



It was hard to get a picture of Keith Budge. He liked to remain in the background. Often at church events, he was the one behind the camera.

At services he was usually tucked away at the sound desk.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father....

Morning by morning new mercies I see.....

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

The Silky Oak in Windsor Park blooms faithfully every year.



ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

FEBRUARY 2025

Ranfurly St Otorohanga

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Linked together as disciples of Christ to share our faith with and give loving service to the community.



The Moderators: Rev Rose Luxford, Moderator of the PCANZ and Rev Tamiana Thrupp,, Moderator of Te Aka Puahou

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Jeremiah 42:2-3

All the people approached the prophet Jeremiah and said, "Pray to the Lord your God for us—for all this remnant. For there are only a few of us left out of many, as your eyes can see. Let the Lord your God show us where we should go and what we should do."

Heremaia 42:2-3

Ko te iwi katoa hoki ka haere mai, ā, ka mea a Heremaia poropiti, "Tēnā, ...māu hoki e īnoi mō mātou ki a Ihowā, ki tōu Atua, arā mō ēnei mōrehu katoa. He torutoru noa hoki mātou o te tokomaha i toe iho, e kite nā ōu kanohi i a mātou. Kia whakaaturia mai e Ihowā, e tōu Atua, ki a mātou te ara e haere ai mātou, te mea e mahi ai mātou."

The year of the Snake

It is interesting that this year in Chinese culture is to be the Year of the Snake. Did you know that in the Bible Jesus once compared himself to a snake? He said, "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Jesus was speaking of his forthcoming death on the cross and referring to the story in Numbers chapter 21. The Lord told Moses to make a metal snake and put it on a pole, so that anyone who was bitten by the poisonous snakes could look at it and be healed.

As we approach Waitangi Day, let us take the opportunity to engage with others to explore the different worldviews and understandings of Te Tiriti that exist and seek to build our bicultural relationships. This occurs through our Christian worldview and experience – following Jesus who was able to step into different settings and find ways of engaging with a wide range of people with grace, wisdom and compassion. We can ask ourselves, "What is Jesus calling us to do in this space?" And the light of Christ goes before us to guide and illuminate us.

As we have heard so recently in our Christmas season, "*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*" (John 1:4-5)

Ma te wa
Rose

Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Session report

This is a period of readjustment for St David's. Keith Budge's promotion to the nearer presence of our Lord has left many gaps to fill. We wait upon the Lord to show us how to proceed.

We are very grateful to Pauline Hampshire for taking services for us, as well as to Terry Cowland for continuing to come.

Elders number only 3 now. We are therefore particularly grateful to the Board of Managers for continuing to fulfil their role so well.

If you need to contact Session between 12 and 18 February, please ring Nina Mark. [Number on the front page.]

God's blessing upon the new year for you all.

Dawn Phillips

Session Clerk

Moderator's Message for Waitangi Day 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa

As I look forward to being at Waitangi again this year I think back to last year and the privilege it was to participate in both the Waitangi Day services alongside the Moderator of Te Aka Puahou, the Rev Tamiana Thrupp. Tamiana and his wife Honey, Executive Officer of Te Aka Puahou, were great companions to be there with. They guided me in terms of protocol on Waitangi Day, and the afternoon before we enjoyed the spirit of the place as we visited stalls, listened to different speakers, and partook of delicious kai. Many different cultures were there together and that felt very rich

There is of course much talk at present about Te Tiriti, and I have just finished reading a book a colleague gave me titled, *Huia come home* by Jay Ruka, Dean of Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary. On the back cover of the book is the following: "Using the story of the untimely extinction of the huia, Jay Ruka offers a fresh perspective on the narrative of Aotearoa; a tale of two cultures, warring worldviews and the things we lost in translation".

One section of the book pays particular attention to the story of Te Tiriti and the church's involvement which is very helpful. The knowledge of our history then leads into exploring our worldviews. Jay's book is written mainly for a Christian audience, but it is hoped that others will also find it helpful. It is a fascinating read, and I commend it to you.

It is so interesting to reflect on the reality of having different cultural worldviews and how that impacts how we react to different happenings. Our cultural worldviews also intersect with our faith understanding and God's ongoing work in the world. I have seen that throughout my ministry as different cultures seek to work together in parishes; in 2018 I undertook study leave in this area - "Moving from co-operation to community in multi-cultural congregations."

I have been reminded again of the dynamic of different worldviews in my time in Samoa for the Council for World Mission gathering. The cultural lens through which we view life influences our values, actions and decision making. It is shaped by many things and also carries many assumptions. And so, it is really good to have conversations with people from other cultures; to seek to understand how each other see and live in the world. Our assumptions can be broken, our eyes opened to new possibilities, and we become enriched through the process.

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Preaching Roster

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| Feb 2 | Terry Cowland |
| Feb 9 | Pauline Hampshire |
| Feb 16 | Pauline Hampshire |
| Feb 23 | Terry Cowland |
| March 2 | Terry Cowland |

Calendar for February 2025

Sun 2 10.00am Morning Worship
Wed 5 2.00pm Managers
Thurs 6 Waitangi Day
Sun 9 10.00am Morning Worship
Sun 16 10.00am Morning Worship
Sun 23 10.00am Morning Worship
Sun 2 Mar 10.00am Morning Worship
Sun 9 Mar 10.00am Communion

Copy for the March
newsletter is requested
by Monday 24 February.

The Editor

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our newsletter possi-
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PRATTS PLUMBING**ONE CALL DOES IT ALL
0800PRATTS 0800772887****07 873 6642****6 Main North Road****Thoughts on Waitangi Day, by Dave Mann**

- If we consider even our freedom to discuss the treaty today - our limitation of Government powers, as also these freedoms of speech, only exist like they do because of Christ in our history. The powerful have otherwise silenced the 'weak' in history - and this pattern has been true of basically all cultures.
- Regarding the ideas found within our Treaty - these were first penned by James Stephens Jnr - a believing Christian and nephew of William Wilberforce. He could perceive the injustice of colonisation.
- These notes then went through the hands of Lord Normanby in the Colonial office - who was also a devoutly believing Christian of the same 'Clapham Sect' ilk.
He passed them to Hobson with instructions to "stop this disaster [of colonisation], but if not possible to mitigate [soften] it." Hobson was known for being uncompromising and tough - which was the kind of person needed for this very difficult mission - which was also located on the literal other side of the globe!
- There was then trust from Māori on the ground here in New Zealand wherever there were Christian missionaries, because the missionaries had earned it. That is a story in itself!
Māori were, in those times, discovering Christ for themselves - having heard from the missionaries the story of a loving God who had made himself known through a Middle-Eastern Jew. At that time Māori were in the process of embracing and spreading this message throughout the entire nation - and at their own hands, ahead of missionaries. The ways of peace were replacing those of war nationwide. It was a time of tremendous change - because of the gospel!

St David's now have a box of the book called "Our Story". This is the New Testament of the Bible, plus little articles about famous people like Michael Jones, Mother Teresa, Muri Thompson, and Samuel Marsden. These are free. Just ask.