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ST. LAWRENCE OF THE JEWRY

Official N.Z. Church In London

Every Saturday night at 7.45 Ian ("Mac") Mackay of Station 2ZB throws his "Saturday Spotlight" on to some interesting personality. Globe trotters, adventurers, artists of all types, all sorts of people with interesting stories to tell, are presented at 2ZB's microphone. On Saturday, December 21, "Mac" will be interviewing Mrs. Olive McDonald, of Wellington, who was for many years associated with the Church of St. Lawrence of the Jewry, the New Zealand church in London.

Here is an interview with Mrs. McDonald, the first of a series of interviews with interesting people who will be presented in the "Saturday Spotlight" session:

MANY of London's most famous churches have been damaged, some slightly, some irreparably, by aerial bombing. At the time of writing, however, one of the most picturesque churches in the whole of London, St. Lawrence of the Jewry, situated alongside the historic Guildhall, remains undamaged.

The church of St. Lawrence of the Jewry has a particular interest for New Zealanders, for not so long ago it was made an official New Zealand church in London, and the New Zealand High Commissioner frequently attends Divine Service there. Visiting New Zealand statesmen and notabilities also make a point of visiting the church.

A Wellington resident, Mrs. Olive McDonald, was for many years associated with the Church of St. Lawrence of the Jewry. Her father and mother were married there, she herself was christened in the church, and both her father and brother sang in the choir. Mrs. McDonald has been present in the church on many important occasions, and has a clear memory not only of the pageantry and ceremony inseparable from such occasions, but also of the many unique architectural features of the church.

The New Zealand church was built by Wren somewhere about the year 1671, and unites two parishes, an adjacent church, that of Mary Magdalene, having been burned to the ground in the Great Fire. St. Lawrence of the Jewry is actually in the courtyard of the Guildhall, though there is a great deal of friendly



MRS. OLIVE McDONALD

Her father and brother sang in the choir

argument on this point, the church claiming that the Guildhall is really situated in the churchyard.

The church is remarkable in that it is almost square in shape. A unique feature is the vestry, which was panelled from floor to ceiling by Grinling Gibbons. On the ceiling of the vestry is a large mural representing the martyrdom of St. Lawrence.

The church services still retain many customs which have come down the centuries. For instance, a beadle in 17th century dress precedes the vicar into the church before each service. And on Michaelmas Day after the election of the Lord Mayor for the following year, the Lord Mayor of London, together with his Sheriff and Aldermen, all in robes of state, attend Divine Service there.

The visit of the Lord Mayor is very much a state occasion. His pew is a large block in the centre of the church where the Aldermen sit, some with their backs to the altar, and the Lord Mayor himself is ensconced with considerable dignity in a huge carved chair, above them all.

Over the altar, instead of the customary stained glass window, there is a mosaic portraying the Ascension, and under the altar is some very fine and beautiful needlework, gold on white satin.

The most remarkable piece of stained glass is a window dedicated to Sir Thomas More, and showing him in his Chancellor's robes.

Mrs. McDonald has been in New Zealand for many years, but she still retains a lively interest in her old church, and, when she last heard from England, the Church of St. Lawrence of the Jewry was still intact.

David and Primula

There is great excitement in some circles over David Niven's wedding. David confounded everyone by marrying a typical English girl instead of one of the Hollywood lovelies. His bride, Primula Rollo, after completing her education at Munich, was one of the most attractive of the Jubilee Year debutantes. Her family are well known in hunting and racing circles. Incidentally, David relinquished £40,000 a year, when he deserted the movies to take up war service. His contract is to be resumed, however, on the completion of the war.