

SONG TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

JAMES K BAXTER

Lord, Holy Spirit

You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks,

Inside and outside the fences,

You blow where you wish to blow.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are the sun who shines on the little plant.

You warm him gently, you give him life.

You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are as the mother eagle with her young,

Holding them in peace under your feathers.

On the highest mountain you have built your nest,

Above the valley, above the storms of the world,

Where no hunter ever comes.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are the bright cloud in whom we hide,

In whom we know already that the battle has been won.

You bring us to our Brother Jesus

To rest our heads upon his shoulder.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are the kind fire that never ceases to burn.

Consuming us with flames of love and peace.

Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

In the love of friends you are building a new house,

Heaven is with us when you are with us.

You are singing your song in the hearts of the poor.

Guide us, wound us, heal us. Bring us to the Father.

Read By Heather Hoe at the
Pentecost service



Howick Presbyterian Church

The Torch



Autumn Edition
June to September 2024



Monthly Communion Services in the Chapel at 9.30 am

2 June
7 July
4 August
1 September

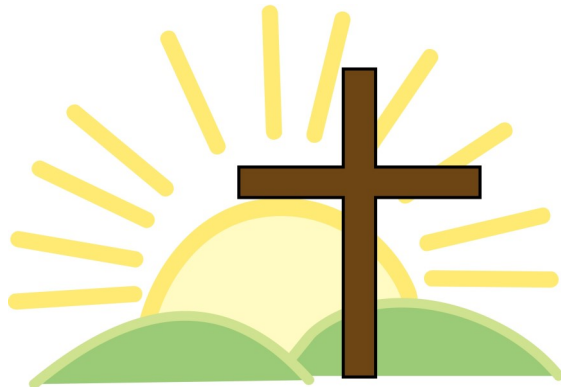
Followed by Morning Tea in the foyer

**The Quarterly Communion Services will be held
as usual at the Sanctuary on the 3rd Sunday at 9.30 am**

16th June
15th September

11 am HPC Community Gatherings

**Church Camp—Totara Springs Matamata,
on 11th-13th October
(last weekend of term 3 school holidays)**



Farewell

I have never written an article in the Torch – only put in a few photographs of my travels. But this is a great way for me to speak to as many people who are connected to Howick Presbyterian Church as possible.

The most important reason to write now is however it's time to say goodbye. I know that this is no longer news that I am retiring from the position of church administrator but it is important that I say goodbye to you.

For me, Howick Presbyterian Church is the church with open arms. A place that welcomes you like a son or daughter and does not care where you come from. It just wants you to be part of it and I could not be prouder that you have allowed me to have that incredible privilege of working in the office and being part of this church's family.

There is so much I could say at this time and so many moments I could share with you. But when I think of this church and the church family, the biggest lesson I will take with me is that you stand together, in all kinds of circumstances. You have shown me love and respect and I have found friendship – deep friendship.

I have learned so much about being a Christian and how to love the Lord our God and how to worship with you and our amazing ministers and elders.

All that remains for me now is to wish you all the very best for the future. Howick Presbyterian Church deserves YOU – the very best of you..

Thank you for everything.

And so goodbye – from the office but not from this amazing church family.

Jane Few



The groups making meals for the freezer.



A variety of meals are made for 2 people and are frozen. These are prepared so that any folk who are in need of help can come and collect or can have a meal or two delivered to them. If you know of folk in need please come to the office and collect meals.. Do NOT be shy!!

Time for a smile

Kindly given by Margaret Guyan

My elderly mother is the most organised Person when it comes to Christmas. She does everything herself. I went with her to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards and small parcels. "What denomination?" asked the Post Mistress "Oh my goodness!" exclaimed Mother. "Well, I suppose you better give me a dozen Catholic and a dozen Presbyterian ones and a few Methodists."

Minister's message

For this edition of The Torch I would like to pay tribute to a wonderful work colleague who is concluding her role this month.

I have worked with Jane since 2020, when I began my role at the church.

We got off to an interesting start, with lockdowns beginning not long after. There was a period of time where I had spent more time chatting to Jane on the phone and online than in person!

Soon enough we were back into the office again, then interrupted by another lockdown, then back again!

It has been such a pleasure to work alongside Jane. She is both a firm manager, and a kind, warm mother/nana figure for so many people!

I have greatly admired Jane's amazing ability to connect with people of all ages, ethnicities and walks of life. I have seen many different people come into St Andrews; to collect a food package, to book a room, to ask for help. She treats everyone the same - with dignity and kindness, and also (when necessary) has a way of being firm with people that still leaves them feeling respected and cared for. This is an amazing skill that is quite rare today.

This is also an important witness of the church. That when people from the community come in and visit us, that they are met by an experience of the unconditional love of Jesus.

The first face – the first experience of people that strangers have when they walk in is a powerful one. There are many jobs and tasks that Jane fulfilled, but it is this "welcoming the stranger" presence that I am most thankful for. First impressions/experiences really do make all the difference, and are so important.

Jane, I will miss working with you in the office. You have taught me so much about how to welcome people, how to treat people with dignity, unconditional love and how to put people at ease. Thank



you Jane, I will miss working with you in the office. You have taught me so much about how to welcome people, how to treat people with dignity, unconditional love and how to put people at ease. Thank you for all your years of outstanding service to our church, and all your hard work. We have been greatly blessed by you in this role, and we pray God's blessing on all that is in store for you in this next stage of your journey.

I also apologise for getting my Torch articles late to you every time!

We are so thankful that you will remain part of our church whanau, and that we will continue to share life and faith with you. Your love for people will continue to bless our community and be a great example to us all!

Grace and peace

Matt Chapman



Our song from 60 plus years ago!

Kindly given by Brenda Scott who remembered singing it on the way to church camp in Hanua sitting in an open truck!!

Tune : Inky Pinky Parlez Vous

We come from Howick, yes we do
Hurrah Hurrah
We sleep on slats that straighten our backs
Hurrah Hurrah
We come to Hunua with lots of fun
Ready to do al that's done
We're all from Howick yes we are.

We've come to join you fellowship
Yes we have
To hike and sing to read and pray
Yes we have
To go tobogganing on the sledge
Watching we ne'er fall off the edge
We've come to join your fellowship

We're eager to do the Saviour's call
Yes we are
To study and learn with you all
Yes we are
We really wish to equip ourselves
To take the message to all our pals
Ad so fulfil the Saviour's call.

Stop asking me about the lion and the witch in my wardrobe, it's Narnia business.

What is Mission?

We often think of it in terms of compassion 'converting the heathen overseas'. But many things we do every day can be seen as mission. About 10 years ago the church my daughter attends in Christchurch ran an outreach whereby people knitted beanies for the homeless; very necessary in Christchurch's cold winters. I said that I could knit some for them even though I hadn't done much knitting for a while.

Sometime later I was contemplating my future retirement and I thought I could join a knitting group. I knew there were quite a number around. I looked in our local newspaper 'The Manukau Courier' and found one just down the road at St Annes Catholic Church. However like most of the groups it was only held during the day. Once I retired I bravely ventured forth.

I met a group of strangers who were sitting around talking at great volume, drinking tea or coffee and knitting. I was made very welcome, and I have continued to attend for eight years. Sometimes it's more chat than knit but each fortnight when we meet the two trestle tables are filled with knitted and crocheted items. Blankets, cardigans, beanies, slippers, jumpers mostly in children's sizes. All this goes to various charities, such as Women's Refugee, Pregnancy Support, Anglican and Presbyterian Social Services, Takanini Family Support and some others.

Throughout the years I have attended we have supported each other through sickness, death of a loved one, changes in personal circumstances. Many of the group attend the Catholic parish, some of us other denominations and others no church at all but in the knitting group we are united in caring for others. There is always someone to listen. There is help for a knitting problem. There is a good supply of yarn if needed.

So what is Mission? Jesus said, among other things "clothe the naked" and this we help to do. But in doing so we also minister to each other and help to show

LOVE

MISSION

OUTREACH

His love. So if you like to knit and would like to join a group most Libraries have one, retirement villages too. Look in your local paper and see what there is in your area. Otherwise if you want to knit but not go to a group anywhere give me what you make and I can put it on our table at St Annes.

Heather Milnes

From the Session Clerk.....

"The position of Parish Clerk is currently in transition. Chérie's term of office is coming to a close and in the interim Geoff Foster (with the very able support from Liz) is managing some of the day to day matters as they arise. Please do continue to pray for Parish Council as they seek to find the right person to pick up this role in the near future as it is an important role of communication and support within the parish."

Watch this space.....

Wired

Wired is off to a hiss and roar this term. Our group has been blessed by the addition of several graduating members who have come from Kings Kids plus some additional students from new families who have joined our church this year. It has also been so fantastic having the additional support of Claire and Andrei Veloso, and Aubrey Dosado as leaders for our growing group. This term we are encouraging our students to become "people of the Word." We want them to understand what the Bible is, how it was assembled, how to get the most out of it and how to set regular rhythms to encounter the sacred text. Students currently have a daily challenge of reading and reflecting on a part of Scripture from the gospel of Mark. Please pray with us that our young people will continue to encounter God as they read the Bible.

Some Wired students enjoying a game "chair basketball" during one of our social events.



Young Adults

Our young adults group continues to meet something close to fortnightly on a Sunday evening. We have been greatly challenged by some excellent teaching around the spiritual disciplines of Sabbath and fasting over the last couple of months and are currently enjoying a series presented by our very own Christopher Defibaugh. It has been such a pleasure hosting this group, many of its members were part of the intermediates ministry I began back in approximately 2008.

HPC Gatherings

This year we have kicked off a series of opportunities to serve and connect with one another at 11 am on the first Sunday of the month. To date we have enjoyed two beach cleanups, amazing water fun day, a "stations of the resurrection" walk through Duder Regional Park and an opportunity to make cards for the people we care for and want to encourage in our community. These HPC gatherings are open to anyone, and we would love to enjoy your company and our future gatherings.



"Caring Connections." Card making for people in our community.

An amazing afternoon of Water Fun at Eastern Beach



Smile a while

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you."

He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.' "

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"

2) How many seconds are in a year?

3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gates to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

A Blessing is "No"

I asked God to take away my pride.
 God said "No. It is not for me to take away
 But for you to give up."

I asked God to grant me patience.
 God said "No. Patience is a by-product of tribulation;
 It isn't granted, it is earned."

I asked God to give me happiness.
 God said "No. I give you blessings.
 Happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain.
 God said "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares
 and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
 God said "No. You must grow on your own,
 but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.
 God said "No. I will give you life
 so that you may enjoy things."

I ask God to help me LOVE others,
 As much as he loves me.
 God said "Ahhhh, finally you have the idea!" Anon.



Beach clean-up at Bucklands Beach

Some of our participants on our "Stations of the Resurrection" walk at Duder Regional Park



Matt Chamberlin

REPORT ON KINGS KIDS

Hello everyone,

Last time I wrote, we were just embarking on Term 1. Since then lessons have included a story about George Carver, a remarkable man from a very difficult childhood, who became one of America's great scientists. A committed Christian, he overcame many hurdles and helped countless people in his lifetime. In three days he prayerfully came up with 23 products to make from the peanuts he had encouraged poor Whites and African Americans to grow instead of cotton. (We made peanut brownies as our activity.)

His story led us onto thinking about The Fruits of the Spirit which were so evident in his life.

We spent a number of weeks on the stories of Easter and then, this term, have decided to concentrate on 'things Jesus said (Parables) and things Jesus did.'

No sooner is such a plan made, than things come up! So two stories of things Jesus did – 'Healing the man let down through the roof by his friends' and 'Jairus and his little daughter.'

Then – first Mother's Day and then Pentecost Sunday. We wanted to celebrate them both and so on Mother's Day we learnt about a Mother who wasn't actually a mum – but she certainly was loving and caring to many – Mother Teresa. We also found time to make shortbread for our wonderful mums and wrapped some lovely pot plants for them, kindly grown and donated by Saira Adil who has very 'green fingers'! Thank you Saira.

Steph told the story of Pentecost and the KK noticeboard is vibrant with red and gold leaf rubbings and doves. Do take a moment to have a look.

As you know, we have been looking for someone capable to take over the running of Kings Kids and we are delighted to tell you that Stephanie Chamberlin has agreed to take on this role. We feel so fortunate to have Steph add this to her busy life. And I am very glad to remain a teacher of our wonderful children and help where I can, but without the overall responsibility.

Thank you to all the mums and dads who have helped us this last term.

Together we 'fill the kete'.

Heather X



Greetings from the UK.

The primary reason for our visit was to compete in the London marathon. The event started at Greenwich where we waited up to 3 hours in cold windy conditions, the consequences of which became apparent during the event. However, the crowd support of over a million people lining the streets was incredible to over 56,000 competitors and our team completed the event successfully and has a very fancy medal of proof. The hundreds of hours of training paid off!

During our time in London we visited St Paul's. The cost to view the interior is £25 each but in true Presbyterian fashion we established that attendance at a lunch service is free so this enabled us to view at no cost. Our Scottish heritage was truly to the fore.

The same principle applied at Bath Abbey a few days later when we enjoyed a Choral Service as well as viewing the Abbey.

We have subsequently spent a week in Plymouth getting to know the City in which our son has decided to make his future. We remain in UK until his wedding mid June in Paxos, Greece.

*Margaret and Stewart
Littlejohn*

Look out for the next instalment
They will write something about their South West Coastal Path for the next edition (This has been an amazing walk).



It was lovely having time together and I had to spoil it by having a rather nasty fall. Lauren and Emily (a granddaughter) and I had gone to a Mall for a shopping expedition and while standing at a café counter I caught my foot and fell like 'a ton of bricks'. I have twice tried to break my hip with a nasty fall but again I was unsuccessful!!!!!! However, I was struggling to walk and a Security man from the Mall helped to drag me to our car. When the pain got worse it was off to an emergency clinic where x-rays showed, thankfully, no breaks. Lauren's house is a split level with four different levels and therefore many stairs. The pain was unbelievable and I was crying as I slowly crawled up the stairs to my bedroom. I was stuck there for about 3 days before I could get up and down the stairs. Thank goodness, suddenly I began to improve and no longer had to be treated like a patient in a hospital. While I was still confined five of the family arrived in my room late on New Year's eve and we played a game and laughed a lot while the new year arrived. Even the family dog was allowed to visit. No one could have been in a better hospital. My daughter is a doctor and the rest were great nurses.



I recovered enough to enable our travel to visit one of the grandsons, Braden, who lives in Twizel out in the middle of Canterbury. He had moved there about 4 years ago as manager of the local Pharmacy, built a house, begun to raise a family and settled in as a citizen. It was great to see all of this and to find that, rather than being what I had thought was a

small town in the middle of nowhere, Twizel was in fact a lovely little, well cared for oasis. Apart from isolation I guess the main draw backs are extreme cold in winter and extreme heat in summer. In Twizel I also called on a cousin of Winsome Webster – one of our congregation. It was nice to take a personal message from Howick.

I returned home soon after that trip, having had over two weeks with the family. My cat was delighted to get out of the Cattery but I found that I could still hear voices, and would wake expecting someone to be around. I've settled down and am really grateful they were willing to put up with me for three weeks. It did go by so quickly and was so enjoyable.

Testimony by Rev. Andrew Bell

Lost and found

Until the day I was 'found' I didn't know I was lost! I was born into a Christian home. My family went to church every Sunday. That meant Sunday School or Bible Cless before church as well. I was actually doing church work when the Lord said to me, "I know you love me but, you must be born again." John 3: 3

I asked for that experience. I didn't know I had done anything to get lost and I didn't know I had done anything to be found, except acknowledge I was lost.

My prayer was answered with the greatest assurance. I belonged to Him.

Later in theological College I did my exit thesis on the Parables of Jesus. Amongst them, 'the lost and found' ones. Lost sheep, Lost coins, Lost son. Even though I didn't feel lost, I didn't have a family relationship with Him and he showed me how to be born into His family.

To be found, we need to realise that God is looking for us. Luke 15: 9-10 and admit that we got separated, by waywardness, thoughtlessness, indifference and selfishness, even ignorance.

But we must know we are definitely His children.
TO BE FOUND WE HAVE TO ADMIT WE ARE LOST. HAVE YOU?

Prayer

Father God What I think and know about myself and you know about me personally, may be very different. Thank you for seeking me, enlightening me and showing me how to be Your chosen family member.
Amen.

Finance Report from Parish Council

Financial summary for the 10 months ended 30 April 2024.

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
<u>Income</u>		
Offerings	175,964	161,832
Property income	85,951	81,109
Opportunity shop	22,736	22,799
Interest	20,400	19,500
Other income	24,686	9,575
Total income	332,136	292,416
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Remuneration	135,758	146,274
Property expenses	126,178	101,957
Levies (PCANZ, Presbytery)	18,308	18,260
Other expenses	67,324	68,032
Total expenditure	347,568	334,523
Operating surplus (deficit)	(15,432)	(42,107)

Paihia was lovely. The weather was good and as we were quite far north the trees and plants were in full bloom. There were masses of red blooming pohutukawas, lovely lilac flower covered jacarandas and an abundance of agapanthus flowers. I understand these have been virtually classed as noxious weeds in Auckland sadly. They do make a really lovely display of bloom.

I have visited Paihia and the North many times but there were things I had never experienced. We went over to Russell on the Opuia car ferry, up the hill to examine the historic flag pole, visited and shopped at Kerikeri, shopped in Paihia also – they have some nice small stores. A carol service was held in the beautiful stone church built on the site of the first missionary church – we attended that in the early evening and topped that off with a fish and chip dinner at a restaurant where the food was served wrapped in butcher paper as we sat at tables outside. Ordinary things but rather exciting for me, particularly to be with Lauren and James. If we went anywhere where the ground was rough or the steps very steep, Lauren and James just hooked a hand under each of my arms and away we went.

We returned to Auckland late on 22 December which meant I was able to attend the funeral service for Marilyn Wallace on 23rd December. She and I had met when were both engaged, we were married within a few weeks of one another and from that time lived near one another; we spent about 60 years attending St. Andrews and being involved together in women's groups in the Church.

December 23rd saw Lauren and me quickly preparing food for a Christmas meal with my sons, Philip and Matthew and their families. It was lovely and surprising how eleven people fitted into my new, small home at Fairway Gardens.

Sunday, 24th December, Lauren, James and I attended church, cleaned out the refrigerator, packed our cases again and headed for a 5 pm flight to Christchurch. Lauren and James had five children and four of them were to be with us on Christmas day. That also meant two husbands, three little ones and two dogs. Christmas day was lovely. I don't see all of the family very often and had not met my 9 month old great grandson previously so enjoyed him and the other two gg children aged nearly 2 and 5. There was lots of noise, lots of mess and lots of love. I think even the two dogs were excited to have so much action. My daughter must have decided she couldn't sit still so arranged for everyone to be there for a brunch the next day. The variety of food was like a first class hotel.

Crystal Seel tells of her fairly ordinary Christmas holiday adventures but to her, very exciting.

When I was younger I travelled frequently, both nationally and internationally with Lomond, but as age advanced that came to an end. Over the last few years I have hardly left Auckland so when I was invited to join my daughter and son in law for a little travel I had the excitement of looking forward to it during the latter part of 2023 and then actually getting going.

Things got started by having to deliver my cat to a Cattery. She wasn't very impressed but they did treat her well and sent me messages about her. Her holiday at the Cattery cost a lot more than my travelling expenses!!

My daughter and son-in-law (Lauren and James) live in Christchurch; they arrived at Auckland airport on the morning of 16th December, I met them with my car and James immediately took over the driving heading north to Paihia. It was lovely to sit in the back seat and look at the countryside passing by – when you get to the stage of having to drive yourself everywhere that can't happen. By early afternoon we arrived at Waipu which had been peopled by Nova Scotians in the 1800s. This is my heritage – I am a Nova Scotian by birth. We had a little walk around town, a quick visit to the museum and a nice lunch before leaving the main road and driving out to Lang's Beach. Lomond and I had spent a few days of our honeymoon in Lang's Beach in 1960! – at that time there was only a handful of houses but now it is quite well populated. It was fun to have a look. We moved on to Paihia and settled into the time share Lauren and James owned.



Offerings

Offering income continues to be above budget. Thank you everyone. This includes thank offering receipts to 30.4.24 of \$17,633 (budget \$18,000).

Hall/**sanctuary**/café/chapel

Income from the use of the hall/sanctuary/café/chapel by user groups outside the parish continues to increase. It is wonderful to see the buildings being used more often.

Interest income

Interest from cash deposits continues above budget as the interest rates have remained higher for longer than expected.

Opportunity shop income

Income reported from the op shop includes a prior year adjustment but the shop continues to provide amazing support for the church. Thank you to the op shop committee and all helpers.

Chapel Maintenance

A major project to repair parts of the chapel has now been completed at a cost of \$28,240. Thanks to Merv and the property team for seeing this through.

Remember, that you can claim a tax credit from IRD of up to 33% of your donations to the church and other charities. If you haven't done this in the past, it is well worth doing (and you can go back 4 years). If you need any assistance with this (or you need copies of previous receipts), please let me know. I will be available in July to meet with anyone needing assistance to work through their claims.

HPC issued receipts for the year ended 31 March 2024 totalling more than \$190,000. If tax credit claims were made for all these amounts donated, the tax credit returned to members of the congregation would be more than \$62,000. Just imagine what could be done with that.....

If you have any questions about HPC finances/offerings/expenses, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be on leave from mid-May to the end of June.

Elizabeth Tremlett

021 172 6555 or treasurer@howpres.org.nz

The Touch of the Master's Hand

Kindly given by Glad Nanckivell

'Twas battered and scarred and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin, but held it up with the smile, "What am I bidden, good folk," he cried. "Who'll the start the bidding for me?" "A dollar, a dollar"; then two "only two? Two dollars and who'll make it three?" "Three dollars once; three dollars twice; going for three." But, "No", from the room, far back a grey haired man came forward and picked up the bow; then, wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening the loose strings, he played a melody pure and sweet as a carolling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said, "What am I bid for the old violin?" And he held it up with the bow. "A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two? Two thousand! And who'll make it three? Three thousand once, three thousand twice, and going and gone," said he. The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand what changed its worth." Swift came the reply, "The touch of a master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and scarred with sin, is auctioned cheap in the thoughtless crowds, much like the old violin. A 'men of pottage,' "a glass of wine, a game – and he travels on.

"He is going once and going twice. He's going and almost gone." But the Master comes and the foolish crowd never can quite understand the worth of a soul and the change that's wrought by the touch of the Master's hand.

Myra Brooks Welsh

It was a great cruise around New Zealand for Barry, Val, and Allan.

On February 21st we embarked the Norwegian Spirit for twelve days, departing from Auckland and disembarking in Sydney. Once on board we had fun navigating our way around enjoying the different restaurant choices, leisure lounge with many board games, wonderful selection of shows at night and much more.

Our first port of call was Tauranga and wonderful having our families who live there, come and meet us for lunch. We then cruised onto Napier, Wellington and Lyttleton. It was fun meeting up with many of my pageant girls from over the years in Wellington. I arranged a lunch at the Wellington Harbourside. From Littleton we took a shuttle bus into Christchurch and toured around this lovely City. Here we met up with another pageant darling Tamara. I first met Tamara and her family when they arrived from South Africa over twenty years ago. Tamara told me she had never worn a skirt or dress until she met me competing in Miss Howick. Tamara is now a surgeon with a PHD.



Another highlight was being met by Sue and Rod Sommeriville in Dunedin. They gave us a brilliant full day tour around Port Chalmers, Dunedin City, amazing views from Signal Hill, visiting the First Presbyterian Church in Dunedin with great history and home for a beautiful lunch at their gorgeous home with stunning views.

The next day we had a beautiful experience of close up views as our ship cruised around the Fiords. It was like a mill-pond. Then 2 nights 3 days at sea in beautiful weather to Melbourne – Sydney and home. We all had a great time and love cruising.

Lynne and Colin Rodgers have been in Edinburgh—St Giles Cathedral



ST ANDREW'S CHILTON KINDERGARTEN

QUALITY CHRISTIAN CARE AND EDUCATION

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Facebook: [StAndrewsChilton](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsChilton)

May 2024

Hello everyone,

What an amazing start to term 2 - we have had the opportunity to welcome some new families into our kindergarten, and also to see siblings of some of our enrolled children attending too. We are all looking forward to developing relationships with our new families, and to encouraging their children to grow, learn, explore, be adventurous and to have lots of fun.

As part of our project for this term, connected relationships with places and people, our children went on a walk around the Church complex. They loved jumping amongst the autumn leaves, meeting people at both the Opportunity Shop and the Toy Library, and to being able to view the Chapel and the Sanctuary. We will continue with this learning experience as it is something the children really enjoy, and helps them to understand what we can do to support our surrounding environment too. Children generally love outdoor play and adventures, and within the Church complex, there are several areas where they can truly just appreciate what is around them.

Other celebrations for us this term have included Anzac Day where the children brought their favourite teddy bear or other toy, made poppies for their toy, and helped the teaching team with making Anzac biscuits. Baking is always a popular treat at kindy, and each child has a turn at using the ingredients, mixing, shaping and best of all, tasting!

Mother's Day was an especially wonderful experience where the children made candle holders using jars and paint/glue, wrote individual notes on love hearts for their mums and gave each mum a cookie. These type of experiences allow the children to show their creativity and to think about what they can do that is special for their mum.

We are going to have a Pyjama Day this month – children wear their favourite pyjamas or onesies, and bring a cuddly toy. It is always an exciting day with lots of laughter, warm toast and a short, child friendly movie.

Blessings to you all as we head into the cooler weather. I absolutely love the autumn colours, and on a recent trip to Papamoa Beach, I saw the glorious gold and red/orange leaves on the trees – beautiful to look at and reminded me of some very special places in the South Island.

Blessings to you all

Janine Leaming
Finance & Operations Manager

The Opportunity Shop

The Opportunity Shop is as busy as ever. We are now open again from 9am till 2 pm Monday and Wednesday while a group of willing workers sort and price goods in the back room—or ‘Depot’ as it is known! We are then open on Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Thank you so much for those who respond to Elizabeth Georgeson’s request for help when she phones and asks if you can serve in the shop.

For those who have never served—give it a go!!

I’m sure Elizabeth would gladly receive offers of help. It is a great way to get to know people and is a lot of fun

Thank you to all who have donated goods for the shop. A big thank you to Peter Scott who checks our electrical goods to make sure they are working and safe.

Many thanks to the committee for all they do in the smooth running of the shop. It is a great way of helping the community with our bargain prices! People are very impressed with it.

Have you seen the new sign on the corner?

Margaret Guyan

We were lucky enough to tour the prehistoric temples of Malta and Gozo that are UNESCO world heritage sites. These temples date back further than the pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge. These islands are basically a desert so any land that is arable is made use of. Hence, we saw fields of broad beans and wheat in the middle of the city and even the middle of the university grounds! 98% of the permanent residents of Malta are Catholic and this is seen by the number of churches – 368 on Malta Island and 54 on Gozo Island, so you could go a whole year without having to go to the same church twice!! Camino, the smallest island only has 2 residents – cousins who are now in their late 70s. There is no electricity, running water, or roads on Camino let alone shops! Talk about being “off grid”.



Gozo Island has 4 remaining families that still harvest sea salt from the sea! This involves pumping water into square shallow rock formations and letting the heat of the summer sun evaporate the water and then harvesting the salt. It really is so yummy and surprisingly saltier than our table salt!

The salt pans

We also visited the iconic Blue Grotto and wow the water is so iridescent in the sun.

Tourism and artisan crafts are the main economic activities of the Maltese. So filigree silver work, pottery, lacework, glass blowing were available both for sale and our admiration wherever we were.

As you can imagine we returned with so many photos and beautiful memories of this whole trip, that it has been so hard to ration myself to just a few photos! The history, architecture, views, people, and soul of Malta were a treat and a celebration!



Valerie Klein

At the beginning of March, Raymond and I had the amazing experience of travelling to Malta. This part of our trip was part of a celebration of a professional award for Raymond. After a mammoth 38 hour transit time we landed in Malta, where it hit us that we were in a stunning, unique part of our glorious world.

What a treat for all our senses. We were accommodated in a sumptuous hotel suite with a stunning balcony view of the Med – oh! the sunrises were fabulous! The contrast of the incredible azure blue of the Mediterranean and the glowing yellow of the limestone architecture was a feast for our eyes.



View from the Hilton Hotel's suite's balcony



Winners Summit Awards Dinner



Ħagar Qim - one of 3 temples in the Megalithic Temples of Malta UNESCO sites

Flowers on Mother's Day

On Sunday 12th May, as we entered the sanctuary, we were each presented with a beautiful flower arrangement which Val and her Mother had carefully made of a white chrysanthemum and a sprig of rosemary for remembrance. It was Mother's Day so what better flower to use. Chrysanthemums often being known as "mums".



The word "chrysanthemum" comes from the Greek words "chrysos" meaning gold and "anthemon" meaning flowers. Over time chrysanthemums have been bred in various colours heralding the arrival of autumn, celebrating the season in a rainbow of colours.

This remarkable flower generally symbolises friendship, trust, joy, optimism, longevity and fidelity but different cultures have different meanings.

The chrysanthemum is native to China where they have grown for over 3000 years, originally cultivated as a culinary herb. It is now a symbol of wealth, longevity and new life. In Japan, the Chrysanthemum Throne is the throne of the Emperor of Japan. The chrysanthemum is also the proud symbol of national identity. It appears on passports and Japanese coins.

Thank you Val and Jane for your gift.

Stephanie Egan

Found on a letter dated 1967

"Be thankful when people think well of you,
Be humble in the realisation that you do not deserve it,
And be firm in your resolve to do your best to live up to it"

From the armchair

Being Welcoming.

From: 'The Trapp Family on Wheels' by Maria von Trapp (© Maria von Trapp 1959).

'A refugee is not just someone lacking in money and everything else. A refugee is vulnerable to the slightest touch: he has lost his country, his friends, his earthly belongings. He is a stranger, sick at heart. He is suspicious; he feels misunderstood. If people smile, he thinks they ridicule him, if they look serious, he thinks they don't like him. He is a full-grown tree in the dangerous process of being transplanted, with the chance of possibly not being able to take root in the new soil. As far as we are concerned, our dear Pennsylvania friends took all these feelings away and made us secure; then, finally, it was Craig Burt, of Stowe, who made us Vermonters at heart.' (page 58)

Maria von Trapp, the person who became well-known through the film 'The Sound of Music' knew what she was talking about. As we know from the film, she and her husband and children fled Austria before World War Two but what is not so well known is that they endure numerous hardships before being able to settle successfully in the United States of America.

New Zealand accepts a number of refugees every year and all are accommodated at the Mangere facility where they are helped to settle into this new country. Unless we come into contact with a refugee, we probably don't pay much attention to them. We often forget that Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus were refugees, fleeing to Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod.

I would though like to suggest that many of us have been refugees during our lives. We may not have fled our homelands and become refugees in the accepted meaning of the word but many of us have faced similar re-settlement challenges. Many of us have moved to New Zealand from another country, many of us have moved from one city to another within the country and many of us have faced redundancy. We can also think of the homeless as being refugees as they cope with a life which often lacks any security.

Whatever our circumstances, we have all been in that situation where we have had to re-establish ourselves, settle in, make new friends and learn the local customs. We have had to cope with uncertainty, knowing that if this new stage in our lives didn't work out, we have few alternatives to explore.

Take Time

Take time to think – thoughts are the source of power.

Take time to play – play is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read – reading the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray – prayer can be a rock of strength in times of trouble.

Take time to love – loving is what makes living worthwhile.

Take time to be friendly – friendships give life a delicious flavour.

Take time to laugh – laughter is the music of the soul.

Take time to give – any day of the year is too short for selfishness.

Take time to do your work well – pride in your work, no matter what it is, nourishes the ego and the spirit.

Take time to show appreciation – thanks is the icing on the cake of life. Anon.

This a classic example of the tall poppy syndrome. The services the Kailakuri Health Centre provides it's poor rural clientele are indisputably second to none. Edric Baker's system of training the poor to service the poor has been an outstanding success in delivering health care to the very poor.

Surveys have shown that 13% of first time medical-treatment seekers use government services, 27% use private hospitals and NGOs and a staggering 60% use private/informal and unqualified services.

Sister Julianne Hayes-Smith (who has spoken to our Soup and Rolls luncheon group) of the Marist Sisters of Asia/Pacific who have worked in Bangladesh for decades has this to say: "My experience is that these Government officials want to get some control over the Health Centres such as the one at Kailakuri. They will gradually put their own doctors from Government hospitals in and then these doctors do very little...often only turning up a couple of times a month in order to get their salary. Having Government trained registered nurses is also going to be a challenge. Our experience is that they will think they know everything and really look down on the paramedics and staff that Edric trained and who actually have more knowledge than they do!!"

Bangladesh has a hotchpotch of 90 pieces of legislation which imperfectly regulate the government health services and private hospitals. There is no legislation regulating NGOs providing health services. Given this deficit, the government is now trying to force Kailakuri to conform with the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulations) Ordinance 1982. This Ordinance is aimed at medical Doctors running private hospitals and laboratories. It has no relevance to an NGO rural primary health care centre.

Kailakuri staff are proudly dedicated and committed to their work. They have decided that they must stand up to government and find a way to get official approval of the model that Edric Baker evolved whereby local residents can be trained to service their own community. They are now embarking upon a series of meetings with the Provincial Civil Surgeon, the Health Department Clinic Licence and Control Officer, and a very handy contact in the Prime Minister's office who has been impressed by Kailakuri and helped them through a couple of tight bureaucratic situations in the past. Please remember these in your prayers – the good, not so good and the bad.

Peter Wilson

In her comments about refugees, Maria von Trapp acknowledges how friends had made them feel at home, had allowed the Von Trapp family to feel secure. When we arrived in New Zealand, the kindness and friendly welcome we received at Howick Presbyterian Church made it a lot easier to settle down and feel secure.

Just as their friends in Philadelphia and Vermont helped the von Trapp family settle down, I pray that we at Howick Presbyterian Church are always willing to help those who are finding their feet in a new country or those who feel lost as the world in which they felt secure has changed.

Ron Galliers

Lunch in Homes—with Liz and Geoff Foster

Who is more welcoming?



Girls Brigade

It was delightful to start our 2nd Howick Girls Brigade on a Tuesday evening in February. We have been lucky to welcome some new faces and all the girls from last year returned, now totally 20 in our company. During the first term at Girls Brigade, the weather and light enable us to enjoy our beautiful neighbourhood. This year, we did walks through our local parks (Macleans Reserve) and beaches (Cockle Bay) each evening we gathered both as a company and with the extended Girls Brigade families. The Easter Egg walk was especially a hit along Bucklands Beach – I wonder why? Many of the youngsters returned home with flotsam and jetsam with encouragement to get creative with it. Then the final night of Term 1 was an exciting, exuberant evening at Extreme Edge Rock Climbing – for some of the bigger kids as much as anyone!



Term 2 has started with the blessing of being able to make and gift our mothers with sets of infused oil and vinegar and handmade cards. We are looking forward to more friendship, fun and faith sharing each Tuesday evening 6:15 pm – 7:45 pm

Valerie Klein

Edric developed a low-cost way to treat diabetes, which could be provided for \$64 for a year's treatment, instead of the \$1000s per treatment in western countries. In 2022, the clinic treated over 28,000 people at an all-in cost of servicing one outpatient, including staff time, overheads and medicine was NZ \$3.00 The all-in cost of one inpatient for 24 hours was just \$11.00

Dr Edric Baker, a remarkable NZ'er with complete dedication to providing health services to those no other doctor would serve. Very strong in his faith and his focus, his dedication saved the lives of many thousands of people.

Call Me Brother is available at \$25 from Peter or Thelma Wilson (pntwilson@gmail.com Tel. 022 600 6922)

Highly recommended.

Bill and Heather Milnes

Your Prayers are Needed for Kailakuri Health Centre, Bangladesh

Much has happened in the last month - the good, not so good and the bad

The Good

Drs Jason and Merindy Morgenson from the USA along with their four children returned to Kailakuri at the end of April.

The Not So Good

The Morgensons are only on a three month Tourist Visa. In accordance with the proper procedures they have applied for a Working Visa, but very few of these are being issued these days. Bangladesh professionals don't like to see foreigners working in their country. Whether they will be able to stay on or not remains to be seen.

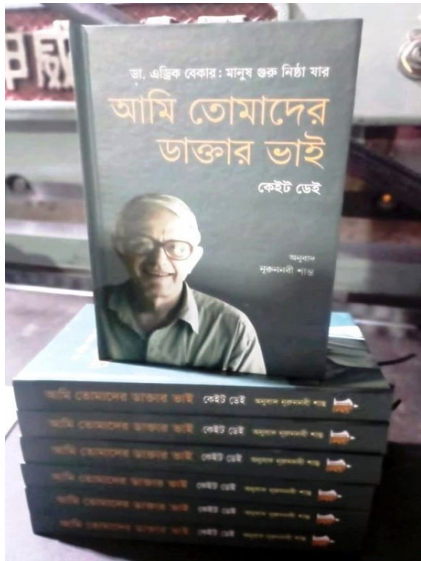
The Bad – Devastating News

An official Bangladesh Government letter was received second week of May advising that if not registered as a hospital and employing many more Doctors and government-trained nurses within 30 days, the Kailakuri Health Centre will be compulsorily closed down.

Call Me Brother - The Story of a NZ Doctor in Bangladesh. By Kate Day

This is the fascinating biography of Dr Edric Baker – ‘NZ’s Mother Teresa’ who committed his life to providing affordable health services to the poorest of the poor. Driven by the idea the healthcare should be available to every person, rich or poor, he was drawn to South Vietnam, arriving in 1969 at age 27, at the height of the Vietnam war. He worked in various hospitals, was captured by the Viet Cong and after 4½ months in POW camp was deported from Vietnam. He contracted malaria and returned to NZ to recuperate.

Still committed to his calling as a doctor to the poor, he went to PNG and then to Zambia, until in 1979, Edric moved to Bangladesh where he served for 36 years until his death in 2015.



His unique method, was to train local people in nursing, midwifery and healthcare and to pay them a living wage. He rarely accepted any pay himself, as he had a shed to sleep in, and no family to support. He ate the food the locals ate, when they had food, and he slept on a dirt floor as they did. If patients could afford to pay something, they did so, but many could not, and in some cases volunteered as health assistants, in appreciation of the healing they had received. Various charities provided volunteer doctors, but they were usually for short periods of a few weeks or months.

Increasing demand for medical help identified the need for a 2nd hospital, and Edric trained his people to manage the existing hospital, while he set up the new one. He travelled between the hospitals, and house visits to the local villages on an old bicycle. When his bicycle seat was lost, he resisted a replacement seat, believing that the money should be used in the hospital, not for his benefit.

Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts which God has given me

I know them

How do I use them?

These gifts are Linked to God's Purpose

Connections with God's creations.

Birds SING without burdens or baggage,

They sing with JOY for GOD

We can hear them too ...

If we stop... and listen ... no burdens, no baggage

A friend walking

Taking a side path off the beaten track.

Down below us,

an unexpected, breath taking and extravagant view .

JOY shared in God's creation—no burdens, no baggage

Revisiting places and people

Connections once tentative

Grow and blossom into Friendships

With GOD'S GRACE

The gifts God has given me are of no use to me

They are only fruitful when put to His purpose.

Kia Ora SABB Supporters

After working hard rehearsing all of Term 1 the band had a fantastic time performing 2 shows at the Uxbridge Theatre on Saturday April 20 at 2.00pm & 7.00pm. The theme of the concert was "New Grooves" and the band were excited to deliver a bunch of new arrangements they had been working on including "Sticks" by Cannonball Adderley, "Quiet Night of Quiet Stars" by Antonio Carlos Jobim and a storming rendition of the Bruno Mars hit "Uptown Funk". Both concerts were very well attended and raised over \$2000 for Totara Hospice.

The band is currently on a break (also known as a SABB-atical) before we resume again in June to prepare for our next concert which is on Saturday July 20, 2.00pm at St John's Church in Papatoetoe. This concert will be a fundraising effort for St John's who are currently in the middle of an earthquake strengthening project. More information about this event, including how to reserve tickets, will be posted soon.

As always, SABB is very grateful for the wonderful support it receives from the HPC community.

*Nga mihi
Hamish Arthur
SABB Musical Director*

The man who wins is the man who works
Who neither labour nor trouble shirks.
He uses his head, his hands and his eyes.
The man who wins is the man who tries

Property Team Report

The Property Team has been busy around the Church Property especially in the recent months.

We are very pleased with the repaired building entrance of the Chapel and the new access ramp which is easier to negotiate.

The signage at the front of the Chapel was replaced in time for the 150 year Celebrations. Several signs around the grounds were also replaced including the OP Shop sign on the corner.

We are also happy to have the new lamp post lighting for the rear carpark to increase visibility and safety in the area.

A Roofing Committee has been formed and are communicating with the architects on this project. We hope to have more news later in the year.

The kindergarten interior was painted throughout, to repair some damages and brighten it up in January.

Greg Smith

Property Team Leader

Old but still good

A lot of folk are like wheelbarrows—not good unless pushed
Some are like canoes—need to be paddled
Some are like kites— if you don't keep a string on them, they fly away
Some are like kittens— contented when petted
Some are like rugby balls—you can't tell which way they will bounce
Some are like balloons—full of air and ready to blow away
Some are like trailers—and have to be pulled
Some are like neon lights—keep on going on and off

BUT some are like a good watch—
Open of face, pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works!