



Galaxies Evening Service 25 August 2013

Service by Fergus Collinson
& Peter Cowley



Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight

Tonight we hold our annual AGM and think about our journey into the future.



Fielding Fiesta — All aboard for an adventure!

Photo: Fergus

Call to togetherness and sharing:

Leader: God, we are all part of you, your creation, your life and your love.

As we gather together to look back over the last financial year let us reflect on what we have achieved, and to look forward for the next 12 months.

All: **May we feel a sense of community, small though we are. That we have helped others by providing a safe place to hang out and share food and ourselves..**

Affirmation of Faith

Together: The God of our understanding is varied, vibrant and rich in diversity
Much like we are!
We understand little about the nature of the universe we inhabit
and even less about the nature of You
Amidst our struggle to find understanding and meaning in our life
Our predecessors in faith give us a glimpse of God that is unsurpassed
A God called Loving-kindness; Peace-on-earth; Justice-for-all
These are our noblest intentions and when we embody and enact them
We, too, enter the Kingdom of God
God, give us the will, the strength and the energy to be all we can.

Prayers for the people

God of loving-kindness, peace-on-earth and justice-for-all, we pray, that we will help strengthen the hands of all who strive for peace and justice throughout the world, and we will share the pain of those who are oppressed, will strive to promote the dignity and freedom of every person.

God of love, in the dignity and worth you give to all your creatures, may we always acknowledge, respect and celebrate the diversity and richness of your creation; that we may honour the persons who come to us; that we may refuse to use or to be used as objects of selfish gratification; and that we may work for equity and justice for all people. Amen.

Call of Faith to Action

Leader: As we search for some sense in life.

People: *may we find that meaning in our relationships of care, compassion and tenderness.*

Leader: We talk about loving-kindness as God

People: *Let us act with loving-kindness to all people, to all animals, to all of nature on earth*

Leader: We talk about peace-on-earth

People: *Let us not only talk peace, but act peacefully in all we do, and to be peace makers. Let us listen to understand the other peoples point of view.*

Leader: Jesus the Sage challenged the authorities of his time and was tortured and then murdered for his audacity to point out bigotry, prejudice and injustice. In 2000 years the challenge remains just as strong as ever, the dangers just as great - for we are, all of us, either a part of the problem or a part of the solution. The world needs people who live and breathe loving-kindness, peace and justice. Are we that people?

People: Yes we are that people

Galaxies is on a journey (on an old steam train)

Steam Train to Feilding (Sylvia Bagnall)

I see llamas and lambs, daffodils and blossom.

Fergus notices vineyards and we both look for a pair of pretty houses he noticed our last trip.



Chugga-chugga chugga-chugga chugga-chugga-chug

Whistle at the crossings -this is a real train.

More than two centuries since Stephenson envisaged steam engines hauling coaches
a boiler filled with water, a load of coal.

Muscle driver, sweaty workers shoveling, stewards in each coach attending to the people,
people liberated now from containment and confinement in lonely nuclear cars.

Some people leave at Otaki, some have catered picnics; Jenny and Paul and we
have brought our packaged picnics more time to love the train. We look and talk,
missing McGregor and Judith.

When we get to Feilding we explore huge sheds of carriages and engines
needing work, amazing renovation by consecrated devotees of steam
and steel and bloke tools in homage to creation and creativity.

Just as I get back from The Fielding Emporium of Steamy Joy, Bill bales me up for the second time. "Can
you hear our JA? When you were crossing the lines I
wondered about rushing over to grab you"

I'm probably lying through my teeth saying

"Yes of course I can!"

Unspoken speech bubble

"It was so far down the track ... I automatically kept it
in my radar glare, and

there's no defined walk way over to the main attraction
half the train were checking out

Bill says

"My man has implants too"

It's time to get back on. I really really want to find out
how Bill's bro implant job went.

I never get the chance - he's stretched out over four
seats with this conspicuously black bleak bloke



JENNY, PAUL AND ME ARE WATCHING THE FIELDING FLYER BACK

into Platform Nine. Aww shit! This is not the regal old carriage I expected.
It's a sterile box with fluorescent strip lighting. The ventilators are screwed
shut. There's no involving rich Will we Make it Ooze of train smoke, steam
ferocious up-hill of tunnels, 1 and 2

But hey, there's intriguing happy people in our car. Totally different to last
time. I like the solid expressive, in my age group, bearded man facing me.
I can't remember seeing a man wearing so much silver up his arms.
What is his story?

Somewhere after Otaki there's two of my most fave houses. My wee boy
1950s brick Brit villa building set. They have no reason to be built so
close to each other, but they are, they subvert Kiwi distance, and I love
them, and the spinky daffs. Sylvia's got Hugh's Samsung running on
filming. Oh here they are. There's a right of way in between, and they're a
bleak grey! Disappointment is one of the things psychologists sort lots...
"concrete was often used in the 1930's"

I'm extremely pleased to say a cute vibe conquers all

In Fielding Sylvia and me explore lovable engines, they fondly steamed

up for us. Length is so important to men - how else do I explain a ridged
rust red tin extension on little 1870 C's funnel? Sylvia shoots, and I draw
the C, then the hunky 1920's WAB tank, built to conquer the tough Oamaru -
Dunedin and National Park grades. A dvd man filming tells me a tall story -
'Its the murder engine, that was going too fast at Haywards in 1942.
Twenty seven people in the front carriage were killed."
I could google it to check up... mystery is marvellous, and I embellish too!

After Levin I decide I need a jar, and so do my Car A whanau, and Senor
Billy and his papa in B. This is one of the most lethal things I can think of
doing, because of the flimsy two bar railings between the carriages. If
theres a bumpy lurch, theres nothing to grab to stop falling out. I rip my
implant off. It could get blown away, and I'd instinctively try to grab it.. I
am truly terrified each time it falls off
my head

I'm pleased Mark, in the diner says
"You lead, and i'll follow with your Ohau Gravels."
This is not a conventional happy ending. Two years ago Steam Incorp
shrugged off my comments. I think this is criminally negligent. Anyone got
a hot line to OSH? Thanks

Jenny says
'Come - see this!"
Its the loopy rush of our carriage rooftops, the batwing shadow of our JA.
... I'm in the window seat with Mum on the South Island Limited...

At Otaki, oh this is glorious burnish light, full moon bounce off our engine
taking on water, coaling up. The man on the tender isn't balletic like the
one last time. He was one of the down by the vans of the Limited
Dunedin blokes hurling bags, luggage off on as fast as they can, before
it leaves at five past four. It was my Out and About in Porirua publicity shot.

What would my Jewish mama mates say on tv and in real life?
"What is not to like?"

After Sylvia, a thoughtful slide along Kapiti, dark, relaxedly over viewing
four decades of of madly loving, iconic openness, and heres a wee
five word haiku I'm telling Paul about, when he comes over.
'Smug certainty to buoyant un-certainty"
Thank you John and Shirley and Margie and Clare, and my St Andrews
and Galaxie's tribe that you are here too

Blessing

Let us stop for a moment and calm our thoughts
as we prepare ourselves for radical action, just like Jesus:
- to act with peaceful, careful listening; even in the face of aggression
- to calmly and lovingly challenge duplicity, bigotry, prejudice and injustice wherever we encounter it.
- to accept people with loving-kindness in all our interactions.
- to share our joy and blessings freely with others.

Notices