



Preservation Post

Newsletter of the Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)

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Issue 72 – July 2021

“Looking to the future to preserve our past”

Christ Church Taita

Upcoming Events:

Wellington Heritage Week

Open Day at the Church 12.00 – 3.00 pm

Sunday 31 October

Annual General Meeting

After a false start due to lack of a quorum on 10 April, our Annual General Meeting finally got off the ground following the Annual Service on 30 May. The President, Secretary, Treasurer (John Daysh, Janice Henson, John Stevens) and committee members Mary Stevens, Bruce Hutton, Joan Worthington, Greg Hooper, Tracey Buick, John Kennedy-Good, Daphne Daysh, Chris Pynenburg were re-elected.

167th Annual Service

The small attendance at this service enjoyed John Kennedy-Good's memories of his father's life and the family connection to Christ Church. A precis of John's speech is included at the end of this newsletter.

We are grateful to our President, Rev John Daysh for taking the service and

to Helen Russell for playing the organ. Helen is a life member of the Society and has been playing the organ for Christ Church for many years.



John Kennedy-Good

We have a new old organ

The Preservation Society was contacted early in the year by Neil and

Betty Baldwin in Waikanae offering to gift their organ, which they purchased from the Linden Anglican Church about 30 years' ago. They were informed at the time that it had come from St Christopher's Church, Tawa and they had purchased it in 1953 from Christ Church Taita. We are unsure why Christ Church would have sold this organ, but can only assume it was around the time the proposal to move the church to Stokes Valley was mooted and it was no longer required. It is smaller than the one we have had in the church for many years but around the same age (late 1800's) and fits neatly into the space beside the altar.



Ron Newton at our new old organ

We have had it serviced by Organ Man Ron Newton, who declared it a 'real gem'.

CCCMT Progress

The Museum Trust recently held a successful dinner, attended by 75 supporters, raising \$9,000 towards the erection of the new Visitor Centre.

The committee continues to work hard to bring the Visitor Centre to fruition.



Weddings

20 March

Carol Ann Murray to Speros Macris

3 July

Katharine Samuel to Bob Stewart



Memorial Service

25 April

Colleen Bowden

Interment

5 June

Marilyn Cameron

Remembering . . .

Ivan Staite who died peacefully at home on 4 July in his 90th year. Ivan was a descendant of the Harris Family and for many years has supported Christ Church with generous donations from the Harris Family Reunion Committee. These have included new pea metal for the path, the lovely oak table by the altar, the plaque on the Harris Grave which acknowledges the Harris Rose. Ivan and his family regularly travelled from Sanson to attend our services.

Shirley McKerrow, a life member of the Society who died in August 2020. Shirley's daughter Jan advises that Christ Church was Shirley's life – the family worshipped at the church for many years and Jan was married there in 1980.

Wellington Heritage Week

**Open Day Sunday 31 October,
12 noon – 3.00 pm**

Tell your friends and join us for a great afternoon. Be in to win your wedding booking for free!

Bequests for Christ Church Taita

Including a bequest for The Christ Church Preservation Society is a wonderful way to honour those who have gone before us and to ensure that we can continue to preserve and develop Christ Church.

Ashes Wall

A niche in our Ashes Wall costs just \$750.00 plus GST. Contact Janice Henson, Secretary, for further details. info@christ-church.org.nz

Annual Service Speech by John Kennedy Good:

Today we are gathered in this simple yet beautiful church which honours many of our forebears. Many of you have relatives buried here in the tranquil garden which envelopes Christ Church. Some of those relatives were pioneers who helped build and maintain this church and its garden setting. Many have worshiped here over the last 167 years as we are doing today. We carry the lived and unlived lives of our parents, grandparents, great grandparents as far back as DNA and genomes can trace. For some of us their mortal remains are present in this churchyard and their spirits and those of all the faithful departed are present with us at this very moment. They may be in another life dimension, but they connect with us in dreams, in memories, and in stories.

John's wife Catherine also has a connection to Christ Church through her maternal grandmother Myrtle Ada

Daysh. Catherine's mother Ada and John's father, Duff Daysh were first cousins who, along with Janice Henson, our long standing and dedicated secretary, are descendants of John Ings Daysh who donated the totara to build this church.

This is the story of John and June Kennedy-Good and how they came to rest at Christ Church. Unlike the Daysh family their connections with Christ Church are relatively recent.

John Kennedy-Good (better known as "Ken Good" to his friends of earlier years), served this city faithfully and well, as a citizen, city councillor and mayor, as did June, as his counsellor and constant companion.

John was born in New South Wales, the youngest of four boys, where his parents had moved temporarily from New Zealand before returning to settle in Invercargill where his father ran a butcher's shop. June was born in Invercargill. She had two older brothers and a twin sister.

Both John and June grew up in Invercargill. John attended Middle School and Southland Boys High School. As a youngster of the depression years, he recalled the privations and hardships of those times, like running around barefooted. Despite these hardships, he went on to study dentistry, after an uncle who was a dentist offered to sponsor his university education. He accepted this assistance, even though medicine would have been his own choice. Finances continued to be strained, forcing him to take a year away from his studies, when he worked as a steward on the M S Wanganella on the trans-Tasman run.

He returned with his funds restored to complete his training and graduate as a Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 1939. He married June in First Church Invercargill on 12 December 1940 and following a brief stint in Opotiki they settled in Lower Hutt. In doing so, John added his middle name "Kennedy" to his surname to avoid confusion with another local dental practitioner with a similar surname. So, John Good became John Kennedy Good. The hyphen came later. Nevertheless, he continued to be known as "Ken".

Like his grandfather Bill Jones, who served as the beloved Mayor of Whangarei for 23 years, fidelity and integrity were the defining characteristics of John's life. He lived as he believed and those beliefs were grounded in the gospel precept of love for one's neighbour. He was never content to stay still. Rather for him the road to holiness was through the world of action: through his profession, through community work with the Citizen's Advice Bureau and Rotary, through his interest in golf and horse racing and, most of all, as councillor and Mayor of Lower Hutt. Overarching all these activities was a love of reading and gardening. He found solace in both and his gardens were both creative and pleasing to the eye.

June, on the other hand, sought to provide hands on assistance to those in need, often traversing the streets of Lower Hutt on her motor scooter, both in her role as a lay helper to the Little Sisters of the Assumption, (the motor scooter nuns), and as the first president of Lower Hutt Mothers Helpers Association.

The family were regular attendees at what was then St Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Woburn Road. In 1958, the family was received into

the Catholic Church - a move at that time that astounded and dismayed both friends and relatives. But the family never lost its Protestant roots and we always felt comfortable in any Christian church.

It is believed that the garden setting of our Church in Taita with its surrounding graveyard created and maintained by many of you here today, attracted both John and June to purchase two plots in the cemetery.

The headstone was designed by a family friend - Patrick Clifford, a well-known and highly regarded Auckland based architect whose latest work is the much-acclaimed Christchurch library. Patrick had designed the headstone to honour his parents buried at Whenua Tapu Cemetery beyond Plimmerton. The initial inscription recognising John was agreed to by June who also wanted to include the word "Mizpah" which is a Hebrew word meaning 'watchtower' and is loosely interpreted as 'May God watch over you'. June interpreted this as "May the Lord keep thee and me while we are apart."

