

NZ Update -- 7 April 2017

Greetings from Auckland! It has been a wet and windy week, with the remnants of Cyclone Debbie crossing the country. I haven't heard of any of the members being badly affected in the storms, but if anyone has been affected, please let us know.

Annual receipts: I have sent out the annual donation receipts this week, along with Peter Lindop's annual Chairman's Report to the Board. It is a great blessing that the Government gives us a rebate of a third of our contributions! Please let me know if you have any questions about your receipts at any time. Please be sure to check that you have been receipted for everything you have sent in. The copies of "Inside Life" for members have also been sent out. If anyone has missed out on a copy, or if you would like extra copies to distribute in your area, please let me know.

The following two reports have come in from Dennis Gordon. Thanks very much to Dennis for his input! If anyone has any news to share with the other congregations at any time, please be sure to let me know.

The 'Best Anniversaries'

Last Saturday, the Wellington church celebrated two 'best anniversaries'. Peter and Jocelyn Best both turned 50 years of age within two weeks of each other, not long after celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary in March. The photo shows Peter and his daughter Kathleen cutting the Black Forest gâteau that was provided specially for the occasion, as Charlotte and Christopher Best look on. The cake bore a candied label noting '100 years of life, 20 years together'. Ironically, Jocelyn had to leave before the cutting of the cake as she was helping another friend celebrate her own 50th birthday. Peter and Jocelyn are hugely appreciated, having faithfully served their congregation over the years, both as teachers of youth Bible studies and as members of the administration team.



Adrian Gordon's Artwork on Display at St Peter's

St Peter's on Willis Anglican Church, Wellington, is displaying "a series of art interpretations of the Stations of the Cross, from artists and poets across the Wellington region" on 2-16 April prior to Easter. Historically, the traditional 14 'stations' began as pictorial tableaux retelling events during Jesus' final hours leading up to his death, as a means of keeping alive the story and teaching the Gospel to illiterate people. They begin with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and conclude with the body of Jesus being placed in the tomb. Nowadays, additional scenes are added, including the resurrection and beyond. Knowing that Adrian attended church, a tutor at Alpha, a day facility for the learning-disabled, suggested that Adrian might like to contribute to the St Peter's 'Stations' exhibition. Adrian selected the cross as a theme, and designed and executed the artwork using a lino cut technique. It was the only piece selected for reproduction in a little booklet explaining the stations of the cross. A note accompanying it states: "*And on the third day' ... This powerful lino cut by Adrian Gordon can remind us all that the Cross of Christ is a place of victory as much as it is a place of*

shame. Sharing these reflections and curating them into this set of Stations has been a deeply moving experience - a very wonderful journey of faith, and an honour to share with such talented artists and poets."

'Talented-artist' Adrian continues to surprise his parents! All three attended the launch of the 'Stations' event at a special 'Passion for Jazz' service, during which a jazz quartet and singer performed at intervals during the service.



Auckland: While the Wellington congregation was celebrating last Saturday, so was the Auckland church. David and Marilyn Wong's 40th wedding anniversary had taken place on the previous day, so we took the opportunity to celebrate that milestone, as well as the 40th anniversaries of Owen and Eleanor Hooper and Jim and Colleen Wood also occurring around the same time. As it happened, Ken and Joy Slade from Bendigo arrived on a cruise that morning and were able to attend services, with Ken giving the sermon before catching the cruise liner out of Auckland in the evening. Having been married over 50 years, the Slades were invited to join in the wedding anniversary cake cutting ceremony!

Warm regards to all, Rex