

September 2018

The Net

The Magazine of Priestfield Parish Church, Edinburgh
Living in the Way of Jesus



Web: <http://priestfield.org.uk>

Minister: Rev Donald Scott



Dear Friends,

When I was born, my mother was fond of singing me to sleep, often with the song, "Getting to know you" from the King and I. Yes, I'm THAT old!

The tune has been in my head a lot over the summer as I've been settling into a new house, a new role, and a host of other changes.

Those of you who have spotted me on my twice daily dog walk, will have noticed we have a new puppy at the manse. Molly, a five month old chocolate Labrador, is the daughter of Bruno, who has been with us for the last eighteen months, although he is a bit older...five to be exact.

There's more new life to come! Our son Keith and his wife Stacey are currently with us for a few months and are about to become parents for the first time in September.

In the midst of all this, it's been good to feel welcomed and held by you all in Priestfield.

Roslyn and I were so pleased with the hard work and effort which went into getting Lady Road ready for our arrival. Thank you so much for all you've done.

And thank you too for the real sense of becoming a part of the community of Priestfield. We both felt a sense of family and friendship very quickly, and we very much look forward to 'getting to know you' as the months go by.

Practically, we are looking forward to hosting an 'open afternoon' at the manse before too long.

I also want to give you some ways of getting in touch!

My mobile is 07720040081.

The manse landline is: 468 3302

My email is: donald.scott@churchofscotland.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you, and journeying with you over the next few years.

Yours in Christ,

Donald

---oooOOooo---

**AUTUMN BRIC-A-BRAC SALE &
COFFEE MORNING @ BALFOUR HOUSE**

**Saturday 8th September
from 10am until noon**



Tickets: £2 ~ available from Carol in advance
or pay at the door (*children under 15 - free*)

includes cake - biscuit - tea - coffee - juice



Bric-à-brac includes: clothes, plants, books, etc
ALL DONATIONS WELCOME

*Proceeds to be shared between Macmillan Cancer Care
and Balfour House Recreation Fund*

WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON?

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	2	1030	Communion Service <i>with Rev Sheena Orr</i>
Wednesday	5	1900	'Knitting Together' (meets every Wednesday)

Thursday	6	1230 - 1400	Soup Lunch in the Lounge (every Thursday)
Sunday	9	1030	Morning Service
Tuesday	11	1930	Kirk Session
Thursday	13	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	16	1030	Morning Service
Sunday	23	1030	Morning Service
Thursday	27	1930	Praise and Prayer
Friday	28	1000 - 1200	Café Time <i>for Macmillan Cancer Support: World's Biggest Coffee Morning @Priestfield – pick up a card for details</i>
Saturday	29	1100 - 1400	Student Brunch
Saturday	29	1600 - 1800	Harvest 'Messy Church'
Sunday	30	1030	Harvest Celebration



OCTOBER

Sunday	7	1030	Communion Service
Wednesday	10	1930	Kirk Session
Thursday	11	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	14	1030	Morning Service
Sunday	21	1030	Morning Service
Thursday	25	1930	Praise and Prayer
Saturday	27	1600 - 1800	'Messy Church'
Sunday	28	1030	Morning Service



NOVEMBER

Saturday	3	1000	Café Time <i>by leaders and young people of our uniformed groups to support the work at Priestfield</i>
Sunday	4	1030	Communion Service
Thursday	8	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	11	1000	Remembrance Service at church

Sunday	11	1045	Community Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, Prestonfield Avenue
Sunday	18	1030	Morning Service
Monday	19	1930	Kirk Session
Thursday	22	1930	Praise and Prayer
Saturday	24	1600 - 1800	'Messy Church'
Sunday	25	1030	Morning Service



DECEMBER

Saturday	1	1000	Café Time
Sunday	2	1030	Advent Communion Service <i>including the bringing of gifts which will be donated to the Prison Chaplaincy for distribution to the children of prisoners at Christmas.</i>

WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON?

---oooOOOooo---

~ SNIPPETS from the KIRK SESSION ~

28 May 2018

Presbytery Elder

Andrew Steven had served as Presbytery Elder for the past year and had indicated that he would be willing to serve for another year. The Kirk Session then elected Andrew to represent them in the Presbytery of Edinburgh from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Vacancy

It was reported that the Induction Service would be on Tuesday 12 June 2018. The Kirk Session thanked all those who had worked hard during the vacancy to ensure normal congregational life continued and was supported. It also thanked the Nominating Committee for the conscientious way in which it had undertaken its task and brought things to a successful conclusion.

The Manse

The Clerk reported on progress with the upgrading of the manse.

Work was virtually complete; the heating, window and decorating work had been completed. All that remained were a few minor items and cleaning. Donald and Roslyn would be moving in on Thursday 14 June 2018. The Kirk Session thanked all those who had been involved.

Scout Group

Jim Kirk explained that he had attended the 35th Braid Scout Group AGM on behalf of the Kirk Session. The Group had had a very successful year with 24 Beavers, 31 Cub Cubs and 30 Scouts. All branches were full with a waiting list of 12 for the Beavers. 23 Scouts had attended summer camp along with over 80 boys from elsewhere.

25 June 2018

Edinburgh Presbytery

The Clerk reported that he had received the formal certified intimation from the Presbytery Clerk that Edinburgh Presbytery inducted Rev Donald Scott on 12 June 2018. This Kirk Session meeting was Donald's first as Minister of Priestfield.

Following the formal business of the meeting time was spent with each person introducing themselves, explaining a little of their background and what they do, their hopes and aspirations for the future.

'Change Centre' at Morgan Playing Fields

At its meeting on 28 May the Kirk Session had considered a proposal from Street Soccer Scotland and Edinburgh South Community Football Club to develop the Morgan Playing Fields to provide 5 and 7-a-side football pitches and a centre for people experiencing homelessness. The Session had agreed to continue consideration of the matter to allow elders time to think about the proposal.

Following discussion the Kirk Session instructed the Clerk to write in support of the initiative to develop the playing fields to provide support for people experiencing homelessness.

Soup Lunches

Fiona Ferguson, Treasurer and Soup Lunch coordinator, reported that in the first six months of 2018 the Thursday soup lunches had generated, through donations, a net 'income' of £1,230. In line with agreed previous practice she proposed that £400 should be sent as a donation to 'Mary's Meals.' The Kirk Session agreed.

25 June 2018

Organist

The Kirk Session approved the appointment of Mr David Little as Church Organist. [David will join us on 1 September]

Barry Cross
Session Clerk

All meetings of the Kirk Session are 'open' meetings. Only in exceptional circumstances are items heard in private. If you'd like to come along to a Session meeting, either have a word, or just pop along on the night. The Session meetings usually take place in the Lounge and begin at 7:30pm.

---oooOOOooo---

IN CONCERT



Penicuik Community Choir

in Priestfield Church

on **Wednesday 26 September at 7.30pm**

Tickets (£5.00) **available NOW**

Refreshments and home baking will be served after the concert

All proceeds will go to EMMS International
(formerly Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Carole Stiff



---oooOOOooo---



Guild

“One Journey, Many Roads”

“Seeking the Way” is the theme for the first year of the Guild strategy. In June, we enjoyed a boat trip from South Queensferry to Inchcolm Island, where we had a communion service in the Abbey. The weather was perfect and it was a most enjoyable afternoon. We returned just in time for Donald's induction.

This spring, three of our members Elizabeth Walls, Chris Williams and Liz Couper took on the difficult task of creating a cushion panel

for a National challenge. Here is a photograph of the beautiful result and Elizabeth has written this short report about their work.



All Guilds were set a challenge by the National Convener to create a cushion panel on the theme "One Journey, Many Roads" with a relationship to our area. The 16" by 16" panel would be made into a cushion cover and it was suggested that each Guild present the finished cushion to someone with a connection to their Church. Elizabeth, Chris and Liz took up the challenge and decided to incorporate Priestfield Church, Arthur's Seat, the Salisbury Crag, the Cemetery and Cameron Toll roundabout. Elizabeth did the drawings on tissue paper to be used as a template, Liz attached the template to the panel by stitching it on her sewing machine and Elizabeth and Chris did the embroidery.

There were twenty-seven entries and we are happy to say that Craigmillar Park came first in the Edinburgh Guilds. Their panel was worked on by one lady who is obviously very creative and a good embroiderer. The overall winners were Lewis in first place, Melrose and Peebles in second and Craigmillar Park in third. Creating our panel was a steep learning curve as none of us had ever done

anything like this before. It was a challenge but we enjoyed it and learned a lot from it.

The syllabus for next year is being prepared and **our first meeting is on Tuesday 9th October at 7.30 pm in the Lounge. New members are very welcome to join us.**

Helen Douglas

---oooOOOooo---



35th Braid Cub Scout Pack

Cubs have now started back after our summer holidays. We continue to have 24 Cubs, having welcomed a group from Beavers.



Before the holidays we enjoyed a night away at Bonaly, sleeping in teepees, rather than our normal tents. Cubs also found a geocache and had a walk round one of the close-by reservoirs. We had some time to take part in some games.

During our weekly meetings we completed the Chef's badge. We spent an evening creating mini-pizzas, fruit salad and wraps. At the end of term we had another go at playing Kubb in the back garden.

We're looking forward to a busy term ahead, with games and activities linked to the Skills Challenge.

Andrew, Laura, Dave and Ryan





127th RAINBOWS

We are looking forward to the start of a new term.

The programme is varied: crafts, baking, joint events with Mayfield Salisbury's Rainbows, talks from Fire Brigade and Police, Hallowe'en and Christmas parties.

Girlguiding has a new programme for all sections, so there are exciting times ahead.

If you know of **any little girl, aged 5-6 years old**, who would like to join us, please ask them to come along on a **Tuesday from 6.00pm to 7.00pm**. They will receive a warm welcome.



Many thanks,

Carole Stiff, Guider

---oooOOOooo---

Prayer and Meditation ~



Press on

**"DO NOT SEEK BETHEL, DO NOT GO TO GILGAL,
DO NOT JOURNEY TO BEERSHEBA...
SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE."'**

Amos 5:5-6 NIV

Bethel is where Jacob had his life-changing dream, and made a vow to God. *Gilgal* is where the Israelites camped after God miraculously

parted the Jordan River and they stepped into the Promised Land for the first time. *Beersheba* is where Isaac dug a well and built an altar.

All three places held special significance: they were sacred landmarks in Israel's spiritual journey. So why would God tell them not to seek Him there?

The answer is simple: **you won't find God in the past.**

His name is not The Great I Was, it's The Great I Am.

The psalmist said,

'God is our refuge and strength, an **ever-present** help in trouble'

Psalms 46:1 NIV 2011 Edition

When we cling too tightly to what God did last, we often miss what God wants to do for us next.

He is at work right here, right now.

He is always doing something new.

So go ahead and build altars and mark holy moments to the past, but the purpose of altars is to remind us of God's faithfulness in the past so we can have faith to believe Him for the future.

When we stop living out of imagination and start living out of memory, we start dying.

To be fully alive is to be fully present

It mandates leaving the past in the past.

That's why Paul wrote,

'Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 3:13-14 NIVUK 2011 Edition

So the word for you today is: **press on!**

---oooOOOooo---



Knitting-Together!

Wednesdays 7-9pm in the Lounge

Anyone is welcome to drop in

Come and knit or sew or just to chill
and have a coffee/tea

Prayer and Meditation ~



You can start again

“DON’T KEEP GOING OVER OLD HISTORY...BE PRESENT.”

Isaiah 43:18 MSG

Although it’s true that we all fail, here’s something worth remembering: **you can fail successfully.**

How? By learning from your failures and growing stronger and wiser through them.

Surrendering your future to your past just means you drown in remorse and hopelessness.

**But if you practise ‘failing forward’,
you can experience future success.**

**So acknowledge your failings, see yourself cleansed by the
blood of Jesus, let go of your disappointment in yourself,
and get up and try again.**

At one point in **Elijah’s** life, he got so depressed that he prayed he might die:

“I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.”

1 Kings 19:4 NIV 2011 Edition

Later when he was strengthened by God’s grace, he emerged from his depression a new man with a new mission in life (*see vv. 15-16*).

After he’d denied Christ openly, **Peter** was forgiven. Despite his weakness he was restored, and became the apostle who would ‘strengthen his fellow apostles’ and build the New Testament Church (*see Luke 22:31-32*).

**It’s not a matter of how badly or how often you’ve failed – it’s a
matter of what God can make you when you accept His grace,
get up again, and allow Him to empower you to do better.**

Peter is proof that God takes us when we are weak, and speaks and acts through us in ways that bring glory to Him alone! (*See 1 Corinthians 1:28.*)

Will God sometimes correct you?

Yes, He's a good parent, but He won't discard you.

So the word for you today is – **you can start again.**

---oooOOooo---

~ MISSION PARTNER: JOHN McCULLOCH ~



Priestfield's **Mission Partner** is
**Rev Dr John McCulloch, Minister at St
Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in
Jerusalem.**

'Communities on the Edge' is the focus
of John's PartnerPlan letter for June 2018,
which is reproduced below.

Driving along the Jericho road from Jerusalem down towards the Dead Sea, the saffron coloured landscape undulates under the heat of the midday sun, and the clusters of olive trees and vineyards give way to rocky escarpments where only the hardiest of shrubs are able to grow. This is the Judean desert, a place of timeless beauty and transcendence, and yet a landscape scarred and ravaged by profound structural injustice. For deep into the Palestinian West Bank, indigenous Palestinians have been forced off their land to make way for Israeli settlements, illegal under international law and seen by many as one of the main obstacles for peace.

Alongside these illegal settlements, on the scraps of craggy wastelands where little grows, make-shift Bedouin communities eke out a meagre existence, shepherding their flocks of goats amidst the dust of rock and sand, and doing all they can to cling on to a way of life that has become increasingly under threat due to the settlers. Early in June myself and a few of my ecumenical clergy colleagues visited the Bedouin village of Khan Al-Ahmer, which is fighting for survival after the Israeli Supreme court decreed that the State can destroy their village and take over their land. (*You can read more about this here:*

https://www.btselem.org/press_releases/20180527_khan_al_ahmar_ruling)

This is part of a long-term policy that Israel has been pursuing in the

Occupied Territories including East Jerusalem, which aims to seize more and more land and resources from the Palestinians. Because Israel controls the natural resources in the West Bank, it ensures that electricity and water are supplied in abundance to the illegal settlements, whilst the Bedouin communities have to make do with what they can generate through solar panels, and need to buy water in (which costs considerably more because of transportation costs). Sometimes the army will come and destroy the solar panels, in an attempt to make life there so unbearable that people begin to leave of their own volition. The community of Khan Al Ahmer is now in fear that the bulldozers will arrive any night, and begin to demolish what little they have.

For a nation that prides itself on being 'the only democracy in the Middle East', this is a real indictment. Of course, Israeli society is no monolith, and there are many Israeli organisations and Jewish individuals who are strongly opposed to what their government is doing. Organisations such as B'TSELEM and Rabbis for Human Rights campaign tirelessly to hold their government to account, and engage in far-reaching advocacy in an attempt to end the military occupation. But the Israeli government is not in the mood for listening, and emboldened by a Trump administration in the White House, they are continuing down a dangerous road, that is not only profoundly unfair for the Palestinians, but which is not in the long term security interests of Israel as a nation. If you deprive a people of land, natural resources and hope, you create a situation of despair, which potentially could lead to people engaging in desperate acts, when all legal channels have been exhausted.

During our visit we met with a group of Jewish organisations who had come to Khan Al-Ahmer to show their solidarity and support for the Bedouin community, but one could not help thinking that the threatened demolition will go ahead regardless.

The community of Khan Al-Ahmer is famous for its 'Rubber-tyre School' which was built out of used car tyres, and serves as a vital educational centre for over 100 Bedouin villagers from nearby communities. If you look closely at the picture on page 15, you will notice how the wall is made out of tyres. *(You can read more about it here: <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/features/rubber-tyre-school>)*



When we visited in the community in early June 2018, we sat with one of the village leaders, and listened to his fear about losing everything. We asked what we could do as a church,

he said that they needed basic supplies of food and water, as soon the village would be declared a military zone and completely cut off, in advance of it being demolished.

In response to what we heard, I put out a message to our congregation of St Andrew's Jerusalem & Tiberias (in addition to other churches and contacts out here), and the response was very good. We were able to deliver a considerable consignment of supplies in the space of only a few days, and the village was deeply grateful. This just represents a drop in the ocean, but it is something that the Church will continue to do as the need arises.

As I walked down the dusty path to leave, smiling children waved as they played barefoot on the rocky soil. This is a community that is living on the very edge, and it needs all the support it can get, both from those of us who are here who can lend practical support, but also those of you abroad who can draw awareness to their plight.

For those interested in following this more closely please see:
<http://www.jahalin.org/tag/khan-al-ahmar/>

A few days later, I was headed in the opposite direction, driving

south into the Hebron hills with my wife Annette and my three youngest children. We had been invited by some Bedouin friends to share in an 'Iftar' meal (the evening meal that is served at sundown during Ramadan). The community of Um Al Khair is another front line community. In fact, this community of ramshackle shanty houses is right outside the perimeter fence of the illegal Israeli settlement of Karmel. You can see in the picture below the settlement houses in the background, and the tents where the Bedouins live in the foreground.



Um Al Khair has already lived through several nightmares, as Israeli forces have razed homes to the ground, and demolished a community centre and children's playground.

Please see: <https://palsolidarity.org/2016/04/house-demolitions-in-um-al-khair-leaving-children-homeless/>

When we arrived we were given the warmest of welcomes, and our children were soon running around with the Bedouin children, playing amongst the rock and climbing frames in this scorched and barren landscape.

Annette was soon putting her newly learned Arabic to the test, and able to assist medically with some of the residents, when they heard she was a doctor.

The community of Um Al Khair welcomed us with open arms, as we sat down with them to listen to their stories, and to think about how we can help, both as a church and a family, whilst we live in this conflicted land.

One of the things they urgently need is to help build their children's playground, and provide a roof to shelter it from the sun. In the summer months the temperatures soar, and there is no natural shade, no running water, and nowhere for the children to play. The Israeli state does not allow them to build or have water or electricity supplied to them, even though just over the fence new settler homes are being constructed, with well-watered gardens whilst their impoverished neighbours have to buy their water in at a very high cost which is transported in on a truck.

One of the things that my friend Aziz said to me, was that whilst they have had numerous visits from international delegations supportive of their cause, this is the first time that international children have come to the village, let alone played with their children. He told me how much this meant to them, and by the end of the evening my children did not want to leave.

In the midst of such a challenging situation, there was so much joy that evening, watching the children play, listening to their stories, and sharing such a special meal, cooked during their holy month of Ramadan. It was a real privilege to be there, and we felt enveloped by the love and generosity of their welcome.

This community is trying to do all it can to survive against the odds, and in the summer it will be running a summer camp in the prefabricated community centre and skeleton playground in the picture below. With no running water, no shade from the scorching sun, no greenery and very limited resources, it is deeply humbling to witness their plight.

We all came away from Um Al Khair deeply moved by what we saw, and wanting to do more to support them in friendship and solidarity in the months and years ahead. I was reminded of the words of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (St Matthew 5:5) 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth'. How can we help as a church, to make the little earth they have more sustainable for those living there? How can we support them, as they seek to run a summer camp and set up a kindergarten, so that the children can enjoy

benefit from recreational and educational activities, shaded from the intense heat of the sun?

I strongly believe that the mission of the Church of Scotland here in Israel and Palestine needs to reach out to the most marginalised communities here, who are living on the edge.

As we left, I was reminded of the words of Oscar Romero, bishop in San Salvador during the Salvadoran Civil War in the 1980s: 'When the church hears the cry of the oppressed it cannot but denounce the social structures that give rise to and perpetuate the misery from which the cry arises.' He went on to say that 'Peace is the product of justice and love'.

May the God of peace and non-violence stir our hearts in compassion & generosity, as we seek to build His kingdom of love and justice, in a place where structural political injustice propped up by military might, condemns so many to living as refugees in their own land.

Thank you for your ongoing prayerful support for the Church of Scotland's mission here. It is so deeply appreciated.

John

---oooOOOooo---

Prayer and Meditation ~

A gift, rather than an apology



"THEY ARE A GIFT...TO ENSURE YOUR FRIENDSHIP."

Genesis 33:8 NLT

Here's something you need to know in order to move forward.

**The person who hurt you may never offer an apology
in the manner you desire.**

After Jacob cheated his brother Esau out of his birthright, things got so bad between them that Jacob went to live with his Uncle Laban in Haran. Later in life, when both brothers had become wealthy and successful in their own right, Jacob decided to seek reconciliation with his brother. At first Esau refused to accept his brother's gifts, but when Jacob persisted, 'Esau finally accepted the gift' (v. 11 NLT).

Notice, Jacob never said, 'I'm sorry I stole your birthright; please forgive me.' Basically he said, 'I'd like to try and make amends.' At this point Esau showed real maturity by valuing his relationship with his brother over his right to exact revenge. So the family was united.

There's a lesson here. **God wants you to grow up and exercise spiritual maturity.** You can't control what others do; you can only control your response. Furthermore, if you insist that someone apologise to you – in a certain way – the relationship may never be healed. As a result, you'll be left holding a grudge. And **holding a grudge is like holding a hot coal; it will keep burning you until you let it go.** For example, you may want your husband to apologise for his behaviour. But if instead he buys you a gift or does something extra nice for you, respond with grace instead of judging either his methods or his motives.

In other words, **'close the account' and move forward.**

---oooOOOooo---

These daily devotional excerpts are taken from The Word for Today and are used by permission from United Christian Broadcasters Ltd, P.O. Box 255, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8YY. Free issues of the daily devotional are available.

---oooOOOooo---



JENNY and ROBERT'S NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURES

*Intrepid medics, **Jenny and Robert Kimmitt** are off on an adventure; experiencing what it's like to live and work in New Zealand. The following excerpts are from their first blog...*

We arrived in Auckland late on Saturday evening, having spent around 24 hours on a plane. Robert considered the trip an uncomfortable 'necessary evil', but I quite enjoyed being a captive audience for Singapore Air's extensive film collection. I was thrilled to discover that their in-flight entertainment includes an entire season of Great British Bake Off!

First impressions of Auckland were: Blimey, it's cold! (Or, in Robert's case, 'Ahh, this is more like it! You can really THINK in this weather. It's just like Scotland!'). Arriving at the hotel, I had a comforting cup of tea

while Robert (who had rashly declined a brew) had a crisis of continents and decided that maybe moving to NZ was too scary an idea and we should move back to Scotland instead...

After settling in, we headed to our local car dealership – a mere hour's walk away, through an idyllic volcanic green-space called Cornwall Park that was filled with wobbly newborn lambs – and bought a car! Simple! Our complete lack of vehicular nous made this easier; our new Nissan Note looked shiny and had only done 12,000 km, so we deemed it 'less likely to break down than our old Skoda', and that was good enough. It also happens to be an automatic. Robert says it's 'just like riding a go kart', so I'm expecting great things when I finally get to try it out.

In the evening we went to a church service in the centre of Auckland. About an hour in, jet-lag suddenly hit us both with a vengeance. Luckily, this was an evangelical service for hip, young university students, filled with loud praise band music and with on-tap tea and coffee at the back of the hall. Between the heavy drumbeat and the lively atmosphere, I think my occasional head nods were just about disguised as fervour...

On Monday we continued our 'Responsible Adults' streak by trekking to the centre to sort NZ bank accounts and inland revenue numbers, then attempted some grocery shopping. Auckland seems short on big supermarkets, and fresh food is very expensive. I made the mistake of buying 4 loose tomatoes, which turned out to cost over £1 each... Whoops!...

On Tuesday we explored Auckland Museum and learnt a wee bit about the history of New Zealand and Maori culture...The Museum was full of fascinating pieces – Maori artefacts, moa and kiwi skeletons, fossils (including a few from the Devon coastline!)... It also had several rather scary simulations on volcanic activity in the region ('It's not a question of IF, but WHEN'. 'Massive destruction, significant loss of life'). These genuinely made me fear for my life, and slightly put me off the idea of living in New Zealand in the longer term... However, we brightened up after visiting the Gender Equality exhibition, which included a cracking 'Confessions of a Bad Feminist' section. Visitors were invited to write their 'confessions' in a series of notebooks stuck to the walls. I confessed that I prefer to be driven around than to do the driving – and to my delight, the very next day Robert agreed to drive us the 2 hours North to Whangarei. Bad feminist or not, I took great pleasure in sitting back and relaxing while Robert did all of the work... Whangarei, here we come!

Jenny xx