

St John's Today

Deepening
Spirituality



Bi-Monthly Magazine for the
Anglican Parish of St John
At St John's Church, Te Awamutu
St Paul's Church, Hairini
St Saviours Church, Pirongia

June/July 2022

If undelivered return to:
PO Box 38, Te Awamutu 3840
or let the office know if you no longer
wish to receive this - Ph. 871-5568

In Remembrance:

We commit to God and pray for the families of:

*Barbara Munro, Leila Adams,
Ross Ballinger, Brendon Bird,
Pamela Morris, Diane Tyer
and Harry Morris*



Please advise the Parish Office (Ph. 871-5568)
of any parishioner illness, hospital admissions or
prayer requests for noting by our Pastoral Care team.

Prayer Chain:

If you need someone to pray for you regularly, or if you know someone who is sick and needs prayer, please remember that the Prayer Chain is here to journey with you and in confidence.

Phone Steve Anso 871-6273 or the Office



Deepening Spirituality

For many years now, science has been telling us what God has already said in scripture; that as humans our wellbeing is many-faceted and that one of those facets is spirituality. We have become aware of the need to stay active, to eat a varied diet and to care for emotional health through human connection. But even with fervent following of these healthy guidelines people acknowledge that they are missing something - there is an ache or an itch inside that nothing seems to reach. That, of course, is spiritual wellbeing. In a world where we can have constant entertainment at our fingertips, distraction can work as an alternative to spirituality - but only for so long. There comes a point when the something missing becomes too big an ache to ignore and people begin the serious search.

There are also many who regularly attend worship who sense the power in worshipping together but have not explored other aspects of deepening their walk with God. Perhaps I can explain that better in an allegory. If you attend a tennis match every week for years, you will learn a lot about tennis; the rules, the scoring, the best plays, but you will never become a tennis player if you do not pick up a racket. Even then, you will not discover the joy of tennis unless you practice. The more you practice, the better a tennis player you will be and the more joy you will find in the game. Deepening your spirituality operates in the same way. You can attend church and observe, you can attend and collectively practice the patterns of worship and prayer and then you can practice the presence of God.

Practicing the presence of God can also be described as the individual and inner journey to Christ. Both corporate and individual worship are encouraged by Jesus. In the gospels we read that



Jesus attended worship in the temple, and also that he took himself away from others to spend time alone in prayer. For us mere humans it does take practice to learn to listen for God's voice. As we practice at least two things can happen. Firstly, it does get easier, and secondly, we learn to rely on and thrive in God's being, becoming aware of God in new ways. We will increasingly notice the beauty in God's creation, the blessings that flow into our lives daily, and the opportunities to share the love that God offers us every day. Pursuing God will also bring an awareness of how precious each person and every part of creation is to God. That will lead to questions about how best to respond to the needs we see – and listening again as we seek answers and the energy to bring them to be.

Read on and discover the many ways our own parishioners find help to deepen their spirituality...



Rev'd Julie Quest

Annette Rea — Deepening Spirituality

What a huge theme, which may be broken down into a number of parts – from practicalities to methods, from ideals to outcomes, etc.

To each of us it is a very personal topic. Sure, we can ask for and receive assistance, but fundamentally it is up to each of us to achieve our own “deepened Spirituality”.

For me, it is a journey that has had numerous twists and turns and even stops and starts. I have tried different methods and different places – some more successful than others. Currently I find that I have to spend very intentional time sitting quietly in a specific chair. I start with a prayer, oft time from my little book titled “Prayers of Calm” by Ray Simpson. One of my favourites is:

*“We/I come into your presence, restful Father,
We/I come into your presence, calming Son,
We/I come into your presence, peaceful Spirit,
May I/we and God be one”*



After prayer it is time to just sit; wait until I am led to ...

- I. Read a Bible passage and then reflect on it
- II. Pray some more
- III. Just sit and listen to God
- IV. And a new one for me – colouring in. I have recently purchased a book titled “Colour the Words of Jesus”. Each page of the book has a text or verse from the New Testament with a design or illustration to colour. As I colour I think about/meditate on the text/verse.

How long do I spend at any/all of these actions? It varies dramatically. Sometimes it can be as little as 15 minutes, while other times it may be 1½ hours or more. Do I 'do' just one of the above or several? This changes too. I seem to just 'follow where I am led'.



About 7 years ago, I discovered for myself 'Retreats'. What a gift these are. A place to go where you can just spend periods of time with God, with no distractions of phones, TV programmes, meetings, grocery shopping, mowing lawns or doing the laundry. Retreat periods may be for just a day or for several days. The place I go to is the Tyburn Monastery at Ngakuru. This Monastery is run by nuns of the Benedictine Order who serenely, lovingly and quietly take care of your needs – whether that be providing beautifully cooked meals to inviting you to share their Chapel time. The Monastery sits in beautiful grounds overlooking water with bush walks and rose gardens to wander in. I have spent retreat time (usually several days) in complete silence and also in quiet times where meal times have not been in silence. How to describe these days of being with God almost to the exclusion of anything else? A time of peace, a time of emotion, a time of listening, a time of reading and reflection, a time of prayer, a time of forgiveness and healing and oft times a deep sleeping. All these things and more.

Deepening our Spirituality is the aim of us all. How we do this can and does vary, not only from person to person but also just with ourselves. How we get a closer relationship with God is to spend time with God, however, wherever, whenever the Spirit leads.

June Gennard — Deepening Spirituality



What does this phrase mean to me?

- ♦ Drawing aside to spend time in the presence of God

How often should I draw aside?

- ♦ For me, daily.

At the moment I am using an App on my phone called 'Pray as you Go'. This is produced by the Jesuit Media Initiatives.

www.pray-as-you-go.org

The App usually starts with worship in song, then leads on to reading a passage from the Bible, followed by a reflection from the passage; this is a time when the participant is encouraged to pray and reflect on what God is saying. The bible passage is read again, and an encouragement is given. The time ends with a closing grace prayer. As well as daily prayers, the App offers online retreats, Examen and study series for Lent & Christmas. Maybe this would help you to deepen your own spirituality too.

What's On at St John's

*Some meetings may not take place
under current Covid restrictions - check with office*

<u>Sunday</u>	8.00 am	Service (Old St John's, Te Awamutu)
	9.00 am	Service (<i>1st & 3rd Sundays</i>) (St Paul's, Hairini)
	9.30 am	Service (St Saviours, Pirongia)
	10.30 am	Service (St John's, Te Awamutu)
<u>Monday</u>	9.30 am	Knit and Natter (Lounge)
	10-2.00 pm	Pirongia Craft Group (St Saviours)
	5.00 pm	Outreach Meal (Lounge)
<u>Tuesday</u>	9-10.00 am	Gardening Group (<i>2nd Tue</i>) (St John's)
	11.00 am	Christian Women's Fellowship <i>every second Tuesday of the month</i> (Lounge)
<u>Thursday</u>	11.00 am	Mid Week Service (<i>1st & 3rd</i>) (Old St John's)
<u>Friday</u>	9:30-11.00 am	Mainly Music (Hall)*
	5.00 -7.00 pm	Friday Club (<i>ex Youth Group</i>) (Hall)*

4th Sunday of the Month

Evensong at St Paul's, 5 pm

5th Sunday of the Month

Evensong, Old St John's, 4.30 pm followed by Social Parish Meal
at Te Awamutu RSA at 5.30 pm.

*(If no 5th Sunday then RSA Meal held on
1st Sunday of the month at 5.30 pm)*

*(Meetings with an * are term time only)*



I try to take just
one day at a time...



but lately several days
have attacked me at once



— Ashleigh Brilliant —



My Father Took My Hand

My heavenly father walked alongside me with a band of followers from St John's Parish making a Pilgrimage over twenty years ago to Rangiaowhia.

I carried the banner held high in silence, following in the footsteps of the soldiers

who rode in the dead of the night for a surprise attack on an undefended village. The importance of the story of Rangiaowhia has lived with me, to this day. After years of humiliation, and rejection, reclamation of some land has been achieved. I was privileged to witness a very different humbling story at Rangiaowhia on April 24th 2022.

The breeze was strong, it hurried me along Mandeno Road towards my destination. A day of reclamation and restoration of land returned to its people. What lay predominately in my direct focus at the bottom of the road was a symbolic message of spiritual pain and blessing, delivered within the fluttering flag where its pole was firmly planted into this sacred soil.

I heard and witnessed children joyfully playing around the church yard, families meeting and greeting, waiting in line to register their tribal affiliation. I was the outsider, the observer. This living kaleidoscope of spirit and restoration had been absent from the embodiment of St Paul's church for many painful years. Looking through the

eyes of their ancestors, these people understood the significance of the land before them. They were hand in hand.

In truth we are all living creatures, who have forgotten how to live and what living really means. This day the angelic voices of the choir resonating from the church echoing over the land blessed with holy water by Archbishop Philip Richardson accompanied by whenua reflecting in the past, and present upon their grief and loss with true understanding.

“Now Ngati Apakura and Ngati Hinetu have returned home, an opportunity to support today and forever.” said Archbishop Philip. “We have looked from afar for too long, believing the story was not our story.” Archbishop Philip said “We look back knowing that we must understand the past fully, unreservedly, and without censor, if we are to learn, if we are to move forward.”

29/04/22 *Delysse Storey*



Georgantis Rewarded for Tireless Community Service



Hazel Georgantis, left with Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro at her investiture ceremony in Wellington. (Supplied Waikato Times)

Since she officially “retired” in 1991, Taupō’s Hazel Georgantis has done anything but put her feet up and relax.

Last week, Hazel Beatrice Georgantis was honoured for her tireless work when she was awarded a Queen’s Service Medal (QSM) for services to the community at an investiture ceremony in Wellington.

Georgantis was named as a recipient of a QSM in the 2021 New Year’s Honours and has supported community organisations in Taupō since her retirement.

But even before then she provided pastoral support to parishioners as a vicar’s wife since the 1950s.

She has been involved with St Andrew’s Anglican Church in Taupō

organising garden walks, parish dinners and fundraising and has volunteered as a hospital chaplain at Taupō Hospital since 2005, stepping in while there was no permanent chaplain, supporting patients and whānau during difficult times.

She continues to support the new chaplain and provides cover on a voluntary basis.

Outside her work for the church, she has been a committee member of Creative Clay Taupō since 1992, is a life member and was chairperson for several years helping grow club membership and drive club activities.

She was on the committee that organised and ran the National Potters Convention in Taupō, as well as numerous pottery exhibitions.

She is a registered potter and exhibits her works regularly.

Georgantis has mentored and helped teach new potters, both adults and children, including people with disabilities and is a life member of Active Arts Taupō.

Georgantis has volunteered one day a week at the Taupō Interchurch Welfare Opportunity Shop for 30 years and was a member of its funding allocation committee for 10 years.

*Article by Matthew Martin, May 12 2022
Waikato Times and Stuff, May 12th, 2022*

*Hazel is the wife of ex St John's Parish Vicar
Reverend Tony Georgantis.*



Baptism

The Parish recently welcomed *Alexa Hewitt* at her baptism which took place on May 1st 2022 at St John's.



Alexa's family and grandparents joined us for morning tea and cut her baptism cake which was made by Hilary Milne. It was a very special occasion for everybody.

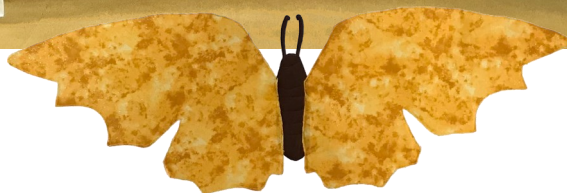




May Vestry Minutes

1. **Parish Office Redesign:** Vestry has settled on a sketch plan based on ideas from Ros Empson and Ross McGowan. Ross to be approached for full working drawings.
2. **Old St John's repaint** has been completed.
3. **Waipa Community Board** have granted the parish \$2000 towards the painting of St John's hall. Quotes are now being sought. A sign acknowledging the grant is needed as a condition of receiving it.
4. **Painting of St Paul's** is now urgent. Quotes are also being sought and where possible volunteer helpers. Fundraising plans to be considered.
5. **Thanks:** On behalf of the whole Parish of St John, Vestry passed a vote of thanks to John Storey and his family for the new fence along the roadside at St Paul's. The fence greatly enhances the appearance of the church from the road.
6. **Mainly Music** (Fridays only) and Friday Club (formerly Youth Group) have resumed. Numbers attending both are growing.

New Altar Hangings at St Johns



If you have been in St John's during the season of Easter, you will have seen the new altar hangings. The same two talented members of our parish who created the Advent hangings have been at work again.

The beautiful wall hanging behind the altar was the work of [Bev Anso](#) and those hanging on the altar itself were created by [Jocelyn Taylor](#).

The symbol of the butterfly was chosen to represent new life because it speaks to a wider audience than merely ourselves. We as Christians have been immersed in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. We are so familiar with the phrase, "He is Risen," that when we hear those words, all the scriptural promises contained within that phrase are right there for us. "He is risen" is a kind



of Christian hashtag for all Jesus did for us and asks of us. Powerful words full of hope. They are therefore front and centre during Easter worship.

That is not true for anyone who is not familiar with the scriptures. Imagine you are exploring what church is all about and you tentatively visit during Easter. The butterfly instantly conveys the message of transformation, of new life, even life after death. It gives "He is risen" some context even before a word is spoken. That is what Beverley and Jocelyn have given us. Beauty that lifts our worship and at the same time, invites others to explore this new life we are celebrating. Thank you Jocelyn and Beverley!

St Paul's New Fence



On behalf of the whole Parish of St John, Vestry passed a vote of thanks to John Storey and his family for the new fence along the roadside at St Paul's. The fence greatly enhances the appearance of the church from the road.

The Value of a Smile



- ☺ It costs nothing, but creates much.
- ☺ It enriches those who receive, without impoverishing those who give.
- ☺ It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.
- ☺ None are so rich they can get along without it, and none are so poor but are richer for its benefits.
- ☺ It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a business and is the countersign of friends.
- ☺ It is the rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and Nature's best antidote for trouble.
- ☺ Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anybody 'til it is given away.
- ☺ And if someone is too tired to give you a smile, just give them one of yours anyway.
- ☺ For nobody needs a smile as much as those who have none left to give.

Lounge Key Changed

A high chair and a coat rack from the Parish Lounge have gone missing. If you know where they are please contact Johanna or the office.

The decision was made to change the lounge front door lock and this has now been done. Contact Amy at the office if you are a key holder to get a new key issued.



Podiatry Clinic at St Saviours

*Available on the first Friday of each
month from 9 am. Bookings essential!*



Phone 027 42 42 442 for an appointment

St John's Christian Women's Fellowship



April: John Graham spoke on his travels and being a tour escort. It was very interesting.

May: Our vicar Julie, spoke on the purchase of Rangiaowhia land for return to the Local Iwi as part of the Land Wars healing process. It was good to hear about the work that went into making it happen.

In June: Coral is arranging for a local Lawyer to speak to us on Power of Attorney and similar related issues.

We meet in the lounge on the second Tuesday of the month, at 11.00am and conclude with a shared lunch. All welcome.

Next Meetings: June 14th, and July 12th

Church Bulletin Bloopers

Part Two

*These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins
or were announced in church services:*

1. Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the Rector's sermons.
2. The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."
3. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
4. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
5. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
6. Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
7. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
8. The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility...



(Part three next issue)



The Chinese Story

There is a Chinese story of an old farmer who had an old horse for tilling his fields. One day the horse escaped into the hills and when all the farmer's neighbours sympathized with the old man over his bad luck, the farmer replied, 'Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?' A week later the horse returned with a herd of wild horses from the hills and this time the neighbours congratulated the farmer on his good luck. His reply was, 'Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?' Then, when the farmer's son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone thought this very bad luck. Not the farmer, whose only reaction was, 'Bad luck, Good luck? Who knows?' Some weeks later the army marched into the village and conscripted every able-bodied youth they found there. When they saw the farmer's son with his broken leg, they let him off. Now was that good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?

Everything that seems on the surface to be an evil may be a good in disguise. And everything that seems good on the surface may really be an evil. So, we are wise when we leave it to God to decide what is good luck and what bad and thank him that all things turn out for good with those who love him.

Then we shall see something of that marvellous mystical vision of Juliana of Norwich who uttered what for me is the loveliest and most consoling sentence I have ever read: '*And all thing shall be well; and all thing shall be well; and all manner of thing shall be well:*

Contribution from John Graham



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CLOSE OFF DATE FOR MAGAZINE:

August/September - JULY 20TH 2022

TOPIC: DEEPENING SPIRITUALITY— this topic
needs further exploration and your
contributions would be welcome.

COLLATION DATE: JULY 29, 2022

Send contributions either by email to:

stjohns.awa@xtra.co.nz

stjohns.roz@gmail.com

or drop them into the office.



HOME CHURCH GROUPS

Rev'd Julie Guest

SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

Rev'd Stephanie Owen - 871-3400

PASTORAL CARE

Contact Office

ST SAVIOURS BIBLE STUDY

June Gennard - 027 366-4771

PRAYER CHAIN

Steve Anso - 871-6273

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Laurel Smith - 870-3326

MAGAZINE

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Bev Anso - 871-6273

CURSILLO

Annette Rea - 871-8032

KNIT & NATTER

Office - 871-5568

GARDEN GROUP

Dave Arnel - 871-7533

PIRONGIA CHURCH CRAFT GROUP

Barbara Preece - 871-9494

YOUTH

MAINLY MUSIC - ST JOHN'S

Contact Office - 871-5568

FRIDAY CLUB (Youth Group)

Contact Office - 871-5568

(during school term for children 5-13yrs)

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Contact Office - 871-5568

DIOCESAN WEBSITE - WITH LINK TO OUR SITE

www.waikato.anglican.org.nz

PARISH TEAM

VESTRY

Christine Bryant (*Synods Person*)

Helen Stubbs (*Synods Person*)

Murray Gardiner, Coral Loomb, Els Brown,

Paul Bryant, and Jocelyn Taylor

VICAR'S WARDEN

Christine Bryant

PEOPLE'S WARDEN

Coral Loomb

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Annette Rea, Helen Stubbs, Laurel Smith,
and Christine Bryant

VICAR Rev'd Julie Guest - 027 420-5375

In office Tues-Fri 871 5568

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Rev'd Steph Owen 871-3400

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

SECRETARY: AMY PRESANT

Email: stjohns.awa@xtra.co.nz



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St Saviour's Church Pirongia — @stsaviourspirongia