



CHRIST CHURCH ~ taitā

WELLINGTON REGION'S OLDEST CHURCH

Preservation Post

Newsletter of the
Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)

Issue 73 – October 2021

Upcoming Events:

Open Day

Sunday 31 October, 12 noon – 3.00 pm
Celebrating Wellington Heritage Week



Annual Christmas Service

Thursday 25 November, 7.30 pm
Officiating Minister: Rev. John Daysh
Choir: David Dell & the Take Note Singers

New Website

Readers will notice a change in the heading for this newsletter. This is to coincide with our new, updated website, www.christ-church.org.nz. Digital Promotions have been working hard for some time now to make our website easier to navigate and give it a modern look. We're certain you will be impressed.

A huge thank you to Stephanie and Ben from Digital Promotions for being so easy to work with and understanding of our needs.

Celebrating Wellington Heritage Week:

We are holding an Open Day on Sunday 31 October as part of Wellington Heritage Week. The Church will be open from 12 noon through to 3.00 pm, with graveyard tours at 1.00 and 2.00 pm. There will also be the opportunity for couples to book their wedding at Christ Church and go into a draw to win the booking. Encourage your friends and families to join us to share and learn about connections to Christ Church. Refreshments will be served for a koha.

Christmas Service – Thursday 25 November, 7.30 pm

For those members who live locally, the annual Christmas Service is a wonderful event and we encourage you to join us for this occasion. The Christmas Cake has been made ready for everyone to join us for supper after the service.

Christ Church Preservation Society – the future *Clarion call to Christ Church Families*

Although our financial position is reasonably secure and enables us to cover the cost of some gardening services and minor and major maintenance of the church, we are very dependent on the contribution of a small number of volunteers, together with the assistance of community service workers provided through the Department of Corrections, for the upkeep of the church and graveyard. If we had to pay for these services our financial resources would be under more pressure.

But what is more urgent at present is ensuring the continuance of the administration of the Society. For this we need more support from the families associated with Christ Church. It was because of the efforts of your families that the taonga we have at Christ Church has been preserved to honour the past generations and to lead us into the future.

The urgency of this request is necessitated by the fact that our secretary, Janice Henson, who has been the king-pin of the Society, will

be retiring from the committee next year. Janice has done so much for Christ Church for over 20 years and others need to pick up the mantel. Our President John Daysh will also be retiring from that position.

There are two things we ask you to do right now. First, that each family ensure that the next generation is being signed up for life or annual membership and second, that your family ensures that it has at least one representative willing to make a direct contribution to the running of the society by being available for a role on the committee. To be frank, if this doesn't happen the society will before long need to be wound-up and the property handed back to church administration.

The committee of the Society has remained static for a number of years' now and it is time for some new blood.

Please act now. We should not wait until the next annual meeting before trying to fill the gaps.

John Stevens
Treasurer

CCCMT Progress

Plans for the Visitor Centre are progressing well and while there are still funds to be raised, the Committee of the Visitor Centre is confident they will raise the full amount required to bring the Centre to fruition in 2022.

Avalon Public Hall Centenary (now known as the Mabey Road Hall)

In 1922 Taita was largely a rural area and the community decided they need a meeting place. After an initial meeting they raised 700 pounds, the

cost of material and the Hall was built with mostly volunteer labour. It was opened on 14 October 1922 by the then Prime Minister, Rt. Hon W.F.Massey.

Dawn Chambers is doing historical research, in particular endeavouring to trace original donors and information so we can produce a history. Our intention is to have celebrations over the weekend 14-16 October 2022 and again any material, photos etc that could be useful for display would be welcomed.

Please contact: Alan Stevens, on behalf of Avalon Public Hall Committee, at:
alanstevens36@outlook.com

Memories from a CCPS member:

The Secretary is often privy to memories of Christ Church back when it was a thriving part of the Taita community. Ian McArthur, a direct descendant of Daniel and Elizabeth Peck, shares his memories:

An early memory of the church is traveling to Sunday school on my mother's push bike with younger sister Janice seated on the seat while I stood on the pedals - up past the Taita school / the Oaks / and the Pub.

If we were the first there, the key was always kept on top left of the beam in the porch. The church hall must have been burnt earlier as I can only

remember Sunday school in the Church.

Self Help shop on High Street, adjacent to Mabey Road and the little shop just before the School. (Meat Pies were 3 pence!)



Weddings/Interments

Unfortunately Covid has forced the postponement of a wedding and interment scheduled for September.

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.

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