarage, built with the assistance
of the Rev Michael Hughes and
several of St Chad's handy men.

This was one of the improvements
that have been made to the vicarage over recent years.
During the interregnum between the Rev Brendan Gibbs and
the Revs Carole and Michael Hughes, the whole vicarage was
repared and redecorated. Safety stays were attached to
selected windows (on Fire Service advice) and smoke alarms
were installed. During the following interregnum new
curtaining was put throughout.

In 2003, after having a wire fence dividing off the gully and
vicarage grounds, a wooden fence was built, which has
enhanced the back garden. **Bill Marsh** undertook this project
with the help of **Lane Greensill** who brought his tractor- driven
pole digger from Okato to make the pole holes.

The **parish hall** has also had some attention, with a ramp
replacing the steps to the main doors, making it more user
friendly.

After much discussion, in 2005 the kitchen was refurbished.
This necessitated the removal of existing joinery and blocking
off the existing doorway from the kitchen into the Sunday
school room. Then came the major work of new joinery
(Nobby's Kitchen), a dishwasher, twin ovens and gas hobs
plus gas infinity hot water for the sinks and continuous boiling
water for tea and coffee. New rimu folding doors (made by
Glen Valley Joinery) were installed at the servery.

The outside received a much needed spruce up in 2007 with
the roof and walls being painted.

We are very grateful to the **TSB** for the grants they have given us over the years, especially for the funding for the ramp and the painting of the hall. Major donations of around \$14,000 and \$9,000 for the kitchen and painting of the hall respectively.

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE ...

while the ideal, this is not always possible in a family, and it is the same in a church fellowship. Wherever there is a group of people who have opinions on a given topic, especially if money is involved, tensions arise.

It is a testament to our faith that, despite changes that have caused dissention among the congregation (such as the purchase of our first photocopier, the major renovations, the purchase of a new organ, changing from pews to chairs, and the use of a data projector instead of prayer books), parishioners have continued to attend services and financially support the parish.

TAKE MY HANDS ...

or in LINDA GARDINER'S case, it would be "give me a strong arm as well". Twenty five years ago printing of newsletters and rosters was not just a matter of typing them up. The process involved typing up stencils using a manual typewriter, checking and correcting was a difficult exercise, then when correct, the stencil was fitted onto the Gestetner. Then came the muscle power of turning the handle and hey presto the printed material appeared on the paper.

In 1986, the annual special appeal was for a photocopier; this was a small table top model. How times have changed from

manual typewriter to a computer linked to the photocopier that prints single or double sided.

Our secretaries have always needed to be multi-skilled. During the Rev Stephen Brooker's time, the white song book, the Lay Officiants Handbook for the Waikato Diocese, 'Introducing Jesus' study booklets and more upmarket parish magazines, along with hundreds of orders of service and posters for parish activities were all produced. These were in addition to regular tasks of newsletters, vestry minutes and day to day office procedure.

Office space has changed considerably. In Linda's time, the office was one end of the Sunday School rooms. Then with the redevelopment of the church a purpose-built office was included (complete with sink and zip, which doubled for community room use). In 2005 the annual special appeal was to fund the division of the office into two, facilitating an on site vicar's office, which has now become the Family Ministries Co-ordinator's office.

LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY ...

over the last 25 years as, in any household, costs have escalated and so have parish costs.



St Chad's has been fortunate to have had several hard working members who have managed to inspire others to put their shoulders to the wheel where fundraising is concerned.

Pam Hunt was frustrated by the effort involved in organising fairs for so little return and took up Stephen Brooker's challenge to change the face of future fairs. Pam got people

baking apple pies (the apples coming from the vicarage trees), knitting toys, anything she could think of. With **Effie Legge** as her offside, they got us organised and raised thousand of dollars. Eventually, Effie took over from Pam when Pam moved from New Plymouth. When Effie relinquished the organiser's role a committee, including **Barbara Fox, Gwen Jury, Judy O'Keeffe and Mary Needs** took up the reins, and besides fundraising also took over social events.

For several years we have now held at least three garage sales, plus one major fair, as well as two theatre evenings and an annual garden safari, which are a great source of income. The latest scheme for fundraising is **Guess who's coming to dinner?** which will run indefinitely.



Fairs cannot be talked about without recognising the tremendous effort made by **Margaret, Alec and Ian Hutchinson**, who along with their core group of planters and growers, built up the reputation in the community that St Chad's has for wonderful plant stalls.

After each garage sale or fair, we ponder on whether there are any white elephants remaining in parishioners' care, but lo and behold the next time more and more items seem to arrive!

Under their social umbrella, this group organises the annual senior citizens community lunch, which for some years has hosted 100 local (not necessarily parish) seniors. Catering for parish breakfasts, held about four times a year is also their forte.

FOR THE BEAUTY

God gave us a dedicated **G TEAM** (affectionately queried as whether the G was for grey, gardening or great team) led by Alec and Margaret Hutchinson who have overseen the grounds for many years. This small group willingly turn up 15 times a year to care for our gardens and trees.

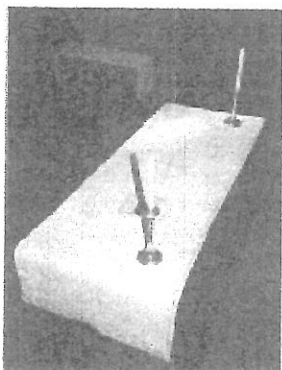


Alec has also organised the lawnmowing roster. We are so grateful for the many hours that these people so generously give.

TAKE OUR GIFTS ...

has been grasped by past and present parishioners. Just like a home, so is a church filled with memories and articles made by the gifts that God has given each one of us. Over the years we have been truly blessed by those who have so willingly given of their God-given gifts by crafting and donating many of the furnishings that are part of our church.

The sanctuary cross and credence table were lovingly made by Fred Gifford from rimu that came from Ray and Dick Halcombe's farm. Later the 'two Freds', Fred Gifford and Fred Stenner, made the aumbry out of rimu they had on hand. Michael Hughes had discussed the possibility of constructing an aumbry with the "two Freds" and before vestry had a chance to apply for a faculty it was completed and ready for installation !



We have many gifted needlewomen who have spent hours working on altar linen, wall hangings and the AAW banner. A complete set of altar linen was worked in 1985 and dedicated in memory of Ivy Stenner. Later two smaller cloths were made for the smaller altar and the community room altar.

Eileen Cleland crocheted an edging for a cloth for the main altar, which she finished shortly before her death.

It is not just practical gifts but also financial gifts that have helped, especially since the major renovations. We have been fortunate to receive a few substantial legacies, plus several smaller legacies. All of these have enabled the parish to upgrade the hall kitchen in 2005, have the paschal candle stand made, which also converts into a stand for the Advent Wreath, and also continue to help the books to balance.

After the building development was completed in 1991, it was realised that the existing electronic organ, purchased in 1972, was no longer suitable for such an enlarged space. Ian Hutchinson spent considerable time seeking prices for a "full organ", which performed as a pipe organ though minus the pipes! It also had to be able to be played by a pianist in case organists were unobtainable.

Cassins Sounds, Auckland, provided a novel barometer for fund raising, depicting a keyboard which showed how many keys our dollars had raised. By 1993, thanks to the generosity of parishioners the goal of \$21,500 for the purchase of an Allen Organ had been achieved. As we were able to pay cash an excellent deal was arranged and in November 1994 our organ began its enrichment of our worship.

SING OUT MY SOUL ...

and so we continue, with the core of the choir that sang at the 50th jubilee still remaining. Having a choir is a great aid to introducing new music to the congregation and has helped tremendously as the music has changed over the last 25 years. We still get tripped up though singing "old hymns" that have had the words updated. Mission pig does well from the choir!

Choir membership hit a high note in the late 1980's, then dropped as the oil boom did, which saw several of our members return or move to other overseas postings, closely followed by the exodus of several of our young members off to university.

We have been fortunate in having had consistency in our organists - June Hare until 1995; Denis Thorby 1995-1998 followed by Beryl Downes until the present time. For several years 1995- 2004 the role of organist was a paid position.

Casual organists have included Megan Claydon, Lyn Cargill, Colin Winter and Lynnette Gillingham.

Following the death of Vonnie Campbell, one of our long serving choristers, her brother, Bill Campbell generously gifted her near new piano to the church.

DO YOU WANT A PILOT ? ...



life goes in cycles - so have Sunday school and youth groups (now known at St Chad's as SCY Cadets (SCY standing for St Chad's Youth) and ChoiceMakers). Over the years numbers attending have grown,

declined and then grown again in regular cycles. As this has changed so has the accommodation. Twenty five years ago, the Sunday school room and also classrooms at Roslyn School were required to house our eager pupils. Later it was just a portion of the church hall, followed by the community room, then the loft above the sanctuary, before returning to the Sunday school room and finally to the full area of the double rooms which is now called 'The Cloud'.

Youth groups – Senior and Junior, while having continued faithfully over the years under different leaders, really hit the high time under Stephen Brooker's ministry. On a Friday night, with his van loaded with children he headed off on many exciting adventures. At this time Stephen was assisted by Andrew Brooker, Aylene Kemsley and Carolyn Wilson for the juniors and Phil Mitchell and Jane Searle led the seniors.

Now ChoiceMakers is run on a Friday night by a team led by Mike and Maureen Hook. They undertake many varied activities including ten pin bowling, attempting to navigate the Maize Maze at Inglewood, and create many fun events. From 1999 to 2007, an annual week-long holiday programme was run. Originally, known as **RunRIG**, the programme, was a Church Army franchise. In 2007 it was decided that as St Chad's now employed **Maureen Hook** as **Family Ministries Co-ordinator**, we would go it alone. In 2008 a development grant was received from OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation), through the Bishop's Action Foundation. These funds have enabled the parish to provide school holiday programmes four times a year, with great success, and these have attained Child, Youth and Family approval.



Mainly music, an interactive pre-school music programme, was introduced to the parish in August 2007, and has proved to be a great success. The numbers of children, parents and care-givers has steadily grown, and a number of the parents have voiced that they come as much for themselves as the children.

It is comments like these that recognise that this is a truly good form of outreach.

As Family Ministries Co-ordinator, Maureen also runs a series of courses for parents called **Tool Box**, which covers under 6 year olds, the middle years, then teenage years. The first under 6's was well attended and provided several new insights for the parents who attended. Middle years have also attracted a good number of parents.

The next step in the Christian education programme is **The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**, which is a process for children 3-12 years in which they experience and form an authentic and faithful relationship with God. The catechesis is framed by Maria Montessori's principles of education. This allows children to hear the gospel through the use of sensory rich materials.

The Rev **Deborah Garrett** introduced to the Taranaki Archdeaconry the **Growing Through Grief 'Seasons'** programme for children and families who have suffered any kind of loss or grief. This has been most successful and although based at St Chad's is now operating throughout New Plymouth, particularly in primary schools, and this year has begun in South Taranaki.

Besides providing for the young, we have run several courses for adults, including Alpha and Seasons of the Spirit programmes; then the successful **Introducing Jesus** – a home grown series written by Stephen Brooker, Ilene Burt, Ken Hutchinson and Lesley Kemsley.

"Who is the REAL JESUS?" In this series, we aim to clothe the adult Jesus with his human personality. For centuries people have followed a man whom they also believe to have God in him - people do NOT follow a pale printed-paper ideal. We need the same reality.' This is the introduction to the series which went on to be adopted by the Church of the Province of Aotearoa New Zealand and endorsed by the bishops.



Over the last 25 years our **house groups** have remained at two, though the numbers attending have fluctuated and changed. The **Wednesday mid week communion service** could

almost be included under this umbrella, as quite often the short sermons provoke some stimulating discussion.

WE HAVE A GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM ...



with the help of a strong **licensed lay ministers team**.

Originally known as lay readers, **Ron Roberts** was joined by **Geoff Clareburt** and **Lesley Kemsley** in 1985 when they began as 'lay officiants in

training' a three-year training programme necessitating study and set papers to be completed before licensing. Geoff and Lesley were licensed in 1987 and over the ensuing years have been part of a changing group of six licensed lay ministers: **Geoff Clareburt, Gwen Jury, Lesley Kemsley, David Leask, Jane Searle and Owen Williams**. Currently we have one Emeritus, **Diana Smith** and two in training, **Evelyn Froom and Maureen Hook**.

Like everything, the length of training and format has changed. Licences can now only be for a maximum of three disciplines e.g. preaching, conducting of funerals, pastoral care.

Geoff and Lesley also hold licences to anoint with oil.

To enrich our worship we also have a large group who are rostered as readers, prayers, chalice bearers, sides-people, welcomers and morning tea makers.

As we carry the gospel into the local community, there is a group of parishioners who go to **Marfell School** once a week to assist children with their reading.

We are fortunate to have a strong **pastoral care team** of nine who make follow-up visits to parishioners who have been ill or have suffered from some kind of distress or bereavement.

A dedicated group of **hospital visitors** visit patients in Taranaki Base Hospital on a weekly basis, and other parishioners help on Sunday mornings to get patients to the Hospital Chapel.

A monthly service of Holy Communion is held at **Margaret Elizabeth Rest Home**.

ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN

THE AIMS OF THE AAW are:

To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the church

To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.



St Chad's AAW continues to be a very active group in our parish, meeting regularly for a service, followed by a meeting and speaker or activity. Our group is one of the largest in the diocese and attendance is consistent.

Members regularly attend other patronal festivals around the archdeaconry, diocesan camps and AGMs. Several of our members have held diocesan and national offices in

the AAW, resulting in **Judy O'Keeffe's** service being recognised in 2003 with a Certificate of Merit.

Unfortunately, with the ageing of our Ladies' Guild and Mother Union members, these groups finally made the decision to close. However, many of these women have since become staunch members of AAW.

In 2007, the decision was made to change the date of our patronal festival to 2 March (which is the same as in England). The main reason for this change was that over June, July, August and September there are so many patronal festivals that it was becoming rather difficult to fit them all in, while still providing varied entertainment. March offers a wider freedom for after lunch entertainment.

Although the focus is fellowship not fund raising, AAW has made significant contributions to the parish. New curtains for the church hall and many generous donations to vestry funds have been made.



SECOND HAND ROSE ...

Options, our truly little op-shop, which started in June/July 1990 as one of the Reverend Stephen Brooker's initiatives, served the community for 15 years before closing its door in November 2005. The closure came as a result of considerable investigation, discussion and the ongoing problem of finding sufficient staff (for security reasons) to be able to stay open on a regular basis, dropping patronage and competing with the growth of other high profile local op-shops in the area.

With the closure, vestry thanked all those who had been instrumental in the success over the years.

It was thanks to the generosity of Johnnie and Steve Murray who offered the other half of their "Stockey's Fish and Chip"

shop in Omata Road, then later a shed on their property, for only the minimal cost of electricity, that our shop got off the ground. After 'Stockey's' shop was sold Options moved to a room in the parish hall. Over the years it raised over \$38,000 through sales, most of which was donated to local community groups through grants. An annual grant of \$500 was made towards the St Chad's tertiary scholarship. Through contacts made with the community of Roman Catholic sisters, Options was a financial help and a wonderful visible witness to the Marfell community.

Mission Pig (another of Stephen Brooker's ideas) is a fun way that our parish raises funds for local, and occasionally overseas, worthy causes. By sharing our good/bad news, this helps our parish fellowship to understand each other better. Mission Pig has raised in excess of \$30,000 over the last 19 years.

Mission Target – the challenge to raise extra mission funds to assist for a special project was embraced by the parish. Several women continue to make a supply of pickles and marmalade to boost the funds.

Samaritans Purse – Operation Christmas Boxes has been a new initiative over the last three years that has captured the hearts and imaginations of parishioners and friends, producing over 60 boxes a year. We hope that this will continue to grow.

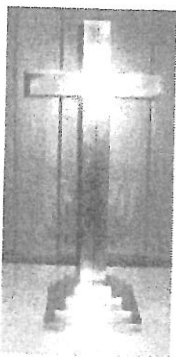


Singlets for ?

The knitting needles of the parish have always been busy: bootees for Tanzania (the brighter the better), blankets for Fiji,

singlets for Nepal and more still for Vanuatu.

TAKE MY SILVER ...



well, we didn't mean it literally !

Many parishioners would remember when there was a gateway between the vicarage drive and the church grounds. First metal pipes were placed in the gateway to try and prevent people using the church as a shortcut and to discourage loitering around the church. After a series of break-ins of the church, hall and vicarage, the pipes were removed and replaced by fencing. Unfortunately this did not act as much of a deterrent (or else inhabitants of Westown were very agile!) so a thorny rose was called for!

Through burglaries the parish has been deprived of a video recorder, electronic keyboard, silver wafer box, the alms plate, and the silver cruet stoppers, all of which have never been recovered. In one burglary the candlesticks were also taken, though recovered and returned along with the altar cross, which had suffered serious damage, the corner of one arm had been sawn off, the base showed signs of an attempt to melt it and numerous dents were made to the main part of the cross. We were fortunate to have contacts that repaired the cross to more or less its previous state, though some of the dents remain as a constant reminder. On their return, when giving thanks, **Bishop Roger Herft** made the comment 'that although the cross still bore the signs of having been out in the world, this was no bad thing, rather a reminder that we who follow the cross must remember that we are in the world.'

From the Time of the Rev Ron and Mary Sinclair: 1983 - 1987



Ron and Mary are very sorry they will not be able to attend in person our 75th celebrations. Age is catching up with them as with all of us.

He wrote that he and Mary had very fond memories of their time at St Chad's. It was the most rewarding time of their ministries and he added that he had "retired" seventeen years ago but then took up chaplaincy of the local RSA and the RNZ Air Force Association, which has 2,500 members including civilians.

Thoughts that come to mind:

How wonderful to have 75 years of being stewards of God's creation in West New Plymouth. Exploring relationships with each other and constantly finding ourselves in the midst of change, personal life styles, in our belief, cultural attitudes, in the whole fabric of our society - weren't/aren't they exciting times!

Economic pressures that corporate and global enterprises bring are/were constantly influencing our daily plans and decisions. In the midst of it all, offering a restful haven stands St Chad's and the people who make her a haven for God.

I recall gazing at our parish from the confines of Howard Vosper's "flying hearse," the patch work quilt of landscape containing the threads of all present, plus those of the past, inter-woven together.

Tell me the old old story reviving, re-living memories of changing times, experimenting, innovation, training vicars growling at their lack of visiting.

Seventy five years ago! Wow! Do you still think the old days were the best? Rather than the peace we nostalgically think of there really was a lot of unease. Conditions were more primitive. There was more ignorance, illness, a shorter hold on life, but there was a will from which we benefit today. There was more church building, greater attendance at services – but also more conformity and dare I say it – hypocrisy.

The help that wins God's approval is that which is given for nothing but for the sake of helping, for no "brownie points". St Chad's has been very good at that.

We must continue in the "here and now", giving our best shot in the present moment, not putting off to tomorrow the life of today (that's a crack at myself).

Ron continues: We must leave the past in the hands of God – let Him take care of the future as well, and give all our attention to the business of the present.

Each one of us is vitally important in weaving the seamless robe of our lives. The present moment is fragile and passes quickly but we endeavour to give it direction and meaning, even as our early church builders did, ensuring we don't lose our interdependence with our neighbour.

Mary has just been leafing through our "visitors book" from St Chad's; an incredible number through the doors. So many faces have been jumping back into focus as I have scrawled away. You are all very precious to us both and our family. Remember Grant's cut hand, juggling butcher's knives at a concert? He still carried on!

Our love, best wishes and blessings to you all.
Ron and Mary Sinclair.

Days with the Rev Stephen and Lesley Brooker 1988 – 1992

Stephen and Lesley, with Catherine, Andrew, John and Matthew, came to us from Invercargill. Stephen had been very active in the community there, especially being concerned with those suffering economic hardship, and had set up self-help groups.

Once here in West New Plymouth Stephen found ways to interact with those outside the usual church community. One action was to "con" the owner of the fish and chip shop on Omata Rd opposite Cook St to let us use the second half of the shop for an "Op Shop" which brought us by natural means into contact with folk in the area.

In Stephen's time the youth group thrived and again its influence went far beyond the normal parish contacts. Friday nights were full of action, were well planned and involved trips, games and food – a winning combination. Care and concern for youngsters growing up was shown as a by-product, perhaps the best way. Stephen and Lesley's own children were always most actively involved.

Stephen became chaplain to the diocesan lay officiants (now lay ministers). He spent an amazing amount of time in preparing material to assist lay people in their work in leading church worship and preaching. Each person was issued with a full file of material for the church year and excellent training was given in double gatherings – in Taranaki and in the Waikato. Stephen had a particular gift in organising and laying out published material in an attractive, professional way. This was shown in later years in the Auckland Diocesan magazine and it is shown currently in his innovations to AAW magazine, The Circle, distributed throughout New Zealand.

All parish members became increasingly concerned over Lesley's health as it became apparent that her heart was failing. It was found that she was a suitable recipient for a new heart if one became available but it was indeed a race between one becoming available and time running out. Very late in the process, November 1992, Lesley was advised to go immediately to Greenlane and a successful operation was performed although the usual management of rejection was long, complicated and frustrating. Still Lesley did greatly benefit and was able to resume work as a radiologist and take a full part in parish life in Auckland as a lay minister. She had more than the hoped for ten years of good life and passed away this year.

(Written by Geoff Clareburt)

Some "printable" anecdotes Stephen recalls:

- Dick Halcombe was getting over a mild heart attack. I caught him shifting the parish hall piano on his own and rushed over to help, saying "34 year-olds with a dicky ticker should not be moving pianos." Quick as a flash Dick looked me in the eye and proclaimed, "You want to live forever boy?"
- A ring at the door in the early morning. A youngish woman outside exclaimed: "There must be more to it than that!" Having never seen her before, and having no idea what she was talking about I said something like, "What's all this then?" It turned out that the Moturoa Post Bank had been robbed two days running and that she, the teller, had gazed down the barrels of a double-barrelled shot gun on two consecutive mornings. A night contemplating her own death brought her to the door seeking answers to the meaning of life itself. She became a very dynamic member of the 'Introducing Jesus' seminars which were about to begin and kept the most searching questions until after the other members went, fearing she might be too challenging for some people.

Arohanui
Stephen Brooker.

Brendan Gibbs Vicar 1993 -1999 – Reflections

St Chad's was my first sole charge parish and one I enjoyed immensely. Sure there were challenges but all were rewarding and a learning experience.

The invitation to be the next vicar came at a time when Sally and I were waiting on God's provision as our term was about to end in Hataitai. This seemed so right for us and we felt God's leading in all areas. We even knew the incumbent secretary, Sue Holland, from years earlier and were very delighted to be working with her.

We also arrived to find that an amazing couple, Harry and Effie Legge, had spent hours organising with others to make sure the vicarage was up to scratch. Harry continued on helping and looking after many odd jobs right up until his illness and eventual death. Taking his service, like taking other active parishioners' funerals, wasn't an easy task.

I'll start off with some of the struggles we had, as really there weren't many.

The call from the parish was initially to continue an interest in the renewal movement, allowing people to discover the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and to discover and use their spiritual gifts. While this happened there was some resistance to the new forms of music and worship styles. This was made more difficult by the fact that the parish had recently spent \$20-\$25,000 on a new electronic organ. While it was great to have this instrument, finding a person who could play it proved a challenge. Eventually we had answers to our prayers with an organist from St Mary's New Plymouth – Dennis Thorby - who was able to accommodate the differing forms of music during a time of liturgical change in worship styles and music.

The only other struggle was getting the parish to become more involved in the community – especially the poorer area of

Marfell. This proved to be a difficult challenge but I had some wonderful experiences and moments working with the Catholic nuns who ran a house community in the area. We prayed together, cried together and ministered together working with people from broken, violent situations, often with gang affiliations.

It was great to eventually form a home group with a small number of people who lived in this area: Alison Taylor who I met through her hiring our hall for Brownies and Tony Ragg, a single dad who worked for Radio Rhema; a fantastic musician.

Now to some of the highlights of which there were many.

The fairs deserve a mention because every year they became bigger and bigger. At one point we decided to run a garage sale half way through the year to try to reduce the amount of white elephant goods. But what eventually happened was that this garage sale became so popular and big – we ended up doing two fairs a year which was always exhausting work. For me meeting up with familiar faces, the fellowship and fun became more important than the funds we raised. However the funds became important to keep the parish afloat.

Harry Duynhoven – the local MP - was always present, making positive comments about the work that went on in the area.

'Bible in Schools' at Marfell was a daunting task to start with as I found that I had taken over from a musically talented couple and had to face the whole school all at the same time. Action songs were the answer with dramatised stories from the Bible and small chocolate bars for rewards to children who remembered the previous week's story or Bible passage. I was greatly helped by having Tony Ragg for music and then a blind girl, Cathy Dobson, who played both the piano and guitar. She was an amazing caring and compassionate person to these children.

I remember well the work and dedication of Sandra Berridge out at Omata. Despite her health problems she put great effort in ensuring that this community of faith, small as it was, continued to worship on a regular basis. Sadly she died after undergoing a second kidney transplant in Auckland hospital just after my moving to Katikati. I was privileged to visit her and pray with her while she awaited her surgery.

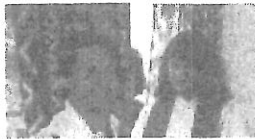
The other highlight, and in some ways the biggest highlight, was forming a Maori contingent of worshippers. This came about through the efforts of the Swannell family (Wayne, Aroha, Laura, Sonny, Louis and Katrina) who moved into the area and our desire to reach more of these families at Marfell. However we organised a hui and were overrun by a group from Waitara, who I think felt a bit put out that we would do this without their approval. Eventually all went well after a long night of singing and prayer gathered in the lounge at the vicarage.

Birthed from this meeting came a gathering of interested people who under the tuition of Albie Martin, started lessons in Maori and began a worship service in Maori. Albie was later ordained to the priesthood and continued his fine work of teaching lay people how to lead services, take prayers, to chant these and the responses. From this small beginning came many gatherings of committed Christians worshipping the Lord right around the mountain, on marae and in homes, both in the Maori and English languages.

A great deal of what I experienced during my time at St Chad's would not have happened without the wonderful support of good lay leadership and the prayer support of what I call "prayer warriors": people like Frank and Evelyn Cooper, Geoff and Gillian Clareburt, Ilene Burt, Vere Bryant, the Williams, and I'm sure there are others whose names I have forgotten.

It wasn't easy to leave this exciting parish but I recognised after serving just over six years that a new initiative needed to happen for the parish to go forward.

**The Revs Carole and Michael Hughes
Co-Vicars 1999 to 2003
Some Reflections as at February 2008.**



St Chad's was our first post as vicars after serving a two year curacy at neighbouring St Mary's with the Rev David King, following our return from training at Oxford in the UK. The parish took on a new model of 'vicar's ministry' with our appointment from August 1999. This model saw a team of two ordained priests, including the parish's first woman vicar, sharing the one vicar's appointment as co-vicars ! In reality that was worked out by each one of us serving alternate weeks 'on duty,' being responsible for worship services, pastoral care, parish administration and leadership, and any meetings that arose in that week. Of course there was much communication, negotiation and interaction between us, so that continuity of ministry was achieved and yet variety was offered. This 'team' approach seemed to fit well with the parish's ministry we encountered on arrival, and which continued to develop during our years at St Chad's, where a large and varied team of ministers; clergy and lay, stipended and voluntary, licensed and unlicensed, shared in the provision and delivery of the wide ranging ministries offered.

The Revs Bill Marsh, Peter Mitchell, Chas Raynor, Norman Smith and Albie Martin were all connected with St Chad's and we were delighted to be able to step into a collegial ministry with them right from the start. This clergy team was added to in these years by the retirement of David King into the parish and the arrival of Bruno Egli back to New Plymouth. During this time Annie Baigent went to St John's College in Auckland as an ordinand from St Chad's and was subsequently ordained to the vocational diaconate, serving in Huntly and Hamilton.

We also arrived to a large team of licensed lay ministers, who were involved in leading worship, preaching and pastoral care. We felt very fortunate to work in such a large, skilled and

experienced team of clergy and licensed lay ministers, as well as many lay volunteers who undertook such an enormous amount of ministry in and from the parish.

We came to St Chad's with a passion for parish faith-community life and particular experience and skills in, among other things, education, liturgy and worship, and youth and young people's ministry. This alongside our leadership and management backgrounds, and a deep commitment to pastoral care work, helped shape the ministry we were to offer and encourage in the parish. We were active in supporting ministry with the young and led the Friday youth group for some of our years at St Chad's, were chaplains to Woodleigh Primary School, and initiated the first RunRIG children's school holiday programme in St Chad's Hall. This event, along with the annual fair and the establishment of the mid-winter Seniors' Dinner, were key community building events that we enjoyed and supported.



Of particular significance to us, in addition to St Chad's being our first parish as vicars, was that on our arrival Carole was some months pregnant and just before our first Christmas there our daughter Jessica was born. The way the parish family welcomed her into their life is a lasting memory for us, bringing a great sense of appreciation, and Taranaki will forever be her place and her mountain, and St Chad's her first church and the place of her baptism.

St Chad's had, and we understand continues to have, a broad and varied programme of worship, group life, and ministry, which we resonated with and sought to support and strengthen. Worship included a range of styles and music, and we were pleased to support and complement this with the introduction of a reflective evening service using some Taize music and silences. We greatly enjoyed the significant and

committed group of up to 20 people who met faithfully each Wednesday for Eucharist and community, and the opportunities to take worship at local rest homes and in people's homes if they were unable to get to church. Sunday worship centred around the lectionary and seasonal themes, through the use of the Seasons of the Spirit resource, and this was wonderfully creative and effective in co-ordinating and resourcing our Sunday liturgy and children's programmes, and offering dynamic symbols and actions to focus our worship. We recall with thanks the opportunities for pastoral visitation and work with families through bereavement and hospitalisation, as well as the several weddings and many baptisms we celebrated in those years.

St John's at Omata held a special place of significance for us too, as we supported the twice monthly services there and were instrumental in encouraging the renovation and restoration of both the church itself and the War Memorial on the road side. As we left the parish the plans and funds were already in hand for the upgrade of the hall kitchen, which we later delighted in on a return visit.

We greatly enjoyed the range, variety and creativity of worship and ministry offered through St Chad's and feel privileged to have been part of such an exciting and dynamic faith community, and to have formed many important relationships there, which will forever remain part of our lives.

BILL MARSH 1984-2003



Bill served as a non stipendiary Priest Assistant for the period 1984-2003.

While still working full time for ACC, Bill in his dashing style managed to be a true servant of God in this parish, in priestly duties, as vestry member, choir master (for a year), carpenter, paper hanger, and in the several interregnums the Priest-in-charge.

We were sorry when St Mary's needed his services in 2003, and have enjoyed the times he has returned to our midst.

Bill cannot be spoken of without mentioning Shirley, a constant support for Bill and a staunch supporter of this parish.

DEBBIE GARRETT 2003 –



Many years ago, around the time Reg Nicholson and Rex Caudwell were vicars of St Chad's, I was working as a shorthand typist in the Diocesan Office in Hamilton. Back then St Chad's parish was considered to be one of the diocese's "gems". I could never have imagined that 31 years later I would have the privilege of being appointed vicar of St Chad's. God really does work in mysterious and amazing ways; and what a privilege it has been! The warmth of this parish is well known, and Barry and I have thoroughly enjoyed our five

years here among the wonderful people who make up the body of Christ in this place.

Like most vicars I had goals I wanted to achieve, and those that have been accomplished are mentioned earlier in this booklet. My primary goal has been to encourage the parish to do all it can to reach out to our community with a spirit of generosity and service, and I believe we have done that in a variety of ways over the past five years. However, there is still much to be done. New housing has been springing up within the parish boundary, along with the Jean Sandel Retirement Village being built on Barrett Road. This parish has huge potential, and it is my hope and prayer that together we will continue to serve the spiritual needs of the community and make the love of God known.

VICARS WHO HAVE SERVED AT ST CHAD'S SINCE 1933

1954-1958	Rev Tom Sadlier
1958-1960	Rev Alan B Pywell
1960-1968	Canon W Whelan
1968-1972	Rev R Nicholson
1972-1976	Rev Rex Caudwell
1976-1983	Rev John Hall
1983-1987	Rev Ron Sinclair
1988-1992	Rev Stephen Brooker
1993-1999	Rev Brendan Gibbs
1999-2003	Revs Carole and Michael Hughes
2003-	Rev Debbie Garrett

WE SHALL GO OUT WITH HOPE OF RESURRECTION ...

with hopeful hearts, that the parish of West New Plymouth may continue to flourish and spread the gospel in this area by word and action.

OUR MISSION PRAYER

Keep your Church alert, Holy Spirit,
ready to hear when you are calling and,
when you challenge us keep us hopeful
Holy Spirit, knowing that Christ will
come again. Amen

OUR PARISH CHARTER

We of this parish exist to share the faith through:-
worshipping
encouraging fellowship
nurturing all
and:-
serving faithfully in the community
in response to human need
as Christ has taught us.

SHARE THIS MISSION

A. M. † D. G.
LAID 4. 12. 1933 by
* CECIL ARTHUR
BISHOP of WAIKATO

The Jubilee Organising Committee thanks all those who
contributed to the content of this booklet.