

were called Chapels, altho. the denomination went by the name of Wesleyan Church. It was many years later, after union was accomplished between the various branches, that the name of the ~~Wesleyan~~ United Church was called the Methodist Church of N. Zealand.

I have no distinct recollections of the opening junction but I am given to understand that the first service, or the opening service was conducted by a Mr. J. Thompson in later years a teacher in the Brookside School.

I have a recollection of a visit, by the Rev. J. Buller and also the Rev. Alexander Reid. ^{the former a Pioneer Missionary.}

I think that it was really under the charge from Christ Church, but my first recollections are that it was ^{worked} in charge from of Spungston, and a Rev. W. Keall in charge, but very soon a person was stationed at Brookside, ~~W. Harper~~ Wharton. S. Harper, but only for one year, when the district & surrounding places, of Swell, Leeston, & Southbridge together with Brookside, were formed as a circuit & Leeston was made the head quarters, & remain so until the present time. But to maintain so many preaching places, and one of the great causes of the spread or the erection of ^{these} preaching places, was the assistance given by qualified persons who having shown apt ability, and a thorough knowledge of the essential qualifications, together with a divergence in conduct, from many of the things, which were not deemed as essential, ^{other} it was the very essence of all

the preaching that took place, ~~was~~ to explain, and endeavour to win the people by public confession and a desire to live somewhat in conformity of with the teaching of Jesus Christ, it was called a change of heart or conversion. It was this form of living conduct, that earned in the first place for the followers of John Wesley, the name of Methodist; a term of contempt. And yet in the early days of Canterbury, there were many such, who made that public confession. The word of God grew & many were added to the church. But the carrying on of the preaching was not confined by any means to persons who were recognized as fully qualified ministers of the Gospel but by very many, who were termed local preachers or as they ought be called now lay preachers. And these persons went every where Sunday after Sunday to preach in some far distant place. And let it be recorded, that in every case this was done without any pay what ever, and the persons so engaged found their own means of transit, either on horse back or otherwise. Most of those who undertook this work at the earliest times were from out lying places, some from Christchurch, such a Benjamin Dewdney, Robt. Dawson, J. J. Smith, J. L. Wilson, and J. Thompson. others from Spungston. Walter Lawry & Hill. John Geo. Silvester, R. Cotton, J. Olsen, A. Buxton, & Frankish, then there were also a good ^{many} few through