

The Waiapu Church Gazette

ANNUAL MEETINGS

ST. ANDREW'S, PORT AHURILI.

The annual meeting was held on Monday, August 12, when there was a fair attendance of parishioners.

After the opening of the meeting, the vicar referred to the loss the parish had suffered by the passing of his warden, Mr. W. Norman. The vicar spoke of him as friend, brother and father combined. His work and inspiring influence would ever remain a treasured gift. What was equally wonderful was the way his good wife accepted the office of vicar's warden in his stead; something possibly unique; but it just went to show the depth and real devotion and loyalty to God's Church.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Vicar's warden, Mrs. W. Norman; people's warden, Mr. Frank Smith; vestry, Mrs. Osborne, Miss L. Grant, Miss V. Prebble, Mr. H. J. Hull, Mr. Heath, Mr. F. C. Clark, Mr. Cowper Smith and Mr. T. Sweeting.

The churchwarden's report read as follows:—

"In presenting the annual report for the year ending June 30th, 1935, the vestry and churchwardens of St. Andrew's report that the past year has been a difficult one but satisfactory.

Mr. P. Neild left us at the beginning of the year to take an appointment in Wellington. Mr. Neild has always been an ardent worker for St. Andrew's both as a vestryman and a Sunday School teacher. We wish to place on record our sincere appreciation of his services and to express regret at his departure. We wish him every success in his new work.

"Mr. Smith, our peoples' warden, has been working out of town for many months and his services have been greatly missed. The vicar's task has not been an easy one, he has had to undertake many duties that would otherwise have been carried out by his vestryman.

"Our financial position leaves much to be desired. Our bank account showed a debit balance of £30 14s 7d. The collections have fallen off during the year. Many who gave by

the envelope system have discontinued, their subscriptions and others, have reduced the amount. Many regular subscribers have again given us their support, and some new ones have sent us donations. We tender them our sincere thanks.

"Our evening service is poorly attended, which is to be regretted, but if some lights shine dimly, others shine more gloriously, and outstanding amongst these is our eight o'clock celebration of Holy Communion.

"It is quite common for us to have between 30 and 40 Communicants at this service, and many of them young people. We do feel that with so many going forth from our Church fortified by God's Holy Food we can face the future with strong courage and unshrinking faith.

"A pair of beautiful brass candlesticks, a gift from the vicar, in memory of his mother, are now in place on the altar, and are an added beauty to our little Church.

"Our Sunday School continues to do good work under the wise leadership of Mr. Hull and Miss Grant. We thank them and the assistant teachers for their splendid work.

"Mr. Wilkinson, our organist, is most faithful and helpful in his work, and the vestry and parishioners thank him most sincerely.

"Mrs. Tait continues to help us by cleaning the Church each week, and we thank her for the excellent way she fulfils this duty.

"Our Mothers' Union is a very active body. We have a membership of 55, this being a record. Our meetings are well attended, and the atmosphere of spirituality and good fellowship that pervades our meetings is most noticeable.

"During the Summer, Mr. Smith made some alterations to the Church windows for the purpose of improving the ventilation, which is now very satisfactory.

"On Sunday, March 24th, we held a Harvest Thanksgiving Service. His Lordship the Bishop of Waiapu preached at the evening service. The Church was beautifully decorated, and we received many gifts of produce, etc., which were later given to St. Mary's Home.

"During the year we had a visit from the Church Army Flying Column.

The Mission continued for a week. The attendance was disappointing, but we hope those who attended received much benefit.

"In conclusion, we thank all who have helped our Church during the year, and we congratulate the vicar for his splendid work, and thank him for the generous help and encouragement he has given to his parishioners, and particularly for his work amongst the young people; by his sincerity and kindness he has won their love and esteem, and his influence must have a far-reaching effect upon their lives when they go out into the world. In this splendid work he has had the loyal co-operation of Mrs. Brierley, and, on behalf of the vestry and parishioners, we thank them very sincerely for their very real portrayal of Our Master's own example when He looked upon His people and said, "Behold My Mother and My Brethren."

WAIPIRO PAROCHIAL DISTRICT.

(J. J. Anderson.)

The annual meeting was held at Tokomaru Bay, on August 7th. The financial statement showed the parish free of debt, with a credit balance of £76. In addition, the sum of £338 had been given to the General Diocesan Fund and Foreign Missions.

The vicar thanked all those who were associated with the various parish organisations. The Ladies' Guild was again functioning with a view to the erection of a parish hall at Tokomaru Bay. This object really involved a greater principle, the future dimensions of the parish. Should there again be subdivision, the question of the most suitable centre for the vicarage would have to be decided.

The following Church officers were elected for the year:—Vicar's warden, Mr. A. B. Williams; parishioners' warden, Mr. F. Thompson; vestry, Messrs M. W. Halliwell (Te Arawa), M. Gudgeon (Tikitiki), H. E. Williams, A. J. Kirkham (Ruatoria), Jas. Busby, Dr. W. W. Williams, W. S. Thompson, C. E. Nurse, W. Brydon, A. Morgan.

Following the example of other centres in the parish, a Men's Committee was elected for Tokomaru Bay.

We offer our sympathy to the family of the late Hatara Te Awarau Matehe. He was closely identified with the life of the East Coast, and went overseas