



CHAPEL NEWSLETTER



Term 2

2005

Greetings to all associated with the Lindisfarne College community.

With the shortest day having come and gone I was reminded by a colleague recently that spring is only eight weeks away. Of course, when we are caught in the grip of a cold wet winter, that reality seems hard to comprehend and we quickly forget what it is like to be in the midst of a hot Hawke's Bay summer.

I am happy to report that conditions relating to Lindisfarne's Christian Cornerstone, are a lot more conducive and inviting. As always, this Newsletter contains the sermons given to the school by our four house leaders and Year 12 students over the past two terms. I congratulate all those students who have led our school community in worship to this point in year. Your sermons have been well prepared, thought provoking, and have given staff and students something to take away and reflect on. It has been especially encouraging this year to see students developing some different themes and tackling some of the "harder issues" relating to our faith and the modern society in which we live. Well done to you all.

Temperatures may be cold outside, but this has certainly not deterred students and parents from turning out to our Sunday evening Chapel services, with practically all students fulfilling their commitment in this area. This year we have made a special point of having a "guest speaker" at one of the evening services each term. In term one, Mr Laurance Yule, Mayor of Hastings, came and shared with the boys pictures and personal experiences of his visit to the areas devastated by the Boxing Day tsunamis. His description of the devastation caused was extremely graphic and he effectively challenged us to reflect on an appropriate Christian response to the disaster. Thus our freewill offerings in term one were sent to a school in the region seriously affected. The boys responded appropriately, and we were able to send in the region of \$1000. Well done boys.

Our guest in term two was Mr Chris Clarke, CEO for the Hawke's Bay District Health Board. A family man and committed Christian, Chris developed a yachting theme, suggesting that the most important part of a yacht is that which is under the water and out of sight. He applied this to us as individuals, suggesting that what makes us unique and special is not what others see but rather, what is on the inside and unseen – our personality and our God-given gifts and talents – which others benefit from when we exercise them. Thank you for your on-going support of our Sunday evening services. Remember, we have five services a term and it often pays to complete your required three as early in the term as possible.

To date we have held two of our three Bible Reading Competitions – the Intermediate School and Junior competitions. Congratulations to all students who so enthusiastically participated in these. Mr Gary Exeter from Hereworth School adjudicated the Intermediate School competition, and Mr Matt Kidd from our English Department was adjudicator for our Junior competition. The results were: Intermediate School – third, Anthony Lai, first equal, Bhavan Srikumar and Nirmal Gopalakrishnan; Junior – third, Jeremy Ennis, second, Gajan Srikumar, first, Duncan Hope. Well done to all who participated, especially the finalists, place getters and winners.

A word of appreciation goes also to our musicians, especially Mr John Snowling and Miss Angela Warmke for their leadership of the various groups who accompany our singing. A special word of thanks must also go to Matthew West who so confidently led us on one occasion when our musicians were away from school. All your efforts are greatly appreciated. To members of staff who so willingly respond to my request to share in reading – thank you. To the ladies who see to the chapel flowers – thank you. And by no means least, to this year's Chapel Prefect, Stuart van Heerden, for diligently and responsibly fulfilling his duties – thank you.

To conclude, I make mention of two up-coming events. Firstly our annual service of Baptism and Confirmation will be held on the first Sunday evening of term three (31 July). The response this year has been somewhat disappointing, so if this is something you would like your son to consider, encourage him to make contact with me. It is not too late to be included. Unfortunately this year we are unable to involve students from the Roman Catholic tradition. The Bishop has ruled that any such folk must be incorporated into a parish based confirmation programme and be confirmed there rather than at school. I have information on these programmes and if anyone is interested, I am happy to pass this on.

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Secondly, two years ago I wrote to TVNZ suggesting that they come to the Hawke's Bay and consider recording a "Praise Be" programme here at Lindisfarne. They have now contacted me and are planning a possible recording of a programme here at Lindisfarne early in term four. Clearly it is my intention to involve Lindisfarne en masse, and there is a possibility of involving groups from other church schools in the Bay. I will keep you informed as details are finalised, but it sounds extremely exciting.

As the term draws to a close, I thank all associated with the Lindisfarne community for your on-going support of the Christian Dimension within the life of our school, and wish you all a relaxed, warm and refreshing break.

Every good wish to you and yours.

Rev Warren Fortune
Chaplain

AIDAN HOUSE YR. 13 CHAPEL SERVICE

Sermon	-	Stuart van Heerden
Reading	-	Simon Jones
Prayer	-	John Alexander

As you may have gleaned from the reading that Simon has shared with us, this sermon is about the day for each and every one of you which has no tomorrow. The day that you die. Every single person sitting in this chapel hall today, including myself, will die. Maybe not soon, but some day, and even though we all know this is the truth we tend to forget. Our lives are so filled with everyday distractions that it is so easy to forget that some day it all will end. To be fair, the fact that we forget is probably a good thing. Thinking about and being scared of death all of your life would mean you never truly lived.

Now I am not trying to scare any of you. Although you may be wondering why I have brought up such a morbid topic. The reason is this – death is the reason you are all sitting in this chapel today. Religion, God. Indeed the whole Christian faith is based on the idea that you live your life well, as a good person, with Christian morals and ethics, so that when you **die** you go to paradise, to heaven. Death is a part of life. In fact Christians believe that this life is merely a trial to see if you are fit for true life in heaven.

With that in mind – there are three kinds of people. One is the atheist. That is a person who does not believe in God. Who believes that creation of the universe was all merely a fluke. Then there is an agnostic. A person who believes that God cannot be proven to exist, but cannot deny the possibility that He may. And finally there is a believer. A person who believes that God made everything in existence. Of these three, only one has the answer about death. Which one do you consider yourself to be?

Personally I have been affected by death, as I am sure many of you have been. Many people I have known well and have loved have died. And for a long time I was troubled by death. The absolute sadness of it. Think about it your whole life was just pointless. You lived. You died. End of story. That is if you are an atheist. So I used to worry. I considered all aspects of life. The sciences especially. But as interesting as science is, all it does is raise more questions the more problems it solves. And still science cannot explain death.

In today's hyperactive world, which is filled with distractions, religion seems to be becoming irrelevant. Until it comes to that final frontier. It seems ironic that whenever a non-believing person nears death, even the greatest scientists of our time, who do not believe and spend their entire lives trying to explain the universe to disprove God, all try and reach out for God, or say a prayer. Einstein for example was a deeply religious man. It was he who said – "I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts; the rest are details".

I hope that you will not all go about your daily lives and forget about death and God until it is too late. That you will have the inner fortitude, maturity and strength to confront the ultimate question. And to attempt to make your peace with God and yourself. You are not immortal. And as Peter Strup once said – "Time only seems to matter when it's running out".

After what I have said many of you might be feeling a bit disturbed. Many of you will also deny it. Be cool. Act like you don't care. That's what boys do. I did. For those of you who are perhaps a bit more thoughtful and mature, I offer the words of Rabindranath Tagore a famous Nobel prize winning poet, to explain to you far more eloquently what death is about, and to help comfort you.

"Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because dawn has come".

CUTHBERT HOUSE YR. 13 CHAPEL SERVICE

Sermon - **Nicholas Walker**
Reading - **Henry Lyons**
Prayer - **Ben Smith**

(This was presented without any notes).

DURHAM HOUSE YR. 13 CHAPEL SERVICE

Sermon - **Gerry Claudatos**
Prayer - **Jayden Mellsop**
Reading - **William Story**

Life is like a jigsaw puzzle. It is made up of a range of pieces with every piece having its individual qualities, attributes and job descriptions. In order for the puzzle to become complete, each piece has to tie in with one another. When this is successful, we get a beautiful picture, but when pieces are forced into place or simply not in the right place, the picture looks disturbed and unnatural.

We could relate this to Lindisfarne. For Lindisfarne, as a community, to become complete, everyone has to work and play together. From getting to class on time, to lining up correctly in the lunch queue, we all play a part in the success of completion.

But a big part of this completion is respect, my main theme for this chapel service. The idea of respecting others, the way you would like to be respected, plays a massive part.

We start with our peers. If you don't respect your peers for the efforts they do or the certain way they have in gaining success or anything, then the heart of the puzzle falls to bits. Not only will your peers feel unwanted and ill treated, but the respect they will show to you in turn, will diminish rapidly. A puzzle is no use if you can't keep the parts together and by this I mean if you don't get along with and respect the person sitting next to you, then it makes it hard to get through life and to get as much out of it as possible. Yes we can do certain things on our own, and be individuals at times, but at the end of the day we need each other. We need each other for help and guidance and to make sure we are heading in the right direction.

When I came to Lindisfarne over 4 years ago, huge respect was given to the senior members of the school from the younger members. It is the same today I'm sure. But I asked myself why? And it's simple. They earned the respect. It wasn't just given to them. They earned it by respecting the people who came before them in previous years. Respect is only gained when given in the first place.

Respect is also about honouring the people on the stage behind you, the teaching body of the school. Although they may just seem like the edges of a puzzle, it's these people that keep the puzzle in tact. Without them, we would become helpless.

Lastly respect for yourself. You can't gain respect from people if you don't have respect for yourself. The way you behave and approach in every day activities reflects on the way people show their respect to you. You can make the puzzle, but the puzzle can't make itself.

OSWALD HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE

Sermon	-	Hayden Smith
Reading	-	Michael Luke
Prayer	-	Rurehe Taylor

Lindisfarne College prides itself on many things. One of these is tradition. When you come to Lindisfarne you accept that you are part of a legacy. A legacy that has performed many great, seemingly unattainable feats. As you well know, we are a very difficult school to get into and on the basis that we do get in, we must make the most of every opportunity.

For opportunities to be made possible, for goals to be achieved and for barriers to be broken, we must get support from those around us and work as a team. We are each in one of 4 houses. The 3 saints, Aidan, Cuthbert and Durham and King Oswald. In the earlier years only Aidan and Cuthbert were houses, however the move to expand needed boys to be able to be spread around a little more. Each of these houses operate together as a team, as a unit. From these 4 teams one is made, the team is Lindisfarne.

I believe that Lindisfarne is like a cake. Probably when you first think of our school, you don't think of a cake, but I do. You need the correct amount of each ingredient before it will work. Obviously we, the boys, are the largest part of the recipe, with staff making up some of the rest. We are put into the oven as part of the procedure, the teachers set the temperature and whether we put in the correct amount of effort or not, will determine whether the cake rises or stays as a boring, lifeless and pointless exercise. For this to happen, each person must pull his or her weight. Share the load around to make it better for us all in the outcome.

When we begin to run out of mixture we must help others to rise to the occasion, identify weaknesses and fix them to become strengths. Secondly today I'd like to concentrate on us as individuals. Each of us are so very different and have our own barriers and setbacks, which we must overcome. One of the many problems with human beings as a race is our inability to change when we do something wrong and stick to what we know. It is in fact a proven fact that students spend more time studying the subject that they are best at and less on the one which they are worst at.

When we know that we have a problem we often feel that we should leave it how it is and get on with life, when in actual fact we should address these problems to change the way we operate. I am using the term 'we' to show that we all have problems of some sort or another. Nobody is perfect, whether it be in the classroom, on the sports field or even in serving God. We all have something that we can improve on in some way. I'd like to urge you to look towards your problems and work on them to make them less of an issue.

It is in this way that we can take our individual skills and move with them into the team situation. If we all took these qualities into the team situation it would be a very effective and promising team. Finally I'd like to leave you with a quote from an unknown source. "What you resist persists, what you look at disappears".

AIDAN HOUSE YEAR 12 CHAPEL SERVICE

Sermon	-	Grant Fortune
Reading	-	George McIldowie
Prayer	-	Matthew Rose

Joe Theismann enjoyed an illustrious 12 year career as quarterback of the Washington Redskins. He led the team to two Super Bowl appearances – winning in 1983 before losing the following year. When a leg injury forced him out of football in 1985, he was entrenched in the record books as Washington's all-time leading passer. Still, the tail end of Theismann's career taught him a bitter lesson: I got stagnant. I thought the team revolved around me. I should have known it was time to go when I didn't care whether a pass hit Art Monk in the 8 or the 1 on his uniform. When we went back to the Super Bowl, my approach had changed. I was moaning about the weather, my shoes, practice times, everything.

Today I wear my two rings – the winner's ring from Super Bowl 17 and the loser's ring from Super Bowl 18. The difference in those two rings lies in applying oneself and not accepting anything but the best.

Just like Joe Theismann, we too need to apply ourselves and accept nothing but the best. This all comes down to your attitude and how you approach things. Take for example the upcoming exams for both seniors and juniors. For many of you the thought of exams is a daunting one, but with proper preparation and the right attitude, you will find that you will be more confident heading into the exams and as a result you will get the mark you deserve.

Of course there is the other option. Have a negative attitude towards the exams, do minimal preparation and head into the exams lacking confidence. The only similarity between these two options is that in both cases you will get the mark you deserve and just think that a little change in attitude could turn that achieved into a merit into an excellence. Failure not being an option.

But attitude isn't just important in the classroom, it is important on the sports field, around peers and family and in your life in general.

In the reading George just shared with us, Paul says to the Philippians: "Let the same attitude be in you that was in Christ Jesus". Now I'm not saying that we should all be like Jesus, but there definitely are certain aspects of him that we can adopt into our own lives, one of which being his attitude.

Throughout his life, Jesus was put into some difficult and challenging situations. However, even though these obstacles were placed in his way he was able to keep a positive attitude and earned the respect of his peers and followers which is still shown today.

By keeping a positive attitude, you too can earn the respect of your peers but not only that, you will also learn to respect yourself.

William James a U.S. Philosopher and Psychologist once said: the greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes of mind.

CUTHBERT HOUSE YEAR 12 CHAPEL SERVICE

Sermon - **Ryan Ennis**
Reading - **Patrick Scammell**
Prayer - **Ben Hunt**

Do you always feel like you don't have enough money? Is that because you need more money to buy your unlimited wants, or is it because you feel the world is pressuring you into needing more and more wealth and possessions, so that you are accepted by your friends? How are you affected by not having enough money? You may be jealous of others because they have more than you do, or maybe you feel dissatisfied because you can't afford the things you want with the money you do have.

How important is money really to you? Everyone can answer that question differently.

For example, people with less money may value it much more because they hardly possess any of it themselves, and what they do have they need for the basic necessities of life – food, clothing, and warmth. For those who have an abundance of money, it is still generally important too, because they also still need it in order to feed themselves and family members. However, they have more than enough money to do that, and can spend the surplus to purchase luxuries such as televisions, games, furniture, and maybe money is not valued so much in this situation, as there is plenty of it and it is perhaps taken for granted.

But money is not everything; it cannot get everything in the world for you. It does not matter whether you are poor or rich, money does not buy love, it does not offer peace and it does not buy happiness. There are more important things in life than money and possessions, such as your family, your own life – possessions are worthless when it comes to life or death. Picture this scenario: You have to evacuate your home, like those people had to the other day with the flooding in the Bay of Plenty, and you have, say, 15 minutes to collect the things you wish to take with you (knowing that everything else you own is more than likely to be destroyed). So what would you take? Books, tapes, cell phone, money if you have it on you? Now look at how much you are leaving behind. How important is it? Really? When a wall of water is about to wash over you, or a landslide about to take out your home and you with it, how important are your possessions then?

In 16 of Jesus' 40 parables he mentions money and possessions, so he must have thought it pretty important to put his perspective on this. In Luke 12: verses 13-21 Jesus tells the parable of the "Rich Fool". In this parable a rich man had a great year with his crops, making heaps of money and basically setting himself up financially for life. So he said to himself – "I've got everything set up for years to come, so now I can take it easy, and eat drink and be merry." However, that very night the man died, and what good to him then was all his wealth and possessions? Jesus told this parable to emphasise the truth that "a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" and it is more important to be "rich toward God" and focus on eternal life than build up possessions on earth that you can't take with you when you die.

Everyone wants money, it's natural desire, but people do not realise that it is not all powerful. In the first book of Timothy, Chapter 6 verse 17, the message is clear to rely on God not on your money. "Command those who are rich in this present world not to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment". If money is the most important thing in your life, you will be miserable, but if God's values are most important, and if his values shape the way you use your money, you'll be happy indeed.

So referring back to that scenario where you had 15 minutes to collect a few possessions – the possessions you should take are the really important things such as the special gift given to you by your parents, or maybe your diary or precious photos. But even if you have to flee for your life and have no time to take anything at all, know that God is keeping the real treasure for you, and that is being with him for eternity. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also".

DURHAM HOUSE YEAR 12 CHAPEL SERVICE

Sermon - **Kenneth Munn**
Reading - **Cameron Elliott**
Prayer - **Tim Kershaw**

Yes I know – many of you would have heard this reading many a time before and that you are well aware of the sermon that goes with it. But I was deep in thought the other day and the reading reminded me of a well known nursery rhyme written by Mother Goose. The poem goes like this:

*"Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat where have you been?"
 "I've been to London to see the Queen."
 "Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat what did you there?"
 "I frightened a mouse from under her chair."*

Now you may think that I am completely lost in trying to find the relevance in these two paragraphs but today I am going to talk about attitudes. From the Oxford Dictionary; attitude means a settled opinion or way of thinking. I think that this sentence could be changed to represent the way we view life. So with that thinking let's look at the two allegories.

In the Queen's room you could imagine many people being present during the visit by the Pussy Cat, correct? But amidst all the distractions the cat still managed to spot the mouse under the chair and frighten it away. Once again you could imagine that a visit to the queen is a rare and prestigious occasion for the Pussy Cat. And so the cat wouldn't have wanted to make a scene there. The cat could have easily ignored the mouse, but he approached the situation with a good attitude, saw through the distractions, took a gamble with his actions and in the end made the right choice.

In the reading that Cameron gave us about the Good Samaritan, all three characters that passed the injured man saw what they wanted to see. The Jewish Priest walking by saw an injured man that had been mugged, but I think that what he really saw was a sinner who had obviously done something wrong and probably deserved what he got, and so he carries on.

The Levite saw the same scene as the Priest, but he made the wrong action by thinking that he was in too much of a hurry to help him and made the assumption that he would be helped by the next person that came along.

Finally the Samaritan came along, he also saw a beaten man on the ground, but he also saw a man that was in need of his help. He came to the situation with the right attitude and with it came a good result as the reading says.

So once again all of the characters in the two stories saw what they wanted to see, but it was their attitude that made the difference on what they saw. Attitudes are a big part of our lives today. Your attitude can determine what sort of a day you will have, whether it is good or bad. Also for example, if it does happen to be a bad day and you do get in trouble, your change in attitude can determine how much trouble you get in.

Well I don't want to carry on for much longer but I will challenge you this; In any situation, whether it is on the sports field, the classroom, or even walking along the road, if you approach it with the right attitude, I guarantee you that in most cases your actions will bring a good result.

I would like to leave you with a quote from the author Katherine Mansfield and dedicate it to Wesley Cannery who is turning sixteen today. "Could we change our attitude, we should not only see differently, but life itself would come to be different".

OSWALD HOUSE YEAR 12 CHAPEL SERVICE

Sermon - **Bernard Woolf**
Reading - **Patrick Hindmarsh**
Prayer - **Matthew Goodwin**

Firstly for those who don't know me – my name is Bernard Woolf. I am not here to tell you how to live out your lives, I'm not here talking to you as if I am perfect, I'm far from it. I'm just here to advise you on how I think we can better ourselves.

Now please forgive me for using a story that has now become a cliché at Lindisfarne. This story happens to illustrate my point along with the reading Patrick just shared with us.

Imagine that two mice fell into a bucket of cream.... You can name them whatever you wish. I am going to imagine they are called Jay and Bob.... Jay and Bob begin to paddle frantically in the cream.... As Jay begins to see the futility of what they are doing, he starts to tell Bob his deepest secrets.....Jay says to Bob.... "I am gay Bob"....Now Bob is taken aback by this statement....Needless to say he could have reacted in thousands of different ways but he said "Good for you Jay"....."Now can we get out of here? So as we know they churned the cream into butter and climbed out.

Both the reading by Patrick and the story of the two mice illustrate my theme of acceptance of people's differences. Bob accepted that Jay was gay, and Jesus accepted Paul in spite of his differences. "For I am the least of the Apostles, unfit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." We need to accept people's differences because if we don't we will never understand them..... This is why people are bullied, insulted and victimised because we don't "understand them". The first step to understanding someone is by accepting each other and their differences. I'm not saying that we have to like everyone we meet or want to be like them; all I am saying is please accept people for their differences and don't persecute each other because of them.

Can I please see a show of hands for those people who believe they are different? Mr. Workman, surely you know you are different, you are a science teacher, you should also know there are no two people that are exactly the same. Some might argue that identical twins are, but they are not because they have two different personalities. Since everyone in this hall is different, we have to accept each other for who we are, and then we can go some way to understanding. Some people have trouble doing this as they can't accept to be different is not a threat to themselves. That is why we have bullies in the world. An example of this type of person is Adolf Hitler. Hitler as we know ordered the extermination of all the Jews and handicapped people in Germany. He believed they were defective or not of the Aryan race. He could not accept the Jews had different beliefs and since he didn't accept their differences, he tried to eliminate them all.

This is not what I want in the world, and I hope you don't either. To prevent more people like Adolf Hitler emerging from society, we need to accept that yes everyone has different beliefs. Some of them may seem strange to us, but they have a right to believe in things just as we do.

We cannot go on living in society with bullies not accepting people and persecuting them. We have shown that we can accept people for their differences. If Jesus could accept Paul who had persecuted the Christian church, surely we can accept differences in people around us and even try to learn from each other to enrich our lives.