
The Link

No. 3 - November 2011



Where's Wally

TAWA UNION CHURCH

Christ centred, community facing



Message from our Minister



Rev Clare Lind

We recently enjoyed the story of the 5th century Irish saint, Brendan the Navigator, and the story of the 20th century voyage it inspired – Tim Severin's expedition in the 1970s across the Atlantic in the same sort of little leather hulled coracle that Brendan was said to have used.

Severin's story raised the intriguing possibility that some Irish monks might have hopped from landfall to landfall right across the Atlantic to Newfoundland, centuries before Leif Erikson and Christopher Columbus landed in the Americas.

Whether a group of Irish monks travelled that far we will never know, but we do know that monks sailed well out into the Atlantic. They ventured forth beyond the charts and into the unknown spurred on by a trust in God and a belief that the unknown, too, was God's.

When children are developing they take all sorts of risks. They have to, or they would never learn to walk, or ride, or swim, or indeed most other things that they need to learn to negotiate life. It is the guidance of the adults that care for them and the camaraderie and example of their siblings and peers, and a curiosity about life that help them take the necessary risks.

A young child will boldly walk along the top of a wall if their daddy is holding their hand. They will happily pedal away if they think mum is still holding the back of the bike seat.

It seems to me that our spiritual development is also dependant on our willingness to risk. A trust in God, the company and encouragement of Christian brothers and sisters and an openness and receptiveness to life are all factors in us stepping out on what is the adventure of the Christian life. The experience of the adventurers is that the further they venture, the more real these things become and the more definite their own life becomes.

Here is an extract from a prayer that is attributed to St Brendan.

Shall I abandon, O King of Mysteries, the soft comforts of home?

Shall I turn my back on my native land, and my face towards the sea?

Shall I say farewell to my beautiful land, placing myself under Christ's yoke?

Shall I leave the prints of my knees on the sandy beach,

A record of my final prayer in my native land?

Shall I then suffer every kind of wound that the sea can inflict?

Shall I take my tiny coracle across the wide, sparkling ocean?

O king of Glorious Heaven, shall I go of my own choice upon the sea?

O Christ will you help me on the wild waves?

TUC Great Summer Picture Show

Amid your holiday adventures don't forget the second TUC Great Summer Picture Show. There are three categories this year- Us, Spirit and Journey, plus a 12 years and under section.

More entry forms are available from the church or on the church website. Photos need to be in by Sunday 12th of February, 2012. They will be on display in the church in early March.

Message from the Chair



Lois Hill

- after 3 months in London
'There is NO place like home!!!!'

Carolyn, Toby, Lewis, Zoe and I arrived back in Wellington safely on the 1st November.

We had so much baggage, car seats and double buggy baby stuff that we missed our connection to Wellington even though we had a special person assigned to us in Auckland to help us get through all the official parts.

Two cars waiting for us in Wellington had to wait an extra hour. Fortunately for us weary travellers that was all it was. It was SO good to be home again and have an opportunity for some sleep.

Waiting for eleven hours in Auckland airport was not a good start to my trip to London. The Cathay Pacific flight was on again off again until they rebooked me on an Air New Zealand flight at 11.00pm.

I stopped in Hong Kong briefly en route and made it to Heathrow where Carolyn was waiting for me. Thank goodness for cellphones at times like these when travel plans don't go as organized.

Toby, our two and a half year old grandson did remember me which was just as well as we shared a room in the little flat in South Croydon for the three months. This flat is now sold, as with the birth of the twins, Zoe and Lewis on the 22nd August, there was just not enough room for everyone.

It was exciting being around for the birth of the twins. I had a few weeks with Carolyn before the birth but with the babies weighing six pound two, and six pound eleven she was not able to travel or move around a great deal.

Life and priorities certainly change when babies are born. No wonder the Christmas story has such impact. I think as a grandparent when you are not quite "in the thick of it all" you realize just how precious babies and children are.

It certainly took the three of us adults 24 hours every day to keep the keel afloat and everyone happy.

Sleep was and still is something you cherish and grab when you can, although it is getting a little easier now.

Each day was a marathon of organization and I must say we became quite adept at feeding two bottles simultaneously. This is actually quite a feat until you get used to it, (as Hugh has had occasion to sample already) and I'm sure those of you who know

about dealing with twins are aware of. The problem is that the toddler can't be neglected either even if the twins are a handful.

Toby and I spent many lovely sunny afternoons and mornings, when he wasn't at nursery, at the park just along the road. The park not only had a great playground for his age group but lovely gardens and plenty of space and trees where we spent time chasing squirrels and birds to exhaustion.

No wonder I lost a little bit of weight!

The squirrels are a pest I know but they are lovely to watch and follow.

Many dog owners walked their dogs there and we came to know quite a number of these people and their beautiful dogs. One big Alsatian in particular called "Sticks" was a real favourite. He was bigger than Toby but so gentle and well trained. Toby loved it all and the weather was magnificent, even in the late afternoons.



Toby with Zoe and Lewis (4 days old)

Each Sunday I walked a few blocks to attend St Augustines, an Anglican church. It was very old and beautiful, with stained glass windows and beautiful altars and a pipe organ.

It was handy to go to and the people were friendly even if the format of the services was very

traditional. The organist was great so I enjoyed the singing and responses once I learned them.

The people farewelled me on my last Sunday there so that was nice of them.

I did enjoy meeting the people.

The devastating part of the return flight was going through the customs in Heathrow where Carolyn had to cut and sample 10 of the 20 packets of baby formula she had packed for the voyage to feed the twins.

Not only did it take a long time, but the open packets then leaked milk all the way to the Gate 47 at Heathrow. What a mess!!!!

We had to flag down an airport carrier to get us there and we were the last on the plane despite being at the airport some three and a half hours early to get everything organized.

There was no sleep for us on the journey but it went well.

Carolyn is currently staying with us with Toby and the 12 week old twins, Zoe and Lewis.

Paul is still in London completing all the sale and storage operations of the flat.

Our house has changed momentarily and is full, vibrant, and noisy with six of us again. Aren't we lucky!!!!

Thank you to all those who shouldered the tasks I should have been doing for the past three months, especially Gill for taking over so willingly. I appreciate your support.

To all those grandparents – and I know we have a huge number in our congregation – I'm sure you identify with the excitement of caring for your grandchildren as much as we do.

We look forward to a very busy exciting Christmas and I wish you all the same with family, relatives and friends.

Happy Christmas everyone,

Lois Hill

The Good Samaritan

(Luke 10: 30-37)



These notes formed the background of an address given at an 8.30 am service earlier in the year. The author was asked to make them available to readers of The Link.

The Bible contains a great deal of information on how we should treat each other.

In the Old Testament the relationships portrayed are more of the legalistic type, "of the eye for an eye" style, although the Ten Commandments do show a change from a ritualistic approach to a more aesthetic one.

With the coming of Jesus all that changes. We are given *The Golden Rule*, "do unto others as you would have others do to you".

Found in Matthew, chapter 7 verse 12, it is, in essence, a summation of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes from Christ's teaching. If you don't want to be ripped off then don't rip off others. If you don't want your spouse to cheat on you, don't cheat on your spouse. If you don't want to be judged, don't judge others.

You will remember that the Parable of the Good Samaritan is precipitated by and is in answer to a question posed to Jesus by a lawyer. In this case the lawyer would have been an expert in the Mosaic Law and so not the same as a court lawyer of today.

The Lawyer's question was, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25). This question provided Jesus with an opportunity to define what his disciples' relationship should be to their neighbours.

With that introduction I can now tell my story which is something of a paraphrase of the original.

A man was travelling from Rotorua to Wellington on his way home after he had been visiting his daughters and their families.

It was just the beginning of winter and when he arrived at Taupo he was greatly taken by the view of the three volcanoes at the southern end of the lake with a mantle of new snow standing out against a blue sky.

So he decided to go to the observation point and take a photograph.

But while he was there he began to feel unwell and so sat in his car waiting for the feeling to pass. However, the feeling got worse and he must have passed out and fallen onto the side of the road gashing his head.

Fortunately, while he was still gathering his scattered wits and thinking what to do, a car stopped and the driver asked if he could help in any way.

This driver then took over and proved to be the ultimate professional.

Without any further prompting he got the traveller's details and found out what had happened. He then wrapped him up in a blanket to keep him warm and called an ambulance.

Once the ambulance officers had taken over he put the car in a safe place, locked it and called one of the traveller's daughters to tell her what was happening and where the key could be obtained.

The ambulance took the traveller to the small Taupo Hospital where his wounds were stitched and bandaged and he could rest until his daughter arrived.

There was only one doctor in Emergency and he was working a 12-hour shift. He was not a New Zealander and yet though he was exhausted he treated the traveller with the utmost care and skill,

The nurses also were working under pressure but yet they still managed a joke and smile which did a lot for patient morale.

As for the Good Samaritan, he was thanked personally the next day. It is strongly suspected he was connected with the aviation industry and, perhaps, that explains the high level of his interaction.

We should thank God for these people.

An Update for

The Sanctuary at Tawa Union Church

The second article on the Taonga that appeared last issue.

In the previous article, Gill referred to wooden communion paten that had been in St Stephen's and that she didn't know how they came to be there. She was approached by Mata'utia and Fa'agalo Tualima who reminded her that they had presented two wooden paten at the time of their son Jason's baptism.

Sure enough, following a closer inspection of the backs of the paten, she could make out the word Jason and 1989.

Hugh Hill advised that he was the person who Ian Simmonds had asked to make the metal frames for the St Aidan's collection bags.

Taonga (Treasures) at Tawa Union Church

This is the third in a series of articles by Gill Knox.

Photography by Bryan Pannett

In this article we are going to cover the rest of the Centre starting outside.

The ramp up to the old front door (now side door) was put in place in 1974 by the men of the church including, John A'Court, Peter Boswell, Neville Harkness, John Clarke, Matt Park, Barry Jones and others to enable Russell Kerse to enter church in his wheelchair after his accident.

The Foundation stone out in the carpark reads:

“To the Glory of God
This hall is raised
That Christ be known
and life enriched.”

14 September 1957

This was when the church hall was completed.

The house at 159 Main Rd was moved in 2002 to increase the visibility of the Centre from the Main Road. The Centre was upgraded and the foyer expanded, re-opening in mid 2005. At this stage the car park had been expanded into part of the section previously occupied by 159 Main Road and was finally sealed in 2007.

Inside the church we have many treasures:

The flag of the 4th Wellington Girls Brigade. This Girls Brigade Company which started at St Luke's in 1970, is still a vibrant group today.

The flag of the 35th Wellington Boys Brigade was furled in August 2009 after closure of company, after 45 years.

The pole now has NZ Ensign flying.

The Allen Organ – was purchased circa 1984 and has been situated in various places within the church. It was originally where the sound desk is now, then it moved to the east wall before shifting into its present place in the alcove.

The curtains in the Church were replaced in 2009 and paid for in part from funds donated by the Women's Fellowship. The covers for the organ, piano and desk in the foyer were made by Barbara Russell.



Allen Turner was an accountant but wood working was his great hobby, through his ability and love for his church we have a number of treasures he made in the 1950s:

- The pulpit which can be found in the foyer to the Luke Lounge

- The communion table
- The baptismal font with the copper bowl
- The pews that used to be in the church
- The communion trays that were used in St Stephen's



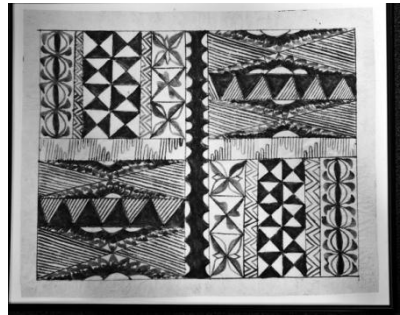
The Baptismal font from St Aidan's, was given by Murray Davies who made the stand. It now stands in the foyer by the Luke lounge

There are a number of flower stands, three came from St Aidan's made by Keith Harrison designed by Eddie Smith and given by Eddie and Phyllis and Mervin and Joyce Browne.

Wall hanging by the sound desk. In 1989 a group of people from the parish went to Gelsendkirchen, Germany. They were given three copies of "The Misereor Hunger Cloth" from Haiti, one for each church in the parish. This cloth is inspired by the biblical texts of the five Lenten Sundays of the biblical year. There is an explanation beneath.



The members of the group were Derek and Barbara McNichol, Graham and Phyllis Armstrong, Eric and Wendy Russell, Julian and Fiona Thomson, Libby Pannett, Mavis Duncan, Stewart and Adrienne Leslie, and Patrick Sansom.



The Tapa cloth wall hanging was gifted to the congregation in 1992 by Vave Fifita after his mother's death. Vave had been to see his mother just one week before she died.

The nativity scene of Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, Wise Men and animals. Rev Pamela Tankersley came to the church to teach us to make small figures.

The large nativity scene was conceived and during 1999 and 2000 these figures were made by Ellen Taylor, Hugh Catto, Gill Knox, Shirley Gaunt and others. The first ones were made at the church but later ones were made during the winters in Ellen's garage and dried in her lounge.

The first year Mary, Joseph and Jesus were made, then second year the shepherds and wise men were added. There is an empty manger until Christmas Day when Jesus is placed there.



Other treasures include:

Stephen Lounge

- Framed woollen cape – spun and made by the Tawa Spinners and Weavers for a competition they won. Tawa ‘Kiwis’ first in NZSWWS Kiwcraft Competition in 1985.
- “Concert Spinnet” Conn Organ came from St Lukes, in 2008.

Kitchen

- Stove on the east side was given by the 4th Tawa Girls Brigade
- Stove on west side was given by David and Heather Bray

Luke Lounge

- “The Last Supper” tapestry from St Luke’s was gifted by Mrs G Usmar in Derek McNichol’s time circa 1980.

Aidan’s Hall

- The sound system was brought from the St Aidan’s church. The inscription reads *“this sound system was made possible by bequests from the late George and Connie Cuthbert.” George was a devoted elder in this church for more than thirty years.*

Foyer

- Through the generosity of Teleiosi Peine there is now a glass cover for the reception desk.

We have discovered two citations to James Taylor in storage and we hope to display them in the Lounge at some stage.

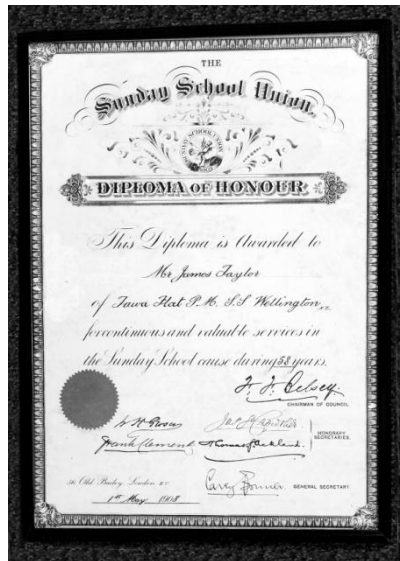
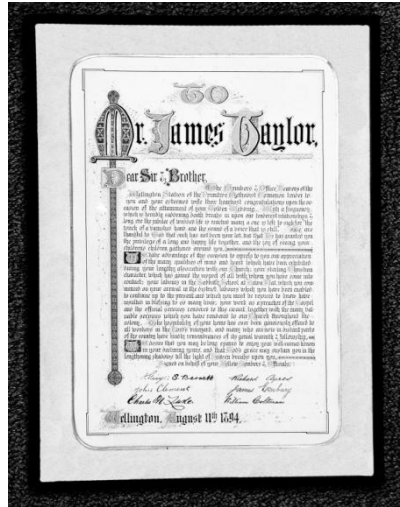
James and Rachel Taylor were married in Wellington in 1844 and came to Tawa Flat where he was the Superintendent of the Sunday School for over 50 years.

You can read more about the family in Arthur Carmen's book "Tawa Flat and the old Porirua Road"

It has been a voyage of discovery for me and I hope that you have a better knowledge of the Taonga or Treasures of Tawa Union Church.

My grateful thanks to Bryan Pannett for the lovely photographs that have accompanied each article.

Gill Knox



Youth Group

Congratulations to our Youth Group who came second place for the second year running at the JYMC Youth festival. Their entry was called "Where's Wally"

They were told they were just one mark short of being first equal!

For one of the action shots, see the front cover.

Sandy McDermott, Captain 4th Tawa Girls Brigade



Sandy McDermott retires this year having been involved with 4th Tawa Girls Brigade as a Leader for some twelve years.

Members of Tawa Union Church wish to acknowledge and thank her for the major contribution she has made to Brigade girls' lives over the years.

4th Tawa Girls Brigade

by Sandy McDermott, Captain, 4th Tawa Girls Brigade

Girls Brigade is for girls aged 5 to 16 and then on to leadership.

We had 20 girls this year over three groups, Juniors, Seniors and Pioneers. Our Junior girls had Stephanie McDermott as their leader, Seniors had Fiona Wymark and Pioneer girls had Joy McIvor. Without these Leaders, our girls would not have had such a wonderful programme and I would like to thank them very much for all their work.

I am stepping down this year as Captain after three years, having been involved with the Company as a helper, Commissioned Leader and Captain for the past 12 years.

Some of my favourite memories have been trips to Plimmerton Beach at the beginning of the year; camps at Silverstream Retreat with wonderful friendships and lots of craft and laughs; a farm visit which was

lots of fun and a new experience for many girls.

One achievement that stands out was, in March 2010, when four of our Pioneer girls received the Brigader Brooch, the highest National Award for Girls Brigade that a Pioneer can earn. The National records show only one Pioneer had received the Brigader Brooch since 1993 (in November 2002), so for me, that was a real achievement. I would like to thank Fiona Thomson who helped these girls to get this award.

I would like to thank the Church for their support for Girls Brigade throughout the years, Faith Delaney, for her support as Chaplain, the Leaders, who without their help Girls Brigade would not happen, and the girls who come each week and make the Company what it is.

I wish the Company all the best for next year and the coming years.

4th Tawa Girls Brigade

2011 Awards

Presented on Monday 21st November

Each year awards/trophies are given to girls who stand out within the Company and this year the following girls received awards:

Jim Todd cup for Junior Brigader	Ellie Smith
Meg Todd cup for Senior Brigader	Becky Bridge
Pioneer Cup for Pioneer Brigader	Anaseini Nuku
Scott Cup for Efficiency Trophy <i>(most improved girl over whole Company)</i>	Jemima Irvine
Margaret Turner Trophy – Encouragement Cup	Katarina Tokakece
Thomson Trophy – Young Leader Award	Stephanie McDermott



Christina Wymark Levinia Nuku, Estelle Best
Recipients of Life Skills Certificates



Becky Bridge, Maria Mafi, Anaseini Nuku

Post Script:

Thanks to the contributors to this issue of *The Link*:

Clare Lind

Lois Hill

Elspeth Chiles

Gill Knox

Sandy McDermott

Bryan Pannett

Like you, I would like to see more photos in each issue. Maybe we can fix that next time.

Keeping in touch... With this edition of *The Link* we are again including a space in our address panel (below) for your Pastoral Contact person (your Parish Visitor) to write their name and phone number. This means that you will know who has delivered your newsletter if personal contact was not able to be made at the time. If you would like to contact someone about a pastoral matter, then you will have the phone number to make a call.

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Statements made, or opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry or the Church Council unless directly quoted.