

Planning for the future?!

Once there was a very rich man who dreamed that he died and went to heaven. St Peter escorted him down a lovely street on which each house was magnificent. The rich man saw one house that was especially grand and asked who lived there. St Peter said, 'Interesting that you should ask, but that is the celestial home of your butler.'

The man smiled, 'Well, if my butler gets a place like that, I certainly look forward to seeing what my new home will be like.'

Soon they came to a very small street where the houses were tiny and unpretentious. 'You will live in that house,' said St Peter. 'What?! Me live in a hovel like that!' exclaimed the rich man.

'That is the best we can do for you,' replied Peter. 'You must understand that we can only build your home with the material you send ahead while still on earth.'

Our Christian religion is all about community, which in turn is all about sharing, giving and working together. If we lose sight of that, we have lost the essence of Christianity.

'I command you to love each other in the same way I love you.' John 15:12

In this story, there is also the message that there is an afterlife and the quality of that afterlife will depend on how we live this life.

'For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly life.' 2 Corinthians 5:10.

New Church

Last Sunday we finally were able to worship in our new church! Friends and family came from near and far, and the church was full. If you have not had the chance to see the service, please do so. Here is the link again: [Growing God's kingdom 17th August 2025](#)

It has been quite a mission just getting there, and we are indebted to the support of so many who have made this all possible. However, I do want to mention three people who have been instrumental in getting us to the point where we can plan for the new journey ahead.

My late friend and mentor, John Taylor. JT knew everyone in Auckland and drove our fundraising programme.

Our architect, John McClean. John's experience, expertise and most importantly, his understanding of the dynamics and purpose of a church have played such a vital part in this project. It has been a joy working with him.

Richard Adams' support in a variety of ways. He has brought a business acumen, managerial experience (especially in church circles), and a magnanimous spirit to the table.

The response of so many people to the realisation of this project has been uplifting and we are so very grateful.

Consecration

The consecration of our new church by Bishop Ross will take place on Sunday 31 August at 2.00pm. We will **NOT** be holding our usual 9.30am service that morning.

Looking Forward

I want to reiterate a point I have made on more than one occasion. Let's not forget the underpinning motivation for this project – to grow a slice of God's kingdom here in Flat Bush. I am so very keen for more and more people to come to an awareness and understanding of God and Christ; for God's church to grow. Now that we can put behind us the challenge presented by the bricks and mortar of

God's church, we can tackle the challenge of actually growing his church. It is the beginning of a new journey!

'For I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29:11
(I have often reflected on this verse over the past few years!)



Time for a Smile

These recorded comments by US police officers show that some cops do have a sense of humour:

'Yea, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a new toaster.'

'You didn't think we give pretty women tickets? You're right, we don't. Sign here.' (*Ouch!*)

Rev Warner Wilder
021 548 407