

*Wellington Independent, Volume XXI, Issue 2492, 14 March 1867, Page 4*

Masterton, March 9, 1867.

The Episcopal Church at Masterton was opened for Divine service on Sunday last.

In the morning, a sermon was delivered by the Rev. Mr Stock to a large congregation. In the afternoon, our popular young curate, the Rev. Mr Knell, delivered an excellent discourse from I Chronicles, 29th chap. 3rd verse.

After describing the gorgeous interior of the temple from the inspired writer's beautiful description, he proceeded to dwell on the early teaching of the respect due to God and his worship which such an edifice inculcated in the young, making impressions which would never be erased in after life.

To the adult and the aged he pointed out the effect that exemplary conduct on their part would have on the minds of the young.

In the evening, the Rev Mr Stock again discoursed from I Chronicles, 29 chap. 24 verse. He dwelt on the scripture evidence of God's command to erect suitable buildings for His worship and concluded by recommending a weekly offertory in liquidation of the debt of £150 which still remained. Such a course had been found very successful in his own church. The united collections amounted to £16.

*Wellington Independent, Volume XXVII, Issue 3578, 16 August 1872, Page 2*

St. Matthew's, Masterton is now out of debt, while a sum of £20 is all that remains upon St. Luke's, Greytown. A concert or two, or a small amount of individual exertion in canvassing for subscriptions, would soon remove this small sum. St. Luke's has also been neatly and substantially fenced. A few trees would be a decided improvement.

*Wellington Independent, Volume XXVII, Issue 3678, 12 December 1872, Page 2*

I was misinformed as to the Masterton Church (St. Matthew's) being free from debt. There are funds in hand sufficient to pay off the two remaining debentures, but the vestry think it more desirable to complete the building and to erect a vestry.

*Wellington Independent, Volume XXVIII, Issue 3758, 20 March 1873, Page 3*

A vestry meeting was held on Saturday last. Mr King's plans for a vestry to St Matthew's Church were accepted, and he was instructed to invite tenders for the erection forthwith.

A subscription list has been projected for the purpose of building a Church of England parsonage in Masterton. The list was started with some very handsome donations, and it is expected that with the aid of the diocesan fund, supplemented by the usual liberality of the Masterton people a suitable building ought to be erected very shortly.

*Evening Post, Volume XVII, Issue 501, 5 May 1879, Page 2*

The Curate of Masterton has convened a meeting to constitute the district a parish.

*Evening Post, Volume XVII, Issue 509, 14 May 1879, Page 2*

14th May. At a meeting of members of the Church of England, held here last night, it was decided that the Masterton parochial district should be constituted a parish under the Church statute.

At a meeting of the Borough Council three members of the Public Works Committee resigned, on the ground that no ' Engineer was employed by the Council.

*Evening Post, Volume XXXII, Issue 103, 15 September 1886, Page 2*

Synod assesses Masterton's contribute to General Fund - £300.

1) That the failure of the Parish of ChristChurch, Wanganui, to furnish any subscription beyond the amount of its assessment is most unsatisfactory for so important and populous a parish, and the Synod urges upon Church members in that parish the necessity for more energy ; (2) that the churchwardens of St. Matthew's, Masterton, and the Parochial District of Marton, be instructed that the Synod insists upon strict compliance with Clause B of the General Church

Fund Act."

*Evening Post, Volume XXXV, Issue 57, 9 March 1888, Page 2*

Two presentations were made during the entertainment and sale of ladies' goods at St Matthew's Schoolroom last night. In the first, Mrs. Paige, the wife of the incumbent, was the recipient of an address and purse containing 28 sovereigns, as a recognition of her untiring and disinterested work in the interests of the Church. In the second, Miss Beard, who is about to return to England, has taken an interest not only in the Church, but also in the relief of the poor. Neither lady had the slightest idea of what was about to take place.

*Evening Post, Volume XXXVI, Issue 76, 27 September 1888, Page 2*

Diocesan Synod

Mr Powles moved - 'That in accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee, a select committee be appointed to inquire into the unsatisfactory condition of the finances of the two parishes of Christ Church, Wanganui and St. Matthew's, Masterton, and the causes thereof, and to make such recommendations as to it shall seem desirable; such committee to consist of Rev. J. Jones, Rev. J. Still, Messrs. K. Wilson, J. G. Cox, C. T. Richardson, C Rous Martin, and the mover.'" The motion was seconded by Mr. C. Rous Marten and agreed to.

*Evening Post, Volume XXXVI, Issue 82, 4 October 1888, Page 3*

Diocesan Synod.

Tuesday's Sitting. The Rev. J. Still's bill to amend the Pension Fund Act was read the third time and passed. The schedule of assessments and appropriations under the General Church Fund for the current year was agreed to, with the exception that the stipend for Masterton was fixed at £250.

Yesterday's Sitting. - The report of the Select Committee which had enquired into the unsatisfactory condition of the finances of the parishes of Christ Church (Wanganui) and St Matthew's (Masterton) stated, with regard to the latter, that the evidence they had been able to obtain went to prove the difficulty to be mainly one of finance, chiefly arising from the absence of any local organisation for collection for the General Church Fund.

They recommended that some organised effort be made to collect subscriptions.

They could not recommend that any portion of the church acre be leased. The committee were of opinion that the present position of the two parishes, Christ Church (Wanganui) and St. Matthew's (Masterton), is such as to show the need of legislation by the General Synod.

Some provision should be made for dealing with a parish in which such difficulties arise, and when a parish fails to provide the stipend of its curate, there should be some provision for declaring such parish to be reduced to a parochial district.

They recommended for the consideration of the Synod the following resolution i— That, in the opinion of this Synod, the General Synod should be moved to amend Title 8., Canon V., in order to make provision for dealing with a parish in which difficulties arise, and for declaring a parish to be reduced to a parochial district when it fails to provide the stipend of its curate.

The motion for the adoption of the report was negatived, but the resolution set out in its concluding sentence was agreed to. The Finance Committee reported:—Reductions have been made in the following cases — Masterton and Whareama, £3100; Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough, £65; Upper Hutt and Pahautanui, £30; Bulls, Sandon, Greatford, and Foxton, £30.

The parochial districts of Wanganui and Hawera have each been increased by £25. Subscriptions from Wellington include the sum of £20 expected from St. Mark's parish in consequence of the increase of seat rents. Tho special fund is now exhausted, so that nothing farther can be relied upon from that source.

Reductions in appropriations have been made as follows — Masterton and Whareama, £100; Greytown, &c, .£50; Upper Hutt and Pahautanui, £25. The appropriations for the parochial districts of Hawera and Wanganui have each been increased by JE2S. Christ Church, Wanganui— The committee consider that the figures disclosed by the balance-sheet of this parish justify them in assessing it at the same amount as last year.

The committee are, of opinion that the financial condition of the parish, as shown by the parish, obliges them to reduce both assessment and appropriation by £100. In reference to this case, the committee consider that under such oircumstances as these a parish should lose its status as such and be declared a parochial district.

*Wanganui Herald, Volume XXII, Issue 6631, 5 October 1888, Page 2*

Report on Christ Church,

HOW THE VOTING WENT.

The following is the report presented to the Diocesan Synod by the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the unsatisfactory condition of the parish of Christ Church, Wanganui :—

" Your Committee have to report that they have inquired into the causes of the present unsatisfactory position of the parish of Christ Church, Wanganui, and are of opinion that such is due to the following circumstances :~

Several prominent parishioners have lately left the parish ; 'Wanganui has declined in consequence of the prevailing commercial depression ; and the parish is too large for the powers of the present incumbent. One solution of the difficulty offered is, that an assistant curate be appointed ; but the committee fear that this would not prove an adequate remedy, and are doubtful whether anything less than the resignation of the incumbent will meet the necessities of the case. As none of the causes indicated are under the control of the Synod, the Committee feel unable to make any practical recommendation, but are of opinion that where it is thought desirable that a clergyman should resign, some provision in the shape of a pension should be provided by the parish, the sum available from the Pension Fund in such cases being inadequate.

With reference to the resolution passed by the parish meeting that no part of the offertories be remitted to Wellington until the bank overdraft is paid off, your Committee are of opinion that such a resolution is ultra vires. Your Committee are of the opinion that the present position of the parishes, is such as to show the need of legislation by the General Synod. Some provision should be made for dealing with a parish in which such difficulties arise, and when a parish fails to provide the stipend of its curate, there should be some provision for declaring such parish to be reduced to » parochial district. Your Committee recommend for the consideration of the Synod the following resolution: — That, in the opinion of this Synod, the General Synod should be moved to amend Title B, Canon V., in order to make provision for dealing with a parish in which difficulties arise, and for declaring a parish to be reduced to parochial district when it fails to provide the stipend, of its curate.— Chas. P. Powles, chairman."

Thereport elicited considerable discussion. Its adoption was moved by Mr Powles. The Rev A. Towgood moved as an amendment that the report be referred back to the Select Committee with a view to expunging the words relating to the incumbent of Wanganui. On division the amendment was lost by the lay vote, the numbers being : — For amendment— Clergy, 9; Laity, 3. Against — Clergy, 3 ; Laity, 6. The motion for the adoption of the report was then put and also lost, by the clerical vote, the numbers being— Ayes: Clergy, 2; Laity, 7. Noes : Clergy, 10 ; Laity, 3. It was clearly explained during the debate that no censure on the incumbent of Wanganui was intended to be conveyed by the remarks of the Committee. The resolution

recommended in the last paragraph of the Committee's report was agreed to.

[We have eliminated portions of the report dealing with the Masterton parish as not being of any interest to our readers.— Ed. W.H.]

Wanganui Chronicle, Volume XXXI, Issue 11343, 5 October 1888, Page 2

With regard: to Masterton, your committee report that the evidence they have been able to obtain goes to prove the difficulty to be one of finance, chiefly arising from the absence of any local organisation for collection for the General Church Fund. They recommend, that some organised. effort be made to collect subscriptions. They cannot recommend that any portion of the church acre be leased.

Poverty Bay Herald, Volume XXI, Issue 6858, 23 April 1894, Page 3

The incumbent of St. Matthew's, Masterton, has resigned owing to a difference with the parishioners as to the stipend which should be offered to the clergyman.

West Coast Times , Issue 9811, 23 April 1894, Page 2

The vestry of St Matthew's, Masterton has resigned owing to a difference with the parishioners as to the stipend which should be offered the clergyman.

Thames Star, Volume XXV, Issue 4721, 28 April 1894, Page 4

TROUBLE ABOUT A STIPEND

RESIGNATION OF A VESTRY.

Masterton, April 21. An important meeting of the parishioners of St. Matthew's Church was held last night to consider the proposal of the vestry to offer £200 per annum to the successor to the Rev. W. E. Paige, and to do without an Incumbent until July, the revenue in the meantime having been pledged.

A letter was read from Archdeacon Fancourt opposing the proposal, and hinting that unless £250 per annum was provided in stipend the parish would be reduced to a parochial district.

A resolution was proposed endorsing the action of the vestry, but was lost on a show of hands.

An amendment requesting the appointment of a clergyman at a guaranteed stipend of £250 was carried. The vestry, considering this a vote of want of confidence, resigned, and the meeting broke up.

Evening Post, Volume XLVII, Issue 131, 5 June 1894, Page 2

WAIRARAPA NEWS.

By Telegraph. ( Our Own Correspondent. ) MASTERTON, THIS DAY.

A meeting of the parishioners of St. Matthews Church was held last evening, about 70 being present.

Archdeacon Fancourt was present, and explained the position of the parish.

One parishioner suggested that the church be closed for three months, but the Chairman refused to put a motion to that effect.

Ultimately it was decided that a house-to-house canvass be made to see if a guarantee of £250 can be secured for the services of an Incumbent.

Evening Post, Volume XLVIII, Issue 49, 27 August 1894, Page 2

WAIRARAPA NEWS. [By Telegraph.] (Our Own Correspondent.)

Masterton, This Day. A meeting of the Board of Nominators of St. Matthew's Parish was held in

Wellington on Saturday, but was informal, and another meeting is to be held in Masterton in a few days time to nominate an incumbent.

Evening Post, Volume XLVIII, Issue 56, 4 September 1894, Page 2

The Rev. Mr. Yorke, of Napier, was nominated this afternoon to the incumbency of St. Matthew's Parish.

Evening Post, Volume XLVIII, Issue 77, 28 September 1894, Page 2

The Rev. A. Yorke made his first public appearance in Masterton at a magic lantern entertainment last night, and created a most favourable impression.

Evening Post, Volume XLVIII, Issue 78, 29 September 1894, Page 3

The Rev. A. C. Yorke is to be inducted as incumbent of St. Matthew's Church tomorrow morning.

Evening Post, Volume XLVIII, Issue 79, 1 October 1894, Page 2

The Rev. A. C. Yorke was inducted incumbent of St. Matthew's Church by the ven. Archdeacon Fancourt yesterday. The congregations at the three services were large.

Evening Post, Volume XLVIII, Issue 96, 20 October 1894, Page 4

Synod

It was proposed by the Rev. A. C. Yorke (Masterton) " That a Committee be appointed to draw up during the recess a report of the best method of raising systematic income for the General Church Fund, such report to be laid before the Synod at its next annual session, such Committee to consist of Archdeacons Fancourt and Towgood, Messrs. Arkwright, Zohrab, Gill, and the mover." The Rev. W. C. Waters seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

The Rev. A. C. Yorke moved, Mr. H. C. Field seconded, and it was agreed to—" That the Synod instruct the Standing Committee to prepare a revision of the Statutes of the diocese, in order that they may be brought into accordance with the Canons and other regulations of the General Synod of the Provinces, such revision to be submitted to the Diocesan Synod at its next annual session "

Evening Post, Volume L, Issue 83, 4 October 1895, Page 4

SYNOD.

The Rev. A. C. Yorke presented petitions from householders at Kopuaranga Creek, Wairarapa, asking to be annexed to the parish of St. Matthew's, Masterton ; from residents in Eketahuna and neighbourhood, asking to be placed under the supervision of the Vicar of Masterton, and have the services of a mission priest until they could support a vicar themselves ; from residents in Bideford and in the Valley of the Upper Taueru River, asking that the district should be attached as a mission district to the parish of St. Matthew's, Masterton, and pledging themselves to contribute towards the stipend of a mission curate. The petitions were received.

Evening Post, Volume L, Issue 86, 8 October 1895, Page 2

Synod

Petition

The Rev. A. C. Yorke presented a petition from the Masterton Vestry praying that the church acre should be recognised as the property of the parish. The petition was received.

Country Districts

The Rev. A C. Yorke proposed, "That the petitions of Eketahuna, Mangahoe and Bideford be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Ven. Archdeacons Fancourt and Towgood, Rev. W. Ballachey, Messrs. Fannin, Kirk, Arkwright, and the mover: to report to Synod on Monday next."

This was agreed to.

Evening Post, Volume L, Issue 88, 10 October 1895, Page 3

Synod

The Rev. A. V. Grace presented the report of the committee appointed to reinstate the boundaries of parishes and parochial districts. The committee reported that it had set out the boundaries of the parish of St. Matthew's, Masterton, and the parochial districts of Pahiatua, Tenui, Cartorton, Greytown, Fealnerston, Upper Hntt, Karori, Porirua, Otaki, Palmerston North, Bulls, Sandon, Feilding, Marton, Hawera, and Patea. It had not sufficient information to enable it to define the boundaries of the Parish of Christ Church, Wanganui, and it recommended that the Standing Committee should take the matter in hand. The report was received.

The Ven. Archdeacon Towgood brought up the report of the committee re the petition of the residents of Eketahuna, Mangamahoe, Parkvale, Newman, Bideford, and Kopuaranga, praying to be temporarily attached to the parish of Masterton. It recommended that Tenui should be divided into two parochial districts, and that the Bishop and the Standing Committee should take steps in that direction. The report was, received.

Evening Post, Volume LII, 5 June 1896, Page 5

The Rev. A. C. Yorke addressed a public meeting last night in opposition to the proposal to introduce the Irish Text Book into State Schools.

Evening Post, Volume LII, Issue 21, 18 June 1896, Page 6

The Education Question

To the Editor

SIR - If anyone will take the trouble to analyse the Rev. A. C. Yorke's letter on the education question, he will find that it contains the following surprising statements:-That, although it is no part of the State to teach religion, it is right for the State to call experts into the State schools to teach religion during school hours. And further, that although religion is the basis of morality, and it is the duty of the State to cause it to be taught as aforesaid, the same religious teaching could never be practised by any State that desires permanent existence.

I think some members of the present Government believe in a creed of this kind : That although religion and morality are synonymous terms, it could not be practised by any Government that desired permanent existence. There is a time and place for everything. Is the State school the place and the time allocated to secular education the proper time, to teach religion? I think not; and the Rev. A. C. Yorke is mistaken in supposing the Education Boards have power to allow this. they can regulate the school hours, but not alter the character of the teaching.

I am, &c.,

Ben Heath

Masterton, 17 June.

Evening Post, Volume LIII, Issue 86, 12 April 1897, Page 6

Mr W. O. Beere, who has been Superintendent of St. Matthew's Sunday school, Masterton, and also a lay-reader and member of the church choir and vestry, has left the Wairarapa to join his

father in the civil engineering business, and on Friday evening he was presented by the Rev. A. C. Yorke, acting on behalf of the teachers of the school, with an Oxford Bible and help, suitably inscribed.

Reading on the Farm, Lydia Wevers, 2010, page 127

John Vaughan Miller, writing in the Brancepeth farm diary

His references to the Reverend Yorke in the station diary were, without exception, unflattering. York 'misconducts' divine service in April 1897, and on 19 January 1896, 'within five minutes' of conducting divine service at 11am, Miller notes, the reverend's 'surplice ws off and he was reading the "Sporting and Dramatic" and making a pipe'.

Evening Post, Volume LIII, Issue 134, 8 June 1897, Page 5

The Rev. A. C. York and his congregation

[By telegraph - own correspondent.]

Masterton. This Day.

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. Matthew's Church last evening, the parishioners' churchwarden

moved that the attention of the Bishop's Commissary be drawn to the recent utterances of the Rev. A. C. Yorke, and that the Vestry be consulted if Mr. Yorke desires to withdraw his resignation. Mr. Yorke, who was chairman of the meeting, ruled the motion to be ultra vires. In doing so he said he had no intention of withdrawing his resignation as Vicar.

Fielding Star, Volume XIX, Issue 19, 22 July 1897, Page 2

The Rev. P.C.W. Eere, of Palmerston North, has been nominated for the incumbency of St Matthew's church, Masterton

Evening Post, Volume LIV, Issue 19, 22 July 1897, Page 5

At the annual meeting of the parishioners of St. Matthew's Church last night Mr F. E. Moore was re-elected parishioners' churchwarden and Mr. R. Brown reappointed incumbent's churchwarden. The Rev. A. C. Yorke was eulogised for his work.

Bay Of Plenty Times, Volume XXIV, Issue 3587, 20 August 1897, Page 4

The Press and the Parson

## An Acrimonious parting at Masterton

In announcing his intention to resign from the charge of the Masterton Anglican Church, the Rev. A. C. Yorke, for some time Vicar of St Matthew's, in Dunedin[??], said that 'Masterton was spiritually dead.' A local paper takes up the matter as follows: - On the face of it the remark is a piece of gross impertinence. There are about six churches and religious agencies in Masterton, of which Mr Yorke's congregation is but a fraction. Mr Yorke himself is a Ritualist, and does not represent the religious convictions of the majority of his flock, and yet because they do not shout his miserable little shibboleth they are all spiritually dead! Can anyone believe this is true of the congregation within the walls of St Matthew's Church? - all the children of the devil, not a Christian among the lot! Besides, if it is true, what an estimate of his own stewardship! Does it not suggest the words of Scripture: 'Give an account of thy stewardship that thou mayest no longer be steward!' When the Rev. A. C. Yorke takes his departure he will carry no sheaves with him.'

Evening Post, Volume LIV, Issue 45, 21 August 1897, Page 5

## WAIRARAPA NEWS.

[by telegraph— own correspondent.] Masterton, This Day. A social gathering was tendered to the Rev. A. C. Yorke and Mrs. Yorke last evening by the parishioners of St. Matthew's. There was a large attendance. Mr. Yorke was presented with a gold chain and travelling rug, and Mrs. Yorke with the money to procure a travelling rug.

Evening Post, Volume LIV, Issue 46, 23 August 1897, Page 5

[by telegraph— own correspondent.] Masterton, This Day.

The Rev. A. C. Yorke preached his farewell sermons in St. Matthew's yesterday to large congregations.

Evening Post, Volume LVI, Issue 65, 14 September 1898, Page 5

After much consideration the vestry of St. Matthew's, Masterton, has decided to le[lease?] the Queen-street frontage of the church acre for building purposes, providing a satisfactory arrangement regarding the disposal of funds can be made with the Diocesain Trustees.

Evening Post, Volume LVI, Issue 90, 13 October 1898, Page 2

Synod

The Rev. Wyndham Earee (Masterton) moved to the effect that the Synod should instruct the Trustees of the Masterton Church grounds to allow a building to be erected on a corner of the land surrounding the church, the rental from which should be used to partially pay the stipend of a curate for the parish.

The mover dwelt on the necessity that existed for the appointment of a curate, and asked that the case be dealt with on its merits.

Mr. Quick pointed out that it might be dangerous to establish a precedent.

Lieutenant - Colonel Hume said it was a mere matter of time before the site must be used for commercial purposes.

Other speakers thought that as an assistant was necessary at Masterton the people of that town should rise to the occasion and be sufficiently public-spirited to pay his stipend.

Rev. C. C. Harper moved as an amendment to the motion that the rental should be apportioned to the General Church Fund.

A division was called for, and the original motion was carried, the voting being : — Ayes— Clergy 16, laity 15 ; Noes— Clergy 8, laity 4.

Evening Post, Volume LIV, Issue 130, 29 October 1897, Page 6

At St. Matthew's Church last evening, the Rev. P. C. Wyndham Earee was inducted as Incumbent, in succession to the Rev. A. C. Yorke. The ceremony was performed by Archdeacon Fancourt, assisted by Rev. Messrs hunt, Young and Ballachey.

Evening Post, Volume LIV, Issue 133, 2 December 1897, Page 2

## Bishop's Address to Synod

His Lordship referred to the retirement of the Rev. A. Dasent, of Karori, who has been succeeded by the Rev. P. N. Cameron, and also to the departure for England of the Rev. A. C. Yorke, late of Masterton, and he spoke highly of the services which these two gentlemen had rendered to the Wellington Diocese.

[Further on in same address]

His Lordship also alluded to the appointment of Rev. P. C. W. Earée as Vicar of Masterton, and asked the prayers of Synod for him and the Revs. J.D Russell and C. A. Tisdall, who have been appointed to Petone and Waiototara respectively.

Evening Post, Volume LVII, Issue 55, 7 March 1899, Page 5

The Rev. A. C. Yorke, who returned from New Zealand at the close of 1897 to take up his appointment as Rector of Fowlmere, was, says the Herts Reporter of the 20th December, evidently very much beloved and respected in his colonial home, for last week a consignment of New Zealand mutton was forwarded by some of his old parishioners for distribution in his new parish. The meat was distributed among the parishioners, and between 80 and and 90 joints ranging from 6 1/2 to 3 pounds, were sent out. The same paper describes a very successful sale, promoted by Mrs Yorke, of useful articles for the purpose of establishing a sick fund for the parish. There is also an account of a children's Christmas festival, at which "the Rector made a typical Father Christmas. there are many friends of Mr and Mrs Yorke in this colony to whom these items of news will be acceptable.

Earee sets words to music for a patriotic song in January 1900. 93-28/1.R4B2S5

Evening Post, Volume LX, Issue 143, 14 December 1900, Page 5

The oratorio, "Messiah," was produced in St. Matthew's Church last evening. Miss Jeannie Ramsay and Dr. Fyffe, of Wellington, took the solo parts.

New Zealand Free Lance, Volume II, Issue 61, 31 August 1901, Page 6

Mrs Earee, wife of the Rev. Wyndham Earee of St. Matthew's, purposes taking a trip to the Old Country in the near future.

The Rev. A. M. Johnson, M.A., formerly curate of St. Peter's, Wellington, at present Vicar of Greytown, is to succeed the Rev. W. Earee in charge of St. Matthew's Parish, Masterton.

New Zealand Free Lance, Volume II, Issue 64, 21 September 1901, Page 15

Wairarapa Jottings

The concert organised by the Ladies' Musical Club, in aid of Mrs. Skipper, came off last week at the Town Hall. The audience was a select and critical one, but the items placed before it were calculated to satisfy the most fastidious. Mrs. J. V. Barrie, the organist of St. Matthew's, who acted as conductor, acquitted herself with her usual ability, and the whole company ably seconded her efforts...

Taranaki Herald, Volume L, Issue 12073, 16 September 1902, Page 2

Bush Advocate, Volume XIV, Issue 145, 16 September 1902, Page 2

(Per Press Association.) Masterton, September 15.—On Sunday evening, whilst returning from service at Taueru, the Rev. W. Earee, of St. Matthews, met with a serious accident. Near the Taueru sawmill, the wheels and axle of the buggy became detached from the body and the horse bolted, carrying Mr Earee in sleigh fashion some distance. There was great risk of going over into a steep gully, but fortunately he managed to pull the horse up without further injury than a severe shaking.

Evening Post, Volume LXVI, Issue 56, 3 September 1903, Page 6

This morning the Chief Justice fixed Tuesday the 15th inst. as the date for hearing the divorce suit of Percy C. W. Earee, Anglican clergyman, of Masterton v. Florence G. D. Earee, before a special jury.

Evening Post, Volume LXVI, Issue 66, 15 September 1903, Page 5The Earee Divorce Case

A clergyman as the petitioner

Charges of cruelty laid against him

Evening Post, Volume LXVI, Issue 67, 16 September 1903, Page 5

The Earee Divorce Case

A clergyman as the petitioner

Evidence in support of the petition

Mr Justice Edwards and a special jury of twelve, continued their hearing yesterday afternoon of the case in which Percy Charles Wyndham Earee, of Masterton, a clerk in holy orders, sued for divorce from Florence Georgina Dashwood Earee read rest of story

Feilding Star, Volume XXV, Issue 107, 19 October 1903, Page 3

The Eeree Divorce case - application for Decree Nisi

Evening Post, Volume LXVI, Issue 76, 26 September 1903, Page 15

Feilding Star, Volume XXV, Issue 125, 10 November 1903, Page 2

Decree nisi granted. Petitioner to pay respondent L2 a week and L55 costs. Co-respondent, Noble, ordered to pay L55 and costs of action, and responsible to petitioner for weekly payments by the latter to the respondent.

West Coast Times , Issue 13005, 26 November 1903, Page 2

Wellington. 25 November.

Justice Cooper today refused to make an order against the Rev. W Earee, of Masterton, for security of payment during his absence from the colony of the amount of alimony recently awarded to Mrs Earee

Otago Witness , Issue 2584, 23 September 1903, Page 57

### Wellington Wing Whispers

We have had the hearing of a very interesting divorce case up here during this week. The Rev. Wyndham Earee (vicar of Masterton) sued for a divorce from his wife, Florence Earee. Both parties are the children of Anglican clergymen who have livings in adjoining villages at Home. Why do I refer to this case here? Thus: During the cross-examination of the petitioner it came out that Mr Earee had gone on the stage to earn the money with which he was enabled to go to college to prosecute his studies for the ministry. His stage experience was in the first production of "Dorothy" in London, and for three years there he took the part of the blacksmith. Mr Morison (himself an amateur actor of ability, and who was counsel for Mrs Earee) scoffed at the parson-ac'ior, but Judge Edwards and Mr Myers (counsel for petitioner) said there was no discredit in a stage-and-church experience. It was certainly better to go from the stage to the church than to go from the church, to the stage. Mr Earee, also in answer to questions, said that at one time he was engaged to be married to a leading actress, Miss Eva Moore. In his children's nursery to-day he had on the walls a collection of 20 photographs of actresses he had known in his stage career. Mr Earee obtained his decree. His wife admitted adultery with a young engineer (Noble) on the voyage out on the s.e. Athenio.

Mr. W. G. Beard, of Masterton, moved, "That this Synod (a) expresses surprise at the diocesan trustees refusing to give effect to the resolution of the Synod in its last session instructing the trustees to lease portions of the Masterton Church acre ; (b) directs the trustees to lease such portions of the Masterton Church acre as the vestry of St. Matthew's Church, Masterton, shall deem are not required for church purposes ; and (c) earmarks the rents to be derived from any leases for the purpose of purchasing fresh lands for the erection of a church and other buildings thereon, and for such other purposes in connection with St. Matthew's parish, Masterton, as the Synod shall from time to time direct."

he mover went into the details of the position, the gist of which appeared to be that Masterton people want to lease the ground in the main street and to put their church on a side street site ; and that the trustees do not wish to sacrifice the front street site. , Mr. Fyfe seconded. Bishop Wallis objected to the motion, and unless he heard stronger arguments would vote against it. He did not believe the Masterton people were unable to find a church out of their own pockets, and could only do so by means of exchange of land bringing the site off the main street into a side street.

After further discussion a vote was taken on the sections of the motion seriatim. "A" was rejected — for: clergy 4, laity 10; against: clergy 22, laity 12. "B" was rejected because the Archbishop voted against it, the figures being — for : clergy 16, laity 16 ; against : clergy 9, laity 6.

The mover then said there was no object in putting the third section of the motion. The Synod adjourned at 10.30 p.m. till Monday.

Evening Post, Volume LXVI, Issue 114, 10 November 1903, Page 5

The Rev. D. Hampton, who has been in temporary charge of the Patea-Waverley parish for the post six months, has been appointed locum tenens for the Rev. W. Earee, of Masterton.

Reading on the Farm, Lydia Wevers, 2010, page 127

John Vaughan Miller, writing in the Brancepeth farm diary

Of the Reverend D.H. Hampton, he observed, after hearing him preach, that it was 'no wonder he has emptied St Matthews', the church in Masterton (24 April 1901)

Bush Advocate, Volume XIX, Issue 836, 3 October 1907, Page 5

Masterton, To-day.

Mr H. S. Cloughton has been appointed organist and choirmaster of St. Matthew's Church, Masterton. He is a recent arrival from England, and brings very high credentials.

Wanganui Herald, Volume XXXXII, Issue 12407, 5 March 1908, Page 5

MASTERTON, March 5. The Rev. H. Watson, of Aramoho, has been nominated to the vacant .cure of St. Matthew's, Masterton.

The Rev. Herbert Watson, M.A., vicar of the Aramaho-Waitotara parochial district, has been nominated to the cure of the parish of St. Matthew's, Masterton, rendered vacant by the

resignation of the Rev. A.M. Johnson, M.A. Mr Watson has signified his acceptance of the position.

Evening Post, Volume LXXV, Issue 99, 27 April 1908, Page 4

ST. MARK'S CHURCH.

VESTRYS' REPORT. The vestry of St. Mark's Church, in its annual report, states that the board of nominators have unanimously selected the Rev. Allan M. Johnson, M.A., at present Vicar at Masterton, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Coffey. The parishioners are to be congratulated on having secured a minister with so excellent a record as a pastor and a

Evening Post, Volume LXXV, Issue 135, 8 June 1908, Page 8

At St. Matthew's Church yesterday, the Rev. H. Watson, M.A., the new vicar, was inducted. The ceremony was performed by the Ven. Archdeacon Fancourt.

Evening Post, Volume LXXVI, Issue 9, 10 July 1908, Page 3

ANGLICAN SYNOD.

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Anglican Synod resumed its sittings yesterday under the presidency of Archdeacon Fancourt, the Bishop's commissary.

MASTERTON CHURCH ACRE. The Rev. H. Watson (Aramoho and Waitotara) moved — "That the Diocesan Trustees be authorised to modify the deed drawn up between them and the vestry of; St. Matthew's, Masterton, so as to enable the vestry to borrow money to supplement funds raised locally, using the rents of the sections now let and hereafter to be let for payment of interest and for providing a sinking fund, but not so as to prejudice the contingent beneficiaries, the parochial districts of Eketahuna and Tinui."

It was proposed to borrow money on the rents to be derived from the land known as the "Masterton Church acre" in order to build the church at once.

The people, said Mr. Watson, could not be fairly asked to put their hands in their pockets for the purpose while the church had this property at its disposal.

It was pointed out, in the course of discussion, that the old church was in a bad way, and that the new church would, if erected, be better attended. The Masterton people were themselves prepared to raise £3000 for the building of the church. It was stated that people stayed away from the Masterton Church because they could not get a seat there. Mr. Wrightson seconded the motion. Mr. G. Shirtcliffe -(one of the trustees) said the trustees were not at all hostile to the proposal, but they wished the authority of the Synod to vary the agreement in the right direction so long as Eketahuna and Tenui did not suffer.

The president suggested that the word "authorised" in the motion should be replaced by the word "recommended." Mr. Watson made the suggested alteration, and the motion was carried in that form.

Evening Post, Volume LXXVII, Issue 96, 24 April 1909, Page 5

Carterton. This Day.

Thirty members of St. Mark's Church choir were to have gone to Masterton last night to take part in the Selwyn centenary services at St. Matthew's, but owing to the gale they were prevented from doing so.

Evening Post, Volume LXXVIII, Issue 10, 12 July 1909, Page 7

Death of Mr. W.P. James, S.M.

Mr W. P. James, S.M., at Masterton, passed away yesterday morning, aged fifty-six years.

...For many years the late Mr. James held the position of churchwarden and vestryman at St. Mark's, and at the service last night the organist, Mr. L. F. Watkins, played the "Dead March" in "Saul" as a mark of respect to his memory.

...He took a keen interest in church matters, being parishioners' churchwarden of St. Matthew's, and was also an enthusiastic member of the Bowling and Golf Clubs.

Taranaki Herald, Volume LV, Issue 14086, 15 December 1909, Page 3

OBITUARY.

REV. SANDERS SPENCER. With deep regret we have to record the death last night of the Rev. Sanders Spencer, curate in charge of Holy Trinity Church, Te Henui, after a long illness.

About two years ago Mr. Spencer was operated upon for appendicitis, and for the greater part of the time since then he has been ill. Several weeks ago he was again operated upon. For a time his condition improved, until complications set in, when, despite all the assistance that medical and nursing skill could give him, he gradually relapsed. Mr. Spencer was not a man of strong constitution, and for a long time past his constitution has been very fragile. Mr. Spencer was 35 years of age and was born in England. He was educated at Lincoln College and then at Cambridge University.

About five or six years ago he came out to Wellington, and was for a time a curate at Masterton.

Thence he went to Te Kuiti, to take charge of the Home Mission there. At Te Kuiti he carried out his arduous duties in a manner that earned him the unfailing respect of all who came in contact with him. Close on two years ago Mr. Spencer came to New Plymouth to take charge of the Te Henui portion of St. Mark's parish, but unfortunately his health did not improve as had been hoped. Mr. Spencer was of a very fine type of manly clergyman, a man who was held in the greatest esteem, not only by his parishioners, but by many others as well. Ever a thorough work, he was too unsparing of himself for his physical well-being and a man of open and generous mind, his death will be very widely and deeply regretted. Mr. Spencer leaves a young widow, to whom he was married just before coming to New Plymouth, for whom much sympathy is felt. The interment will be at Otorohanga, where Mr. Spencer's parents reside.

Evening Post, Volume LXXIX, Issue 127, 1 June 1910, Page 6

The following gentlemen have been appointed parochial nominators: - ....St. Matthew's, Masterton. - Messrs. R. Brown, W. H. L. Galwey, and E. H. Waddington.

*Hawera & Normanby Star, Volume LX, 31 October 1910, Page 8*

GENERAL TELEGRAMS. ECCLESIASTICAL. BY TELEGRAPH— PRESS ASSOCIATION.

PALMERSTON N., Oct. 31.. It was announced at All Saints' Church last evening that the Rev. H. Watson, of Masterton, who previously accepted the appointment to All Saints' parish, Palmerston North, in place of Archdeacon Harper (appointed to St. Peter's, Wellington) has withdrawn acceptance of the appointment, having decided to remain in Masterton. Bishop Walk's announced that the successor to the Archdeacon would not be decided till Tuesday.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXX, Issue 105, 31 October 1910, Page 2*

THE CURE OF PALMERSTON.

REV. H. WATSON WITHDRAWS.

The Bishop of Wellington (Dr. Wallis) conducted a confirmation service at All Saints' Church yesterday afternoon, when 89 candidates were confirmed 17 men and 72 women, During the evening service, the Ven. Archdeacon Harper made the announcement that Rev. H Watson, of Masterton, had withdrawn, his acceptance of the cure of this parish and has decided to remain in Masterton.

At the evening service the Bishop of Wellington (Dr. Wallis), in, the course of a sermon, said he could not say how much work and energy the Ven. Archdeacon Harper had put into All Saints' parish and the whole diocese. This work was not marked by his endeavours only, to get a large congregation and to make himself a popular priest, but how much the Archdeacon had strained his body and spirit in his efforts to spread the Holy Spirit through the surrounding district God only knew. Though the work of the Archdeacon had been signally blest during his ten years' occupation of the cure, who would take the Vicar's place the Bishop did not know.

In resigning the cure of this parish, the Rev. Mr Watson forsook much emolument and comforts. He had, however, only taken this step after considerable meditation and communion with God, and because he believed that it was God's will that he should remain in Masterton.

The speaker prayed for guidance in the choice of the successor to the Archdeacon. He would postpone his decision till Tuesday, so that he would be guided by the prayers of the congregation.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXX, Issue 111, 7 November 1910, Page 8*

#### DISTRICT NEWS.

The vestry of St. Matthew's parish, Masterton, has decided to call for competitive designs for a new brick church for Masterton. The first prize, will, be £50, and the second prize £25. The vestry has also (decided to put in hand forthwith the rebuilding of the vicarage.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXX, Issue 113, 9 November 1910, Page 8*

MASTERTON.

[BY TELEGRAPH — SPECIAL TO THE POST.] MASTERTON, This Day.

Seventy-two candidates for confirmation were presented at St. Matthew's Church last night.

Bishop Wallis gave an interesting address to the candidates and a brief address afterwards to the congregation.

The Rev. Herbert Watson, who a few weeks back resigned St. Matthews's cure on being appointed to Palmerston North, but has now, at the earnest request of the parish, decided to stay in Masterton, was last night re-licensed to the cure of Masterton Parish by the bishop.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXXIV, Issue 95, 18 October 1912, Page 8*

MASTERTON ANGLICAN CHURCH

The foundation stone of the new Anglican Church was laid yesterday afternoon by the Right Rev. Dr. Sprott, Bishop of Wellington. A large number of visiting and local clergy were present, and a long procession proceeded to the new site, where a very impressive foundation ceremony was gone through.

The Bishop in 'a short address' congratulated the parish and the clergy on the laying of the foundation stone of the new church, which would in every way meet the needs and wishes of the people. He hoped that the new building would prove a blessing to Masterton.

After the ceremony an adjournment was made to the vicarage where the guests were entertained.

*Colonist, Volume L, Issue 12136, 10 January 1908, Page 2*

The Rev. A. M. Johnson, vicar of St. Matthew's, Masterton, has been appointed to succeed the late Rev. E. Coffey as vicar of St. Mark's parish, Wellington;

*Evening Post, Volume LXXV, Issue 79, 2 April 1908, Page 7*

Rev. Herbert Watson, M.A., vicar of the Aramoho-Waitotara parochial district, has accepted nomination to St. Matthew's parish, Masterton, in succession to the Rev. A. M. Johnson, M.A., who has accepted the charge of St. Mark's parish, Wellington.

*Wanganui Herald, 3 April 1908, Page 2*

The Rev. Herbert Watson, M.A., vicar of the Aramoho-Waitotara parochial district, has been nominated to the cure of the parish of St. Matthew's, Masterton, rendered vacant by the resignation of the Rev. A.M. Johnson, M.A. Mr Watson has signified his acceptance of the position.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXVII, Issue 38, 15 February 1909, Page 7*

The appointment of Rev. W. Raine as assistant curate in the Masterton Anglican parish is notified in the Church Chronicle. Mr. Raine, who was formerly a student of St. John's College, Auckland, was ordained to the diaconate at St. Mark's Church, Wellington, on 17th January, 1909.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXX, Issue 57, 5 September 1910, Page 7*

Archdeacon Harper announced at All Saints' yesterday that the Rev. Herbert Watson, Vicar of Masterton, had been appointed by the Bishop of Wellington to succeed Archdeacon Harper in charge of the parish of All Saints, Palmerston North.

Mr. Watson is a Cambridge M.A., having taken high honours. He was ordained deacon in 1898, and priest in 1899. He served for three years at Darlington, England, and for six years in the Aramoho, Waitotara, district, in this diocese. In 1908 he was preferred to the cure of Masterton. Archdeacon Harper's departure for Wellington is fixed for 15th or 16th November.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXX, Issue 113, 9 November 1910, Page 8*

Seventy-two candidates for confirmation were presented at St. Matthew's Church last night. Bishop Wallis gave an interesting address to the candidates and a brief address afterwards to the congregation.

The Rev. Herbert Watson, who a few weeks back resigned St. Matthew's cure on being appointed to Palmerston North, but has now, at the earnest request of the parish, decided to stay in Masterton, was last night re-licensed to the cure of Masterton Parish by the Bishop.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXXII, Issue 8, 10 July 1911, Page 7*

The Rev. W. Raine, late of Masterton, was yesterday licensed an assistant -curate of St. Peter's, WelHngton.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXXIII, Issue 59, 9 March 1912, Page 5*

The Rev. H. Watson, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Masterton, left for Sydney yesterday, en route to England on a holiday visit.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXXIV, Issue 4, 4 July 1912, Page 2*

## DIOCESAN SYNOD

DISPOSAL OF CHURCH LANDS. The Diocesan Synod met yesterday, Bishop Spratt presiding. There was a large attendance of clergy and laity.

On the motion of Archdeacon Fancourt, seconded by Rev. A. M. Johnson, it was resolved to devote to the assistant curate's stipend the accumulated rentals of the church 1 acre, Masterton, subject to the approval of the Diocesan Trustees, to the extent of £80 or £90 per annum.

Synod also resolved, on Archdeacon Fancourt's motion, to recommend the General Synod to grant permission to the Diocesan Board of Trustees to exchange two acres at Kuripuni, less than the area taken for widening the road, for the land bought by the Masterton, for a church site.

It was decided to recommend the General Synod to allow the sale of two sites at Otaki, the proceeds to be used towards the purchase of a central site for a church and other buildings. Synod adjourned until 4 p.m. next

*Evening Post, Volume LXXXV, Issue 58, 10 March 1913, Page 7*

The Rev. B. Ashcroft, curate of St. Matthew's, Masterton, was ordained to the priesthood at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral yesterday by the Bishop of Wellington (Dr. Spratt).

*Wairarapa Daily News, 22 April 1913*

## **St Matthew's Church Annual Report**

The following is the annual report to be presented to the parishioners of St. Matthew's Parish, Masterton, from the Churchwardens and Vestry:

We hereby submit the report and balance sheets in connection with the church funds for the year ending 31st March, 1913.

The revenue for the year, excluding the new church fund, totals £912 7s 11d, being £722 less than last year, apparently a serious falling off, but it must be noted that last year's revenue included £482 subscribed towards vicarage alteration and £320 loan obtained towards building of the Church of the Epiphany, Kuripuni.

The only item which may be looked upon as showing a falling off is that of offertories, which are £80 less than for the previous twelve months.

The summary and comparison of receipts and expenditure appended to the statement gives all necessary particulars for the information of parishioners. It will be noted that the parish debt is £343, made up as follows:

Church of the Epiphany, £34; Parish account in debit, £83: vicarage alteration fund, £105; removal and renovation of cottage, Kuripuni, £121,

on the whole a fairly satisfactory position.

But the falling off in the offertories is to be regretted. A considerable increase under this head is

hoped for, and really must be forthcoming in the future. Additional money has to be raised for the curate's stipend.

The parishioners are of course aware that the endowment for this purpose has been made over as security to the debenture holders of the new church loan.

One item in the balance sheet to which attention is directed is the smallness of the offertories received from the country places. The total for the year is approximately £26, and when it is known that 80 services were held and some 1,600 miles travelled in all kinds of weather, an average offering of 6s 6d per service would indicate that the country districts are not bearing their share of the church expenses, however much the services of the clergy are appreciated.

A more pleasing item is the amount raised for purposes outside parish requirements totalling £168, of which sum £81 was donated to foreign missions; also the amount raised for the purchase of motor bicycle. This has been found to be a great assistance in visiting the outlying districts.

### **New Church.**

As mentioned in our last annual report, tenders for the building were then under consideration; finally the tender of Messrs Graham and Sons, Christchurch, for the sum of £6650 was accepted.

The building is now approaching completion. The contractors expect to hand over the same by the end of next month (May).

The very complete statement prepared by the hon. secretary gives all particulars as to the financial position. It will be seen that a sum of £533 is yet required to complete the furnishing of the new edifice, also the removal and enlargement of the organ. Your Vestry hope that every effort will be made to liquidate this liability before the church is opened for worship.

The grateful thanks of parishioners are due to those whose liberal donations have made it possible to erect a church that, when completed in accordance with the original plans, will

undoubtedly be one of the finest in the Diocese, not only from an architectural standpoint, but also for the very beautiful appearance which the interior of the church will present.

Your churchwardens and vestry desire to express their great appreciation of services rendered to the parish by the Rev. H. Williams as acting vicar for the larger portion of the year during the absence of the Rev. H. Watson whom we were all pleased to welcome back last November.

The year has been one of active work amongst the various parish organisations, and your Vestry wish to tender their special thanks to the Superintendent and the teachers of the Sunday School for their self-denying services in this most important branch of the church work.

The sincere thanks of the parishioners and vestry are also due to the hon. secretary, lay readers, members of the choir and other workers for the services so willingly rendered in extending the influence for good in the parish of St. Matthew. We trust that this year will, under God's blessing, be one of continual progress.

*Evening Post, Volume LXXXIX, Issue 145, 21 June 1915, Page 6*

The Ven. Archdeacon C. C. Harper, vicar of St. Peter's Parish. Wellington, who has tendered his resignation of that position in order to settle in England, is to be succeeded by the Rev. Herbert Watson, M.A., at present vicar of St. Matthew's, Masterton.

Mr. Watson is a graduate of Christ's College, Cambridge, taking his degrees as Senior Optime in Mathematical Tripos in 1897. in which year he also obtained his B.A. degree.

In 1901 he became an M.A. He then went to Litchfield Theological College, and was ordained as a deacon by the Bishop of Durham in 1898. and as a priest in 1899.

In 1902. after serving as curate at Holy Trinity Church, Darlington, he came out to New Zealand, and was appointed to the charge of the parochial district of Aramoho-Waitotara, remaining there until 1908, when he became vicar of St. Matthew's. Masterton, in succession to the Rev. A. M. Johnston. M.A.. now vicar of St. Paul's Wellington.

During the time he has occupied his present position he has had his own church in Masterton rebuilt in brick, and has also erected the church of the Epiphany at Kuripuni. He is a broadminded man, full of enthusiasm, for his work, and is a fine earnest preacher, and both he and Mrs. Watson will leave for Wellington in August or September with the goodwill and best wishes of the people of Masterton.

In 1910-11 Mr. Watson was chaplain to Bishop Wallis, and is also chaplain to the present Bishop of Wellington (Dr. Sprott).

*Evening Post, Volume XC, Issue 97, 22 October 1915, Page 2*

The Rev. John Walker, M. A. , formerly of St. Thomas's, Wellington South, has been appointed vicar of St. Matthew's, Masterton, in succession to the Rev. Mr. Watson, who is to take charge of St. Peter's parish, Wellington.