



A question of perspective:

From this angle it is possible to discern that the object on the hill is actually a cross.

When the “pole” first appeared on the hill opposite our house, we could see that it had lights at intervals on it, but we did not know what it was, until we were asked what we thought of the cross above the town. Upon going down town to view it from there, we saw that what looked like a pole from our house, was actually a cross.

In this season of Lent leading up to Good Friday, let us consider how what looks plain and irrelevant may actually, from a different perspective, point to Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf. There are signs all around us of God’s presence and his love. Let’s open our eyes to them and be thankful.

Session is awaiting advice from Presbytery about how to proceed. In the meantime, we pray God’s rich blessings upon us all.

Dawn Phillips Session Clerk



# ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

MARCH 2025

Ranfurly St  
Otorohanga

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Linked together as disciples of Christ to share our faith with  
and give loving service to the community.



A question of perspective: from this direction,  
the object on the hill appears to be a pole.

## CHURCH & Parish Life contacts

TREASURER Claire Sherrington (07) 873 7670

SESSION CLERK Dawn Phillips (07) 873 8735

ROOM BOOKINGS Nina Mark (07) 873 6963 / 027 237 2382

## Tribute to Keith Budge, 30.11.1933 to 9.1.2025

Jesus told a well-known parable, the parable of the talents:

A man decided to go off on a trip, so he called some of his staff and put them in charge of various aspects of his business while he was away. When he returned, he summoned the man to whom he had delegated the most responsibility and asked how he had managed. That worker had done his boss proud, making him an immense profit. The boss said, "Well done, you good and faithful servant! You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts."

And that is how it is with Christian service. The reward for doing small jobs well, is that you are given more and bigger jobs to do well!

This is how it was with Keith Budge. Shortly I will attempt to list all that Keith had done for this congregation.

But first, a bit of history. Keith was of the third generation of his family associated with this parish. His grandfather was a minister here. Then his father was an elder. Keith's parents laid the foundation stone of this present building. In fact, when Keith was made an elder in 1960, he and his father served on the Kirk Session at the same time for four years until his father died. Yes, Keith has been an elder here for 64 years.

Elders in times past were each responsible for pastoral care of people in a district. Keith's area, naturally, was KioKio. He taught Sunday School there for many years. His association with the people of the district was so strong that he was called on often over recent years to conduct the funerals of the people with whom he had dealt.

Church bank account number:

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Copy for the April newsletter  
is requested by Monday 24  
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*The Editor*

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Mar 2	Terry Cowland
Mar 9	Terry Cowland
Mar 16	Dawn Phillips
Mar 23	Terry Cowland
Mar 30	Dawn Phillips

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Matthew 16:21

Nō reira mai anō, i tīma-  
ta ai a Ihu te whakaatu ki  
āna ākonga, kua takoto  
te tikanga kia haere ia ki  
Hiruhārama, ā, he maha  
ngā mamae ai ia i ngā  
kaumātua, i ngā tohunga  
nui, i ngā karaipi, ā, ka  
whakamatea ia, ā, hei te  
toru o ngā rā ka ara.

Matiu 16:17

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Keith was a Bible Class leader. I first met him in this capacity when I came here in 1967. He was leader of the senior Bible Class.

He led the church youth group for many years.

As a founding member of the committee that started Narrows Park Camp, Keith always acted as liaison between our parish and the Park.

Keith used to attend the meetings of Waikato Presbytery. Then when the larger Kaimai Presbytery was formed, he was our deputy representative for a few years, and our elected representative from 2019 to 2024.

Though never actually licensed as a lay preacher, he fulfilled that function here capably for many years, and such must have been Presbytery's confidence in him, that they authorised him to administer Communion.

Keith was our commissioner to the Presbyterian General Assembly at least once, recorded as such in 1979.

Services have been held in Beattie Home each Saturday for many years, all the denominations taking their turn. Often, Keith has led such services on behalf of the Presbyterian Church.

Keith was our Session Clerk from 1980 to 1984. He has kept the roll for the parish for a long time.

Keith has fulfilled the role of official photographer for us; he has been our sound technician, operating the sound desk on the west side of the church.

Keith's was the vision behind the earthquake strengthening and extension of this building. He also was a major financial backer for the whole project. Since then he has followed up with the original contractors when any fault appeared.

I have heard Keith described as “the go-to” man when anything needed fixing. His last action along these lines was the re-painting of the white edge on the step as you enter the atrium.

Always a staunch Presbyterian, Keith was very adamant about correct doctrine.

St David's has lost a steel reinforcing rod for the concrete of the administrative structure.

Earlier I did not quite finish quoting what the boss said in Jesus' parable: he said “Come on in and share my happiness.”

Dawn Phillips

Session Clerk

For **Cuppa & Chat** to continue, it needs someone to volunteer to organise it. Could **you** do this???



Contact Nina Mark for details.



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### Calendar for March 2025

Sun 2	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 9	10.00am	<b>Communion</b>
Wed 12	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 16	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 23	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 30	10.00am	Morning Worship

Lent: a time of preparation for Easter.

Our Moderator, Rev Rose Luxford, reminds us that if we are considering some form of self-denial during Lent, we must be sure we have a right motive. If it is just to prove that we have the willpower, the act will be hollow. If we do it in order to have time to reflect on Jesus' sacrificial giving and death on the cross, it will bring us closer to God.

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