



Woodford House

Synod Report 2014

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” Romans 8:35

‘In Term 4 of 2013 a review was undertaken by The Executive Director of The Anglican Schools Office, using the Review Toolkit for Church Schools, originally written for the use of Anglican schools in England, adopted by the Office for use in New Zealand. The focus was on the Christian ethos, worship and Religious Education.

Various questions were asked, with responses being sought from representative individuals and groups within the school community:

The Board of Proprietors Chairman and diocesan representative on the BOP,

The Principal,

The Senior Leadership Team,

The Chaplain,

The Director of Boarding,

A group of staff, and a group of 14 students, selected from every Year Group.

A survey questionnaire was posted to a representative group of parents.

Woodford House meets its obligations to the Crown to maintain and preserve an education with the special character for which they are responsible. Both the day school and the boarding facilities are happy, healthy communities. Indeed, the school does more than is required. In comparison with the other schools with Anglican foundations or links with the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Woodford House ranks highly for expression of an Anglican ethos, a sharing of faith, and a firm emphasis on the spiritual and moral education of its students.’ Alison Ballantyne, Former Executive Director

Woodford House is a close knit, passionate learning community. It is truly a learning community that cherishes the past, embraces the present, and challenges the future in a way that allows us all to share our experiences, work together and progress with confidence.

In Chapel, Students and staff have opportunities to contribute, share, celebrate, worship and pray together.

Parents and family members are invited to join in the Sunday evening Chapel services.

Religious Education is taught for all the Junior School and offers Christian living through health centred programmes and year 13 Ethics.

Two highlights in Chapel last term were the Palm Service, where we had the excitement of a well behaved donkey leading the Palm procession and our Easter Service, where the choir sang a powerful choral reflection on the passion of Christ through to the resurrection.

Our newly formed Chapel choir under the direction of our new Head of Music Department, Ms Tess Tobin, is going from strength to strength.

Included in this report are two samples of student voice.

The Reverend Joy Hamilton-Jones, Chaplain



The Majestic Bird

One afternoon, Reverend Joy took the 7/8 MO class out of the classroom to look at the St Francis statue positioned outside the chapel courtyard.



She explained the meaning of the words that were carved into the base of the statue (courage, gaiety and the quiet mind).

As she was explaining a question was brought up about the hood he was wearing. Reverend Joy answered that it was there for all the birds to come and drink out of. Just as she said it, a majestic sparrow flew down and landed on the rim of the hood. As the bird began to drink, Reverend Joy ran to get her camera but sadly the bird flew away.

The whole class was amazed and it is still a regular topic that is brought up in Religious Education.

Emma Jane Pettigrew Heeps





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Chapel Service: 7/8HM

Our chapel service was just as great as last year and we started off as the first form class chapel! This year during our reflection time; we talked about a charity and especially what others can learn from our chosen charity.

Our charity was the CMS society (which stands for the Christian Missionary Society). This is a charity that supports the World Wide Anglican Communion and other Christians around the world.

We shared the story about how The Reverend Samuel Marsden (originally from England and a keen supporter of the Christian missionary society), was invited to the Bay of Islands by the Naapuhi rangatira, Ruatara. Samuel Marsden sent a group of missionaries into Ruatara's care and protection in 1814.

Samuel Marsden who was working as chaplain in New South Wales; arrived in the Bay of Islands three months later. On Christmas day in 1814 at Oihi Bay, Samuel Marsden preached the first Christian church service in New Zealand.

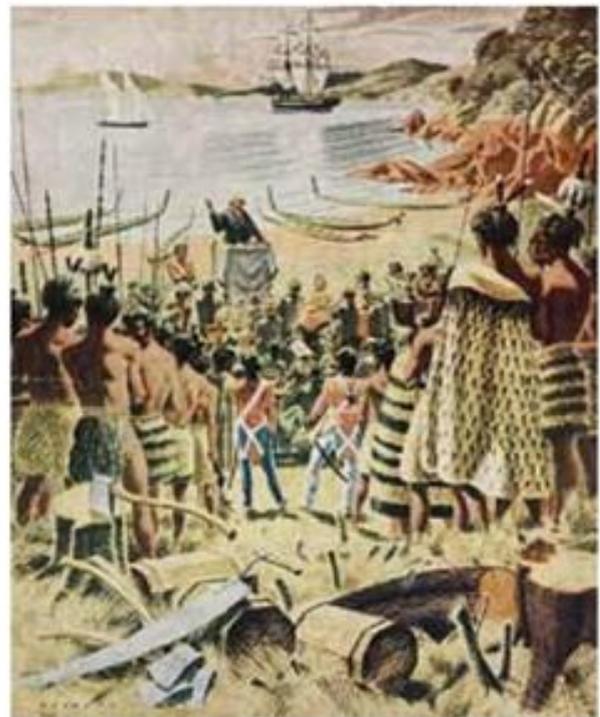
Kate Baddeley and Sofie Leigh Wilson read from a book based around this charity. The name of the book "When Tupu and Wiri went to school" is written by Alison Ballantyne.

I was involved in the service by saying the 'Call to worship' at the very beginning and the Dismissal at the end.



Reverend Joy was very proud of our efforts in our service and she said that she was very pleased with the many comments from other students and teachers.

Shamila Tautari



A painting of the day with Marsden at the podium and to his right is Ruatara dressed in British regalia (Alexander Turnbull Library)