



# CHRIST CHURCH ~ taitā

WELLINGTON REGION'S OLDEST CHURCH

## Preservation Post

Newsletter - Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)

Issue 85 – April 2026

### Upcoming Events:

AGM - Sunday 7 June 2026 at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea.

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#### From the President

What a pleasure it has been to see all the improvements being made around our special place at Christ Church.

The star of the show, the church itself, is now resplendent in its new coat of paint. We can be thankful for the quality of the work done by our contracted painter. We must also thank



committee member **Bruce Hutton**, for driving the project, his friend **Henri Janssen** for setting up the contracts for painting and scaffolding and overseeing the work,

**Adrian Broad** for being our on-site liaison person and **Steve Hainsworth** for, at short notice, repairing wood where needed before painting.

We also thank **About Scaffolding** for waiving the daily hire charge and **Dulux**



for assisting with the choice of colour and donating paint.

And while all that was going on, we had the storm! There was quite a lot of damage to trees, with one choosing to fall on the shelter in the

graveyard covering the Singer Family memorial seat. Our great team of

volunteers were very quickly on the job of clearing away the fallen material and



tidying up. We can

thank **Alan and Rosemary, Brian and Virginia**, our

neighbour **Kelvin, Adrian** and some of **Alan's FENZ** friends for a huge effort.

That was on top of the great work Alan, Rosemary, Bryce and

Virginia have been doing around the churchyard, particularly the clearing of the easement on the south boundary.

At the end of March we were able to gather together to see the progress being made, with the church looking as sharp as a new tack and most of the damage in the churchyard dealt with. After a working bee in the morning, we all enjoyed a very generous BBQ lunch hosted by **Bruce** and **Seonag Hutton**, followed by a committee meeting.

The committee has recognised the need to urgently develop a policy for management of the trees surrounding the churchyard. We also discussed what would need to be done to manage the visitor centre, which we hope will be completed this year. Some of our committee have offered to assist the

visitor centre trust with getting the building completed and available for public use. We have also agreed to another congregation using the church on Sundays. **Valley Church**, with an Anglican tradition, will have a service at **10am**, while the **Church of Tonga** will meet at **12noon**. It will be a blessing to have the church used more often for its intended purpose.

It is encouraging that in this tough economic climate we are still getting a number of useful donations. But we will certainly need more support if we are going to deal with the trees which overhang the churchyard and could do much damage to headstones.

Meanwhile, we are working on improving our website to ensure that graveyard and genealogical information is kept up to date and easily accessed. Our thanks to committee member **Dawn Chambers** for leading this work.

In the middle of all this activity, we were saddened by the unexpected passing of **Reverend John Terris**. He was at the church, following up on the visitor centre project he has devoted so much time and energy to, in the morning of the day he died at home.

John, one time Mayor of Lower Hutt, MP and president of our society, was instrumental in having the church restored after the fire. His devotion to Christ Church and the history it embraces was a great blessing for all those who cherish it as a special sacred place.

We offer our condolences to Katie and all John's family. They have laid him to rest in the churchyard.

Kind regards  
**John Stevens**  
President

**Notice of AGM** - The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the church on **Sunday 7 June 2026**, commencing at **2pm**. If you wish to join on-line, please advise on [info@christ-church.org.nz](mailto:info@christ-church.org.nz)



**Adrian Broad** had the pleasure of hosting a group of **Hutt City Council Librarians and Archives staff** at Christ Church on

Friday 20 March. The group, led by Archives Specialist **Tricia Meehan**, enjoyed looking inside the Church and hearing about its 172 year old history in Taita.

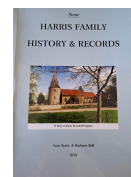
They also gained much knowledge from viewing the graves of the early Hutt Valley settlers.

It was of real value to Christ Church Preservation Society having Hutt City Council staff gaining knowledge of this historical community asset.

### **Harris Family History and Records**

Written by **Ivan Staite &**

**Barbara Ball** in 2018 - This interesting family history book is for sale for **\$30 plus postage**. The story begins with Abraham & Sophia,



with information on all of their children and then mainly follows the family of James & MaryJane Harris. If you are interested in purchasing one of these books or would like further information then please contact **Marg Hutchings** via e-mail - [hutchings@actrix.co.nz](mailto:hutchings@actrix.co.nz) or phone/text on **0276846456**.

### **Weddings**

**Dylan Turvey & Taryn Trueman**  
*Sunday 7th September 2025*

**Shaman Philoppose & Bensy**  
**Vaughese**  
*29th November 2025*



## **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. For further details email: [info@christ-church.org.nz](mailto:info@christ-church.org.nz).

**Bank Account Details** - Christ Church Preservation Society  
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