

St J's Kids' Leader Profiles

Nifty Norths (3-5yr Olds)

A moment in our life: One week in Term One, our kids 'performed' the story of Palm Sunday using their own donkeys (just made in class) and claves for sound effects to some very impressed parents at the end of our Sunday school session – it was fantastic to see all the kids proud of their handiwork and really involved in the story telling.

Leader: Heather Walker

Favourite café: Plum on Cuba – the play area and buckets provide the kids with entertainment, allowing the accompanying adults a leisurely coffee

Good Book/movie Seen Lately: The Power of One (very inspiring and a bargain - bought at the church fair!)

Recent Inspiring Moment: Leaving my youngest child at Playcentre for the first time and going for a run on my own, midweek, during the day – a real luxury, and a glimpse of life to come as my girls grow up.

Leader: Melanie Bosman

Favourite café: Mojo's

Good Book/movie Seen Lately: I usually read any book I can find, and once I am reading tend to forget the real world exists.

Recent Inspiring moment: Although not recent – I am inspired by my grandmother who is constantly able to find the positive side to everything – even when things get tough.

Super Souths (5-6yr Olds)

A moment in our life: We have been working on what it means to welcome people into our groups and our lives. We recently made cards for people who needed 'help' after reading the Good Samaritan story.

Leader: Bronwyn Wood

Favourite café: Chocolate Fish, Scorching Bay – iconic views as only the Eastern suburbs can provide...but my favourite brew is the one my husband brings me every morning!

Good Book/movie Seen Lately: My name was Judas (C.K. Stead) and From the Holy Mountain (William Dalrymple) – still stuck on the Middle

East...

Recent inspiring moment: watching my eldest son Josiah score his first (run away) goal in soccer.

Leader: Jane Pack

Favourite café: DeliAro – it has a peaceful feeling when you step in the door, not to mention simple and delicious food.

Good Book/movie Seen Lately: Recently re-read Emil and The Detectives with our son, and was reminded of the hidden talents children hold and their natural sense of fairplay! Recent Inspiring Moment: Watching the sun set

Leader: Ingrid McEnaney

Favourite café: Maranui at Lyall Bay beach, great coffee, salads and tasty wholefood. Good views too if you can get a table by the window or outside, go off peak.

Good Book/movie Seen Lately: The China Study is the most recent book I've read. It is one of the largest and longest (27 year) nutritional research projects ever undertaken. It gives insights into preventing and reversing major diseases.

Recent inspiring moment: Watching my daughters grow and learn and achieve, is inspiring to me. Recently: Lucy was able to show us the whole alphabet and some words, in sign language after learning it once at school- they are like sponges, and Alice has made me feel very proud when she received an award at Brownies

Electric Easts (Yr 1&2; 7-8yr olds)

A moment in our life: Everyone new to our class is invited to put a colour sticker on our class Map-of-the-World on a country where they know someone such as family/friends. We invite them to tell us a little bit about their visit to their family/friend overseas. Our colour stickers are planted as close as Wellington and as far away as Ireland and then some!

It's our way of showing how we care and think about others all over the world. You are all welcome to pop in and view the Electric East Map-of-the-World!

Leader: Iris Webster

Favourite café: Ministry of Food (MoF) – this is in the Bowen

State Building (Bowen Street) where I work – I'm on a first name basis with the staff and because I'm such a good customer – I get a free mochachino every now and then!!! They also have the best black-n-white slice with cream in all of Wellington!!!

Good Book/movie Seen Lately: The Pursuit of Happyness – Will Smith and his adorable son star in the real-life story of a man who was determined to be happy!!!

Recent inspiring moment: Ethan and Myah (my 2 beautiful children) are my inspiration for what I do and why I do it – Life is great!!!

Leader: Catherine Galuszka

Favourite Café: Taste in Khandallah

Favourite book: Kite Runner. Story about two boys from different backgrounds living in Kabul

Inspired moment: Autumn colours (especially in Canada)

Leader: Shirley Carran

Favourite café: Mojo

Good Book/movie Seen Lately: The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Inspiring moment: Sharing my beautiful home, South Africa, for the first time with my new husband.

Wild Wests (Yr 5&6; 9-11yr olds)

A moment in our life: One week last term we were talking about hospitality and giving things to others in response to God's generosity to us. We made some scones.

It was great to watch the kids' faces as they worked together to mix dough. Laughing. Chatting. Hands covered in sticky mess as they tried to shape the dough into scone like shapes to cook.

Then watching their pride as the congregation enjoyed munching the scones.

Leader: Nicki Read

FavouriteCafe; Penthouse(best atmosphere), Chocolate Fish(best food) or the Bach (best view). in Brooklyn

Favourite recent movie: 'Holes' based on the book. Quirky characters and happy ending-a great combination.

Inspired moment: Walking by the beach with big surf

and some uninterrupted time to think(a rare event)!

Leader: Ross Davis

Favourite café: Recently I have rediscovered Olive in Cuba – nice food and Neo in Willis St is an old favourite which is hard to beat. Chow & Matterhorn rock as does the Vodka Bar in Courtney Pl where Matt Haigh works....and they have great coffee!

Favourite recent movie: As it is in Heaven... ..would change the world if everyone saw it.

Inspiring moment: My first Powhiri and stay on the Maungarongo marae when I was 22 years old, never felt so totally welcome anywhere. Whoops... I mean my wedding day.

Recent Inspiring moment: at St J's kids was when Richard lit a candle and prayed and there was such a hush, silence and a sense of the Holy that noone wanted to break it to play games at the end of the lesson.

Biggest downer: Losing the America's Cup by 1 second

Leader: Amy Pratt

Favourite café: The café at the Central Library – only problem is finding a table!!

Favourite movie: Forrest Gump - reaches people on so many levels (I cry every time I watch it!!)

Inspired moment: Doing the Taupo Bungy Jump. Quite the leap of faith!!

St J's Kids' Coordinator: Anna Davis

Favourite café: Maranui Surf Life Saving Café, Lyall Bay. I love its location suspended over the water looking straight out to sea. One day I saw dolphins playing as I supped! The food is great and the kids get to explore on the beach.

Good book/ movie seen lately: 'The lives of others' wonderful example of a person being transformed experiencing transformation

Recent inspiring moment: Watching 'The lives of others' and seeing the enthusiasm of the children sharing their baking following All Age Worship!



Local children enjoying the recent Starlight Story time, organised and hosted by St J's Kids, in the Mackay Chapel.

Statement of Interim Moderator

We are into the fourth month of the ministerial vacancy here in St John's in the City. Graham finished on Christmas Day and Helen on Easter Day (8 April). Time to reflect on how we are doing – and who we are in this place.

The search for the new minister is in the hands of a Presbytery appointed Ministerial Settlement Board, together with representatives of St John's. I am not part of that process. My task is, however, to keep this congregation of St John's moving along steadily, as a harmonious, lively congregation, which in turn is crucial for the Settlement Board if it is to find and attract a minister of real quality.

For myself, I have found St John's to be a fine congregation with a wide range of opinion and theology within it, many able people of strong convictions and differing ages and racial components. It is quite striking. And how important it is that a congregation with such diversity should continue to work and witness well together, avoiding indulging in sectional interests and views that could 'rock the boat'.

Another picture that can help us is that of the flight of wild geese. When we lived for a time in Scotland and in America we used to look up at the sky and the V formations of geese in flight to escape the winter cold and ready to fly vast distances to do so. Why do they assume that formation? Is it just habit? No, they have a reason. Science reveals to us that as each bird flaps its wings it makes an updraught of air that helps the bird following it. In this way the flight of birds can travel 71% further together than if they were each travelling solo. Our Lord told his followers to observe the wild birds and flowers and to learn from them something about God and God's ways.

In the Church we, too, can travel more swiftly and further, without losing a sense of direction and with a better

chance of survival, when we travel together.

When the leading bird tires it falls back and another takes its place. We too in St John's during the vacancy are finding strength in sharing roles of leadership around.

If a goose is injured, perhaps through gunshot, it does not slow the whole flock down and thus endanger it. It falls out of the V formation and two companion geese follow it to the ground, where they stay for company and protection until the injured bird recovers sufficiently to continue or until it dies. Then they form their own small V and fly fast till they catch up with the flock as a whole.

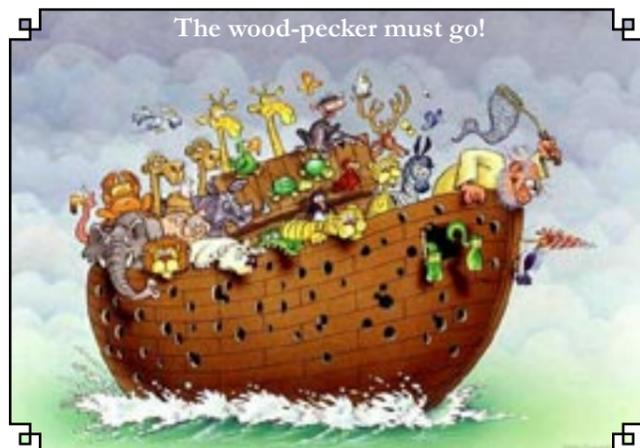
God's Spirit at work in and through the Church enables us to continue as one people – while maintaining a care also for individuals. The Spirit also enables people to use their abilities for the benefit of all, and enables individuals to look beyond their own interests and their own strongly held views to the common good, and the good of the Gospel of God.

This is the kind of Christian fellowship that winsomely attracts others into its community of faith, and which sustains and enhances the common life of the Body of Christ, the Church.

Thank you for your comradeship in the community of faith as we journey forward together. Pray for one another, for the whole worldwide people of God, and for our own St John's leaders and supporters in so many facets of the life of this parish, and for those who serve God and St John's as in quiet discernment the search goes on for a new senior minister. Pray that together we may be faithful witnesses through St John's in the City, and so to the city and people of Wellington.

Yours in Christ

Denzil Brown
Interim Moderator



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Changing a Light Bulb the Christian Way

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

Charismatics: Only 1, Hands are already in the air

Roman Catholics: none, Candles only

Mormons: 5, One man to change the bulb and four wives to tell him how to do it.

Presbyterians: at least 15, One to change the light bulb and two committees. One committee to approve the change and one to review church lighting policy.

Amish: What's a light bulb?

2007 Concert Series

Organ lunchtime concert

The Wellington organists Association are putting on a week of lunchtime concerts in city churches for National Organ Week. St. Johns has the honour of hosting the first one.

Monday 3 September 12:15 p.m.

National Organ Week

Lunchtime Organ Recital

Eleanor Carter plays Elgar Sonata no. 2, op. 87a and Mendelssohn Sonata op.65 no. 1 in F

Friday Evening Concerts at 5:30 p.m.

August 31: Titan Hutt City Brass Band

September 14: Parata Trio

September 28: Jane Young – Cello
Hugh MacMillan – Piano

October 5: Carolyn Mills – Harp

October 12: Soprano, Trombones and Organ

Tickets \$10 waged and \$5 unwaged. Door sales only

Calendar of Events

9 September

Communion at morning worship followed by shared lunch in the hall

11 September

Fashion at the Abbey, begins at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Adults \$20, students over 12, \$15, under 12 no charge.

21 September

Last day of school term

3 October

Session Meeting

8 October

School Term begins

13 October

Church Annual General Meeting in the hall.

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Views expressed in
The Messenger do not
necessarily reflect those of
St John's in the City.

A Young Man's Grave



Will Hopkirk's Grave in Armentiere

I recently returned from a trip to Europe. The trip was an educational one following the footsteps of the New Zealand Division in World War One. On the trip we visited battlefields, memorials and cemeteries. It is sobering to visit cemeteries containing so many silver fern emblazoned headstones denoting the final resting place of a generation of young New Zealanders dying so far from home. One cemetery held particular interest for me. In the small town of Armentieres on the Franco-Belgian border is the Cite Bonjean Military cemetery. This cem-

etry contains the graves of hundreds of Commonwealth soldiers mostly killed in 1916 during the terrible battle of The Somme. I was looking for one particular grave and after walking amongst the rows of meticulously kept graves I found it. It was the grave of 23 year old William Hopkirk. William Hopkirk had attended St. Johns for practically the whole of his life (see From The Archives). Will Hopkirk was particularly close to the minister of the day, Rev. James Gibb. It is fair to assume that Will Hopkirk's death affected Dr. Gibb as did the untimely death of all those from the 'Young Mens' Bible Class' killed in World War One. Following the war Gibb led a group of ministers to the parts of France and Belgium so recently corrupted by war. I would like to think that during that tour Gibb visited Will Hopkirk's

grave. Upon his return to Wellington Gibb began preaching pacifism from the pulpit. It was not a popular topic in post war Wellington.

Like many of you I have seen the movie Amazing Grace, depicting the life of anti slavery crusader William Wilberforce. Wilberforce's conviction that slavery was a gross violation of human rights was not universally accepted. It is testament to Wilberforce's unshakeable faith that his point of view was the right one that he persevered with his crusade until slavery was finally outlawed by act of parliament.

We all have our personal convictions. They may not be earth shattering or controversial, but regardless of what they are, they are worth keeping hold of.

Rob Anderson

Taleban Capture 23 Sth Korean Missionaries

We have probably all seen this story in the news, following with sadness the killing of two of the hostages, and with joy of the release of two of the women. But this is a story that is closer to home than most of the newspaper articles have suggested. These missionaries are fellow Presbyterians.

The group was sent from the Saemmul Presbyterian Church, a large church based in a dormitory town south of Seoul. Many of the South Korean churches are large (with the Yeoido Full Gospel Church's Sunday attendance of 750,000 in Seoul giving it the distinction of being the largest congregation in the world). They are also very missionary focused, both within Korea and overseas. Within the country, this has resulted in the proportion of Christians increasing from 8% in 1945 to 31% today. South Korea is estimated to have 14,000 long-term missionaries overseas, a number second only to the United

States. Most serve in Korean mission groups but they are also a large proportion of the staff of traditional western missionary societies (such as the African Inland Mission).

However, the captured group were not long-term missionaries, but rather so-called "tent-making" missionaries – people who go to a country for a short period with the intention of helping the people there rather than only converting them. The group had many young women, as the trip was to provide medical and child-care services to the Afghanis. There have been suggestions that they were naïve, but the Korean church has lost a steady stream of their missionaries to either death or imprisonment in Muslim countries and the risks were well known. As we follow their position over the next few weeks or months, we should be faithful in our prayers for these fellow Christians who are fellow members of our own denomination.

Margaret Galt



Lieutenant William Hopkirk

Articles for the next Issue of the Messenger due November 11.

Send articles to the church office.
p: 385 1546
f: 385 0040



From the Archives

The Hopkirk family and St. Johns were synonymous. William and Mary Hopkirk were long time members of St. John's. William was an elder. They had three sons James, William and Walter. Their second son William was born in 1893. He was baptised in St. John's and attended the Sunday School. The family lived in Majorbanks Street and as a boy he was educated at Clyde Quay School and Wellington College. He left school aged 16 to work in the family timber merchant firm, but continued to study at night school. At about the same time as he started work he became a communicant member of the church. Will became secretary of the Young Mens' Bible Class and also volunteered for work with the Boys' Institute. He took his responsibilities very seriously.

When war was declared in 1914, Will, along with his two brothers immediately volunteered and were part of the advanced expeditionary force which left in August for Samoa. He returned to New Zealand the following March for further training at Trentham. In August he left New Zealand again, this time his destination was Gallipoli. He arrived at Gallipoli in November, just in time for the terrible

winter conditions that decimated the beleaguered troops there. William was among the last of the troops withdrawn on 19 December.

In the short time at Gallipoli Will had proven himself to be an excellent soldier. He received his commission and in April 1916 was on his way to the Western Front. Will was a popular officer. One of his St. John's Bible Class mates, Fred Chappell wrote in a letter home: "Bill Hopkirk has made a name for himself these days and.....has proved himself a born leader. He is as brave as a lion and doesn't know what fear is. He is as cool as a cucumber and everywhere at once....I am proud to know him as friend." When off duty Will would meet with a group of men and share with them Bible study and prayer: "for themselves, their comrades and the far-away dear folk home in New Zealand."

William was killed on 1 June 1916. In a letter to William's parents one of his men wrote: "Will's men had been getting picked off by a sniper and he went to see if he could locate the sniper and in the brave attempt lost his life. Just like Will, always thinking of some one else. It showed that he lived the unselfish life right up to his death."

William's death was deeply felt not just by his family, but by the members of the Young Mens' Bible Class, the Minister Dr. James Gibb and by other members of the congregation. Mr Alan Martin a Bible Class leader reminded the class of a letter in which Will related how he used, while in Egypt, to creep out of his tent a six o'clock every morning, and with some like minded men, hold a prayer circle in the desert. Mr Martin added; "In the last letter I had from him, after he had been promoted to a lieutenancy, he said: "This promotion will enable me to do more work for the Master." Will's parents sought consolation for their loss by instituting the Hopkirk Prize, awarded annually to one of the Sunday school children.

William Hopkirk (1893-1916) was one of 172 members of the congregation who served in World War One. Of those, 81 were wounded in action and 38 were killed in action. The names of those who served are found on the wooden plaque at the back of the church and those killed on the brass plaque at the front of the church.

Rob Anderson