PARISH WEB

St. George's Anglican Church

Gate Pā, Tauranga

July 2026

Season Of Creation

1 September - 4 October

Celebrating God as creator, his divine creation and calling all Christians to care and protect his world. This year's focus is on the ocean, rivers and lakes as water is essential for all living things. Ecological stewardship is the first part of this theme and the second is spiritual refreshment offered by God to us.

Ezekiel 47:1-12
John 4:10-14
John 7:37-39

A message from Rev'd Debbie

Around this time of the year the Anglican Church is focusing on the season of Creation so our theme for this Web is “Living Water.”

The key text for this theme comes from John 4:10-14. The context is the meeting between the woman at the well and Jesus. The woman is surprised when Jesus asks her to give him some water to drink because usually Jews would not have anything to do with a Samaritan woman. She asks him, “why are you asking me for a drink.” Jesus replies, if only you knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

Water is vital for all life! We not only experience physical thirst, but we also experience spiritual thirst and only Jesus can satisfy our deepest spiritual thirst. Water also reminds us of our baptism, where we are united with Christ and are welcomed into God’s family. The living water also symbolizes the Holy Spirit dwelling within believers (John 7:37-39), which renews, guides, and strengthens us for holy living.

A prayer: God of rivers and rain, source of all life and giver of grace, you sent Jesus, your Son, to offer the living water that wells up to eternal life. Pour your Holy Spirit upon us, refreshing the dry places within us, healing what is broken, and renewing us in hope and love. Amen. (*A Prayer in the Style of A New Zealand Prayer Book)*

The Rev’d Debbie Garrett
Priest in Charge

Vestry Notes...

Warden's June Report for the Web

We continue to welcome new members to St Georges.

The parish is in good heart. We are blessed to have the Rev'd Debbie continue as our priest in charge with support from the Rev'd Joyce. We also appreciate having parishioners like Cliff, Donald and Bonnie as well as visiting clergy to take major roles in our services.

The vestry has welcomed two new members: Bonnie Hebenton and Patricia Price, both known to us all.

Senior Chef 2026 February course is completed. As Mihi is away, many thanks to Annette McLachlan for stepping in as chef for the second course which finishes in August. It is very satisfying to never have problems filling each course.

Maintenance continues to be ongoing with all our buildings, particularly the leaks in the linkway. There may be a solution in the offing.

Centrepoint is going well with many donations and the public appreciating the good prices. The new sign has attracted a people who were not aware of the shop. Thanks to Kate's leadership and the work of the committee and volunteers.

Winter Health: It is the season for flus and colds as well as the ever-present Covid. Some parishioners and staff have already succumbed. A reminder: there are vaccines for Flu and Covid available free for pensioners and children. Remember to stay home if you are unwell.

The new Gate Pa Community Centre in Anzac Road is under construction and is expected to be finished in September.

Young at Heart Festival 1-8 October. Great entertainment and free food.

St George's will host an historic tour and afternoon tea and a Senior Chef demonstration. We will also have a stand at the opening event. I highly recommend taking advantage of this festival - there is just so many free events. Keep a lookout for the programme coming out later in the year. Copies will be at church and in the Tauranga Libraries.

Faye Mayo People's Warden July 2026

Centrepoint Catch Up

Although things are tough out there for a lot of people and businesses, Centrepoint is holding its own and we can still provide low-cost items to our customers and give away monthly grants to local organizations and charities -upholding our mission statement of 'In the Community for the Community.' We are still looking for good quality donations; we can pretty much sell anything that is complete and in a clean, sellable condition. If you are having a clean out, please keep us in mind remembering that we give back to your local community.

The Centrepoint building is getting older and requires a lot of maintenance to keep it looking at its best. The committee's focus for the next six months is to spend some money and time on this issue.

We have had some remedial painting work done to prevent dampness. Sadly, we had to paint over the Centrepoint signage on front of the building. This should be replaced with a new fresh design next month and start off our plans to freshen the outside of the building. This will include painting and repairing the roof and the verandah and possibly painting the outside of the building if the budget stretches that far.

The interior of the shop also needs some upgrades. A new basin has been installed in the toilet, and we are hoping to get a small area tiled to tidy this. Painting the interior is on the wish-list but this is also budget dependent. Quotes for this are being obtained at present.

An upgrade of our shop's security cameras is also due next month as the current system does not enable us to download footage for the police, and this is a vital part of keeping not only ourselves safe but also the wider Greerton community. The new cameras will also give us full coverage of the car park area, making this area safer and helping to prevent the illegal dumping of rubbish, which happens after hours.

The building also has an internal lift which is used by the Tauranga Special School for the students who cannot use the stairs. This lift is a constant drain on our funds, and we spent over $20,000 on upgrading and maintaining it last year. Hopefully this work will solve all the issues that we have had and it will tick along happily for many years to come.

We have recently painted the interior upstairs for our tenants, Tauranga Special School. This area was also re-carpeted 12 months ago, making it a fresh clean learning environment for the teacher and the students.

As you can see, although we like to give back to the community and the church, juggling funds is a constant issue for our management committee.

Kate (manager Centrepoint Opportunity Shop)

Thank you, St.George's Centrepoint Op shop!

Christians Against Poverty partners with local churches across New Zealand to bring both practical help and spiritual hope to whānau. With the ongoing rise in cost of living, many households across **Aotearoa** are struggling in financial hardship right now.
CAP Debt-Help is a free service providing emergency and food, financial mentoring, affordable budgets, advocacy with lenders - all with the love and grace of God as a CAP coach walks alongside.

With nearly 20 years of experience **CAP is regularly sought out by Government for advice and is working with public sector agencies** to create more fair and just financial legislation.

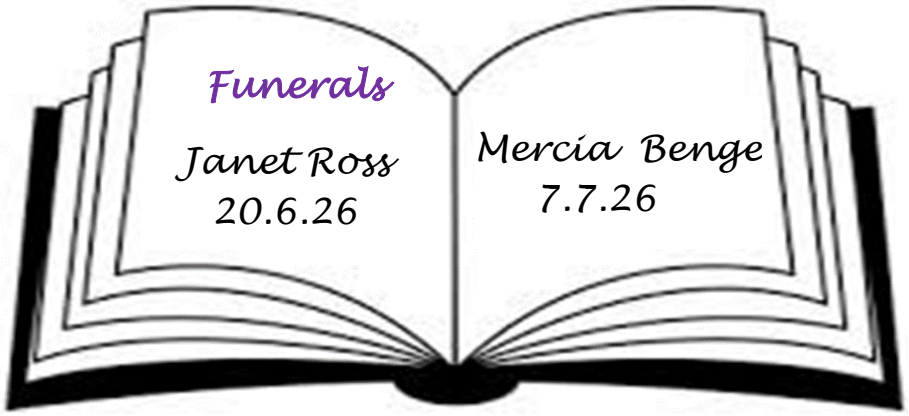
Since 2018 St. George's Centrepoint Opshop has been supporting CAP each month. Thank you!

To support whānau across New Zealand you can:

- Go online for secure giving via **capnz.org/donate** or set up an AP with Christians Against Poverty ***03-0195-0610289-000***
- Call 09 270 0334

Thank you!
Simon Finch
Church Engagement Manager

From the Register



Just for Janet

This week, we lost our darling 86 year-old mum Janet Mary Ross - just a few days after her identical twin sister Janice passed away. One of my sad admin jobs is to sort out her magazine subscriptions - of which the longest-running by far is the *Weekly.* She loved it when the latest issue arrived. It offered her comfort, entertainment and gentle escapism, when life was becoming gradually more limited and chronic pain was being managed with her signature cheerfulness. Magazines were not thrown away but passed along to friends who gave her lifts along with homemade cards. Weddings, babies and royal news (but only the happy kind) were her firm favourites and often provided conversational fodder for our nightly phone calls. Thank you *Weekly* for continuing with your original promise for 1932 to bring "usefulness , cheerfulness and happiness" to women like my mum.

Carolyn (Janet's daughter)
letter in NZ Women's Weekly

Parish Activities

Installation of Our New Archdeacon

We were asked to host the installation of our new Archdeacon Christopher Tweddell and to farewell and thank the outgoing Archdeacon Peter Bargh. This event took place on Sunday 10 May at 3pm, followed by refreshments in the lounge.

Bishop Andrew officiated. Priests from all of Tauranga's Anglican churches attended and were part of the ceremony. Members of other local congregations were also present.

The Reverend Peter is moving to a Chartwell parish. He was gifted a copy of Cliff and Buddy Mikaere's book Victory at Gate Pa? This was presented by Clark.

Archdeacon Christopher will also take the role of Ministry Educator for the Bay of Plenty.

We wished both all the best in their new roles.

Faye Mayo

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Sunday Services

1st Sunday of each month: 8:30am and 10:00am communion services with children's ministry at the 10:00am service.
All other Sundays: One service at 9:30am.
We will have morning tea together every week after the 9:30am or 10:00am service.

Mid-week Service

Every Tuesday 9:30am.
Followed by morning tea, everyone welcome.

Parish Social Nights

2nd Friday of the month 5:00pm.
This is an opportunity to get together socially. Details for each month will be advertised in the pew sheet. Everyone welcome.

St George's Day Celebration

30 August after the 9:30 service.
The social team will be putting on a light lunch. All welcome. Further information closer to the day.
On St George's Day we are asking all parishioners to contribute non-perishable items for Foodbank in lieu of a Harvest Festival.

Parishioner's Contributions

Otago Harvest Cake Recipe

Ingredients

1 cup vegetable oil (I use rice bran)

2 cups raw sugar

3 eggs

1 cup wholemeal flour

1 cup plain flour

1/4 tsp salt

1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tsp each of ground mixed spice, ginger and instant coffee powder

2 1/2 cups grated pumpkin

1/2 cup chopped dried apricots

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

2 tsp baking soda dissolved in 2 tsp orange (or lemon) juice

Method

- Prepare pumpkin and chopped apricots and walnuts.
- Using a cake mixer, blend the oil and sugar and the eggs one at a time.
- Mix in the remaining ingredients except the soda.
- Once combined, fold in the baking soda mixture.
- Pour into a greased lined 22cm square cake tin. Level out.
- May be sprinkled with raw sugar and pumpkin seeds. Bake at 160 C for an hour until gently browned and cooked.
- Cool, then split in half and fill with cream cheese icing. Note: it is easier to cut the cake into two and then split each piece.

Helen O'Connor

A big welcome to Georgia

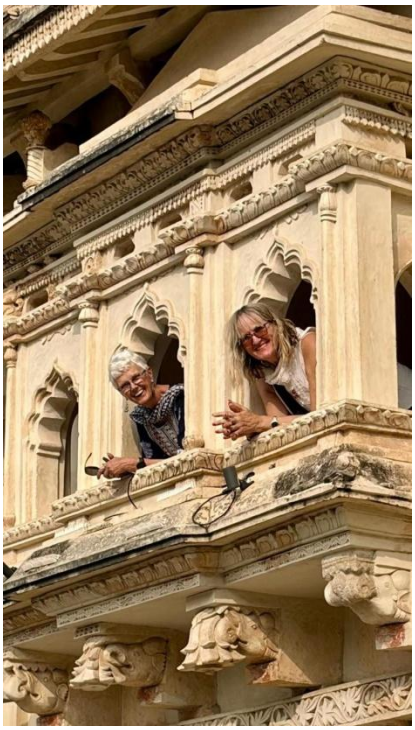
Georgia Victoria Higson Ackerley

Georgia was born on Anzac Day morning 25 Apri 2026. Her due date was 23 April, which is St Georges day. Given that this is also our Church, it really did influence our naming decision. She is a lovely sweet little baby and we look forward to bringing her to Church in the future. I have talked to Debbie about Baptism and this will be in the Spring.

From Paul, Rachel and Odette.

….and a happy 80th birthday to Miriam, our long-time parishioner of 48 years.

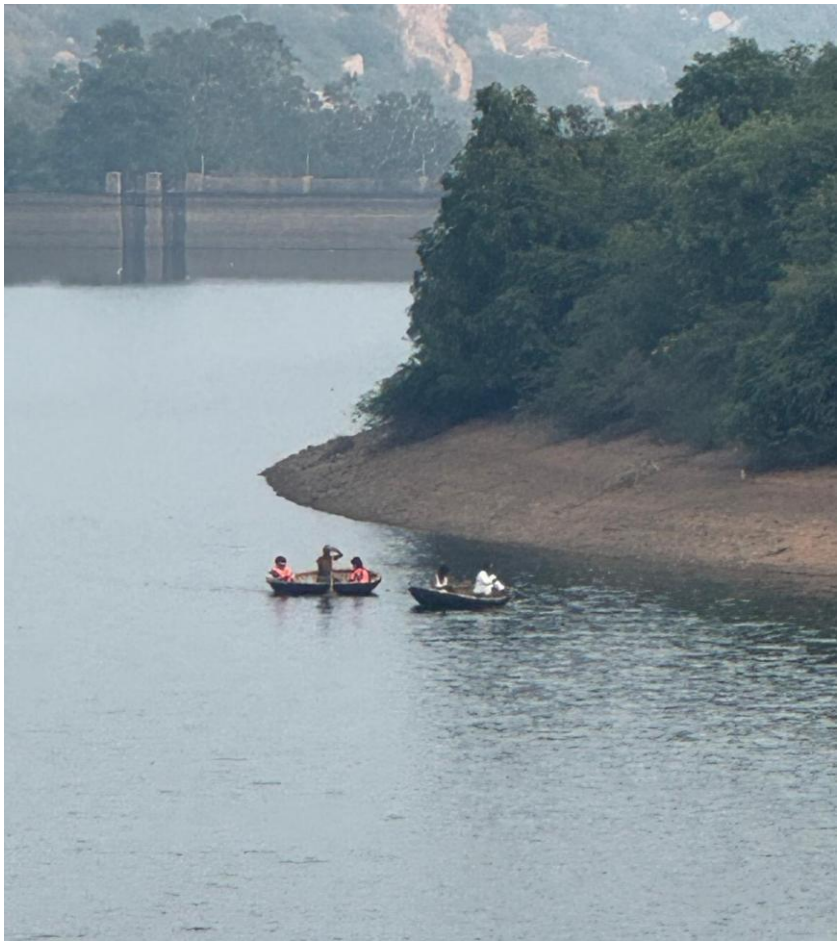
South India revealed Part 2



Next adventure by overnight train to the township near Hampi. Luckily, I managed to sleep OK on my top bunk. After dropping off our luggage at our next hotel, and taking in breakfast, we set out to explore the ancient ruins by rickshaw. It was an hour's drive to the site to see the amazing temples and ancient columns of this area which is now a protected UNESCO archaeological site. Many lean-to shops and accommodation have been demolished to preserve the area for tourism. People have had to move to other towns so it is quite isolated out there. The structures are well preserved and I enclose some of the photos to give you an idea of what it is like.

There is a 16th century temple containing pillared pavilions, an ancient palace and stone chariot. We spent a couple of hours walking around the area. We carried on to Hampi Bazaar where there are an array of souvenir shops with carvings, jewellery and clothing shops to browse through.

On the return to our rickshaws, a mishap occurred regarding my prescription glasses. On changing to my sunglasses, my spectacle case with glasses went flying out the window as the driver took off suddenly. I yelled to him to stop

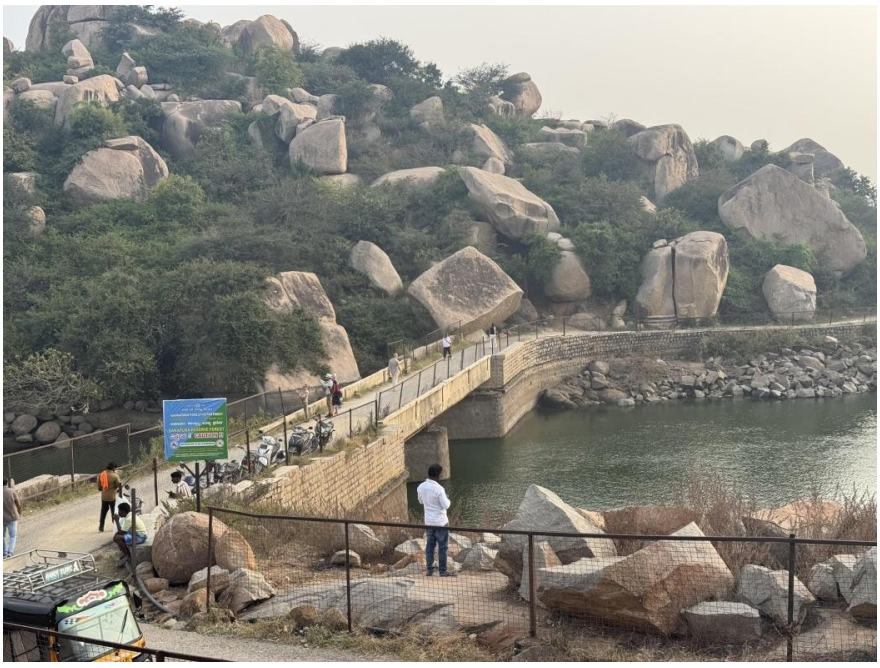


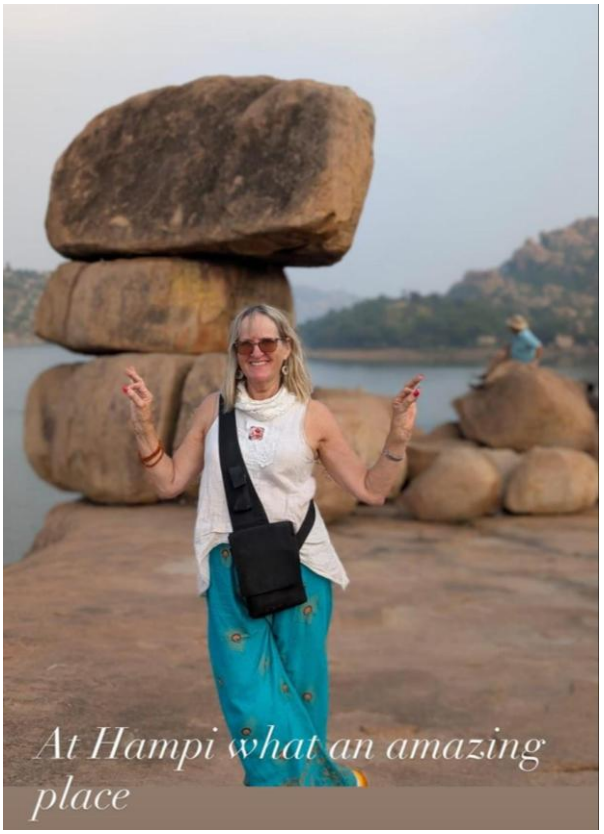
which he did and I retrieved my glasses case to find the frame was broken and a lens had popped out after being run over by another rickshaw. What a nuisance. Back to sunglasses for now until I could sort new ones in the next major city.

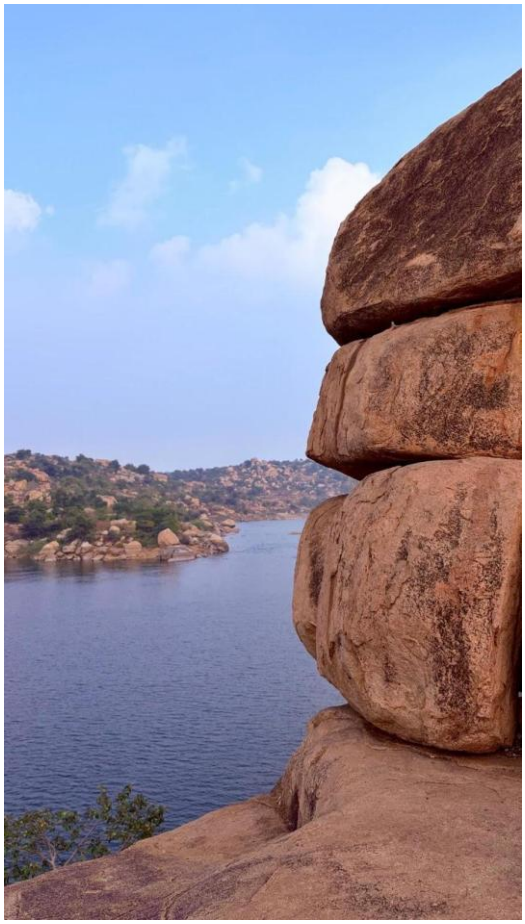
An opportunity arose to go out in a round boat with some of the group. It was a pleasant afternoon enjoying the camaraderie and laughter. The guys did the rowing, us girls enjoyed a relaxing time.

Another free day for exploring the township near our hotel, shopping or having a swim in the pool. Mid afternoon we loaded up our luggage into our minibus and travelled to see the dam and the massive collection of boulders which are famous in this area. Groups of boulders are balanced on top of each other or side by side. We were able to walk the paths and climb on top of the flat rocks to get a sense of this phenomenon. We were able to capture some amazing photos and catch the early setting sun which

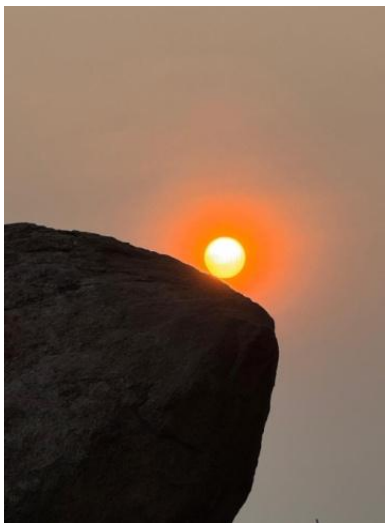
looked incredible.







We were now on the way to catch our overnight train from Hubli which was 3 hours away. This would be the last overnight train for us as we headed to Condalim in Goa for the next three days. Arriving early morning, we dropped off our luggage at our Indie Stays hotel and set out to explore the beach by foot. It was great putting our feet in the water and finding a great cafe for breakfast. Lots of style options this time so we enjoyed poached eggs and toast, pancakes or French toast - the choice was varied. On our walk back to our accommodation, we discovered a small eatery serving freshly made vegetable samosas. The smell drew us in and many of us bought them for lunch later on. To be honest the food throughout the tour had been faultless. Our guide Ajay certainly knew which places



to go to. The day was free to browse the shops and find trinkets to bring home or laze on the sun lounges on the beach or at our hotel. Plenty of choice to relax after 14 days travel. The next few days we enjoyed at the beach, meals out, lots of shopping as well as sightseeing. We visited Old Goa where there were lots of Catholic Churches and colourful houses and shops reflecting the

Portuguese influence in the area. The pastry shops were to die for. I attended a Catholic church service near where we stayed and I enjoyed the full congregation present and the singing. Soon it was time to say goodbye to our group, as many were travelling further afield to beaches in the south or going on

safari. Some were carrying on to Sri Lanka before heading for home. For me, it was returning to Pune to pack up my luggage, say goodbye to my friends and be ready to fly to London from Mumbai. So blessed to have taken this adventure and seen some more of the world. We give thanks to our local guide Ajay from Intrepid Tours who really made this journey spellbinding. Great memories of South India and meeting up with like-minded travellers who made it worthwhile. South India did not disappoint. Now I was ready to meet up with friends and family in London for the next part of my journey - through the UK. That's another story for another day.

Maggie McIntosh

Something I Thought I Would Never Do

Part 2.... lots more interesting stuff

At the end of Part One I mentioned the Victory Show: what I forgot to say was that the living history site was covered with groups dressed up as they would have been during the Second World War. Some dressed as Allied army and airforce and some as German, medical tents (you saw the bloodied body) all camped for the long weekend show. The carpark was three full paddocks. A real long weekend outing for many.

Next we went to a World War 1 airfield at Stow Maris. At this WW1 museum they have several airworthy original and replica World War 1 aircraft including one built by Sir Peter Jackson's aircraft factory in NZ. They were truly string and chewing gum aircraft. The picture above is

a replica of the cockpit of a WW 1 Vickers Vimy bomber. It shows all the controls which were by wire cables.

The Kingfisher

We stayed at some interesting places. This one is the Kingfisher Hotel in Bedford. The next day on the way to the Shuttleworth Collection we visited what was RAF Cardington. Cardington had the airship hangers for the R100 and R101 airships, they are enormous structures. When I was 15 years old and trying to join the RAF they sent me to RAF Cardington for testing. I didn't get in, but we got to walk inside them. Now all that is left of the base is these hangers and a new housing estate is where the RAF base was. The hangers are now leased by the council as film studios.

Cardington Airship Hangers

Gloster Gladiator

Traction Engine

Sopwith Camel

The Shuttleworth Best of British Airshow was based around the World War 1 and 2 aircraft in their collection at the Shuttleworth estate. These are supplemented on the day with many other WW 2

aircraft that fly into the airfield. Shuttlewoth has a large collection of WW 1 aircraft, some original and some replicas; several date back to the beginning of flight in the UK. These aircraft are very rare and are only flown in the evening when the winds are usually light. On the day we were there the wind did not drop and the aircraft remained in the hangers. The Shuttleworth collection does not only have aircraft, but many cars, buses, bikes and a steam traction engine.

The Vulcan cockpit

The following day we headed to the Midlands Air Museum; a small museum, again run by a dedicated band of volunteers. This museum has several aircraft that you can enter. The highlight here was the Vulcan Cold War -era bomber, built to carry nuclear payloads. This one we got to climb into through a very small and a skinny ladder. What struck me most was the very limited crew space for such a large aircraft, including the cockpit, about the size of a small garden shed! A crew of 5, pilot and co-pilot, navigator, engineer and a bomb aimer. The other thing was that the pilot and co-pilot had ejector seats whereas the other three had a ladder to climb down, basically they were expendable with little chance of escape.

The crew space

The Valiant

After a rest day in Dudley, our destination for the day was the

RAF Museum Midlands at RAF Cosford, still a working RAF base. It had a very special attraction for me as they have the only complete Bolton and Paul Defiant aircraft. I have been building a 1/5 scale radio controlled flying model of this aircraft which I have almost finished. But more of the Defiant later.

The Victor

RAF Cosford is still a working RAF base, the museum is part of that operation and has three enormous hangers filled with partially and fully restored aircraft from WW1 to modern time. In the modern hanger they have all three of the British Cold War "V" bombers the Victor, the Valiant the Vulcan. These three "V" bombers are enormous and dwarf most of the other exhibits in the hanger. In the same space they have an English Electric Lighting mounted vertically, you can see it in the background in the photo of the Vulcan, just to give you some idea of how large these hangers are. Several other aircraft are parked outside -some you can enter.

The Vulcan

The Cosford Museum also has one of only four

The Avro Lincoln

Inside the bomb bay

The gun turret

remaining Avro Lincoln WW 2 bombers, probably the largest bomber of the Second World War, much larger than the more well-known Avro Lancaster.

Now back to the Defiant. The aircraft was designed as a night fighter with no forward facing guns but a rotating turret mounted behind the pilot with 4 machine guns. This turret was able to rotate through 360 degrees, though if you fired the guns facing forwards you would shoot the propeller off!! Early on in the war it was a very effective night fighter, but with no forward facing defence, it was very vulnerable in daylight and eventually the German airforce found it's weak spot and the advantage was lost.

Bolton and Paul Defiant

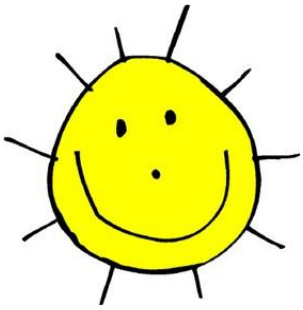
My model has a 6ft wingspan

Also on display is one of only two built, but never flown, the British designed supersonic jet fighter, British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) TSR2. Designed in the late 1950s/early 1960s this aircraft was designed to fly at twice the speed of sound at low level.

BAC TSR2

To be continued...
Clark Houltram

Church Chuckles



Commandments for Seniors

- The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.
- Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat possums who couldn't make a decision.
- When I get a head ache I take two aspirin and keep away from children, just like the bottle says.
- Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, "close enough."
- Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.
- If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.
- "Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo."
- Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?
- I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's five and it's past his bedtime.
- "Today's three-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favourite apps. When I was three I ate mud.
- Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.
- So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?
- Old age is coming at a really bad time.
- If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.
- Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.
- Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?
- Now, I'm wondering . . . did I send this to you, did you send it to me or have I only sent it to myself.
- You don't need anger management. You need people to stop irritating you.
- Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- "On time" is when you get there.

- Even duct tape can't fix stupid – but it sure does muffle the sound.
- It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free...and three sizes smaller.
- Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

Contributed by Miriam Peevor

Water, Water Everywhere, But Not A Drop To Drink

- Water covers 71% of Earth
- The amount of water on Earth never changes. Water recycles itself so the water you drink today is the exact same water dinosaurs drank, millions of years ago
- About 97% of Earth's water is in the ocean, too salty to drink or use for crops.
- Of the 3% freshwater, less than 1% is drinkable. The rest is frozen in ice caps or glaciers mostly in Antarctica.
- An adult human body is approximately 60% water.
- The human brain is approximately 75% water.
- Water regulates the Earth's temperature and the temperature of the human body.
- A person can survive a month without food but only about a week without water.
- Water is the only natural substance on Earth that exists simultaneously in three forms: solid, liquid and gas.
- Over 60% of our daily water consumption in the home, is used in the bathroom and toilet.
- Over two billion people still lack safe drinking water. 80% of illnesses in the developing world are water related.
- Earth is often called the Blue Planet, due to it's abundant water. Water appears blue in oceans because water molecules absorb colours from sunlight and blue light is scattered the most, giving water it's characteristic blue hue.
- Water isn't silent. It can babble, chatter, crash, roar, whisper, gurgle, chuckle, sigh.....
- WATER SHOULD BE USED WISELY. IT IS PRECIOUS.

Little Poem For Seniors from Baby Boomers

Another year has passed
and we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter
And winter seems much colder.
There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
About "Living in the past'.
We used to go to weddings,
Football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes
And after funeral brunches.
We used to go out dining,
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
Come home and take a pill.
We used to often travel
To places near and far.
Now we get sore asses
From riding in the car.
We used to go to nightclubs
And drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
And watch the evening news.
That my friend is how life is,
And now my tale is told.
So enjoy each day and live it up....
Before you're too damned old.

Contributed by Miriam Peevor

Did you know that water is mentioned in the Bible over 700 times?

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	admin.gatepa@waiapu.com	
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People's Warden	Faye Mayo	543 3369
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