



# CHRIST CHURCH ~ taitā

## WELLINGTON REGION'S OLDEST CHURCH

### Preservation Post

Newsletter of the  
Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)

Issue 78 – July 2023

### Upcoming Events: Open Afternoon - Sunday 5 November 12:30 to 4:30pm

**Greetings, here is the latest Christ Church news.**

#### **From the President**

Greetings to all our members, supporters and friends.

Although the year is already over half gone, we should remember that our purpose as protectors of the legacy we have at Christ Church is timeless. We strive to pass on to future generations the taonga we have in our church building and graveyard as a tribute to our forebears who worked to support themselves and their whānau with the encouragement of their Christian belief. It is very special that Christ Church stands out as a haven in a commercial environment.

At our annual service on 18 June **Pricilla Williams**, a descendant of Henry Williams, was our guest speaker. It was unfortunate that there was only a small congregation to hear her talk about the Williams missionary families and the link to Christ Church, with a daughter

marrying Reverend Biddulph Hutton, first vicar at Taitā.

Our thanks to **Pricilla**, to **Reverend John Daysh** for leading the service and to **Helen Russell** as organist.

Our AGM followed the meeting and the existing committee was re-elected, with the addition of **Lorraine Berry**. Welcome to the team, Lorraine.

Our Performance Report has been signed off and will shortly be filed and available for searching on the Charities Register. Please contact us if you would like a copy sent direct to you.

We are a small team with a big responsibility. If you are able to offer more support yourself please contact us. At present we particularly need help with secretarial and website management tasks. You need not be living in the Hutt Valley.

The next event we are planning will be an open day during **Wellington Heritage Week – 28 October to 5 November**.

October will be a busy month, with the General Election on the 14th and the Rugby World Cup final on the 28th, so we will be opening on **Sunday 5 November from 12:30 to 4:30pm.**

Which brings me to my usual plea that all the families connected to Christ Church need to step up to the mark and encourage the younger generations to support the work we do. A good starting point is to get younger members of your whānau signed up as members so that they start to learn about their inheritance.

**John Stevens,  
President**

### **Progress with Visitor Centre**

We in the Preservation Society have been patiently waiting for nearly 10 years for the building of the Visitor Centre planned by the trustees of the separate trust established to promote this development, primarily as an educational resource. That trust now has the consent of the Anglican Diocesan Trustees, the Historic Places Trust and the Preservation Society to construct the building to plans consented to by Hutt City Council. We hope that they can get a builder started on this without further delay. They are also working with the local education sector and tangata whenua to develop the ways in which Christ Church can be part of the increased emphasis on teaching of local history in schools.

### **Working Bee**

Back in May a small but happy group spent an afternoon working around the grounds of Christ Church, weeding, adding compost and pruning. We were all ready for our afternoon tea at the end of our shift and enjoyed the time in the sun with good company, a hot drink and home baking!



### **Communication**

Our aim is to reach as many families who have a connection to our beautiful historic church as possible. Currently we do this in 3 ways – posting the Preservation Post to our Website, e-mailing copies to interested parties and mailing copies to those who have requested to receive the Preservation Post in hard copy. If you are currently receiving the newsletter in the post and would like to change this to e-mail, please contact me.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a copy of our newsletter by e-mail, who maybe currently missing out, please get in touch with me and I will add them to our list.

Maybe this would also be a good way to get our younger generation to take an interest in preserving our shared history at Christ Church Taita? If you have any other ideas that would generate interest please contact anyone on the committee.

Kind regards

**Margaret Hutchings**  
**[hutchings@actrix.co.nz](mailto:hutchings@actrix.co.nz)**



### **Weddings**

Congratulations to:

**Brooke & Logan**  
Saturday April 15th 2023

**Brianna Hartley Harrod**  
**Adrian Widdicombe**  
Saturday 29th April 2023

### **Funeral of Kay Menchi**

Kay Menchi's husband Daneil (Neil) Joseph Menchi was buried at Christ Church in 2007. Sadly Kay has also now passed away was buried in the family

grave on Wednesday 19th July 2023.  
Our condolences to Kay's family.  
The Menchi's presented the old family Bible with brass closures to Christ Church after the previous church Bible was burned in the fire which gutted the church in 1989.

**Ashes Wall** - A niche in our Ashes Wall costs just \$750.00 plus GST. For further details email: [info@christ-church.org.nz](mailto:info@christ-church.org.nz).

**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.

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