

Views from the Pews – My Christian Journey

I was fortunate to be born into an Anglican Christian family. My parents worshipped at St Aidan's, Claudelands, my brother joined the Order of St Francis and later became a Vicar, my sister a Hospital Chaplain. The youngest by some years, I was sent to an Anglican boarding school. Over five years I attended chapel eight times each week. Though I enjoyed the services, especially 500 testosterone filled boys in full voice at Evensong, once I left school and went to university in Auckland I calculated I had attended enough church services to last me through five years of university. And so it was. However, once married and returning to Hamilton to start my law career, I was soon back worshipping at St Aidan's.

By then I had taken over the role of Diocesan Solicitor from the legendary Carr Norris, the first Diocesan Solicitor from the formation of the Diocese in 1926, a position I held until my retirement from law 43 years later. Soon I was asked to be a Diocesan Synod representative, and a few years later, a General Synod representative. I relished that role, drafting the new Prayer Book, revising legislation, and debating Church Union with our Presbyterian and Methodist brothers and sisters, until it ultimately failed on the vote of the Anglican clergy at the Hamilton General Synod in 1990.

With the end of my marriage in 1986 I reluctantly relinquished my position as Synodman, and several other community roles, to spend more time with my young family and to guide their education, all four children attending Anglican schools and later obtaining university degrees.

My focus shifted to my law practice and my love of sports, plus extensive travel when possible.

Though church attendance took a back seat (not literally) I was ever aware of God's presence in my life. I have had many near death experiences, always aware on each occasion that the Lord was my saviour. It was not until fourteen years later that I met and married my second wife, a committed Christian, and being Mexican was of course Roman Catholic. But, attending her first service here 24 years ago, she was immediately aware of the almost identical service format, and quickly adopted our form of worship. We have continued to enjoy our worship here together since that time to the present.

- Murray Bindon