

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT – WOODFORD HOUSE

*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
1 Thessalonians 5:23*

The worship in Chapel is not only important in nurturing the sense of community at Woodford House; it offers a foundation for a positive perspective on life in today's world and hope for the future. Here we seek to form young women who will contribute positively and be of service to others.

At the heart of Woodford is the Chapel. Regular services provide the context of our life as a community. The Christian faith on which the School was founded remains the guiding principle for our spiritual life and our values.

Those who are part of the Woodford community are expected to embrace our shared values and participate in Chapel life. This includes two week day morning Chapel services, and attendance at three Sunday services out of the five offered each term. Sunday evening services take a variety of forms and traditions. Parents, family members and visitors are encouraged to attend and participate in these Sunday services.





Girls use technology for research in Religious Education.

This year Woodford House have been exploring the use of the wireless network. The School has embraced the learning site known as Schoology.

Schoology is a secure school social network site that makes it easy to create and share academic content. Students research, analyse and discuss ideas with their teachers and peers.

Religious education and Chapel worship actively use the wireless network as a learning a tool. The form time class chapel presentations and religious education classes have been having lots of fun being creative with PowerPoint, film and music media.

Our services such as: Founders, Palm service, Good Friday, Easter, Harvest, Pentecost, Commemoration, Advent and Carols are very much part of the expected tradition at Woodford House. We have also shared in services at The Napier Cathedral and St Luke's Parish in Havelock North. The Woodford House Senior and Junior choirs have sung at each place of worship.

Guest Speakers

In June, we welcomed The Reverend Barbara Walker, the Chaplain at the Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital, as our guest speaker. Barbara shared a miracle story from her missionary experience. The impact of Barbara's talk left the girls in awe of this amazing disciple of Jesus. Reverend Barbara's talk was a wonderful taster to motivate the form time classes in thinking about the miracles theme for their form time chapel services.

In July, Mrs Carpenter (Director of Performing Arts) and Ms Wadeson (School Nurse) were our guest speakers. Together they shared details of their recent pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel. They spoke of their amazing experiences visiting some historically rich places, including key land sites from the bible where Jesus visited, preached, prayed, healed and was baptised. Their presentation included a slide show of remarkable photographs from their travels. Students found it particularly interesting hearing about the substantial cultural differences between New Zealand and the 'Holy Land' with its three main religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Sharing their experiences with the School was very much appreciated.

Soul Chat

This is a group led by staff comprising of Miss Sime, Ms O'Halloran, Reverend Joy and the chapel prefect, Elenoa Tabudravu. An introduction of a ten week Youth Alpha course has been established. There is an encouraging interest and enthusiastic group fronting up each week.

In Conclusion

I would like to finish this Synod report with write ups by two Intermediate students.

Pentecost Service: *"It was Sunday night chapel and 7/8 Mo were standing outside the chapel waiting for all of the parents and children to enter. We were very nervous but ready to perform our Pentecost play. Before we walked into the chapel we said prayers and then off we went, skipping and waving our ribbons in the air. Everybody was looking at us like we were crazy but really we were having fun. We sang some hymns, then the 7/8 Mo students and other Year 7/8 classes performed a play. Zillah was the reporter going around and asking people questions. Even the parents and children were involved in the play. It was fun because we got to dress up in costumes and we all had at least one line to say. After we finished the play we sang Happy Birthday to the chapel because Pentecost means the birthday of the church. Finally 7/8 Mo skipped out happily with their ribbons. When it is someone's birthday there is usually cake, so guess what? We had CAKE! It was a delicious chocolate cake with chocolate icing. Overall it was a great chapel service and my favourite part was doing the play. I can't wait until next year to do it all again."*

Cathedral Visit: *"I pulled up outside the beautiful Cathedral. I travelled inside and found a seat next to my friend Sophie. At 10:00 sharp Bishop John Bluck walked down the aisle, followed by the Choir, Reverend Joy and Mrs Hunt. We sang and we prayed and had a really good time. I especially liked the prayer about God making the earth with his partners. I can't wait until we go next year."*

Every blessing

The Reverend Joy Hamilton-Jones
Chaplain