

Memorial Minutes

The following memorial minutes continue on from those published in the first mailing of the Whitebook. The page-numbering reflects this.

Ashton, Rev Glen

Glen Ashton's ministry was people-centred. His call to take up ministry when conducting a successful private business was a challenge at the stage of life he and his family were at. Accounts of Glen's ministry all show him to be a pastor with a deeply sensitive and compassionate heart for individuals and their needs. He was also a practical man. Just prior to accepting the call to train for the ordained ministry he learned of the need of a friend to have a roof painted. The friend was nervous about the task. At the same time, Glen knew of a man who needed work. At his own expense, and assisting in the task himself, he brought the unemployed man to the job and the task was completed in good time.

Glen entered the Theological Hall at Dunedin in 1984. Upon graduating he was ordained and inducted to the North Invercargill Parish as associate minister in 1987 and became sole charge in 1989. He was called to the large parish of St Columba, Pakuranga, in 1991. His skills in management, administration and planning were evident and with his gift of encouragement he gave people faith in their ability to achieve goals. And achievement of goals was a hallmark of Glen's work. He was involved in setting up two facilities in Manukau for people with intellectual and physical disabilities and a counselling centre. At the conclusion of his ministry at St Columba he pastored at the Elim Christian Centre for several years.

In the last seven years of his working life, together with wife Angela, he spent between six and eight weeks each year in Orissa, India, training pastors and working in a Bible College attached to a children's home with 750 young people. Conditions there in recent years, had been difficult and dangerous. He and Angela ran pre-marriage and marriage enrichment courses which were a new experience for Indian pastors, leaders and young people. Glen's final parish ministry was at Raglan Union Church for two years of part time ministry from 2007 to 2009.

Glen's family was a close one and justifiably he was held in high regard by them. They described him as an "exceptional man, a man of God, a man of deep profound faith". He was passionate about people. He loved pastoring and he never departed from the task. His seventy years ended suddenly on 29 May 2010. He will be remembered for his faith, his friendship and his love of people.

"And I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the Unknown.' And he replied: 'Put your hand in to the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.' So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night."

Minnie Louise Haskins – King George VI

Floyd, Rev Adam
1932-2009

Adam Floyd was born in Glasgow on 12 February 1932. His family lived in a tenement building on the 'other side' of the city and Adam often mentioned the close community which resulted from families living in fairly small living quarters in close proximity. Adam was a very severe asthmatic in his early years and it was during this time that he developed his love of reading because he was not well enough to join in the more vigorous play and sports. He knew about poverty from his earliest years and knew about the struggle of families to make ends meet. As he grew into early adulthood the Church of Scotland and the Labour Party provided him with his core values. He also spent a short period working with ground crew in the RAF-a connection that enabled to identify with returned servicemen and women later when he had settled in New Zealand.

Adam emigrated to New Zealand in 1957 at the age of 25 to join his brother and held a series of jobs, mainly in Customs and Shipping. In Wellington he immediately linked with the Presbyterian Church and made Kent Terrace his place of worship. During the ministry of Dr Graeme Ferguson between 1965 and 1975 Adam was encouraged not only to widen his theological reading but to eventually become the session clerk and later still to join the Assembly International Relations Committee. As a result of their time together at Kent Terrace, Adam and Graeme formed a warm and cordial relationship that continued throughout Adam's life.

Adam married Jean in 1978 and in 1982 felt called to become a student at Knox College in order to become a Presbyterian Minister. This was a major step in his life as he had never in his wildest dreams thought that he could qualify academically to fulfill such a calling. In Scotland this would never have been a possibility. As a person who had finished school at the age of 14 this two year course at the Hall was quite a challenge. However, over the years he had been a keen student of religion, philosophy and current affairs and had read widely on a broad range of topics so he found the discipline of organising his knowledge in a more structured and focused way a very enjoyable and stimulating experience.

After two years in Dunedin Adam, Jean and their daughter Julie went first to Greymouth on stated supply (December 1983 to February 1983) and then to the Matawhero Parish in Gisborne where he was ordained. There they spent happy years from March 1984 to September 1989. Adam and Jean then moved to the Wairarapa where Adam was minister for the Greytown/Featherston Parish from September 1989 until he resigned at the end of January 1991. It was a case of a theological mismatch in one of the parts of this parish and the resulting experience made a deep impression on his life.

Adam became minister emeritus in 1993. In retirement he continued to serve the Presbytery and Union District Council as and when he was able. For the final ten years of his life Adam was the parade chaplain at the Lake Ferry ANZAC service, an occasion that he presided over with dignity and compassion. A feature of this service was the address delivered in the local hotel following the ceremony at the flag staff. Adam chose the speakers from his wide circle of friends and on each occasion speakers were able to establish a rapport with the large number of locals from the rural area, that packed the bar area. Adam had the uncanny knack of choosing the right person for the occasion and he was, as a result, held in high respect. Adam was a theological liberal throughout his adult life and in later years that liberalism turned to radicalism as he sought to relate

the Gospel to the increasing violence and upheavals of the post nine eleven era. Until the end of his life he was keen to know what was happening in the world and to discuss international issues with a wide circle of friends.

Adam was heavily involved in various community activities in the Wairarapa including assisting in the setting up of Presbyterian Support Services in the South Wairarapa. In retirement, he was very active in the South Wairarapa Rotary club which he joined in the early 1990s and in the Labour Party, serving the local electorate committee in a number of capacities including Vice Chair on more than one occasion. He, as a result, enjoyed a wide circle of friends from many different social and political backgrounds, both in New Zealand and overseas. Adam made good use of the internet and was an early user of the Skype phone to keep in contact with his overseas contacts. International affairs and local politics were a constant interest. He also enjoyed a passion for classical music and his love of good food led to Adam assisting others in successfully establishing the Wairarapa Wine and Food Society.

Adam was a passionate, forthright advocate for people and their right to a fair go and to the principles of social justice. His life was a pilgrimage of faith, from a hard beginning in Glasgow to a full and stimulating life in New Zealand. He and Jean made many long and significant friendships through his life of service in the Church and in the various community activities he and they pursued. As a friend remarked at the time of his death *"Adam was a Scotsman with a big heart and a passion for life and ministry."* He died on 12 August 2009 at the age of 77, after a short illness. A large congregation joined Jean and the family in celebrating his life in the Martinborough Church where he had been a member.

The Presbytery of the Wairarapa, the Wairarapa Union District Council and the Assembly gives thanks for Adam's life and commends Jean and the family to the love and the care of God.