

Time, Talents and Treasurers

The delightful Keith Lightfoot was Dean when Dianne and I started coming to the Cathedral in the 1980's. Our son Matthew (now 35) toddled around the Cathedral (like William and Abigail do now) and once even mounted the pulpit steps. Later he read lessons in Church.

David McAdam RIP as the crucifer carried the Cross and led the procession of choir and clergy into the Cathedral before the 10 o'clock Eucharist.

One day his grandson, the then 3-year-old Cameron Nielson, helped him. Cameron is now the crucifer.

Leslie Hyde was an inspirational assistant priest who introduced music of a different kind to the Cathedral. Children were encouraged to play instruments in church. Words appeared on overheads and their context was modern and melodic. Some were disconcerted by these initiatives but not the children.

In those days there were lots of children and young people. Popular Ruapehu trips were run by Warren and Min and still are. Camps were held at Waihi.

We shared Guy Fawkes nights fortuitously without needing the services of St John's Ambulances.

There was even a Cathedral cricket team for which Richard Chapman RIP and others were stars.

There has always been an excellent choir and there have been some memorable directors of music: Alan Simpson, Chris Hainsworth and Nigel Williams (who, tongue in cheek, referred to David McAdam, a choir member for 60 years, as "the young tenor") and for the last twenty years and counting the wonderful Rachel Griffiths-Hughes. Dianne was in the choir, so I qualified to attend many excellent Choir parties often featuring special items by the altos led by Ann Harlow.

An annual feature now is Rachel's very droll prize giving, details of which are closely guarded secrets.

As I reflect fondly on that past, I am also hopeful about the future of our Cathedral.

Much of the good of our past continues in bellringing, flower arranging, the exquisite work of LOFT in the maintenance and enhancement of vestments and embroidery of all kinds. greeting and worship. The monthly gift offerings of Cantata Vespers and the now sermon-less Evensong are well loved and attended.

There is growing variety in readers and intercessors

We have our new energetic and engaging Dean. He has formed a Time, Talents and Treasure discussion group to find new ways forward.

There are good signs in the youth ministry which is vital to the future life of our Cathedral.

Cecily leads the Sunday School with energy and imagination. Dianne and her team lead the delightful and popular outreach of Little Fishes for preschoolers.

Yvonne leads the Junior Choir who by learning the essentials provide a source of new choristers.

New parishioners are bringing more diverse perspectives and energy.

A bible study group is beginning to meet on Friday evenings.

Warren and Min lead the regular cathedral workshops which offer breakfast, constructive, shared work and friendship to all who participate.

Let's all get involved in our community in all the ways we can.

Let's accept our Dean's challenge to give more of our time, talents, and treasure so that the Cathedral will flourish in the years ahead.

David Wilson