

Luncheon for Derek and Isa Christensen's
50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

CHURCH LIFE
JUNE 2017



Derek and Isa Christensen
celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary



Magazine for Mangawhai Mission District

St Paul's Kaiwaka St Michael's, Hakeru Christ the King, Mangawhai



Minister's Musings

As we head into what our Church Calendar calls “Ordinary Time”, when it is winter and when for a while there are no major highlights, here are some thoughts on two major church festivals just celebrated.

ASCENSION

The Ascension is always celebrated on a Thursday (this year it was May 25) and perhaps because of this does not get the recognition it deserves. The gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53) as well as Acts (1:9-11) record how the resurrected Jesus was taken up into heaven. This happened forty days after his resurrection, in the presence of his eleven remaining disciples. This event is also professed in the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds. It marked the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and set the stage for what was to follow. The Ascension of Jesus Christ celebrates the Son returning to the Father and signifies the success of his work on earth: all that he had come to do he had accomplished. Much has been written about this event and what it means – too much to even begin to summarise! However the following are among the major themes: the Ascension marked the return of Jesus' heavenly glory; it showed the Father was pleased with him and had given him a name above all other names; it allowed him to prepare a place for us; it marked the beginning of his new work as Mediator of the New Covenant; it set the pattern for his return. In simple terms, perhaps we could say that once again Jesus shows the way from earth to heaven; and reminds us that because he did it, we can too! It seems fitting that the liturgical colour is white – for purity, light, clouds, rocket vapour!?



PENTECOST

This has nothing to do with the cost of pens nor bottled up frustration. Those with a geometric interest might notice something to do with the number “5” (think pentagons). “Pentecost” is the English version of the Greek “pentekostos” which means “fifty”. Christians borrowed this from Greek-speaking Jews who used it to refer to a special Jewish festival. Also known as “Shavuot”, it was originally a harvest festival (see Exodus 23:16) which had turned into a commemoration of the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai. This was fifty days after the Exodus, and was celebrated fifty days after Passover (see Leviticus 23:16). The day of Pentecost became significant for Christians

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A Piece of Cake

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers.

"Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple raw eggs?"

"Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?"

"Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies, "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

Life may not be the party we expected... but while we are here we might as well dance.

Hope your day is a "piece of cake!"



because seven weeks (fifty days) after the resurrection of Jesus, during this festival, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the first followers of Jesus; empowering them for their mission. Before this it could be said while there were followers of Jesus, there was no movement that could be called "the church". Pentecost can be seen as the day the church began – and so some people think of it as "the birthday of the church". This was the beginning of the large scale spreading of the Gospel. Acts 2:41 records that when Peter spoke after receiving the Holy Spirit, some 3,000 people were baptised. Pentecost is celebrated ten days after Ascension, and this year it was June 4. It is marked by the colour red – for the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Together may we be able to recognise and celebrate the presence and power of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, at all times and in all seasons.

Shalom, Wayne

Christ the King Report

This quarter of the year started on a sad note with the loss of our dear friend and stalwart of the Church, Lorraine Lusty. We had a lovely, flower filled celebration of her life on the 31st March. It was a fitting send off to a very special lady who will be much missed, not only by her family, but our church family as well. We also lost Noel Cullen in May this year after a long battle with illness. We celebrated his life with Jocelyn and his family at a very well attended funeral at Christ the King – a confirmation of his standing in the community, and an appreciation of the work he had done over many years.

On a positive note, we have had some additions to our congregation and it's lovely to see new faces enjoying our services and fellowship.

We had our AGM at St Paul's this year with communion followed by lunch and then the meeting. Helen and I both tendered our resignation as wardens. Lindsay McCaw has taken over as Priest's Warden and Trewby Bull and Margot Christie-Linnell will share the People's Warden position. Thank you to the all for taking this on. Helen and I have both enjoyed our time as wardens but are grateful to pass this on to "new blood".

April began our Stations of the Cross with many beautiful and thoughtful crosses made by members of the congregation. We commemorated Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday with great attendances and many new faces as holiday makers joined with us in celebrating the risen Christ.

Our coffee mornings at members of the congregation's homes are going well with people enjoying fellowship and including neighbours and friends, expanding our presence in the community.

The hall continues to be busy with various groups hiring the lounge area – the craft and sewing group with Kim Thornton, various exercise groups, and th Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Garden Club. All help us to cover costs and make us known in the community.

Rhythm 'n' Riggle is still enjoying good numbers with our “resident Grandmas”, Helen, Margaret W, Gwen and Sue, plus of course Wayne making sure it all happens smoothly, especially the technical side.
Thank you to all for the amazing job you do to make our Church the beautiful, welcoming and fulfilling place it is. The Church is God’s house, but it is also about the people who give so much of themselves, willingly and joyfully.

God Bless
Helen McDonald and Sue Hamilton-Wallace

St Michael’s, Hakaru Report

There hasn’t been much activity at Hakaru since our very enjoyable service on the 30th April led by Rev Canon Bob.

Luckily the picnic didn’t have to take place as we had recently had a lot of rain, the Hakaru Hall was free for us to use at the last moment. "Praise the Lord" he does look after us!

We are so grateful to the Lusty Family who acted on Lorraine’s instructions to deposit a very healthy donation for the future maintenance and lawn mowing of the St Michael’s Church and grounds, we are so grateful as funds were getting quite low, it doesn’t mean we don’t have to fund raise when the opportunity arises though.

It is encouraging to get phone calls from from relations of deceased family to let us know they are planning on such 'n such a date to have a working bee on their loved ones' graves, and this has happened a couple of times recently.

We now have the power poles at the parking area thanks to Paul Lawrence, but there is a bit of fine tuning to be done to place them in the safest and most effective position.

Well folks not much more to tell we are looking forward to our next service on July the 30th at 11-30 a.m

See You all there.
Ann Dowson

Password Problems!



Today I went to the restaurant. I saw there is WIFI service. So I ask for the password. The waitress told me eat first. So I place my orders. After eating I ask again for the password and again she told me eat first. Feeling frustrated, again I order black coffee. After drinking again I ask for the password. They told me eat first. I then angrily ask the restaurant manager for the password. He replied eat first. Before I wanted to explode, I finally saw a sign showing the WIFI password: "eat first"

Seeing Stars

Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?
Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?
Customer: Five stars.

Jesus and Satan have an argument as to who is the better computer programmer.

The disagreement goes on for a few hours until they decide to hold a contest to determine the winner. They ask God to be the judge. They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously, lines of code streaming up the screen, for several hours straight. However, seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes, taking out the electricity. Moments later the power is restored and God announces that the contest is over.

He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly shaken and cries, "I have nothing. I lost it all when the power went out." "Very well then," says God, "Let us see if Jesus fared any better." Jesus enters a command and the screen comes to life in a vivid display of graphics and colours, and the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. Satan is astonished. He stutters, "B-b-but how? I lost everything, yet Jesus' program is intact! How did he do it?"

God chuckles and says, "Everybody knows... JESUS SAVES."

The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. Luke 24:51 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:44-53



B T Q O M D Q S U F F E R U F
 F N C Q W O P S A L M S T S A
 G X N Q O F S M Z Z H N U C O
 B B Y C R O T E C M E T N R J
 R A P R S R S P S P F E C I A
 N I G Y H G U P E G K D L P S
 Z F S F I I M R N A N W D T P
 B J Z E P V F S T A Y E E U O
 X L K R E E G J T Q L H J R H
 E T E U D N X S Y L P D U E T
 E S X S E K R K I O E A M M P
 J S X V S E W F R N D X I C H
 A X A B D I L P E U V V N O R
 D E C N K U N P L F J S D Q S
 H R U I F H O G G V Y K S L C

RISE	REPENT	PROPHETS	TAKEN
SUFFER	PSALMS	OPENED	FORGIVE
HEAVEN	SCRIPTURE	FULFILLED	MOSES
WORSHIPED	BLESSING	UNDERSTAND	MINDS

St Paul's, Kaiwaka

Our Easter celebration was a combination of a family service with the Eucharist included. The date for the 3rd Sunday worked out well for us this year as we don't always have a service on Easter day. It was good to welcome friends and family members and we topped our usual numbers.

Both John and Edith are back attending services, though Edith reports she has a 'quite a way to go' before being back to good health. We continue to pray for her recuperation. John is back to preaching and leading our communion services on a regular basis, which is a definite answer to prayer. We greatly appreciate the consistent leadership of both John and Derek.

One recent highlight was the celebration of Derek and Isa's 50th wedding anniversary. It was lovely to share in the regular Sunday service led by Derek, supplemented by the addition of some friends and family members. A special morning tea followed. One of the benefits of being such a small (but select!) group was that the whole congregation was invited out to lunch. That doesn't happen very often. Mind you Isa is very often seen retrieving containers she has earlier sent away full of food or produce!

It's a treat to have various grand children with us from time to time as they visit their grandparents. Although we do not have a crèche or Sunday school Fay makes sure there is always a worksheet and some colouring in to be done. It's very cute when the little ones stand up and show us their work. We continue to pray for God's blessing on the lives of the children and grandchildren of our members.

Our services continue twice monthly as usual. The music is a mix of hymns and songs with organ or guitar. Likewise, some intercessors use the prayer book, while others write their own. Generally we all like to take the opportunity to light a prayer candle when these are offered. The next special Sunday is our Patronal service on 2 July, which we look forward to Wayne leading.

Margot Christie-Linnell



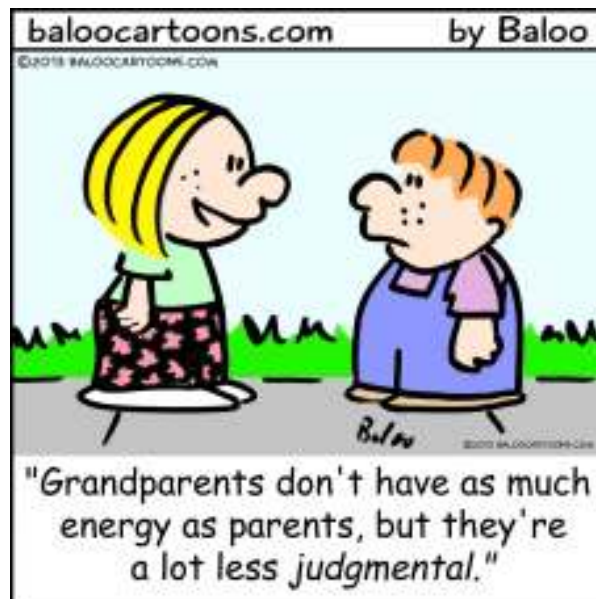
The Next Combined Mission District Event

QUIZ!!!

Mark your diaries, calendars, digital assistants for our next combined Mission District event. This is the "Annual Quiz Challenge". Last year it was a "Trivial Pursuit" type quiz; this year it will be a different style of quiz, and fun for all. We will begin with a cup of tea etc as we gather from 3pm. Then we'll have the quiz and finish with soup and rolls. Sunday 9 August at the Archie Bull Hall, St Paul's Kaiwaka. Talk to our "Quizmaster" Wayne for further information. Look forward to seeing you all there!

Focus on GRANDPARENTS

The second of our "Community Focus" services for this year will be on Sunday July 16. At this service the aim is to celebrate the blessing that Grandparents are, and also include the special blessing that grandchildren are. This is an occasion to invite all grandparents and grandchildren to share in - so please invite those in your family and neighbourhood. There will be a delicious morning tea following the service! If there are grandchildren who are willing and able to be involved in this service in some way, please let our minister, Wayne, know. Mark your calendars and diaries for this special occasion: 9am on Sunday 16 July at Christ the King church.



Isa is a very keen gardener and has established gardens wherever we have lived including our beautiful wind swept property in Kaiwaka. She works as a volunteer in the St John Op Shop in Kaiwaka and also the Anglican Op Shop in Wellsford. Derek speaks in a number of churches regularly and is also chair of Kaiwaka Can, the local community group that works with Council for the improvement of Kaiwaka township.

Now thoroughly retired they spend time looking after their small property. Isa has a love of animals and we have sheep, ducks, chooks and a dog and a cat to keep us company.



Hospital Chaplaincy - a thank you!

To members of Mangawhai Mission District:

Of the ministry of our hospital chaplains, a patient put it this way: "Healing can be more quickly achieved when patients are at peace with themselves and their situation."

Because of you and other generous supporters, hospital chaplains are attending to the emotional needs and spiritual wellbeing of the sick and dying; patients far from family, lonely, depressed and grieving - regardless of their religion or beliefs.

That's a big ripple effect from your gifts. Thank you on behalf of patients you have helped.

Blessings
John Barnett

Fundraiser (connecting Hospital Chaplains with a caring community of funders) Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy

Church Profile:
Derek and Isa Christensen

Derek was born in Wellington 1941, most of child and teen years in Hastings then completed a BA in Philosophy and Psychology at Victoria University, Wellington. He then trained at NZ Baptist Theological College for ministry, graduating in 1966.

Isa grew up on a dairy farm near Matamata then went to Auckland University and Auckland Teachers College graduating as a teacher for both primary and secondary sectors. Isa and Derek met in Auckland in 1964 and married in 1967 and have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Isa and Derek served as pastor and wife in six Baptist churches in all, Putaruru, Taita, Henderson, then Mt Hagen Church in Papua New Guinea and back to New Zealand to Avonhead Christchurch and Pakuranga Auckland. At the end of 1994 Derek was taken on to staff at Carey Baptist College to set up a new mission studies diploma, a programme that has now grown to include Bachelor and Master's degrees with several hundred enrolled each year. A major feature was the introduction of distance education which Derek oversaw during his time at Carey. He also taught, mainly in mission studies and marketplace theology but also pastoral care, evangelism and World Religions. He retired from full time teaching in 2007 but has taught a number of courses since as a visiting lecturer. He has had a long term interest in cross cultural mission, particularly in tentmaking in mission, a form of mission working through employment placements across cultures to have a kingdom influence. He served for many years on the international tentmaking body and was chairman for several years. His Master's thesis was also in this area of study.

Isa taught briefly before marriage and then began relief teaching again in Papua New Guinea. On her return to New Zealand, she taught in many schools in both relief and permanent positions. She taught in both primary and secondary schools but had a long spell focused on intermediate schools. For several years while in Auckland she also ran a homestay business for overseas students and we had students from a range of countries living with us through this time.

Isa and Derek have four children and six grandchildren, now all in New Zealand but scattered at times in Europe, China and Thailand.

Derek has travelled extensively with his work especially in missions and where possible Isa has joined him and they have visited a wide range of countries.



At our AGM I expressed our plan to introduce something called “Tea Time Church”. This is still “church”, just not as we know it. Perhaps a helpful way to think of it is as church for people who believe church is not for them; who consider church is irrelevant, stuffy and boring; who have been put off church in the past.

“Tea Time Church” *is* church and definitely not a craft club. The underlying aim is to help people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour. It is for adults and children to enjoy together - the goal is to be relevant and accessible to all ages. Through activities, puzzles and quizzes Tea Time Church gives an opportunity to explore Bible stories, to reflect on a God of creativity and to interact together. Tea Time Church portrays a God of unconditional love and is a church for people “outside” church, providing an oasis of welcome and a safe space in which to learn and grow. It is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together – whether it’s a plate of sandwiches to share, or soup and rolls. Beyond all this it is a celebration: reflecting a God of joy who desires people to have life in all its fullness.

It works like this ...

People come in and sit around tables in the church lounge or hall. There is an activity for people to do as others arrive. Then there is a welcome and introduction of the theme. All the activities etc are based on this theme. For 30 – 45 minutes, at the tables, adults and children engage in activities, puzzles, quizzes – some are individual, some require working together and some might be as a “team”.

Then there is a “worship time” involving a Bible reading, story, song, prayer, music, video clips etc. This too takes place around the tables and goes for 15 – 25 minutes. The remainder of the time is for fellowship and eating together. This is a hugely important element – it is our hospitality reflecting God's welcome and grace. So the meal is provided, and it is 'proper' food but also 'finger food' style: soup and rolls, pizza, sausage rolls, sandwiches; plus a 'sweet' of cake or slice and tea, coffee, cold drink. This completes the occasion.

Tea Time church is designed to run for 1½ hours, once a month. We consider Sunday afternoon/evening to be the best time; in “winter” going from 4 – 5.30pm and while Daylight Saving is on, going from 5 – 6.30pm. It is all age! It is fun! It is church for people at all stages of their faith journey. It is to enable people of all ages to participate. It is something to bring 'reluctant' members of the family to. Something to invite neighbours and friends to share in. People are guaranteed to learn something and the bottom line is they will get something good to eat!

If you would like to know more; if you are keen to help get this up and running, I would love to hear from you. In the meantime, please pray for the preparations to introduce Tea Time Church.

In anticipation,
Wayne

**Groups meeting at
Christ the King Church**



C+K's Craft Group



Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Garden Club



Box Fit



**Rhythm 'n'
Riggle
Pre-School
Music Group**