NEW METHODIST HALL OPEN SATURDAY

Sixty-five years ago, when the corner of Bosanquet avenue and Prospect road was probably used for grazing sheep, the foundation stone of St. John's Wood Methodist Church was laid by Mrs. Thomas Drew. The date was March 11.

During World War 1, the present church was built, and the old place taken over by the Sunday School and other organisations.

Thirteen years ago, a fund was started for a new memorial Hall to meet the rapidly growing requirements of the church, but lack of building material and other inconveniences caused the postponement of the project. It was revived in 1956, excavations for the foundations began, and on October 20 last, Mr. R. E. Carter, who moved the original motion for the erection of the hall, laid the foundation stone.

On Saturday, the new hall will be opened. From 10 a.m. visitors will be able to inspect the building, and at 2.30 p.m., a thanksgiving service will be held in the church, when the preacher will be the President of the Methodist Conference (Rev. A. E. Vogt).

An hour later, afternoon tea will be available, and at 6 p.m., there will be tea for those staying for the evening.

The functions will culminate at 8 p.m. with a grand concert.

Services on Sunday will be conducted by the Rev. A. H. Blackett, MA, BD, and Rev. A. Simpson, respectively at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

One of the most prominent features connected with the new building is the freestone entrance hall.

The wooden trusses supporting the roof are architectural importance, being the first of their kind in the State.

The first room is the secretary's office, then come the kitchen. The main floor space is 36 ft. by 46 ft., and will seat 350 people. The stage is 20 ft. wide and behind this are stairs to the basement where the toilets are situated. Concrete paths have been laid around the buildings.

Total cost is about £9,900. A considerable amount of voluntary labor has been provided to lessen the expense. There is still a debt of £3,750.

A large attendance is anticipated at the opening function on Saturday.