

2 MINUTES WITH Digby Wilkinson

We are fast approaching Christmas, one of the most important occasions on the Christian calendar. Tawa, as you may be aware, is known for a significant number of Christian churches on its Main Road. One of those is St Christopher's, and leading that flock (the Tawa-Linden Anglican Parish) is the vicar, Rev Digby Wilkinson. He has been in that role for almost two years, having previously served as Dean of the Wellington Cathedral. Read on for more about Tawa's vicar.



Where were you born?

I was born in the East End of London at St Andrews Hospital. I am indeed a true Cockney.

Where did you grow up?

I spent the first seven years on my life in London before emigrating with my family to Wellington. We first lived in Newtown before finally settling in Wadestown, where I lived until I was eighteen years old.

Where were you educated?

My first school in Wellington was Clifton Terrace School before attending Wadestown Primary and then Wellington College. School and I rarely agreed, so I left and trained as a Mechanical Fitter with the New Zealand Railways. After completing my apprenticeship, Jane and I attended two theological colleges in Auckland before being ordained into Christian ministry. I seem to have been studying ever since.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

We moved to Tawa in January 2018.

What do you like about Tawa?

It's hard to ignore the sense of community that Tawa enjoys. It is not something found in many suburban areas. Obviously the schools, churches, active community groups and the length of time people stay in Tawa all contribute to that community feel.

What about family?

I have been married to Jane for 34 years. Jane trained as a nurse, and then retrained as a Spiritual Director and Supervisor for those in social services and people-related occupations. We have two grown boys, Mitchell and Elliot, and daughter Lucy. The eldest lives in Shanghai with his wife, and our middle son, Elliot lives in Christchurch with his fiancé. Lucy is still at home and looking to study nursing.

Work experience over the years

I trained as a Locomotive Maintainer (Mechanical Fitter) with the New Zealand Railways. I have worked as a Pastor/Priest for nearly thirty years in Taranaki, Tauranga, Palmerston North and now here in Wellington where I was the Dean of the Wellington Cathedral of Saint Paul before coming to the Tawa-Linden Anglican Church.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I am currently a keen motorcyclist. My BMW Adventure Bike is great, taking me all round the country's dodgy gravel back roads. In my early years I was a competitive sailor with a sideline interest in soccer. I also enjoy technology and problem solving.

Favourite sports team?

Arsenal soccer team.

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Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

Genesis, Eric Clapton, James Taylor, and classical music.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Algies Bay, Warkworth – great friends and fab part of the country.

What accomplishments/achievements in your life give you the most satisfaction/pride?

Raising very cool children, participating in people's lives, helping churches adapt to changing times, and my own continuing education.

What are two or three interesting things about you that local people may not know?

I have walked 800k across Spain via the Camino de Santiago with Jane.

I'm completing a doctorate, which I hope to finish in early 2021.

I have terrible fashion sense and can't put the right colours together – I suspect the two problems are related.

What are two or three things you would like to do before you die?

Motorcycle across Europe

Enjoy grandchildren

Visit Russia

(Compiled December 2019)