

WITH LOVE WE REMEMBER

Kathleen Sheila Williams

21 FEBRUARY 1939 - 31 MARCH 2025



An Invitation

Thank you for being here to celebrate Sheila. After the service, Sheila will depart in the hearse and you are all very welcome to come to the Garden Room (across the church garden on Ghuznee Street) for refreshments and to share more memories.


LYCHGATE
FUNERALS



Sheila

St. Peter's on Willis · Wellington
Saturday, 12 April at 12.00pm

Officiating: Rev Jean Malcolm
Organist Thomas Nikora

Processional

“Voluntary XII” by Fredrick Handel

Welcome

Hymn

Now Thank We All, Our God

Sentences and Prayer

First Reading

Psalm 23

Second Reading

John 11 : 17 - 27

Tributes and Remembering

Photo Tribute

“Blessing” by Jonathan Berkahn

Prayers

Led by Bishop Richard Randerson and
Sheila's Education for Ministry group

Hymn

Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer

Commendation

Blessing

Recessional

“Sonata VI, Allegro” by Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach



Now Thank We All, Our God

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Arahina e Ihowā
Tō pononga i te Ao,
Whakakitea mai tōu kaha
Puritia rā au e koe.
A whangaingia, a whangaingia
Ki te kai e ora ai, ki te kai e ora ai.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to Thee,
I will ever sing to Thee.



REMEMBERING

Kathleen Sheila Williams

Sheila was born in Wanganui on February 21st, 1939, to Nigel and Nora Williams. Her younger sister, Priscilla was born the following year in June.

Sheila was educated at Nga Tawa (Wellington Diocesan School for Girls) in Marton, and at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington where she gained an MA in English with a Masters with honours, graduating in 1960. She completed a New Zealand Library School Diploma in 1960 and worked at the Alexander Turnbull Library from 1961 to 1979, her work culminating in her appointment as Chief Cataloguer. Between 1963 and 1965, she travelled to Europe where she made the most of every educational opportunity.

Sheila was Honorary Secretary of the New Zealand Library Association from 1975 to 1982, a Fellow of the New Zealand Library Association (1985), and Assistant Editor of Volumes 1 and 5 of The New Zealand National Bibliography. She later worked on contract for Te Herenga Waka Victoria University Library and became a lecturer in cataloguing and bibliography within the university's postgraduate Library and Information Programme between 1993 and 1997.

With her considerable library experience, Sheila has been an invaluable member of the Friends of the Turnbull Library Committee since joining in July 1993. Her numerous contributions over 21 years include serving at various times as newsletter editor, minutes secretary, and notably as treasurer from 2007 to 2010.

She continued working on contracts until 2012, but still found time to travel with Priscilla, in the countries where Priscilla worked, and then widely around the world after they'd both retired. While they were very faithful to Calder & Lawson Tours, travelling with them to (among other places) the Baltic states, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Portugal, Spain, Morocco and Central Europe, they also went on trips with Continuing Education at Victoria University, to learn more about ancient Greece and Renaissance Italy.

It was important to Sheila to give back to her communities and until recently she was a very active member of SeniorNet and University of the Third Age. This year she continued to enjoy her mahjong club, dining club, book club, Khandallah Rebus, National Library talks, Steady As You Go exercise classes, The Arts Society, Te Papa talks, Circa plays, and maintaining her connections with her extended Williams family throughout New Zealand and in Australia.

Sheila lived her life of quiet achievement fully and independently to the very end. She will be deeply missed by her many friends and family.





Warm memories of Sheila Williams

From The EFM Holy Fools

At the beginning of this year Sheila, undaunted by her age, had the courage to start a four-year course of study, worship and theological reflection with EFM, Education for Ministry. With good humour she accepted the name and kaupapa of our group, "The Holy Fools." She helped develop our covenant for the year. At first she was rather quiet but soon found her voice. She had a strong faith. Her comments were sometimes laced with stories about her trip to the Holy Land years ago. She was alert and astute.

Her determination and independence were striking. For instance, she caught a bus to the meetings, despite the heavy books and regardless of weather, and was cheerfully prepared to catch a bus back at 9pm – but our members gave her lifts home.

Once someone forgot to take Sheila home, and she teased him about it for weeks. Another member of the group remembers her back-and-forth sisterly arguments with Priscilla in similar vein.

Every year each EFM member shares their spiritual autobiography with the others. When Sheila did hers, it was evident that she took pride in her family's connection with Aotearoa New Zealand and its bicultural history, their contributions to Te Tiriti and to tangata whenua. Her forebears introduced Maori to Jesus. With Maori they developed the covenant which was Te Tiriti o Waitangi. They struggled against the colonial greed fueling the land grabs. They translated scriptures into te reo Maori. As part of the family she felt a responsibility for supporting Te Tiriti. She felt a warm connection with Maori. She gave Rangimoana, one of our Maori members, the Bible and the Apocrypha in te reo Maori, the Paipera tapu – which he will cherish as a taonga.

A parishioner told one of us about the kindness Sheila and her sister Priscilla displayed when visiting him in prison. Sheila obviously missed her sister Priscilla a great deal, but she often talked with relish about her large, close-knit extended family, especially those who happened to visit her during the period she was in our group.

On the Saturday a couple of days before she died, most of our group went to see a movie, Bonhoeffer, and then one of our number hosted us for dinner at his place. We all had such a wonderful time that afternoon and evening, talking and laughing. When the rest of us heard that Sheila had died, we were so grateful to God on our own behalf and on hers that we'd had this experience with her so recently. She'd been relaxed, joining in with great enjoyment. This is how we will remember her. All of us remaining Holy Fools feel enriched by knowing Sheila and impoverished by her loss after too few months.