

## AIDAN HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE

*SERMON - JACK BARLEY*

*READING - CHAD GREER*

Matthew 7: 21-23 'The Devastating Day'.

### Tragic Stories

World history is packed full of tragic events. Disasters that have had a monumental impact on many, many lives. New Zealand has had its fair share of tragedies:

- Tangiwai train disaster... Bridge washed out and the train went straight into the river.

- Wahine – inter-island ferry. Sunk in the middle of a storm in the Wellington harbour.

- Air New Zealand – Mount Erebus. A plane load of Air NZ passengers slammed into the side of a mountain in Antarctica, and not one of them survived.

A little closer to home:

- 6 year old Napier girl- Theresa Cormack was abducted and killed 13 years ago which had a huge impact on this region.

Even closer to home:

We had a devastating day in our family...not one of us had any idea it was going to happen. I was nine years old – it was June 14<sup>th</sup> 1998. It was the day my Dad died.

But I want to tell you about a day that is even more devastating than all the examples I've just shared. It's recorded for us in the Bible.

**Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he, who does the will of My Father who is in heaven, will enter. <sup>22</sup>"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS".

Imagine living life thinking that you are on your way to heaven.

- You've attended church

- You've been educated at a Christian school

- You've been to chapel services 3 times a week for 5 years!

- You can sing the Lord's Prayer off by heart

- You've lived a good life but finally death arrives at your door and you find yourself at the "gates of heaven" waiting to get in ... And Jesus – the Judge of the World – comes to you and he says – **"Depart from me...I never knew you!"**

This would be my most devastating day...

This would be my worst nightmare

In the last sermon I gave from this pulpit I spoke about MANY people who entered through the wide gate which was an easy way but led to destruction and the FEW who entered through the narrow gate that led to heaven. The "MANY" who were on that wide road are the same ones who are standing here before the Almighty God – the judge, Jesus Christ! And they are devastated!

Some of you may have experienced some devastating days in your lives just as I have, but I hope that none of you would have to experience the most devastating day of all time...Jesus refusing you entry into heaven!

Some of you may say. “I’m a Christian, I believe in Jesus”, but that does not necessarily mean you are going to heaven. To be a genuine Christian involves a changed ‘heart’. If there is no ‘change of heart’, there is no heaven. You must not only believe that Jesus was man, died for your sins and rose again but you must have evidence of a changed heart.

So what will you decide? Do you want to be sure that you are going to heaven?. The ‘many’ in this story thought they were going to heaven but unfortunately they didn’t come on Jesus’ terms. To enter the ‘kingdom of heaven’ you must enter God’s way – It’s the hard way, the narrow way.

You take nothing with you- you enter this world with nothing, you leave it with nothing.

And to enter heaven, you come with nothing except faith in God. It will cost you everything, it’s a life-long commitment.

But it’s a life full of purpose, peace and assurance that when you DO die, your Eternity is secure.

So if you want to avoid this most devastating day, then you must choose to follow Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross and then you will be guaranteed an eternal home in heaven.

I ask you to consider this message and the serious ramifications of it on your life ahead.

### **CUTHBERT HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE**

***SERMON - ALEXANDER LYONS***

***READING – DAVID OWEN***

When I was thinking about how I could start my sermon I thought that I could perhaps break into song and start singing, “I get by with a little help from my friends”, by the Beatles – or maybe whistle that annoying tune that seems to be forever in your mind “Always look on the bright side of life”. However I’ve decided to put my own ‘rhymes’ and lockdown’ and perform a rap of my own creation:

When you’re down, when your glum,  
When you’re feeling pretty dumb,  
When you’re sad, or you’re mad,  
Stop and think for a tad.

(Check it right here)

Think of your friends, your ‘posse’,  
Laugh at yourself and don’t be bossy,  
Be honest with your friends and not an actor,  
Because ‘Z-dog’ is about to ‘lay-down’ a sermon on the ‘feel good factor’!

Now I’m hearing whispers in the audience, ‘What’s the feel good factor?’. I see the ‘feel good factor’ to be a word to encompass friendship, laughter and optimism.

When I first arrived at Lindisfarne back in 2003 I remember feeling pretty lost looking at all the unfamiliar faces around me. I had no idea that I was going to be as fortunate as to make as many good friends as I have. As a bit of research for this

sermon I thought I'd try to find a good definition of what a 'true friend' is. So I typed this into 'Google' and the first link that I clicked on was a ditty, cheesy poem that went something like this:

*"A true friend will be loyal no matter what the cost  
They would never put you down, or try to be the boss"*

And:

*"A true friend will always be there in good times and in bad.  
They'll try to make you laugh whenever you are feeling sad."*

As you can imagine, I exited out of that page pretty fast. I then went to "Wikipedia" in search of a definition. I found this:

*"Friendship is a term used to denote co-operative and supportive behaviour between two or more social entities".*

After struggling to translate this at all, I decided I would sit down, brainstorm and come up with my own definition. I came up with:

A true friend will support you when you are in need,  
Be honest with you when you want an opinion,  
Be loyal to you no matter what,  
And very importantly be someone who you can laugh with.

Friendship is such a powerful asset. On Tuesday Reverend Fortune told us of the men who had been chosen to be represented on the window which is going to be installed in the centre of this new sanctuary. Sir Edmund Hillary who would not have achieved his goal of Everest if it was not for his close friendship and camaraderie with Tenzing Norgay.

However I want to bring the focus back to you as a friend.

Are you honest with your friends?

Are you loyal to your friends?

And the one that seems to come up a lot for guys our age – would you stop a friend if he was doing something he shouldn't be doing?

Jesus stated in the reading that David just shared with us, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends". I think that this is still as relevant as ever today.

I know a lot of you will be rolling your eyes at me when I say this but friendships should be treasured at Lindisfarne. Think about it, you see your friends every day, you're in classes with them and sports teams with them, an opportunity you won't get at any other time of your life. So make the most of it. Coming into the senior school I've come to realise that it's important to get to know everyone in your year group rather than just your ring of friends. This way you learn to appreciate different personalities and become a well-rounded person.

I came across this quote that I thought linked to my next point quite well:

*"The most wasted day of all is that one which we have not laughed."*

Nothing feels better than a good ‘belly-crunching’ laugh. Laughter is also very good for you and scientists have proved:

- Laughter helps to protect the heart
- Laughter is good for people with diabetes
- And most relevant for us in this Chapel, laughter is proven to strengthen the abdomen (in other words, give you a ‘six-pack’).

However, we must be careful when we laugh as it can sometimes be disrespectful. I’m sure everyone here knows what it’s like to be laughed at when you’re hurt or upset, so watch that you don’t do this to others. If you have the ability to laugh at yourself you will find you become easier to get along with and also have a handy tool to diffuse an awkward or tense situation. Laughter is the essence of happiness and happiness is seen to be the essence of life.

Now I mentioned earlier, that annoying tune that gets stuck in your head whenever you hear it, “Always look on the bright side of life”. Now I know it can be a bit repetitive but if you actually take note of the lyrics you will find a meaningful message. We all get pressure put on us at various times of the year, whether it is exams, assignments or something outside of school. When you find yourself bogged down it really does help to take a moment to ‘look on the bright side of life’.

I don’t want my sermon today to be seen as encouraging selfishness. I’m not saying that you should all go out of your way to make yourself feel good no matter what. Helping someone else actually makes you feel really good as I’m sure anyone who has done Duke of Edinburgh or the year ten service awards programme will know.

So I challenge you all over the next two weeks to go out of your way to help someone else. How much nicer would the world be to live in if everyone helped each other out.

### **DURHAM HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE**

***SERMON – TYNE STAFFORD***

***READING – SAM MCHARDY***

Everyone knows what it is like to be afraid. We all have things we are afraid of – me, heights and being lost out at sea when deep sea fishing or getting bushed by myself when hunting.

There are hidden fears that can motivate us both positively and negatively. Fear of failure can cause many people to never start or try anything that is not completely safe. Fear of rejection makes us afraid to do anything that could draw criticism or give someone a chance to laugh at us.

There are two types of fear. Fear that is good, that motivates us. Stops us doing stupid things like driving through town at a hundred miles an hour or other foolish things, but with the good comes the bad and there is a bad fear that is harmful and stops us from progressing as it paralyses us and keeps us from doing things that should be done.

Fear is countered by courage. Courage comes in many different forms but can greatly be associated with risk taking. Risk taking is going out of your comfort zone. This can be seen as negative at the time but once you have done the particular thing or activity you will feel a lot better with yourself and feel an inner pride and personal achievement with yourself at what you have accomplished.

Behind me is that huge window that will display the four qualities of a good man. One of those qualities is courage and the picture of that man will be Charles Upham one of New Zealand's most famous and renowned war heroes. Acknowledged widely as the outstanding soldier of the Second World War, Captain Upham received the Victoria Cross and Bar for outstanding courage. His displays of courage included destroying numerous enemy posts, rescuing a wounded comrade under heavy fire, penetrating deeply behind enemy lines and killing 22 German soldiers leading his platoon back out. This was all done after being blown over by a mortar collecting shrapnel wounds in his shoulder and getting a bullet in his foot. This has earned him the title of a man with great courage. Charles Upham is a man we should all look up to and admire for his courage and risk taking.

In the reading Sam just shared with us the master has given out money to three servants and expects them to go away and to make some more. Two of the servants do just that – they have the courage to risk take and go spend the money to make more, and, as a result of this they have doubled their money. Because of this the master is very happy with them and gives them lots of responsibilities and titles. The third man however is lazy and does not have the courage to take risks so buries the money. The master is in turn furious with him not only because he did not make any extra but because he did not try and take any risks. It is true that people will respect you more if you try and fail than if you don't try at all.

As I said before, courage is involved in risk taking. Step over your boundaries and go step outside your comfort zone because you will come out better off after displaying some courage to try the unknown. To go outside your comfort zone you don't have to do something huge, but something simple. Pluck up the courage and ask out the girl that you've had your eye on for the last couple of weeks, take up a new subject, try an other sport or lead a chapel service. Because at the end of it all, at least you can say that at the end of the day you had the courage to step outside your comfort zone and tried it. Life's too short to keep inside the square, make calculated risks with amounts of courage because you only have one life and it's a waste of time to play life safe and never go outside your comfort zone. I would like to leave you with this quote: "Dream what you want to dream, go where you want to go; be what you want to be; because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do."

## **OSWALD HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE**

***SERMON – JAMES HARTY***

***READING – LOGAN SMITH***

Lately around the school there has been a lot of talk about the good man due to the project undertaken by Celia Lashlie. Today I intend to explore some aspects of a good man's character and personality.

Every day we are presented with opportunities to commit deeds that contribute to us being good men, they are small things such as lending a calculator to one of your

mates for a maths test, or maybe correcting a younger pupil's technique. Even though these deeds seem small and insignificant, if you are constantly doing things such as these then other people start noticing and form opinions about you and start to think you're a good man.

In the reading Logan shared with us there are many qualities of a good man in there, for example the line, *I've learned that it takes years to build up trust and only seconds to destroy it*. A good man will gain the complete trust of his friends, family, work colleagues and team-mates. However once this trust is gained the real test of a man is how they hold this trust, because opportunities will arise when this trust can be broken, but I believe that the good man will not abuse this trust. For example, you are at a party with your mates and you're the designated driver. Come the end of the party when you are about to drive home, they have trusted you not to drink and to get them home safely.

A key idea for me and one I personally struggle with is illustrated in the line – *I've learned that we are responsible for what we do no matter how we feel*. A good man should always be able to keep his emotions in check no matter how he is feeling; this idea applies commonly to playing sports. If you're playing cricket against St John's and the batsman clearly nicks it however the umpire does not give it out and the batsman does not walk. Obviously you are going to be livid but what do you do? You can either park it and move on to the next ball or you can just blow up and spit chips at the umpire and the batsman and call them a cheat and so on. This is where good men really step up because in these situations every part of your body is saying c'mon fume, fume, blow-up at him and you'll feel better. However the good man will control this and move on to the next piece of play.

*I've learned that either you control your attitude or it controls you*. What can we draw from this line of the reading; well a good man will always have the right attitude and thus is able to succeed. If you're in class and you have a slack half hearted attitude then it's obviously going to reflect in your performance, as you are not going to complete prep and study diligently.

Another meaningful line from the sentence from the reading is. *I've learned that no matter how bad your heart is broken the world does not stop for your grief*. In earnest what this is saying is that if something goes against you or horribly wrong then it is up to you to show fight and courage as mentioned in Tyne's sermon to pick yourself up and keep going. This is one of the hardest things to do as I'm sure you have all experienced however a good man should always be able to pick himself up from disappointments and deal with his problems to ensure he is back to performing at his best. Someone who I believe does this well is Shane Warne. As I'm sure you're well aware he receives a lot of bad press and at times in his playing career such as a drug ban, stabs at his weight, sex scandals and then the split of his marriage. Now obviously this is not the sort of behaviour that a good man would indulge in but the point is that he picks himself up from these disappointments and always performs at the highest level is something that should be recognised. It is the ability to not let grief and disappointments deter you from your main goal.

The final line from the reading that I want to focus on is this; *I've learned that heroes are people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the*

*consequences.* I believe from this sentence we can find a point on which to judge the difference between a normal man and a man who is well on the way to being a good man. A normal man will do what he wants to or what suits him and is easiest because it will have the most favourable consequences, however the good man, as stated, will do what has to be done regardless of the consequences. This is all about choosing what is right and again it takes courage and strength of character.

Can a good man make mistakes? I have often wondered about this question and I believe the obvious answer is yes. A good man gets to where he is by making mistakes. It is how he acts after he makes the mistake that really determines how good a man he is. As I touched on earlier a good man will do everything he can to resurrect his mistake and will make note of it so that he does not make that same mistake again and then will move on. Whereas the easy option is not to take responsibility for the mistake and not to resurrect it.

If you wish to become a good man then it must start now while you are still an adolescent at school. Good men should not sit back for their time at Lindisfarne and pass on opportunities, they must aim for the top, so don't feel satisfied with an achieved grade, strive for the big E, aim to make the top team not the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> team. A good man will always work hard so that they can strive for their best at whatever they do, spend time in the weights room or out on the field trying to improve your game. Most importantly at Lindisfarne we as aspiring good men should stick to our personal values and beliefs and aim to win and achieve success when representing the school.

### **AIDAN HOUSE YEAR 12 CHAPEL SERVICE**

***SERMON – ZANE STEVENSON***

***READING – SAM MCNAIR***

What is a leader and how can we all become a leader?

In my mind I believe a leader is someone who encourages his fellow man and understands them. He is someone who can turn followers into leaders. To do this a leader needs to set a good example for his fellow man.

In the reading Sam shared with us today, we are shown how the teachers of law and the Pharisees are regarded as leaders. Although these people have the name 'leaders' it does not give them the right to be regarded in the people's minds as a leader to them. These people are shown in the reading as being lazy and showing no respect to the servants. They make them do everything for them and then they take the credit for everything the servants did.

The character in the reading that is shown to have leadership qualities, is the servant. He listens to his fellow man and sets a good example for the others around him. Although the servant isn't regarded as a leader, he is known as a leader in the minds of the others. Although you may not have the name of a leader, it doesn't mean you can't be a leader in what you do everyday.

Here at Lindisfarne we have leaders everywhere we look. We have a set of leaders at our school, known as Prefects. Unlike the people in the reading these people have

earned the right to be called a leader. They encourage us in what we do and show us how we can all be leaders in all areas of the school.

I ask you all to go out this day and for the rest of your lives and lead by example in what you do. You may never receive the title 'a leader' but it doesn't mean you won't be a leader in the minds of others. Encourage others, listen to them and encourage them to do well and allow the others to not become just a follower but to take control and become a leader like you.

An effective leader is not someone who is loved and admired; they are a person whose followers do right by. Popularity is not leadership, results are. A leader is not just someone who has followers, but one who can turn those followers into leaders themselves.

### **DURHAM HOUSE YEAR 12 CHAPEL SERVICE**

***SERMON – BEN STEPHENS***

***READING – OLIVER PEACOCK***

Persistence is the ability to maintain action regardless of your feelings. You press on even when you feel like quitting. In the reading just shared with us, the young man in the story who requires bread from his neighbour, through persistence in asking, he is given as many loaves of bread as he needs. Not because he is a friend, simply because of his persistence. Persistence is the key. If you do not ask, it will not be given to you.

When you work on any big goal, your motivation will wax and wane like waves hitting the shore. Sometimes you'll feel motivated, sometimes you won't. But it's not your motivation that will produce results, it's your action. Persistence allows you to keep taking action even when you don't feel motivated to do so, and therefore you build up results. Persistence will ultimately provide it's own motivation. If you simply keep taking action, you will eventually get results and results can be very motivating. For example, you may take a much more serious approach or enthusiasm about studying hard, after you get those first hard-earned excellences.

If you want to keep growing indefinitely you have to maintain a certain level of challenge and keep raising the bar even higher. You just can't let things get too cruisey and risk falling into a pattern of complacency. You have to strive to achieve and if you're not aiming to perform at your best then you're cheating yourself and everyone else who is giving you support. It's excellence that sets us apart.

All of us are capable of excellence whether it's in exams or on the sports field. If you practice that set piece corner kick in your soccer game enough, it's efficient in that final few minutes of that game that you have to score for victory. If you re-read over your days notes from school after tea, the knowledge and things you learn each day are etched into your brain for quick recall, which is super helpful when exam time comes around because you know the work. If you want something enough you can get it with the right application planning and persistence. The value of persistence comes from not from clinging to the past. It comes from a vision of the future and the things you want to achieve. These are the things that you would give anything to make real.

Exam time is rapidly approaching and it is important that we all put the effort that is required into studying. And remember that the effort you put in will determine THE RESULTS THAT YOU GET. All of us have complete control of our actions.

The decisions regarding plans on studying this weekend are entirely in your hands. It is you who decides whether you are out partying this weekend, avoiding studying or making any effort to study. But believe me, exams will start next Tuesday morning without fail. However if you make a study plan and stick to it managing your time effectively you will get the rewards in the results you gain! This coming Queen's birthday weekend is an instance I believe we should be somewhat selfish with our time, focussing on the importance of these midyear examinations.

Persistence of action comes from determination of vision. When you're super-clear about what you want in such a way that your vision doesn't change much, you'll be consistent in your actions. And that consistency of action will produce consistency in the results.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world –  
Nelson Mandela

Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance and persistence –  
Samuel Johnson

### **OSWALD HOUSE YEAR 12 CHAPEL SERVICE**

***SERMON – JAMES LANSDOWN***

***READING – SAM EAMES***

In ancient Greece, Socrates was rumoured to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day one fellow met the great philosopher and said,

“Do you know what I just heard about your friend?”

“Hold on a minute”, Socrates replied,

“Before telling me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test”.

“Triple Filter?”

“That's right”, Socrates continued.

“Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be a good idea to take a moment to filter what you're going to say. That's why I call it the Triple Filter Test. The first Filter is truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you're about to tell me is true?”

“No”, the man said, “Actually I just heard about it and.....”

“All right” said Socrates, “so you don't know if it is true or not. Now let's try the second Filter, the Filter of Goodness. Is what you're about to tell me about my friend something good?”

“No, on the contrary..”

“So”, Socrates continued, “you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test though, because there's one Filter left; the Filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?” “No, not really.”

“Well”, concluded Socrates, “if what you want to tell me is neither true nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?”

Humans as a species are jealous, jealous of other people mostly, jealous of gifts and talents we all have and it is this jealousy that can poison friendships, small and great. We have only to look into the past to see examples of this jealousy and the great lengths it will go to. Julius Caesar, one of the most brilliant men the city of Rome ever produced, a brilliant statesman and a military genius knew how to connect with the common people of Rome and he was adored by the common soldiers of the Roman Legions. It was because of these gifts that some of the Roman Senate plotted and carried out murder at the Gates of Senate House. They were driven by their jealousy; they knew they could never amount to the same as Caesar so they disposed of him. In a complete opposite to that, the loyalty shown by Mr Vargas to his dog Foxy shows the ability of human and animal hearts to show love and loyalty towards friends. Mr Vargas gave Foxy, a dog, in fact a 10 year pit bull terrier, blankets to keep her warm during the cold nights of Hodoken. He slept on the cold pavement with nothing to protect him from the elements. If one man can put the comfort of a dog ahead of his own, imagine what putting the comforts of a fellow man ahead of your own can do for the world. If we can put the lives of our fellow man ahead of your own we can save the world. The sort of loyalty shown by Foxy and Mr Vargas is what we should try to emulate, foregoing our own comfort to try and make somebody else that little bit more comfortable. And to make sure that we stay loyal to our mates by not going behind their backs. Talking about others behind their back is one of the main ways relationships are broken. Here at school friendships are extremely important, because getting through is harder without real mates. Be like Socrates, take the triple test (it's actually surprisingly easy) and never lose a mate because of idle chat with someone you thought was a friend. Don't give in to saying something stupid and regretting it forever. Because if you talk about your mates behind their back then you will end up with no mates whatsoever.

If you can remember Foxy and Mr Vargas, Socrates and his Triple Filter test and Julius Caesar and the jealousy of the Roman Senate, um good job, as so many other have done before I'll leave with a quote, it's an old Arabian proverb. Three things once released, come not back. The milk when it spills from the pail, the arrow when it speeds from the bow and the word, when it issues from the mouth.

### **CUTHBERT HOUSE YEAR 12 CHAPEL SERVICE**

***SERMON – SAM REYNOLDS***

***READING – ANDREAS CLAUDATOS***

You learn a lot more in life from your losses than you do from your successes. In a way, life is more about losing than it is about winning. In the reading that Andreas just shared with us Ty Cobb didn't go up to the plate and hit a home run every time, he only got a hit one in every three times but he never gave up, he stuck to it and became one of the greatest baseball players. I mean, consider the postage stamp: it's usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there. – Josh Billings. I know at times losing does get you down and we have all thought of giving up on something or someone as soon as it starts getting harder than we expected it to, this is where perseverance comes into it, to persevere means to do something even though there are difficulties. It is how we accept unsuccessful attempts or losses that mean the most, whether we spit the dummy, play the blame game or we take the positives out of the game or situation, learn from the mistakes that we made and carry on in the

next game. If we take the second option and learn from our mistakes we are persevering. Even though we have failed, we carry on.

I believe that perseverance is one of the most underrated qualities a person can have. It is very easy for us to set ourselves goals and say that we are going to do this but when it comes down to it, and it is harder than we think to complete these goals, half the time we give up without giving it a second thought. As an anonymous quote says “the road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces.” We know how easy it is for us to duck into these spaces and take the easy option but in the end we are not using ourselves to our full ability and not only are we cheating ourselves but also the others that have high expectations of us.

Successful people in life, whatever their chosen field may be, all have at least one thing in common, they have persevered. Trade Me’s Sam Morgan, I’m sure would have thought of giving up at times but he stuck to his ideas and backed himself to complete the website and look at him now. He is now basking in the glory that 4 years of hard work has brought him.

When we hear about successful people we generally only hear about how much talent they have or how smart they are or sometimes even how lucky they must have been to get to where they are. We never really think about the many tough times that they have been through to get there. The amount of times they were rejected from the team or had their offer turned down. Thomas Edison who invented the light bulb and many other modern day wonders, had thousands of ideas that never worked but he never looked at each one like a failure. Once when a friend was trying to console him about another unsuccessful attempt, Edison said “I have not failed, I’ve found a thousand ways that don’t work.” As we know Edison did go on to make a successful light bulb which now is a necessity of life.

Everyone is skilled at one thing, or if you are lucky many things but your natural skill can only take you so far. If you don’t set yourself anything to achieve you won’t achieve anything. It’s how you persevere to attain goals even through extreme difficulty that takes you the one step further than the average player and even though you will be a better person for it.

But even when you reach that goal it isn’t over yet, living a good, enjoyable life it isn’t a destination, it’s a journey. A journey I believe that all of us here are fully capable of taking, if we persevere, back our beliefs and learn from ours and others mistakes. Remember, nobody trips over mountains, it is the small pebble that causes you to stumble. Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find you have crossed the mountain.

## SERMON PREACHED BY MR ROBIN NAIRN

Thanks you Mr Fortune for your kind introduction. It is a privilege to be asked to speak to you all within this service of Worship.

During this time I would like to emphasise for us all the importance of 'relationships' something which is stressed in our essential Christian approach to life. The second commandment – You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Well – Lindisfarne I have to say – was somewhat different in 1955 when a shy 3<sup>rd</sup> former from a farming background in Central Hawkes Bay attended his first evening prayers on his first day at the College in the assembly hall which was in the squash courts somewhere behind me.

Now you have this wonderful Chapel which makes a statement about Christian love, care, about values and which encourages and enables relationships, relationships between individuals and relationships between those individuals and God.

Worship, when I was here, comprised of daily prayer at assemblies and on Sunday – each of us armed with 6d or 5 cents walked in crocodile fashion to either St Andrew's Presbyterian or St Matthews Anglican Churches in the centre of Hastings. The 6d ran the risk occasionally of being spent in a local dairy on the way.

Music has played an important part in my spiritual journey, one of Mr Snowling's predecessors Jack Trindall, Music Master both here, at Hereworth and also Organist at St Matthews tried and I repeat tried to teach me the piano and pipe organ. As a result though, I did develop a love for most music as long as it is well performed and to me, melodic. It was great to see the participation of many musicians from Lindisfarne on Praise Be last week.

Ongoing involvement in choir work fuelled my awareness of the beauty and the essence of worship, an awareness of my being and the fact I could and should develop a relationship with God as part of my reason for being and then in turn, my duty to share my learning and discoveries with others. – Relationships.

Leading a Youth group at St Matthews, after I had left Lindisfarne, I remember a Church Army Officer in the Parish speaking to our group and suggesting that, as young people, from our understanding of – and the relationship that we had the opportunity to develop with Jesus Christ, - should use Christ as a yardstick against which we should measure our activities, attitudes and relationships with other people. He suggested that we should always act **after** having asked the following kind of questions-:

*Would I drive the car in this way if I had Christ a passenger?*

*Would I speak to people this way if Christ was within hearing?*

*Would I use or try to share/sell those drugs to Christ?*

*Would I treat people this way if Christ was standing beside me?*

And so the questions can go on.

Simple message, a simple yardstick but one that made a lasting impression on me, one I have obviously remembered clearly. Again, all to do with establishing and maintaining relationships with others and with God through Christ.

Our Church Calendar has just observed Trinity Sunday. While ministers often dodge preaching and explaining the Trinity because of its theological complexity, it nevertheless highlights relationships – Father, Son and Holy Spirit all of which have a special and connected role.

The Anglican Church Calendar this Sunday observes Constitution / Te Pouhere Sunday.

In 1992 the Church agreed to a revision of its Constitution which enabled three principle cultural streams to organise their own affairs in a way which recognises their own individuality, their particular Tikanga (custom or convention) be it Maori, Polynesian or Pakeha while they nevertheless retain essential Anglican dogma and belief. They are all connected to the same Pouhere or ‘hitching post – anchor point’. Having been General Secretary for that Church over the past twelve years I can say that this does work. It has freed and encouraged the three partners to express their cultural individuality while relating to and working towards the proclamation of the Gospel the Good News on behalf of the whole Church. Again relationships which need to be continually worked at as indeed do all relationships.

One of the great learning things about Lindisfarne for me as a youngster, aside from the scholastic achievements or otherwise, was the fact that you have to live 24/7 with people, some of which you may have preferred not to. This is not only character building but also requires continual work at relationships, the need to use the yardstick I mentioned earlier and to remember the second Commandment.

As individuals you are members of this school community which you can contribute towards positively or otherwise. I well recall that inappropriate behaviour or misdemeanours could result in effecting or depriving a whole class or dormitory from some activity it was looking forward to. You soon knew about it if you were responsible! We all have a responsibility toward the community in which we live. Again this involves relationships.

You will no doubt be aware of the work being done on a National Statement of Religious Diversity. The make-up of New Zealand is changing – the recent census showing that a quarter of our residents were born overseas. A number of Church Leaders contributing towards that Statement and I quote – *“believe that all people are created in God’s image and need to find meaning and purpose beyond themselves. All living faiths witness in some way to the reality of God.”*

Number 2 of the proposed statement says – *New Zealand upholds the right to freedom of religion and belief and the right to freedom from discrimination on the grounds of religious or other belief.*

Again – relationships.

The Dominion Post newspaper has this week published summaries of a number of the 2006 Census findings and I quote from their section on values.

*New Zealand has fewer Christians, more followers of Eastern religions and a growing number of people who have no religion at all. Just over 2 million are affiliated with a Christian religion in the 2006 Census. (just about half the total population)*

*It went on to state – immigrants – particularly those from Asian countries are helping boost the numbers in non-Christian religions.*

Again we need to apply our yardstick in developing and maintaining positive and tolerant relationships in this changing country in order to build and maintain peace in our communities for which we all have responsibility.

Census Statistics also reveal that we still hold family and friends as the most important social values. Relationships!

To close I would like to leave with you the following quote which I hope may encourage us all to continue to look carefully at ourselves as individuals as we work at relationships in this changing society and world – for we can see – overseas – and here – the devastation and heartache that comes from ignoring relationships and ignoring the opportunity and dare I say duty we each have to make our own individual contribution.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.