

7 Promises from God

I
am
your
strength.

I will
never
leave
you.

I have
plans
for
you
to
prosper.

I
hear
your
prayers.

I will
fight
for
you.

I will
give
you
peace.

I
always
love
you.



Howick
Presbyterian
Church

The Torch



Autumn Edition
March 2020—June 2020

Next Quarterly Communion Services



8 March at 9.30 am
In the sanctuary

Communion in the chapel at 8.45 am

1 March

5 April

3 May

7 June

And Quarterly Communion on 14 June 2020 in the sanctuary



REPLACING "I'M SORRY" *With "Thank You"*

"I'm sorry I'm late"

Thank you for waiting on me

"I'm sorry I've been so needy lately"

Thank you for being there for me

"I'm sorry to ask you for another favor"

Thank you for helping me out

"I'm sorry I made a mistake"

Thank you for pointing out my mistake

"I'm sorry but I can't make it tonight"

Thank you for inviting me

"I'm sorry for being emotional"

Thank you for loving me

"I'm sorry that I've been distant"

Thank you for being understanding



ASHLEYINTERNATIONAL.COM

Some things can be planned, but others just can't. My mother died very suddenly and we were all in shock. She was 70 and looked like 60. She'd had a stroke and I had to write to tell Bob I was looking after my Dad. Bob was also in shock. Obviously we had to stop everything for a while and I am going to end Part I here.

Esmay Leach

Attitude

The longer I live, the more I realise the impact of attitude on life.
 Attitude, to me, is more important than the past, than education,
 than money, than circumstance, than failures, than successes, that
 what other people think or say or do.
 It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill.
 It will make or break a company ... a church... a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day
 regarding the Attitude we will embrace for that day.
 We cannot change our past.
 We cannot change the inevitable.
 The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have
 and that is our Attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me
 And 90% how I react to it.
 And so it is with you.
 We are in charge of our
 Attitude.

Anon.

From Matthew's desk

Hi everyone,

This is my first contribution to The Torch. What a great way of communicating not only roster information, but also church updates, reflections, poems and photos..

Since being here I have been amazed at the number of volunteers who contribute to making this church such a special place. Thank you for all you do, whether it be helping maintain the beautiful grounds, serving in one of our weekday ministries, serving in one of the many roles on a Sunday morning, or being part of one of the groups who provide leadership and direction for the life of the church. Thank you for all you give, and the grace and love you do it with.

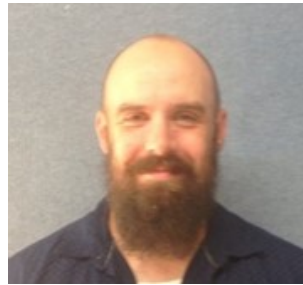
As a worshipping community we are approaching the season of Lent. Lent is the six week period that prepares us for Easter. Often we talk about "giving up something for Lent." The giving up of something reminds us of Jesus fasting in the wilderness for 40 days before he began his public ministry. It also serves as a way to draw our attention and reverence to the significance of what is approaching on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

My sister-in-law is the Vicar at the Anglican Church in Clevedon, and I really appreciated the way she thinks of Lent.

"I think of Lent as an opportunity to restore balance, to address aspects of life that might be out of kilter. That means that another way of looking at Lent is to take something on; a random act of kindness, exercise, generosity, gratitude or intentionality. Lent is an invitation to ask questions of ourselves. In what areas of your life (or your family's life) might the balance need restoring? Might you need to look at the way you spend your time, or energy or money? Might you have too much of one thing or not enough of another?"

My hope and prayer for you all is that this would be a significant and meaningful experience of Lent and Easter this year. Whether you give something up, or take something on, may the story of the journey to the cross, and the power of the empty tomb provide you with life-giving food for the soul. As this story becomes your own, may you know comfort, hope, strength, and inspiration in all the challenges you are walking through.

Grace and Peace



Kings Kids.

Did you enjoy the Kings Kid's and Wired's Christmas performance of 'Angels and that door between heaven and earth'?

We had a great time planning, practising and putting it on for you and thanks to Sue Blyth's good idea of giving each of you a copy of the script, I think you were all able to follow the storyline and no words (or jokes) were lost! A first, I think, as we fight quiet voices from our children on the one hand and aging ears in our older folk, on the other!

Two weeks later, on Christmas Eve, Bronwynn Croxford and Val Klein did a lovely job of our children's Christmas Eve service and Bronwynn was thanked and farewelled as she left us after three years, to work in accounting in Parnell.

We began 2020 mid February with 13 great kids in attendance. So encouraging. We thought together about special things we had seen from God's good world while on holiday. If you take time to go to the far end of the hall you will see our paintings of some of these things. They are super.

Friday (14th) night we are holding our annual Sausage and Swim night at Steph and Matt's pool and one thing we can be sure of is that we will have fine weather!

We are very glad to welcome Steph and Matt to our teaching team this year and over the next few weeks will look at stories from David's life and then the story of Easter.

We really want to make Kings Kids interesting for our boys this year. If you have any thoughts, we would love to hear them.

Best wishes from the Kings Kids Team

Aubrey, Val, Steph, Matt, Carol, Joanne, Marie and Heather

I had one experience in my classroom there I remember well. There was a small storage cupboard at the end of the room and one day when the children were all seated, I went in with a load of pictures in my arms and dropped them all with a shriek as I saw a big insect 'which was quite new to me. As I explained to the class, a boy shot up his hand and said, "Please Miss Smart, I bet it was a Weta. If you give me an empty glass jar, I'll catch it and take it out to the playground. I was extremely grateful. I enjoyed this class very much and spent the rest of my 2year contract with them. My parents had never been to NZ before and thought it made sense to come to see it when I was nearing the end of my 2 years, so I booked tours for them in both the North and South Islands. As I thought I was only to be in NZ for 2years I had made the most of all my holidays. Beth and I hired a car and drove to Cape Reinga.

Later we did a bus tour of South Island when the lovely Autumn colouring was beautiful. We tried to book in to Taupo but as accommodation was unavailable we booked in an old hotel on the road to Napier and had a wonderful Hogmanay there, where the barman was Scottish. He took out all his Scottish records and I ended up teaching an 8some reel to a crowd of deerhunters who had been hunting nearby. Another day we walked along the beach under the cliffs going to see the Gannet Sanctuary at Cape Kidnappers. I also went skiing at Mt. Ruapehu and the Senior Lady at St. T's school took me to Rotorua which was so interesting. No wonder I loved NZ. My parents also loved it.

However, the time had come for them to sail back to Britain and I went with them. We sailed on the 'Oriana', going by Fiji, Honolulu, Vancouver, LA, San Francisco, Acapulco, Panama and across the Atlantic. I met several nice people on board and they all met my parents too -----an English lady, a Norwegian man, an Englishman.

When we were near UK, it became colder and I went to the baggage room to get a warm jumper. Bob, the Englishman, happened to be there at the same time, also getting warmer clothes. He was going back to England and I was going back to Scotland, but he got my address from my baggage label and he asked if he might write me as he wanted to keep in touch. He wondered if he might come up to see me and my parents again and if I could act as a guide to accompany him to Stonehaven just south of Aberdeen where his grandmother used to live. My mother said, "I think there's more to it than that, but he could come up and see us all again."

me to her home in Mt. Eden. I was to look for a flat, but she told me she had a spare room and would love to have me as a boarder as she knew I'd keep my room tidy. She was so kind and gave me a 'Home away from home.' Being Scottish, she was a member of the "Robbie Burns Club" and took me to meet other Scots there. I joined a S.C.D.Club -and also a choir whose conductor had been a solo singer in the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. No wonder I was never homesick----there were Scots everywhere!

When Andy Stewart came to Auckland, I danced in his show in the Town Hall. I was given another interview to decide where my job would be. I was to teach at Mangere Central. There was no airport there then. I took 2 buses from Mt. Eden and when I looked out of the window I saw lots of fields of sheep and thought "They're sending me to a rural school." I'll never forget my 1st day. I was to be in a classroom that had not been used before and when I opened the cupboards they were all empty----no Reading Books---- nothing---- except plenty cobwebs and big spiders, but I got a duster and did a cleaning job which got rid of my fear of spiders. I knew I had a lot of my own pictures & equipment in a big trunk which was still in Wellington having been removed from the hold, but till it came all I had was 1 piece of chalk, a blackboard and--- thank goodness----a piano !

Anyway , I soon got to know the children by name. I had never seen a Maori before - and here I had Islanders, Chinese---from the Market Gardens there, 2 Dutch, 2 German and they had to put up with my Scottish accent. At a Parent/Teacher evening a father came to me and said, "Our son is doing his reading with a Scottish accent." I said, "Oh I'm sorry!" and he replied, "No, no, don't be sorry. We like it !" Reading Books, slates & chalk kept arriving. When my equipment arrived, we were in business and I was enjoying my work there, but an inspector came to see me one day. He told me at the end of the term I could apply for any job in Auckland where there was a vacancy. The lady with whom I was flatting told me she was moving to Kohimarama & luck was on my side as when I checked the teaching posts one was available at St, Thomas's, Kohimarama, so I applied and got it. I could run down the road and be there in no time and one of my pupils lived in a house across the road from my new abode. As he was the son of Robert Muldoon, we used to see his Dad walking up & down in their lounge preparing his speeches for parliament. From the grounds of the school there was a marvellous view of Rangitoto.

Cherie saying farewell to Bronwyn on Christmas Eve



"Angels and the door between heaven and earth"



Christmas Eve



Finance Report from Parish Council

Financial summary for the 7 months ended 31 January 2020.

	actual	budget
<u>Income</u>		
Offerings	95,523	99,866
Property income	44,916	47,712
Opp shop	17,705	16,350
Other income	37,655	33,919
Total income	195,799	197,847

<u>Expenditure</u>		
Remuneration	65,541	95,980
Property expenses	66,036	73,744
Levies (PCANZ, Presbytery)	11,885	12,118
Other expenses	49,019	48,567
Total expenditure	192,481	230,409
Surplus (deficit)	3,318	(32,562)

Offering income remains below budget by almost \$700 per month. If you would like to find out more about or join the Automatic Payment or envelope giving arrangements, please contact me by email or phone. Please remember that a tax credit of up to 33% of your donations is available from IRD. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about how to access this tax credit.

Parish Council is reviewing the charges for the hire of our hall, sanctuary, café etc as these charges have not been reviewed for a number of years. We expect to make changes from 1 July 2020.

too rough, but now we had to sail down the west coast of Africa. The seas really began to get rough the nearer we got to Cape Town and the dining room became noticeably emptier. My table companions were 2 elderly ladies [who stopped coming] and a tall gentleman from Latvia. We both agreed it would be better to be in the fresh air after our meal and we went on deck with our cameras to take photos of the rough seas. I loved the turbulent seas, but was disappointed the dances were cancelled as it was impossible to keep one's balance.

When we got to Cape Town we were told the tablecloth was on, which meant the clouds were down on the mountain so no tours would be going up which was disappointing, but we all had an interesting bus tour of the city in the evening. Our next port was Durban where a crowd of us went by bus to a "Valley of a Thousand Hills," and saw some of the natives doing their Country Dancing.

Then we had to face a long trip on the Indian Ocean. We had plenty of good films and nice shows to entertain us. We also had a Fancy Dress Competition. Kathie went as a Spanish Lady and as I had a white nightdress covered in hearts, I made a crown and got a plate of tarts from the kitchen and went as the 'Queen of Hearts.' A young Kiwi returning from his O.E. only wore his pants, a roll-on girdle & a gum boot. He went as "Roll on Wellington." He won !

The seas became smoother and in fine weather on deck we watched flying fish swimming alongside the boat and enjoyed playing deck quoits and swimming in the pool. In no time we reached Fremantle and toured round there and Perth which seems a nice city.

In Melbourne we did a bus tour in the afternoon showing the results of forest fires. As it was my birthday I took Kathie and my cabin mates to a meal and a show in the city and we had to run to catch a train back to the harbour. Just made it before the gangway went up !

An interesting trip round Sydney was next, then we moved to Brisbane where the ship was bedecked with flags as it was the first time the "Southern Cross" had docked there. Our trip across the 'ditch' to Wellington completed our boat journey. I enjoyed meeting Kathie's fiancé and they waved me off on my overnight train journey to Auckland. Only one other girl, Beth, from our cabin, was going to Auckland ---- and she was a teacher too, so we travelled together and got a pillow and a mug of tea at Taumarunui. I was met by the only lady I knew in NZ. She had been a good friend of my mother and took

Trip to New Zealand in 1962

Part 1

Before coming to NZ in 1962 I was living in my family home in Aberdeen, Scotland with my parents and 2 brothers. I'd trained as a Primary School Teacher & did an extra year in Edinburgh to obtain a degree. I got a good job in a progressive school in Aberdeen where I taught for 8 years. I loved my work. I also loved my hobbies-----1 singing & 2 dancing.

I sang in a choir which was chosen to represent Scotland at the Festival of Britain in 1951. We sang in the Royal Festival Hall in London, built for that occasion on the banks of the river Thames. In 1955 I went to an audition in Aberdeen to form a team of Scottish Country Dancers to represent Scotland at the International Dance Festival in Edinburgh. This led to many happy years of dancing in a program on TV called "The Kilt is my Delight" along with Jimmy Shand, Andy Stewart & Kenneth McKellar. This was filmed in the TV studio in Glasgow or in various Scottish Castles. We were then asked to go over to Paris by the Franco/Scottish Society to be on French TV ----dancing on the first floor of the Eiffel Tower. This was followed by a tour, dancing in the big cities as far south as Lyons. Those were happy times indeed, but in the early 1960s I had a broken romance and I read in the papers at that time, that NZ were short of teachers. I went to an interview in Aberdeen and signed a contract to do 2years teaching in Auckland with a Government-assisted passage. It couldn't have come at a better time for me, so I became a 10 Pound POM ! [Actually the Government paid all my passage.]

I sailed from Southampton on board the SS "Southern Cross," in 1962. As soon as I went on board I went up on deck to watch as we sailed by the white cliffs of Dover. I met another Scottish lady, Kathie, and we enjoyed chatting. She was going to Wellington to join her fiancé. We then went to our cabins and spent all next day looking for each other. We were so delighted to meet up again and when she told me she was on C deck with 2 elderly ladies, I asked her to come down to my cabin on F deck to meet the five other ladies in my cabin. We were all in our twenties and I suggested that Kathie come to our cabin after breakfast and we could plan our days together. This worked out well and we had so many interesting ports----- the first being Las Palmas in the Canary Isles where we saw the Cathedral and went up an extinct volcano by bus. We'd already sailed thro' the Bay of Biscay and I hadn't noticed it

a

While Parish Council is working hard to ensure that costs are minimised, there are a number of costs outside our control that continue to increase. These are being constantly re-viewed.

Remuneration costs are below budget as we had budgeted for a part-time minister for the full year.

Planned and budgeted long-term maintenance of the chapel began in July and approx \$19,000 has been spent so far. Further work has now been started.

If you have any questions about HPC finances/offering, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Elizabeth Tremlett



Girls Brigade

Girls Brigade is ready for another great year and we are looking for new leaders to join the team for 2020. We have a large amount of interest in our Girls Brigade and we would like to increase the number of leaders to ensure we don't have anyone left on our waiting list. Whether you can join us every week, or just for a school term, we would appreciate the support. Please have a chat to Danielle, Liesl or Tania for more information, or Jane at the office can pass on our details.

We will be fundraising throughout the year to help send a group of our girls to Fonomarae camp. This is a week long camp that happens every four years with girls from across the country. Please keep an eye out for some exciting opportunities to support us with our fundraising!

Girls Brigade runs in the church hall 6.15pm every Tuesday during the school term.

Thanks,

Danielle Smith

(On behalf of 2nd Howick Girls Brigade)

ST ANDREW'S CHILTON KINDERGARTEN QUALITY CHRISTIAN CARE AND EDUCATION

11 Vincent Street, Howick, Auckland
P O Box 38 590, Howick, Auckland 2145
Telephone: 09 537 2282
Email: kindyhowpres@xtra.co.nz
Website: www.chiltonkindy.co.nz

Hello everyone,

We have had a really exciting start to our year with a number of children having spent time with their families both in and out of New Zealand over the holiday period, and eager to tell us all about their travels. We have been quite envious about some of the special activities they have shared!

As part of our cultural awareness, we have celebrated the Chinese New Year; the children have been making lanterns, dragons and dragon masks, and have been learning about the importance of the Cherry Blossom and Chinese writing.



I have included this photograph of our wall showing the wonderful outcome of their hard work.



*Have
you ever
written
a journal?*

In this day of computers, mobiles, and other devices, it seems archaic to write a journal but the physical act of writing is a careful way to record ...

Record His Blessings. As you record His blessings you are able to come back and be reminded of His faithfulness displayed in your life. When doubt creeps in, your journal can be a beacon of hope and faith.

Journals can be used for so much - Keeping track of prayer requests. Sermon message highlights. Favourite scriptures or memories to record.

Freedom in the Spirit. What's it like?

I saw it in church today. It was a most beautiful thing. Grace and Freedom to share with others, in the winsomeness of Jesus, what He has done in one's life.

It is such an appealing thing. But also, every Christians birth right Paul said to the Galatian Christians : "It is for freedom that Christ has set you free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened AGAIN BY THE YOKE OF SLAVERY." He was referring to the slavery of sinning. Chapter 5: 1

When we feel a little unfree ourselves, it it time to go back to the Cross where it was purchased for us. The Lord is the Spirit, where the Lord is, there it liberty indeed. Let us all enjoy it.

A fellow sinner.



The entrance to the Sanctuary for Christmas Services

Also worth talking about is Waitangi Day – again the children have been able to take part by creating a treaty for the kindergarten which is all about looking after each other, showing kindness and sharing, and the true meaning of being a friend. When this is completed, it will also be displayed on our wall. This type of activity creates a real team environment for the children and enables them to be part of a cultural experience.

Our new Facebook page is up and running (StAndrews Chilton); feel free to have a look. We do post on a regular basis and it's wonderful to see the contributions. The same applies to Storypark, our online portfolio system. Families have commented on the stories, posted by teachers, which illustrate and document their children's learning and just what they do at kindy. That is helpful to many parents as they can see their child's development and the fun they have at kindy. It is also beneficial to new families who may wonder how their child is coping!

Tell your friends and family about us; we have spaces available at the moment for enrolment, and we are always willing to host visitors and show potential families around the kindy.

Have fun in the warmer weather and enjoy the summer days!

Janine Leaming

People can be divided into three groups

Those who make things happen

Those who watch things happen

And those who wonder what happened!

Opportunity Shop

The Op Shop is open for business again this year. There is a huge amount of donated goods for the back room helpers to sort and price. Thank you to all those from the church and community who have brought bags and boxes to the shop.

You never know what you are going to find in the Op Shop! Last Monday when pricing a large soft toy, I squeezed it and felt something lumpy inside. I opened the Velcro on its back and there inside was the end of a recorder. Someone hadn't liked learning the recorder and found a great place to hide part of the instrument!!

The Op Shop could always do with more volunteers to serve in the shop. The shop is open Monday to Friday 10am to 2 pm and Saturdays 10—12 am. You can do a 4 hour shift once a month or a 2 hour shift is 10 to 12 am or 12—2pm. Make your offer to Elizabeth Georgeson 5766640. She will tell you what days volunteers are needed. You would always be on with another worker. It's a great way to get to know our other volunteers. No wages but plenty of satisfaction.

Margaret Guyan



The Wednesday Op Shop 'Backroom girls' celebrated Flo Broome's 90th birthday at the Barracuda Café in Eastern Beach. Flo is a very valuable worker at the Shop.

left to right – Caroline Shortall, Flo, Margaret Guyan, Elizabeth Georgeson, Winsome Webster and Crystal Seel.



Larry New

One day a very wealthy father took his son on a trip to the country for the sole purpose of showing his son how it was to be poor. They spent a few days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

After their return from the trip, the father asked his son how he liked the trip. "It was great, Dad," the son replied. "Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked. "Oh Yeah," said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father. The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon."

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

Copied from Facebook 2016

Joan Dowd 4 July 1929 - 3 December 2019

Joan was born in Waiuku, the second daughter of five in a very musical household. Her father was Postmaster and Volunteer Fire Chief, while her mother was the local piano teacher. Joan followed in her footsteps and taught piano and theory all her life.

She married Bruce in 1951, moved to Hamilton, and had three children. In 1961, they moved to Rotorua where the children were brought up and the family enjoyed boating and picnicking on the wonderful lakes. Joan was president of the Registered Music Teacher's Association for many years as well as an active member of Zonta.

In the late 1980s, with Bruce retired, they relocated to Auckland and had 22 years living in Mission Bay. Here they enjoyed their grandchildren and Joan continued to be a sort after piano teacher. After their move 10 years ago to Pakuranga Park Village, she and Bruce joined the church here. She spent the last few years providing support for Bruce living at Howick Baptist Hospital, until his death on May 30, 2019.

Thank you to all for your friendship for both Bruce and Joan.

Briar Mills
Daughter



The Red Bags were really appreciated ... Thank you all for your contributions.



An unsigned letter received in a Christmas card

"To St Andrew's Howick

I am one of the privileged recipients of the many wonderful Christmas grocery parcels you sent out. Thank you so much for being so thoughtful and caring for those who have been and still are in periods of hardship. The parcel definitely has brought a big smile and warm feelings in my household knowing that there are people out there who think of you. You are the bright stars in the dark sky and my son and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May God continue to bless you all with all His wonder."

Robin Georgeson celebrating his 80th with family



A letter from Bill and Heather

Hi all,

We made it to Karamea for 3 nights and walked some of their wonderful bush tracks – yes Heather is again able to walk some of the tracks, a blessing considering a year ago she was in a wheel chair. Now on our way back south, and after meeting in Denniston, the owners of the Gentle Annie camp ground, are glad we accepted their encouragement to stay here; a lovely cg with the Gentle Annie river on 1 side and beach the other, Mokihinui on the south side of the estuary.

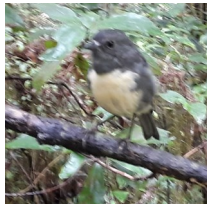
We're both good, enjoying where we have been and taking our time with at least 2 days in most places. Haven't been able to use our DOC passes much and getting Wi-fi is erratic, so communications get delayed. Fabulous weather with only 2 evenings/nights with rain since we left home in Jan. With the threat of the cyclone a week ago, we went to ChCh to see Karina before crossing at Lewis Pass, which worked out well as on our way to ChCh the engine light in the car came on, which resulted in a transmission service, and warning of a potential rebuild at some time. The gas concern we mentioned earlier was checked out and nothing to be concerned about. After leaving ChCh, we stopped at Boyle River DOC cg, lots sandflies, and a surprisingly warm night considering we were almost at the summit of the pass. Reefton for a wander around and the 1st rain which caught us out

without jackets, and then on to Westport. The NZMCA campground is next to the beach, but there was no direct beach access and it is really exposed. Sheets of spray were blowing over everything, so we decided to stay at the Kiwi Holiday camp, where it was sheltered, there is a laundry, on-site water, power Wi-fi and a dump station. The beaches here are long, with fine grey sand, but substantial barriers of driftwood logs and trees, remaining from a major cyclone a couple of years ago.

I loved Westport. Pop 6000. Wide straight streets and several walk cycle tracks which I made use of. Not surprisingly, the houses are mostly older, with a mix of lovely homes and 'DIY opportunities'. The SI roads have been great as far as Granity, with very little traffic, and lots of long straights. After Granity, the road became quite bumpy, with some very steep sections. A couple of 5th wheels have just arrived in camp. Glad we didn't meet them on some of those tight and narrow corners. We made it up to the top of the Denniston incline and were fascinated with the photo material, describing what it was like to live up there, amongst the coal. Apparently Denniston coal was/is reputed to be amongst the best coking coal for steel making. A very, very winding road & very steep in parts over to Karamea. Fortunately sealed all the way & not too much traffic.

Apparently, at Karamea, if you need to go shopping, you catch a chopper over to Motueka and back for about \$200. Why drive over that road to Westport if you can avoid it. Two of the 3 'locals' I've spoken with came from Tauranga and Gisborne, and apparently a lot of Aucklanders are setting up home there.

Over this side of 'the hill' we've encountered lots of very nosy weka, a few pukeko and in the bush some very curious SI Robins [photo] sorry it's blurred, but it was so close, just a few inches, I had difficulty focusing. It would pose for the photo, then jump around and pose again. Really delightful. Sad to see uncountable numbers of dead trees in the otherwise very dense bush. We don't think they have possums down here to do the damage so hopefully, we'll find someone who can advise why. We enjoyed our crayfish dinner at Kaikoura, a whitebait dinner at Karamea, and tonight, a cook your own pizza in the cg pizza oven.



From Heather:

A very beautiful bush walk to the Oparara Caves & Arches in the Kahurangi National Park. Amazing limestone formations but I was reminded about how very beautiful & precious our bush is. We are now heading slowly across country via Arthurs Pass to get to Oamaru by 6th March for the NZMCA rally. Yeh. I'm such a rally person. However there be much to learn Having another day here tomorrow blobbing out which is good. We were lucky enough to see a few rata blossoms still on the Denniston Plateau where we found some right on the side of the road at eye level. Bill was able to get a photo.

Love to everyone Bill & Heather

24 February 20202

It is a story I used on a number of occasions when I was teaching especially when I heard a student making comments about another. I am not too sure if it ever had the desired effect but I can only hope.

I had always accepted that story as true. After all, mothers do not make stories up when they are teaching their children how to navigate the realities of life! But when thinking about it recently, I wondered if it was not just an old wives' tale but, to my delight, a search on Google unearthed a digitised copy of the Good Health Publishing Company's Volume 29, dating from 1894. In it, on page 338, was this story. Given the publication date, I imagine that my mother would probably have heard the story from her mother or even her grandmother. (I have placed the web address for the story below.)

In this era of tweets, posts, hate speech, blogs, trolls, loose language, sound-bites, sensational journalism, papparazi, live-streaming and claims of the right to free speech, I do feel more and more, that Josiah Wedgwood was right. It is easy to rebuild or replace an inanimate object which is broken but we do not think often enough of the effect of our actions and words, written or spoken, on people, no matter who or how old they are.

Too often, I forget the words of Psalm 19, verse 14, 'May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.' I am no saint and I know that there have been occasions where, if Josiah Wedgwood had heard me, he would have probably destroyed his whole showroom my language and comments were so inappropriate.

All I can do is try to always remember the story and the words of the psalm and ensure that my words and thoughts are pleasing to God.
<https://books.google.co.nz/books?id=Idk1AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA338&dq=Sir+Josiah+Wedgwood+-+story+about+being+careful+about+what+you+say&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiYo9WpzKTmAhUSyzqGHc1HB0kQ6AEIMDAB#v=onepage&q=Sir%20Josiah%20Wedgwood%20-%20story%20about%20being%20careful%20about%20what%20you%20say&f=false>

Ron Galliers

From the Armchair

Sometimes we say or write things which can have an outcome or effect which we did not mean. Perhaps we are being flippant or perhaps we believe that what we are saying or writing is correct but what we often forget is that what we think or mean is not necessarily what others think or feel and what we say or write can be hurtful or have long-lasting consequences.



It is not necessary to say that we live in a digital age and that we can express opinions and share ideas more easily than ever before. It is argued by some that to limit this ability is to restrict free speech and that a feature of a free society is to be able to express opinions without having to worry about punishment.

The way that people feel that they can express their opinions on social media without any regard for the effect of their words brought to mind a story which my mum used when my brother and I were young to illustrate the need to be very careful with what we said. It involved Josiah Wedgwood, the founder of the famous pottery in the eighteenth century. He became a very wealthy man but always stayed true to his strong Christian beliefs.

The way Mum told the story, Josiah Wedgwood was visited by a very important person, accompanied by a young child. They were in his office which was lined with shelves bearing examples of the fine pottery produced in the factory. In the course of conversation the important visitor used what Josiah Wedgwood considered to be bad, irreverent language. Josiah Wedgwood then stood up, picked a particularly large beautiful example of Wedgwood pottery off the shelf and threw it on the floor, shattering it. The important visitor was understandably confused and asked why Josiah Wedgwood had done such a seemingly inexplicable thing.

50+ Fellowship

Our small group hopes to continue meeting this year. During the past year we had several people share interesting experiences and we learned lots about people and places. If anyone has anything they would be willing to share with us – their hobby, their travels, their life experiences – we would love to have you tell us of these things. In April Robin and Elizabeth Georgeson are going to take us on a European River Cruise they experienced. Some of us stay after the meeting and enjoy our lunch and friendly chats. Please join us – it is always a pleasant time.

Crystal Seel

News from Jason and Merindy Morgenson, Kailakuri Health Centre, Bangladesh

Since moving to the Kailakuri Health Care Project in June, things have been very busy.

Jason has been seeing patients in the clinic and hospital parts of the project in addition to attending administrative meetings.

Merindy has been seeing female patients on request, watching the kids, and working on getting us settled in as a family here in Kailakuri.

Merindy's foot has gotten better. She was still having some pain after we moved to Kailakuri in June, so she saw another doctor in Dhaka. The doctor did more X-rays, and they showed no signs of fracture and she is able to walk on the foot now without any trouble.

She has been busy making bread, cheese, yoghurt, pretzels, playdough, muffins, pasteurizing milk, and making new clothes for the kids. We have abundant banana trees all around us and jackfruit trees right on the Kailakuri Health Care Project grounds. The staff very much like Merindy's banana jackfruit muffins and keep asking when she will make them next!

