

## **History of the Chapel of Christ the King Mangawhai**

The Mangawhai School shifted to its present site in Insley St. in February 1956.

The land and buildings of the old school became unused and vandalised to such an extent that Mrs Nelson had the idea that this could be used as a church. The Anglicans in the district decided to investigate the purchase of the building.

Vestry was approached and the decision to purchase was made, with repayments to Lands and Survey being spread over a period of years.

One of the conditions of Vestry was that the people of Mangawhai raise the money themselves for the refurbishment of the building. The building was very untidy with every window broken with air-rifles. It was in two rooms and the partition was removed and used to build the Sanctuary. Mr Albert Wood kindly did this work by using the reverse side of the timber. The internal painting was also done at no charge by Trevor Hobson, a professional painter from Dargaville, who worked many late nights to complete the job. All the hand forged nails in the floor had to be punched and the floor sanded, oiled and polished. Jim Smith punched all the old, blacksmith, made floor nails and replaced all the window glass.

The cost of each pew was donated by an individual family in the district. They were made by Mr Bill Illingworth at a cost of eight pounds each, using imported Japanese Oak. This was supplied by Aiken and Sons of Auckland at a wholesale price of four pounds per pew. An anonymous donation of the brass cross and vases was made but it took a serious argument with the Vicar to be allowed to keep them. He wished to remove them to the then new Maungaturoto

Church. The organ was loaned by Mrs. Lawrence (senior) of Hakaru and when later replaced went to the Mangawhai Museum. The font was made in Auckland and dedicated to the memory of Bessie Florence Nelson who had done so much in the formative years. She died in 1959 aged fifty nine. Her daughter Margaret was one of the last two teachers in the old school and the first bride to be married in the church and her granddaughter Jenny was the first person christened in the new font. Mr and Mrs Carter and Mr and Mrs Wood were also stalwarts in the early days of the Church.

The lectern was shifted from the Maungaturoto Church when the new church was built there.

The altar was paid for by the Committee who had it specially designed and built in Auckland.

It had always been the wish of both Mr and Mrs Carter to complete the building with a porch. This would give additional space and the double doors would enable it to be used for weddings and funerals, as well as providing a much needed fire exit. A committee was formed and within a few days the money was raised locally. The porch was designed by Philippa Johnson and the contract given to an Auckland builder. The painting was done by Mr Ernie Mills. The cost was something in excess of \$6,000.

The Church was named "The Chapel of Christ the King" and the sanctuary was dedicated by Bishop Simpkin.

Later donations have been made of excavation work and the notice board by Hugh Marshall, the large outside cross by Peter Brown, the toilet by Maurice Brown and

the church was painted at one stage by the Hakaru Young Farmers Club.

## **New Building**

The church has served the community well over the years. In 2010 discussions were held and it was decided to build a new building. Miss Rae Coulter of Mangawhai had left a bequest to the diocese of \$250,000 specifically for this purpose and along with a very generous donation from the late Mrs Gerda de Boer, proceeds from the sale of a section, an insurance payment from the Wellsford Anglican church after fire destroyed the church at Tauhoa, and fundraising from car boot sales the new church became a reality.

Trigg Construction won the tender for the construction, many local tradesmen were used during the building process, and Mr Jim Wintle generously offered his services as project manager. Two sprigs of a small tree which were used during a short service to bless the ground have been propagated by Mr Ian Mc Kenzie and they await a permanent place in the grounds of the church.

Building commenced in June of 2012, and on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 we gathered in the old building for the last time where Bishop Jim White held a short service to secularize the building. We then processed to the new building and after a blessing our first service was held. Many of the fittings in the new building have been donated by parishioners and the building was consecrated on Christ the King Sunday in November 2013.

The project is still a work in progress and over the coming months landscaping and car-park areas are to be developed.