

# *St John's Today*

*The Reliability of*



*Mangaotaki Rocks*

*Pio Pio*

***God is our rock***

**Bi Monthly Magazine for the  
Anglican Parish of St John  
at St John's Church, Te Awamutu  
St Paul's Church, Hairini  
St Saviour's Church, Pirongia**

**February/March  
2021**



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# **Our Reliable God**

As a child, my summer holidays were spent camping in Coromandel. We lived in Napier, so the drive to Coromandel was arduous, managed by breaking it with an overnight camp at Huka Falls in Taupo. We used to leave Huka Falls before sunrise, driving across the plains as the fog hugging the ground was shimmered away by the rising sun's light and warmth. I loved all parts of this adventure, the excitement of the travel, and sense of being on an adventure together, the anticipation of long summer days of freedom. But most of all it was the place in Coromandel that I loved; rounding the final corner to see the bay spread out before us; the jetty we fished from, the island just off shore, boats at anchor, the beach front, the rocks for exploring and the ti-tree covered hills for climbing. Paradise.

Year after year it was just the same. And then it wasn't. Land which had been under a 99 year lease, reached its term and was sold. The paradise became a place to be seen in, a place to be made "more civilized" and for me lost its charm. We stopped going...

Years later I returned while holidaying elsewhere in the Coromandel. My children tumbled onto the foreshore, and immediately began exploring the rocks just as I once had. As their explorations neared the point, I was filled with anticipation. There had once been a wonderful rocky refuge here, a flat rock, high against the cliff, perfect for a little shade and quiet when the beach was busy and my younger brother being a pain. I held my breath...had it too been changed?

There it was! Just as I remembered... perhaps a little harder to get

to! As I sat back on that rock I remembered how so much growing up and becoming aware seemed to happen in summer, when other pressures and busyness abated. I recalled the anger, the lostness and puzzlements I had wrestled with there, as a young girl, even amid wonderful family holidays. And I felt again the peace and sanctuary I had always found, surrounded by the rhythmic sound of the sea, the scent of shore, shade of the pohutukawa above and sighing of the breeze.

I was thinking “Everything else might look different, but my rock hasn’t changed. It’s firm and secure.” I knew again how fortunate I was, I am, we all are, to live in God’s world where these workings of creation are ever before us. They are a constant. They point us to the constancy of God, the ever-steady presence of a God who knows us and is there for us.

Yes, I know you are going to say that the sea-sound is not always rhythmic, nor does the breeze always sigh. But neither do winds always rage and seas lash. Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything, each thing has its season. Ecclesiastes also reminds us that whatever the current season, God is working his purpose out. Or, to put it another way, whatever seems to be happening in our lives, the big picture of God drawing all things together in his love, is still at work.

And if there was ever a time to be reminded of God’s steadfastness, God’s reliability, God’s ever-present-ness, it is now when it seems as if everything we know and rely on is changing. Nothing can be trusted to stay the same. Nothing, that is, except God. Over, and over in scripture we are given reassurance of God’s steadfast, reliable love.



# PSALM 31

(NIV)

*In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.  
Turn your ear to me,  
come quickly to my rescue;  
be my rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress to save me.  
Since you are my rock and my fortress,  
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.  
Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,  
for you are my refuge.  
Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.  
Praise be to the Lord,  
for he showed me the wonders of his love  
when I was in a city under siege.  
In my alarm I said,  
“I am cut off from your sight!”  
Yet you heard my cry for mercy  
when I called to you for help.  
Love the Lord, all his faithful people!  
The Lord preserves those who are true to him,  
but the proud he pays back in full.  
Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the Lord.*

As those who know and draw strength from our steadfast God, we have a lot to offer those around us in these times of turmoil. Above all we can live into hope and gratitude for all that we have, no matter what seems to surround us.

Finally, I have a challenge for you. Send in your favourite scripture that encourages you to trust in God's reliability. We will collate a page of them for the next magazine. Psalm 31 is mine.

*Rev'd Julie Guest*

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## **St John's Women's Christian Fellowship**

We hope you have all had a good break from tedious things, and enjoyed the fine weather which is with us now.

After much consideration we have decided to be our own speakers! For some of us talking to real people will be a welcome change from the telephone, and we will be able to catch up with a little bit of local news.

So usual story. Bring a plate of food for lunch and we'll see you on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 11 am.

*Janice Millar*

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# What's On at St John's

<u><b>Sunday</b></u>	<b>8.00 am</b>	Service (Old St John's, Te Awamutu)
	<b>9.00 am</b>	Service ( <i>1st &amp; 3rd Sundays</i> ) (St Paul's, Hairini)
	<b>9:30 am</b>	Service (St Saviours, Pirongia)
	<u><b>10.30 am</b></u>	Service (St John's, Te Awamutu)
<u><b>Monday</b></u>	<b>9.30 am</b>	Knit and Natter (Lounge)
	<b>10-2.00 pm</b>	Pirongia Craft Group (St Saviours)
	<b>5.00 pm</b>	Outreach Meal (Lounge)
<u><b>Tuesday</b></u>	<b>9-10.00 am</b>	Gardening Group ( <i>2nd Tue</i> ) (St John's)
	<b>11.00 am</b>	Christian Women's Fellowship <i>every second Tuesday of the month</i> (Lounge)
<u><b>Wednesday</b></u>	<b>9:30-11.00 am</b>	Mainly Music (Hall)*
<u><b>Thursday</b></u>	<b>11 am</b>	Mid Week Service ( <i>1st &amp; 3rd</i> ) (Old St John's)
<u><b>Friday</b></u>	<b>8.30 am</b>	Morning Prayer ( <i>In Vicar's office</i> )
	<b>9:30-11.00 am</b>	Mainly Music (Hall)*
	<b>5 -7 pm</b>	Friday Group ( <i>ex Youth Group</i> ) (Hall)*
<u><b>4th Sunday of the Month</b></u>		Evensong at St Paul's, 5 pm
<u><b>5th Sunday of the Month</b></u>		Evensong, Old St Johns, 4.30 pm followed by Social Parish Meal at Te Awamutu RSA.

*(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)*

## Upcoming Events:

### February

Tues 9th	<b>St John's Women's Fellowship Meeting</b> , 11 am, Lounge
Tues 16th	<b>Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Making</b> , 6 pm, Lounge
Wed 17th	<b>Daily Morning Prayer</b> during Lent starts, 8.30 am St John's
Thurs 18th	<b>Weekly Eucharist</b> during Lent, 11 am, Old St Johns
Thurs 18th	<b>Lenten Study Group</b> , after Eucharist, Lounge, BYO Lunch
Thurs 18th	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> , 7 pm at St Patricks
Sun 21st	<b>Rangiaowhia Commemoration Day</b> ( <i>more information to come</i> )
Sat 27th	<b>Steampunk Market</b> , St Saviours, 10 am—2 pm

### March

Sun 14th	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> , after 9.30 am Combined Service
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# Painting a Legacy

No doubt many of us will have heard of such incredible painters such as Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas and other impressionists who stamped their artistic mark on a Paris of their day. In their shadows so to speak were those brave women painters such as Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt and Eva Gonzales.

For many of these illustrious talented individuals, they struggled to make a living, eking out an existence off the few sales of their works. The conservative Salon of Paris turned a cold shoulder to many of those seeking artistic fame and fortune. For many their fame and popularity came too late, they died an impoverished and a disease ridden if not embittered death; and their works suddenly became must-haves in the collections of the wealthy – both in Europe and the United States after their demise.

But there were some however, such as Gustave Caillebotte, who lived in the midst of family wealth and they did not have to sell a painting or two to keep their heads above the poverty line in freezing Parisian studios. Almost unknown then, their works have become noticed and highly collectable now. Such is the nature of supply and demand.

The last four years in the politics of the United States have been rather interesting. The outgoing President, Donald John Trump, adopted a take it or leave it stance, polarising American society as an incredulous world looked on. The unique legacy he has painted will be judged by historians and critics alike in the years to come. His successor, Joseph Biden, will be making political brush-strokes of a differing kind. His “art” will be definitely of another sort. He is starting to prepare his canvases already, setting out his agenda.

And then we have Jesus of Nazareth. He grew up in relative obscurity

in a small village in the rolling hills of Galilee, after spending a short exile in Egypt with his parents. According the Gospel writers he grew up to be a well-liked young lad, assiduous in his studies with the aid of a retentive memory.

He experienced the simplicity of village life, he saw the poverty of those burdened by Roman taxes, and those of Herod, he witnessed the prejudice by those from the south to those who lived to the north of a hostile Samaria, and he sympathised with his fellow members of God's chosen people as they chaffed under the weight of the letter of the Law of Moses as advocated by many of the Pharisees and lawyers of his day.

Each of those observations by him as he attained adulthood provided him with tubes of paints of differing hues and colours, enabling him to paint his own interpretation of the Law, highlighting its Spirit rather than its Letter. The vision he saw and the message he shared was not to everyone's liking. Marc Chagall, a Jewish painter from Lithuania, pain-fully painted the crucifixion of Jesus using Jewish symbols, the stark vista representing his own deepest suffering. That work compels even to this very day a reaction by its viewers and admirers; believers and non-believers.

Jesus, in his brief thirty years or so of life, left his own legacy, his own paintings, which has confronted and challenged his followers. A

*Bridge over a pond of water lilies.*

**Claude Monet**



take it or leave it scenario so to speak. The theologians and commentators have added their voices and words to those of Moses, the Prophets, the psalmists and wisdom writers, the Gospel and Letter writers if not the Historians and the divine revelations, all focussed on this special person. What an incredible legacy, what an incredible piece of work wrought by him.

As we live our divinely given lives and our Christian faith not just on a Sunday but every day, what vistas are we painting and what colours are we using? Are we like stained glass windows through which the light of Jesus Christ and the love of God shines? What will be the legacy of our ministry and servanthood towards others? How many seeds have we sown?

God, in his creation, imprinted his image on us, enabling us to trace his likeness in each other. What image of Jesus, God with us, do we have on the easel in our hearts, minds and souls?

The struggling impressionists of Paris, a divisive President Trump, a challenging Jesus, all serve to confront us of our own respective legacy we shall leave behind.

Something for all of us to think about as Lent and Easter quickly draws near.

May God's blessing be with us all as we paint our own and unique canvases.

*Deacon Norris*



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*Andrea Wood*  
*Bill Shilton*  
*Helen Taylor*  
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(Ph. 871-5568) of any parishioner illness,  
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## *Prayer Chain*

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# Diocesan Education

## Calendar of Events for Ministers and Lay Ministers

*Please be sure to check Connected and the website for updates.*

- FEB** Feb 2: Intro to Boundaries (Web.)  
Feb 20: Bishop's Training Day (TK)
- MAR** Mar 2: Boundaries and Power (Web.)  
Mar 6: Deacons' Training Day (Tar.)
- APR** (Easter)
- MAY** May 11: Social Media and Internet (Web.)  
May 15: Deacons' Training Day (Tar.)  
May 22: Deacons' Training Day (Wai.)
- JUN** Jun 1: Advanced Boundaries (Web.)
- JUL** Jul 14-16: Te Huinga (tbc)
- AUG** Aug 3: Child and Family Ministry (Web.)
- SEP** Sep 7: Millennials & Leadership (Web.)
- OCT** Oct (tba): Bishop's Training Day (TK)
- NOV** Nov 2: Sanctuary & Well-being (Web.)  
Nov 20: Science & Theology (Wai)

<b>KEY</b>	Tar. (Taranaki Cathedral)	Wai (Waikato Cathedral)
	TK (Te Kūiti)	Web. (Webinar)





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# **Great is thy Faithfulness**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 Keith and I were notified our son Edward who failed to board the mercy flight from Peru had been found. Those ten days during lockdown were compounded with the news no parent could bare digest, a huge test of faith. The human compassion and outpouring of grief from people communicated from all corners of the earth has been to us all profound and incredibly humbling. We have been deeply touched, thank you.

Through our grief and the subsequence passing months whilst waiting for the return of Edward's ashes, our process of restoration was softened by the healing positive elements of human kindness and understanding.

There are those who wish not to be acknowledged, but without their continued reassurances and professional approach during the complexity and chaos in Peru Edwards ashes may not have been reunited to his land of birth and family.

His journey home began on Edward's birthday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, an answer to the constant prayer and candle lighting every morning and night by Priest Amanda, to be home on his birthday. Lima – Montreal – Vancouver - Sydney, then onto Auckland, transfers to two cargos, and two passenger flights. Peru was still in lockdown.

This was a miracle in progress. No spoken word could describe this overwhelming news we received at short notice. The Air Canada plane left Lima airport at 6am Peruvian time, the thin blue line we

tracked online towards Canada carrying our Ed as cargo. My thoughts, tears and thanks were overwhelming, **thank you Lord** – Edward was on his way home. In my spirit my teacher son Edward would have said: “Mum my ashes and belongings, are my footprint on this earth, I am always with you.” A dignified intimate family farewell took place in October 2020 at St Paul’s Rangiaowhia, on Edward’s request.

A personal letter from our Prime Minister Jacinda said: “Your son sounded like a wonderful gift.” Yes he was a gift, a teacher, a reminder to us all we must continue to be thankful for the gifts we receive everyday through acts of human kindness, compassion and love. Jesus asked us to tend his flock, a simple message but true.

The family join me in their thanks to you all.

16 January 2021.

*In Faith, Ed’s Mum*

*Delysse Storey*

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# **Book Review**

**by Barbara Waldron**

I have recently read two small books, full of big ideas expressed with clarity and passion by Kiwis young and mature, well known and not so prominent from the many different backgrounds that now make up Aotearoa. All of them are thinking, working and writing to make New Zealand an influence for good in a world of climate change and Covid-19. The books are part of a series, published by BWB; Bridget Williams Books, sub-titled "Short books on Big Subjects by Great New Zealand Writers."

I have read "Living with Climate Change," and "Beyond These Shores - Aotearoa and the World".

The Climate Change writers include, Sean Hendy and James Renwick, known to most of us. They write with clarity and concern describing the likely issues that future generations will be facing if action is not taken NOW, by governments and each one of us.

I was impressed with the passion and energy in the writing of a school girl Maia Ingoe, who organized the "School Strike for Climate", or "SS4C," in my hometown, Gisborne. It's not only Greta Thunburg on the other side of the world who is speaking of her disillusionment with the older generation's lack of action. Young people in this country are raising the same red flag. I wonder if I would have joined with Maia Ingoe. I hope so. Sadly, after all the preparation for SC4C all over New Zealand, the first protest went unnoticed, because at exactly the same time as the march occurred, news of the horrific Christchurch massacres was hitting the media.

Which brings me to "Beyond These Shores." New Zealand has become a country that is respected by most of the world and authors in this book examine the question of what part New Zealand



could and should play in world thinking. The book reminds us of past influential actions by New Zealanders, for example, Women's Suffrage and Springbok Tour Protests, and of leaders such as David Lange, Norman Kirk and John Key. It acknowledges the influence of our current Prime Minister and suggests how New Zealand can be a force for good in a world dealing with Covid -19 and Climate Change and especially identifies the issues affecting vulnerable Pacific Island nations.

All the writers are widely read and include fulsome references in their own work. The books have comprehensive referencing and bibliographies offering wide reading on any topic that particularly interests the reader. At present there are sixty books in the series. Books are priced at \$14.99 each, available from "All Good Bookshops" including our own Paper Plus, and on-line from [www.bwb.co.nz](http://www.bwb.co.nz).

How about buying one for our church library to share so we can read, discuss, pray and act together to try to avert the possible disaster looming?

## **A short email from Johanna**

From 1048 Holiday Inn Auckland Airport where facilities and food are excellent. Five star is not this backpackers thing but I had no choice!! Our ground floor rooms have small patios and there is sign in access to a very pretty poolside garden with strict distancing of course. I'm out there after the meals and we "day sixers" (all masked) do a lot of waving greetings. Because my flight was delayed 24 hours in Sydney I am possibly not leaving here till 7/2. Share lots of love around for me please. Thanks and love.

*Johanna Halder*

# St Saviours Carol Service



*Te Awamutu Brass Band*



*The Woolshed Warblers*



Readings during last year's carol service were given by Youth Group members.



Amelia



Kya

Charlotte

Levi

Harry

Tayla

# **Farewell to our Selwyn Centre**

Late last year our Selwyn Co-ordinator, Helen Stubbs and I had a Zoom meeting with Andrew Brock, the Projects and Innovation Manager for the Selwyn Foundation. The purpose was to discuss the future of our Selwyn Centre. The following is the letter we received from Andrew as a result:

*I have heard back from the Selwyn Foundation. Unfortunately, they feel it is time for the Te Awamutu Selwyn Centre to close. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of Helen and the vestry to try and attract new guests in a very disrupted year. As was indicated in previous communications there are other groups and activities available for older people in Te Awamutu, so it is hoped that all the guests can be supported to participate in other activities or remain connected to the parish. This decision means there will be no further Selwyn Centre funding from the end of December 2020.*

*I want to acknowledge the Parish of St John's Te Awamutu for being one of the first parishes in Waikato to open a Selwyn Centre in 2013 and I recognise that this will be tough news to receive.*

I also want to acknowledge the work that Helen did, firstly to support Selwyn guests during the Covid lockdown and then later as she and her volunteer team worked to rebuild the group. Although the numbers did not return to pre-Covid levels, there is much to celebrate because many people found companionship closer to home and no longer needed the support of Selwyn.

To all those parishioners who have supported the Selwyn Centre as drivers, volunteers or guests, thank you. May the memories you have be a treasure.

*Rev'd Julie Guest*



The Selwyn  
Foundation

Selwyn Group Helpers at their 2020 Christmas Party

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## Parish A.G.M. 2021

**RESCHEDULED**  
**NEW DATE ANNOUNCED**

This year's AGM is set down for

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH**

Combined Service at St Johns at 9.30 am

followed by the meeting



# **Ngaire Phillips Farewell**



Ngaire is no longer available to play at our services. We are grateful for all the time and effort she has put in over the years to bring us beautiful music to enhance our worship.





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## **CLOSE OFF DATE FOR THE APRIL MAY MAGAZINE**

Friday, March 26th

### **COLLATION DATE**

Friday, April 2nd

## **PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS EITHER BY EMAIL TO:**

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*(Articles may be left at the Parish Office,  
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## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

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