



We remember when the scaffolding was up at St David's and the tiles were coming off the roof in 2017.



It's a wrap!



ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

MAY 2025

Ranfurlly St Otorohanga

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
 Linked together as disciples of Christ to share our faith with



The scaffolding is up for the Baptist Church building.

CHURCH & Parish Life contacts
TREASURER Claire Sherrington (07) 873 7670
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MAY 2025 ROSTERS

Flowers and cleaning should be done before the dates shown.

FLOWERS

	May 4	M Sutherland & A Reeve
S Pevreal	May 11	
	May 18	J Davis
Y Apperley	May 25	
	June 1	A Wolvers & J Hughes

CLEANERSDUTY ELDER

D Phillips	May 4	K Harnett
N Mark	May 11	N Mark
D Phillips	May 18	J Davis
N Mark	May 25	K Harnett
D Phillips	June 1	N Mark

DOOR DUTYCHURCH READERS

D Phillips	May 4	C Sherrington & M Graham
J Davis	May 11	A Reeve
M Graham & J McIlroy	May 18	N Mark
D Bainbridge	May 25	D Phillips
D Phillips	June 1	C Sherrington & M Graham

TEA DUTY

If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own substitute.

Session Report

We have only two active elders now: our much esteemed and beloved kaumatua, Sol Nelson, and his wife Ella are now in residential care in Ohaupo.

If you have not attended a service lately, you may be wondering how it is going, holding combined services with the Baptists. It is going extremely well. Yes, we do feel a bit overwhelmed at the sheer numbers, especially given that most of us Presbyterian attendees are older folk. But what a joy to have such a friendly bunch of helpful fellow Christians amongst us.

If we ask for help with some task, expecting a volunteer or two, we are suddenly confronted with a whole team of helpers!

Learning names of so many is a bit of a challenge, but we are making progress in that regard.

What a great volume during the singing, and there are so many male voices! Some of the unfamiliar songs stretch us a bit, but we are game to try.

It is lovely to have children around. Their energy is amazing. Those of us who are hard of hearing are glad of the sound system, so that any noise from the littlies does not prevent our following the service.

Our two churches have different forms of administration and government, so we are learning the advantages and disadvantages of each other's systems.

Just this week, someone commented to me that we are certainly going to miss the Baptist folk when they return to their own building. That is true.

"How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!" exclaimed the psalmist. Hear, hear.

Dawn Phillips Session Clerk

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Psalm 122: 6-9

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
'May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, and
security within your towers.'

For the sake of my relatives and
friends I will say, 'Peace be with-
in you.'

For the sake of the house of the
Lord our God, I will seek your
good.

Nga Waiata 122: 6-9

Inoia he āta noho mō
Hiruhārama: "Ka whiwhi ki te pai
te hunga e aroha ana ki a koe.
Kia mau te rongo ki ōu taiepa,
me te pai ki ōu whare kingi."

He mea mō ōku tēina, mō ōku
hoa, tāku e mea nei, "Kia mau te
rongo ki roto ki a koe."

He whakaaro ki te whare o
Ihowā, o tō tātou Atua, ka rapu
ahau i te pai mōu.

Preaching Roster

May 4	Terry Cowland
May 11	Terry Cowland
May 17	Pete Townsend
May 25	Terry Cowland
June 1	Terry Cowland

Church bank account num-
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Website: saintdavid's.org.nz

Copy for the June newslet-
ter is requested by Monday
26 May. The Editor

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Calendar for May 2025

Fri 2	10.00am	Cuppa & Chat
Sun 4	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sat 10	4.00pm	Beattie Home service
Wed 14	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 18	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 25	10.00am	Morning Worship
	5.00pm	Hour of Prayer for our Youth
Sun1 June	10.00am	Morning Worship

Call to Prayer

The Presbyterian Youth Movement calls us all to a special time of
prayer for the youth of our country, **25 May** at 5pm for an hour.

Our Tamariki, our children, our rangatahi, our young people need
a fresh revelation of God. They need freedom, a sense of belong-
ing and a sense of worth grounded in our Creator.

They need peace and a sense of security, to be safe. They need
to be loved well and to have healthy and life-giving connections.

They need a renewed sense of hope. They need laughter and joy.
They need God.

They need all of these things to be louder than other voices,
devices, noise, social media and news.

On Earth as it is in Heaven

Tom Holland has written a book called "Dominion", which traces the impact that Christianity has had on the world we live in. He argues that, on a civilizational level we are all Christians, whether or not we believe Jesus was God. This is because Jesus and his followers changed civilization so much that it would be unrecognizable to the people who came before Christ. We all live in that inheritance now.

The Graeco-Roman world was savage. When an unwanted child was born, it would often be dumped in a sewer or drain and left to die. Slavery was pervasive and the head of the household had total rights over all of his property, whether that property was flesh and bone or not. He could abuse them because that was his right.

The gods of antiquity were a vicious and capricious breed who would happily intervene in the lives of men to inflict pain. One approached them with trepidation and fear.

Graeco-Roman rulers, meanwhile, were quite content to keep 'the plebeian classes' in servitude and poverty, as that was the natural order of things.

Entering into this milieu was a bizarre teacher from somewhere on the political fringes of Roman civilization. He lived in a way that is recognizable to people of the 21st century, but was different to the point of absurdity for citizens of the Roman Empire. What he did went on to change not just the Empire, but everything that has happened since.

I'm not sure I will ever fully grasp what a paradigm shift it was when Jesus spoke to those people of the intrinsic value of every life. It makes sense now, but did it then? Especially for a non-Jewish audience?

In time they came to understand that he was in fact God himself. And this was no volatile Roman god, no deified Caesar. He did not intervene in battle

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to bring victories; instead, he ministered to women who were forced into prostitution, people with disabilities, widows, and infants. His friends were no senators or philosophers; they were foul-mouthed smelly fishermen. Eventually he was subjected to the shame of crucifixion. He had not won a battle for or against the Empire; he had died as a man at the lowest rung of it. When this is how your God acts, how much does that change your approach to everything?

As Tom Holland explains, it is possible to trace the origins of modern human rights all the way back to how Jesus and his followers changed how we understand the value and freedom of each person.

We stand today in the legacy of a man who saw people, their anguish, their powerlessness, and their hope, and he acknowledged it. He made them feel loved in a society that said this was the last thing they should expect.

And this is not a love that he limits according to a person's power, their gender, their faith, their politics, their job, their sexuality, or even whether or not it is easy to like them! He looks at each person and sees someone he made; he sees someone he loves, someone longing to be loved.

Timothy Burton

Global Communications Lead

The Leprosy Mission

Cuppa and Chat



Get together on Friday, 2 May, at 10am for a great time of sharing stories. Again in June, meet on Friday, 6th. All welcome.

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