

T. H. POTTS, M.H.R., 1886



Mr. Potts was chiefly instrumental in arranging for the building of the Church, giving liberally and helping in every way in his power. But mention must be made of the help given by many Scotsmen and their families. They realised the duty of giving freely to any Church with which they were for the time connected, and their help was greatly welcomed.

It must have been a great day for the small community when the foundation stone was laid on January 30, 1860. The Archdeacon of Akaroa (Archdeacon Mathias) was there, Rev. Francis Knowles, Rev. Croasdaile Bowen, Mr Thos Potts and others. Morning Service was held in the temporary Church, then the clergy and others went in procession to the new site.

There was no hurried jerry-building about this Church. Two years it took to build. Some of the stone was brought from the beach, some from Garlick's quarry, drawn, no doubt, by bullocks. The architect was Mr. Mallinson, the builder of the stone part was Mr. Morey, who had built the Lyttelton Church. Mr. Firmston did the woodwork. Many difficulties had to be faced. The turret and two gables gave way owing to wet weather and strong wind. Buttresses had to be added at the east end as well as at the north and south, because the roof caught the winds so much, making the building shake. This was before the chancel was built, as will be seen in the photograph taken about 1871.

There is no record available of the opening day, but it must have been a real joy to those who had worked so hard, and had given unsparingly of their time and money when they saw their beautiful little Church an accomplished fact. The first roof was of shingles, more picturesque than the present corrugated iron one. The thick walls with the deeply inset windows add to the charm, and the porch, with its cobblestone floor reminds one of an English village church.

Lying as it does on the slope of the green hill, with the blue water of the harbour showing through a gap in the hills, one thinks of the words, "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even for ever."

There was still a clerical service only once a month, but all honour must be given to the Lay Readers, who so faithfully carried out their duties, and took all other services.



A View of the Church, 1875.

In 1866, the Rev. C. Bowen was granted leave of absence to go to England for a year. It was evidently at this time that it was found necessary to have a resident vicar in charge of Governor's Bay, as the Rev. E. A. Lingard was appointed in 1866. The boundaries of this Parochial District included Rapaki, Purau, Motukarara and Little River, about 35 miles in width, necessitating a good deal of travelling.



Rev. E. A. Lingard, First Resident Vicar.

Following Rev. E. A. Lingard, the Vicars or Curates in charge of the Parish were (the dates given are the dates of their appointment):

- July 1, 1867—Rev. H. Torlesse.
- January 26, 1870—Rev. B. W. Harvey.
- September 23, 1872—Rev. H. E. East.
- August 15, 1875—Rev. E. R. Otway.
- September 22, 1879—Rev. E. H. Wyatt.
- December 19, 1881—Rev. R. F. Garbett.
- February 5, 1884—Rev. E. Watts.
- July 1, 1884—Rev. W. F. Knowles.
- February 6, 1891—Rev. P. J. Cocks.
- 1892—Rev. J. Sheldon.
- December 15, 1899—Rev. P. N. Pritchett.
- June 9, 1909—Rev. O. Fitzgerald.
- June 1, 1910—Rev. G. W. Christian.

- September 1, 1913—Rev. H. Purchas.
- December 10, 1918—Rev. W. H. Stych.
- November 29, 1920—Rev. G. B. Nanson.
- February 14, 1924—Rev. E. H. Shore.
- 1928—Attached to Lyttelton, under Rev. T. M. Curnow.
- May 7, 1930—Rev. C. W. I. Maclaverty.

The "Church News" of July, 1875, contains the following notice:

"The Parish Church and Burial Ground of Governor's Bay were consecrated on Sunday, 22nd June, 1875, by the Most Rev. the Primate (Bishop Harper) . . . The congregation was a large one, and the Services, which were plain, were heartily taken part in by those present. A stone chancel, 14ft. by 11ft. has just been added to the Church, thereby greatly improving the building within and without. By this addition the Church has been so enlarged as to admit of 40 more sittings. The cost of the work was £210. The Church was dedicated under the name of St. Cuthbert."

The east window is in memory of Rachel Brander Lloyd, only daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann Potts, born 1826, died at Leamington Priors, 1860.

As it is a most unusual thing to see in a stained glass window a Saint carrying a man's head, an explanation may be found of interest (see last page).

Two other stained glass windows were erected in 1907, in memory of Decima Hall and Rachel Cowlin.

The Re-table and two brass vases were given in memory of Thomas Hall, in May, 1900.

The Altar of brass candlesticks were given in memory of Rev. R. R. Bradley and his wife, in December, 1900.

The Communion Service now in use is one of three that were sent out in the first ships to Canterbury. One was presented to Lyttelton, one to Governor's Bay, and the third one (it is thought) to Halkett.

The Belfry was built during the Incumbency of the Rev. P. H. Pritchett, who was mainly instrumental in its erection. It was intended only as a temporary structure, and later there was a scheme for building a stone bell-tower with vestry room underneath, as a memorial to the late Mr. T. H. Potts. Some money was subscribed, and a good deal more promised, when the war commenced. It was considered an inopportune time to continue the matter, so the amounts paid were invested, and the whole scheme left in abeyance.